

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1372

To clarify that it is United States policy to recognize Israel's sovereignty
over the Golan Heights.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 26, 2019

Mr. GALLAGHER (for himself, Mr. MAST, Mr. LAMBORN, Mr. BANKS, Ms. STEFANIK, Mr. COLE, Mr. MEADOWS, Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio, Mr. PERRY, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. GREEN of Tennessee, Mr. ZELDIN, Mr. BUDD, and Mr. HICE of Georgia) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committees on Ways and Means, Science, Space, and Technology, and Agriculture, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To clarify that it is United States policy to recognize Israel's
sovereignty over the Golan Heights.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*
3 That it is the sense of the House of Representatives
4 that—

5 **SECTION 1. FINDINGS.**

6 Congress finds the following:

1 (1) On September 1, 1975, President Gerald
2 Ford provided a diplomatic assurance to Israel that
3 “the U.S. will support the position that an overall
4 settlement with Syria in the framework of a peace
5 agreement must assure Israel’s security from attack
6 from the Golan Heights [and] it will give great
7 weight to Israel’s position that any peace agreement
8 with Syria must be predicated on Israel remaining
9 on the Golan Heights”.

10 (2) In October 1991, Secretary of State James
11 Baker provided a diplomatic assurance to Israel that
12 “the United States continues to stand behind the as-
13 surance given by President Ford to Prime Minister
14 Rabin on September 1, 1975”.

15 (3) Iran has used the war in Syria to establish
16 a long-term military presence in the Levant, to at-
17 tack Israel from across the Golan Heights, and to
18 create territorial corridors that allow it to provide
19 arms to its troops and terrorist proxies.

20 **SEC. 2. SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

21 It is the sense of Congress that—

22 (1) Israel’s security from attacks from Syria
23 and Lebanon cannot be assured without Israeli sov-
24 ereignty over the Golan Heights;

(2) in light of new realities on the ground, including Iran’s presence in Syria—

(A) it is unrealistic to expect that the outcome of a peace agreement between Israel and Syria will be an Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights; and

(B) it is realistic to expect that any peace agreement between Israel and Syria will only be achieved on the basis of Israel remaining on the Golan Heights; and

(3) it is in the United States national security interest to ensure that—

(A) Israel retains control of the Golan Heights; and

(B) the Syrian regime of Bashar al-Assad faces diplomatic and geopolitical consequences for its killing of civilians, the ethnic cleansing of Arab Sunnis, and the use of weapons of mass destruction.

SEC. 3. STATEMENT OF UNITED STATES POLICY.

It shall be the policy of the United States—

(1) to recognize Israel’s sovereignty over the Golan Heights; and

(2) to promote and conduct joint projects with Israel on the Golan Heights, including projects—

1 (A) in basic and applied scientific fields;

2 (B) in industrial research and develop-
3 ment; and

4 (C) in strategic and applied research of ag-
5 ricultural problems.

6 **SEC. 4. RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.**

7 Any reference to “Israel” in any existing or future
8 Act of Congress relating to appropriations or foreign com-
9 merce, including customs and international trade, shall be
10 interpreted to include the Golan Heights.

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