

shall be divided into the amount of the smaller appropriation. The then resulting quotient, rounded to the next lowest whole number, shall be the number of voting members from the State making the smaller contribution. The members of the Commission from the State making the larger contribution shall decide which of the members from the other State shall serve as voting members, based upon the level of tourism, preservation, promotional activity, and general support of the Commission's activities by and in the county of residence of each of the members of the State making the smaller appropriation. Such determination shall be made at the next meeting of the Commission following September 30 of each year. Members of the Commission shall serve for terms of office as follows: Of the 14 Alabama members, one from each of said counties shall serve for two years and the remaining member of each county shall serve for four years. Upon the expiration of the original terms of office of Alabama members, all successor Alabama members shall be appointed for four-year terms of office, with seven vacancies in the Alabama membership occurring every two years. Of the 14 Georgia members, seven shall serve four-year terms and seven two-year terms for the initial term of this compact. The terms of the individual Georgia voting members shall be determined by their place in the alphabet by alternating the four- and two-year terms beginning with Chattahoochee County, four years, Clay County, two years, Decatur County, four years, etc. Upon the expiration of the original terms of office of Georgia members, all successor Georgia members shall be appointed for four-year terms of office, with seven vacancies in the Georgia membership occurring every two years. Of the three Georgia at-large board members, one shall serve a four-year term and two shall serve two-year terms.

"All board members shall serve until their successors are appointed and qualified. Vacancies shall be filled by the voting members of the Commission. The first chairman of the commission created by this compact shall be elected by the board of directors from among its voting membership. Annually thereafter, each succeeding chairman shall be selected by the members of the Commission. The chairmanship shall rotate each year among the party States in order of their acceptance of this compact. Members of the Commission shall serve without compensation but shall be entitled to reimbursement for actual expenses incurred in the performance of the duties of the Commission."

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Pennsylvania [Mr. GEKAS] and the gentleman from Rhode Island [Mr. REED] will each be recognized for 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania [Mr. GEKAS].

Mr. GEKAS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, the question recurs on the need for congressional action on a compact that has heretofore been entered into between two States. In this particular case, the instant legislation is one where a contract or compact had been entered into between Alabama and Georgia as required by our Constitution.

The problem was that in 1978 when they created this Historic Chattahoochee Commission, a Bi-State Heritage and Tourism Agency which serves 11 Georgia and 7 Alabama counties along the Lower Chattahoochee River, the

States recently found that they wanted to change the nomination process for the commission's board, so in 1993 they each enacted an amendment, Georgia on the one hand, Alabama on the other hand. Their legislatures acted, and now they come to us to seek approval through the constitutional process.

We in the Subcommittee on Commercial and Administrative Law heard testimony on this legislation and reported it to the full Committee on the Judiciary on October 19. The Committee on the Judiciary reported favorably on the bill by voice vote, and we are here.

Neither I nor anyone that I know of has any objection to the bill.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. REED. Mr. Speaker, yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, again I rise in support of this legislation. I know of no objections to this legislation. As the gentleman from Pennsylvania has explained, H.R. 2064 amends the Chattahoochee compact between the States of Alabama and Georgia to change the method for filling vacancies on the Historic Chattahoochee Commission. The bill was introduced by the gentleman from Alabama [Mr. EVERETT], along with the gentleman from Alabama [Mr. BEVILL], the gentleman from Georgia [Mr. BISHOP], the gentleman from Alabama [Mr. BROWDER], the gentleman from Alabama [Mr. CRAMER], and the gentleman from Alabama [Mr. HILLIARD].

Mr. Speaker, I urge its passage and I am glad that I can participate in this historic event.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GEKAS. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Alabama [Mr. EVERETT], who was instrumental in bringing this matter to the attention of the House of Representatives.

Mr. EVERETT. Mr. Speaker, the Historic Chattahoochee Commission is involved in activities to promote tourism in the lower Chattahoochee River area, that encompasses 7 counties in Alabama and 11 counties in Georgia. The commission has been very successful in these endeavors, which prompted the National Trust for Historic Preservation to identify this commission as a model heritage tourism organization.

The legislation before the House, H.R. 2064, grants congressional consent to approve the changes made by the Alabama and Georgia Legislatures in 1993 to an interstate compact. The changes made to the compact simplify the way the Historic Chattahoochee Commission appoints its board members. Currently, the 28 board members, 14 from each State, are appointed by a cumbersome process involving an historical commission or similar body of each county to make the appointment.

The problem is that some counties do not have an historical organization, while other counties have several historical organizations, which has led to

confusing and time consuming proceedings.

This legislation amends the process by making the election of commissioners to vacant seats by majority vote of the voting members of the commission. Some members are nonvoting.

Since Congress originally approved this compact back in 1978, both the Alabama and Georgia attorneys general have determined that the Historic Chattahoochee Commission cannot use the amended appointment process without the approval of Congress. This legislation is obviously supported by the States of Alabama and Georgia, and I am aware of no opposition.

Mr. Speaker, these changes will certainly enable the commission to place more of their efforts on promoting tourism in this area of Alabama and Georgia, and I urge the swift adoption of this legislation.

Mr. REED. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GEKAS. Mr. Speaker, I note an overwhelming absence of other speakers and, therefore, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania [Mr. GEKAS] that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2064.

The question was taken.

Mr. GEKAS. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 5, rule 1, and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GEKAS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on the bill just considered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Pennsylvania?

There was no objection.

CONDEMN BOMBINGS IN ISRAEL

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 149) condemning terror attacks in Israel, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. CON. RES 149

Whereas, on February 25, 1996, two vicious terror attacks in Jerusalem and Ashkelon killed 2 American citizens and 25 Israelis, and wounded over 75 more;

Whereas, on February 26, 1996, an Israeli citizen was killed and 22 Israelis were injured when a terrorist drove a rental car into a Jerusalem bus stop;

Whereas, on March 3, 1996, a suicide bus bombing in Jerusalem took the lives of 18 innocent Israelis and other individuals and injured 10 more;

Whereas, on March 4, 1996, yet another heinous explosion by a suicide bomber in Tel

Aviv murdered at least 13 and wounded 130 more;

Whereas, the Gaza-based Hamas terror group claimed responsibility for the most recent bombings, and the Damascus-based Palestinian Islamic Jihad and Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine terror groups have claimed responsibility for the majority of terror attacks since the signing of the Declaration of Principles;

Whereas, these successive incidents represent an unprecedented escalation by Hamas and Palestinian Islamic Jihad of their terrorist campaign designed to cause maximum carnage against the peaceful civilian population of Israel, including children, women and the elderly;

Whereas, these terrorist attacks are aimed not only at innocent Israeli civilians but also at destroying the Middle East peace process;

Whereas, since the signing of the Declaration of Principle between Israel and the PLO on September 13, 1993 nearly 200 people, including 5 American citizens, have been killed in terrorist acts;

Whereas, the Palestine Liberation Organization, the Palestinian Authority and Yasser Arafat have been ineffective and unsuccessful in completely rooting out the vicious terrorist elements from Palestinian controlled areas, calling into question their commitment to the peace process;

Whereas, the vast majority of Palestinian terror suspects have not been apprehended, or if apprehended, not tried or punished, and not terror suspects requested for transfer have been transferred to Israeli authorities by Palestinian authorities in direct contravention of agreements signed between the PLO and Israel;

Whereas, the Palestinian Authority must now do much more systematically to end the threat posed by terrorist groups and take other steps consistent with the Israel-Palestinian Interim Agreement, including the apprehension, trial, and punishment of those who conduct terrorist acts and the implementation of procedures agreed upon with Israel to transfer suspected terrorists;

Whereas, the hateful language calling for Israel's destruction, that remains an integral part of the Palestinian National Covenant only serves to incite those opposed to the peace process;

Whereas, the Palestinian National Covenant has not yet been amended, despite commitments by the PLO to do so;

Whereas, these failures undermine and threaten the peace process as well as continued U.S. financial assistance;

Whereas, the government of Iran continues to provide safe haven, financial support and arms to terror groups such as Hamas, Islamic Jihad, or Hizbollah among others, and has in no way acted to restrain these groups from committing acts of terrorism;

Whereas, notwithstanding Syria's participation in a serious negotiating process to reach a peace agreement with Israel, Syria continues to provide a safe haven for terrorist groups opposed to the peace process, permits the arming of Hizbollah in Lebanon, and has not acted to prevent these groups from committing acts of terrorism; and

Whereas, failure to act against terrorists by the Palestinian Authority, Iran, Syria, and others only undermines the credibility of the peace process: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That the Congress—

(1) condemns and reviles in the strongest terms the attacks in Jerusalem, Ashkelon and Tel Aviv;

(2) extends condolences to the families of all those killed, and to the Government and all the people of the State of Israel;

(3) expresses its support and solidarity with the people and Government of the State of Israel;

(4) reaffirms its full support for Israel in its efforts to combat terrorism as it attempts to pursue peace with its neighbors in the region;

(5) calls upon the Palestinian Authority, the elected Palestinian Council and Chairman Arafat to act swiftly and decisively to apprehend and effectively punish the perpetrators of terror attacks, to prevent such acts of terror in the future, to confiscate all unauthorized weapons and to avoid and condemn all statements and gestures which signal tolerance for such acts and their perpetrators;

(6) calls upon Chairman Arafat, the Palestinian Authority and the elected representatives of the Palestinian Council to eliminate the terrorist structure and terrorist activities of Hamas, Palestinian Islamic Jihad, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, and all other terror groups;

(7) calls upon Chairman Arafat, the Palestinian Authority and the elected representatives of the Palestinian Council to adopt legislative and executive measures to ban the existence and operations of all terrorist organizations resident in the Palestinian autonomous areas;

(8) insists that Chairman Arafat convene the Palestinian National Council, so that the Palestinian National Covenant will be amended of its vile references to Israel within sixty days of the Palestinian Council's inauguration on March 7, 1996;

(9) reaffirms its belief that the Palestinian National Covenant must be amended in order for the peace process to succeed;

(10) calls upon the Palestinian people to support the deletion of anti-Israel language from the Palestinian National Covenant;

(11) calls upon the Palestinian people to express their revulsion for terrorism against Israel, and condemn and isolate those elements of Palestinian society that employ and support such terrorist acts;

(12) urges all parties to the peace process, in order to retain the credibility of their commitment to peace, to bring to justice the perpetrators of acts of terrorism, and to cease harboring, financing, and arming terror groups in all territories under their control; and

(13) calls upon those Arab states that have failed to condemn these acts of terrorism to do so immediately and forthrightly, and to support all efforts in the region to combat terrorism;

(14) calls upon the international community to cooperate with the United States in isolating states which engage in international terrorism;

(15) insists that Iran and Syria cease all support for all terrorist groups operating in areas under their control and refrain from all activities in opposition to the Middle East peace process;

(16) expresses its intent to reconsider United States assistance to the Palestinian Authority, in consultation with the Administration, in light of the steps that must be taken by the Palestinian Authority against terrorist infrastructures and operations;

(17) urges the United States to act decisively and swiftly against those governments who continue to harbor, arm or finance terror groups seeking to undermine the peace process; and

(18) praises United States efforts to provide Israel with all appropriate anti-terrorism resources to eliminate the tide of terrorist incidents against Israel.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New York [Mr. GILMAN] and the gentleman from California [Mr. LANTOS] will each be recognized for 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York [Mr. GILMAN].

(Mr. GILMAN asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of House Concurrent Resolution 149, legislation I introduced with the significant support of Members of this House, which condemns the recent terrorist bombings in Israel.

On February 25-26, and March 3-4, suicide bomber explosions murdered almost 60 people and wounded over 200. Such violence cannot be permitted to continue. The future of the peace process, and the security of the people of Israel, hang in the balance.

House Concurrent Resolution 149 condemns these terrorist acts in the strongest possible terms. These attacks are aimed not only at innocent Israeli civilians and at destroying the Middle East peace process, but additionally show that the PLO, and the Palestinian Authority, under the chairmanship of Yasser Arafat, have been ineffective and unsuccessful in rooting out these vicious terrorist elements from Palestinian controlled areas. Moreover, the hateful language calling for Israel's destruction, that remains an integral part of the Palestinian National Covenant has not been amended.

Accordingly, this calls into question the PLO's commitment to the peace process, and therefore, House Concurrent Resolution 149 expresses its intent to reconsider United States assistance to the Palestinian Authority.

Tomorrow's terrorism summit in Egypt will be well attended by many nations, but Iran and Syria will be conspicuously absent. Iran continues to provide support to terror groups such as Hamas, Islamic Jihad, and Hizbollah, and has in no way acted to restrain these groups. Notwithstanding Syria's participation in the peace talks, Syria has not condemned the bombings, and continues to provide safe haven for terrorist groups opposed to the peace process. Syria permits the continued arming of Hizbollah in Lebanon, and has taken no steps to prevent terror from taking place.

Because these failures to act against terrorists undermines the credibility of the peace process, House Concurrent Resolution 149 condemns the attacks, extends our condolences to the families of all those killed, and reaffirms our full support for Israel in her efforts to combat terrorism as she attempts to pursue peace.

House Concurrent Resolution 149 calls upon Chairman Arafat to act swiftly and decisively to apprehend and punish the perpetrators of terror attacks, to prevent such acts of terror, to confiscate unauthorized weapons, and to condemn all statements which signal tolerance for terrorism.

House Concurrent Resolution 149 also insists that Chairman Arafat convene the Palestinian National Council, to amend the Palestinian National Covenant.

The international community, many of whom will be represented at tomorrow's summit in Egypt, are called upon to cooperate with the United States in isolating states which engage in international terrorism. They must join the United States in insisting that Iran and Syria cease all support for all terrorist groups and refrain from activities in opposition to the Middle East peace process.

Finally, House Concurrent Resolution 149 praises United States efforts to provide Israel with all appropriate antiterrorism resources to eliminate the tide of terrorist incidents against Israel.

Earlier today, our House Committee on International Relations held a hearing on PLO commitment compliance and the threat of terrorism to Israel. We had a session which underscores that we must be ever vigilant against those who only half-heartedly condemn terror and violence.

Accordingly, Mr. Speaker, I urge our colleagues' strong support for passage of House Concurrent Resolution 149, and thank our colleagues for their clear and unambiguous endorsement of this legislation.

□ 1630

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of House Concurrent Resolution 149, as amended.

Mr. Speaker, first I want to commend the distinguished chairman of the Committee on International Relations, my good friend, the gentleman from New York [Mr. GILMAN], for taking the leadership on this issue, as indeed he has taken the leadership on issues of terrorism for many years with great effectiveness, both in this body and in international bodies.

Mr. Speaker, I also wish to commend my colleague, the gentleman from Indiana [Mr. HAMILTON], the ranking member of the Committee on International Relations.

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume. Mr. Speaker, as we debate this resolution, the President of the United States is on his way to Egypt to attend a conference called in the wake of the most nightmarish terrorist attacks that we have watched unfold on our television sets in Jerusalem and Tel Aviv and in Israel. I want to commend the President, not only for this extremely important symbolic action, but for his persistent support of the democratic State of Israel which has taken such enormous risks for peace at such a very high price in precious human life.

Mr. Speaker, this resolution does many things. It condemns the terrorist attacks in Jerusalem, Ashkelon, and Tel Aviv, it extends the condolences of the Congress and the American people to the families of the victims, it expresses support and solidarity with the people of Israel who are undergoing some very difficult times in the face of this mindless and brutal terrorist wave, and it expresses support for the State of Israel as it combats terrorism and attempts to pursue peace with its Arab neighbors.

An important aspect of our resolution calls on Yasser Arafat to recognize

that this is his last chance to demonstrate that he has the will and the capability to pulverize the terrorist infrastructure of Hamas in territory under his control. We have had for too long a double-faced approach by Arafat saying the right things to the West but praising to high heaven some of the most brutal terrorists, like the engineer who created the most terrible weapons of destruction in recent times in this terrorist wave. Arafat must understand that if he does not destroy the terrorist infrastructure, Israel will do it itself. That would set back the cause that we have been trying so hard to support, the cause of reconciliation, accommodation, and peace.

Our resolution, Mr. Speaker, also deals with state sponsors of terrorism, countries such as Iran. Iran must cease its support for Hamas and other terrorist organizations.

Later this week our committee will mark up legislation to impose tighter sanctions against Iran and those companies and countries which support Iran economically.

I particularly want to call on our European friends and on Japan to recognize their responsibility in fighting terrorism supported by Iran. Their reckless pursuit of profits is singly unseemly as human lives are sacrificed in the wave of terrorism supported by countries such as Iran.

I want to deplore the failure of Syria to express its regret with respect to these terrorist acts. Just a few weeks ago in Damascus I met with the Foreign Minister of Syria, and it was clear in our discussion that terrorism has no room in the new Middle East. Yet Syria is staying away from the conference in Egypt and has failed to condemn this outrageous wave of terrorist attacks.

I am calling on all of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to demonstrate unanimous bipartisan support for this resolution. It is one of the most important steps the Congress will take in expressing our support for peace and stability in the region so critical to the national interests of the United States.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Kansas [Mrs. MEYERS], a member of our Committee on International Relations.

Mrs. MEYERS of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this resolution. All civilized people and nations must stand with Israel and condemn this series of despicable crimes. We must all work together to bring these criminals to justice. The primary target of our efforts must be the wicked masterminds who repose in safety while duping their misguided followers into believing that killing innocent men, women, and children with suicide bombs is a holy act. These evil beings who make a travesty of their professed religion must be made to pay the price.

Furthermore, the Palestinian Authority must be finally put on notice that if it wants to be treated as a member of the civilized world, it has to behave as one. Its leaders must be made to understand that if they have any hope of actually joining the community of nations, they themselves must suppress the terrorist wing of Hamas—I will not call it the military wing because military people fight other sol-

diers; they do not blow up civilian buses. This will not be easy for them. It will certainly not be uniformly popular among the Palestinian people. But difficult choices are the price of responsible leadership. Can Mr. Arafat and his colleagues prove themselves responsible enough to stop these vicious terrorists? They had better, if for no other reason than self-interest. Because if they do not, I am certain that the Israelis eventually will, and doom forever the hopes of Palestinian independence. If Israelis and Palestinians are to live together in peace, these atrocities must be stopped.

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the comments of the gentlewoman from Kansas [Mrs. MEYERS] and her support of the resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I have no further request for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. HAMILTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of House Congressional Resolution 149 as amended. I want to commend my colleagues Chairman GILMAN and Congressman LANTOS for their leadership on this measure.

We have all known for some time that as significant as it is, the Middle East peace process is also fragile. It cannot run on automatic pilot. It can only be strengthened and protected by sustained efforts to combat terrorism and to build a stronger structure of peace.

Unfortunately, four terrorist bombings in Israel this month—killing some 62 people, including 2 Americans, and injuring over 200 people—have brought us to this crisis.

This recent wave of murderous bombings has added a new urgency to the need for a more sustained and comprehensive effort by the Palestinian Authority to stop terrorism. The Palestinian Authority must work to destroy the structure of terrorism which small radical groups wishing to undermine the peace process have built. There is simply no other course of action that will allow the peace process to continue.

The effort by Chairman Arafat and by the Palestinian Authority to combat terrorism must be a sustained, 100-percent effort. Chairman Arafat cannot do what he has done in the past: relax efforts after the pressure of the moment eases. Hard-core terrorists cannot be co-opted: They do not answer to reason and they do not support the peace process.

Statements opposing terrorism may have their place. But words alone will not reinforce the fragile peace. There is today no substitute for action against terrorist cells and the structure that supports them, and against those in Gaza, in the Middle East, and throughout the world who give terrorists safe haven, financial support, logistical support, weapons, and other assistance.

This resolution states clearly what needs to be done—what the Palestinian Authority needs to do, what is needed to reinforce the peace process and bring greater security to Israelis and Arabs, and what the United States and others can do to help the parties. Peace in the Middle East will be hollow if there is no security for people.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this timely resolution. As we speak, President Clinton is on Air Force One on his way to the Middle East to cosponsor with President Mubarak of Egypt a Conference of the Peacemakers tomorrow in Egypt.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, the Jewish holiday of Purim is usually an especially happy one. It is a celebration. Yet this year it was wrought with tears and horror—overshadowed

by the deaths of Israelis killed by a bomb blast on a crowded bus. Instead of celebration, it was mourning, instead of happiness, it was shock.

Like so many of my colleagues, I rise today to join the Members of this body, and the people of America, in condemning the recent heinous terrorist attacks against the people of Israel. These attacks are nothing more than a blatant attempt by the militant Hamas warmongers to derail the peace process in the Middle East. Their virulent actions against the people of Israel have left scores dead and hundreds wounded. Their actions deserve, at a minimum, world condemnation.

Once again, the people of Israel have found their democracy under attack—and once again, instead of reacting hastily and with massive military might—they restrained from seeking a quick revenge—for it is their desire for peace that is stronger than the delirious fanatics that seek to wreak havoc on the peace process.

I am pleased that President Clinton will join leaders from throughout the world at a summit in Egypt in a show of unity against both terrorism and the terrorists in the Middle East. I would like to commend Egyptian President Mubarak for hosting the conference and to also commend other Arab countries, including Jordan and Saudi Arabia for participating in this Conference which will hopefully reaffirm the need to continue the peace process in the Middle East.

As members of the Jewish community throughout the Washington metropolitan area celebrated Purim last week, Rabbi Jack Moline of Alexandria said that "We are not compromising what we are doing tonight. It is imperative that we go through with this and not let [the bombers] define our world for us." For the people of Israel, they too, cannot compromise, they, too, cannot allow a group of terrorists to define their world. They haven't and with our actions here today, we show our support for them, for their uncompromising valor, and for their commitment to peace.

Ms. HARMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of House Concurrent Resolution 149, and to condemn in the strongest possible terms the use of terrorism by the enemies of peace in the Middle East.

In the past 2 weeks, Israel has been the victim of four gruesome and horrible bombing attacks. Like all Americans, I am saddened and shocked by the killings, and I want to extend my condolences to the families of the slain. But the dead, among them children, are not the only innocent victims of the bombs, nor are they the bombers' primary target. Instead, the bombs have been carefully placed to undermine the foundations of the peace process, to shatter every Israeli's sense of basic security, and to threaten the rule of law.

Mr. Speaker, the people of the United States cannot and will not sit by complacently as extremists like Hamas and Islamic Jihad attempt to destroy the best hope for Middle East peace through terror and violence. I commend President Clinton for his swift condemnation of the recent attacks, and for his commitment to provide Israel with counter-terrorism technology and assistance. I encourage further cooperation between Israel and the United States in finding ways to stop terrorists from striking. And I endorse the upcoming summit in Egypt, where over 30 nations, including many Arab States, will seek to develop international strategies for fighting terrorism.

But the Palestinian Authority, as Israel's partner in the peace process, must also as-

sume responsibility for ensuring that the atrocious attacks of the past month are never repeated. We must let Chairman Arafat and the Palestinian Council know that America cannot tolerate failure in stopping terror attacks on innocent Israeli civilians. The authority's crack-down on Hamas over the past week is a welcome step, and should be noted. But we must make absolutely clear America's interest in seeing the Palestinian Authority control the violence of rejectionist minority groups like Hamas, and in seeing the Palestinian Council fully accept the peace process by purging from its charter all reference to the destruction of Israel.

Mr. Speaker, this resolution sends an important message to the world that America will not accept terrorism. I urge my colleagues to support it.

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to stand with my colleagues to reaffirm American support for Israel in the wake of tragic bombings that have claimed nearly 60 lives. My sympathy for the families who lost loved ones in the past weeks is unlimited, as is my outrage at these barbaric acts and their perpetrators.

The fanatics who have murdered innocent men, women, and children must be brought to justice. Groups such as Hamas that preach and practice acts of terror are an unacceptable presence in the civilized world.

Although it is hard, we must try to draw strength from this tragedy and redouble our commitment to bring peace to the Middle East. We must let terrorists know that their cruel violence will not be rewarded. I applaud President Clinton for meeting with world leaders in Egypt to unite against terrorism and to encourage Middle East nations to rejoin the path toward peace.

The United States must do all it can to support the people of Israel, further the peace process, and bring these killers to justice.

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise to condemn the recent terrorist bombings carried out against innocent Israelis. At least 57 people have been murdered in the past few weeks in Israel during a wave of suicide bombings carried out by Hamas.

I am pleased to support H. Con. Res. 149 which calls upon Chairman Arafat, the Palestinian Authority, and the Palestinian Council to apprehend and punish the terrorists who planned these bloody attacks, and to prevent such acts in the future. It also calls for the elimination of the terrorist structures of Hamas, Palestinian Islamic Jihad, and the Popular Front of the Liberation of Palestine. In addition, the measure recognizes the role the United States must play by expressing our intent to reconsider United States assistance to the Palestinian Authority in light of steps that must be taken by the authority against terrorist infrastructures and operations.

Mr. Speaker, these attacks were the work of cowards and common criminals. Now, it's up to both Israeli and Palestinian authorities to bring the perpetrators of these crimes to justice and redouble their efforts to guarantee Israel's security. Just as important, they must not let the terrorists achieve their political objective of derailing the Middle East peace process. The victims will truly have died in vain if terrorism succeeds in renewing the hideous cycle of violence that has plagued Israel since it became a state.

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, at this difficult hour we stand in solidarity with the people of

Israel and reaffirm our commitment to their peace and security. We unequivocally condemn the reign of terror that has forever silenced the voices of so many of our children. We grieve for the victims—and we pray that no Israeli mother will have to bury a son or a daughter ever again. We remember the words of Yitzhak Rabin and say: "Enough of blood and tears. Enough."

The terrible events of the last weeks have profoundly shaken us all. We yearn so desperately for peace—yet today we are at war—at war against terror—at war against the enemies of peace.

There can be no noncombatants in this battle.

Israel has declared war on Hamas. Yasser Arafat must now become a full partner in this struggle. Nothing less is acceptable. There must be no more speeches in Arabic extolling the martyrs—no more terrorists arrested during the day and released at night. The covenant calling for Israel's destruction must be revoked—compliance with the declaration of principles must be total. This is Yasser Arafat's moment of truth—he must prove in word and deed that he is fully committed to peace. Either he is our ally in the war against terror—or he is our enemy.

This week President Clinton will travel to Egypt to participate in a historic world summit against terrorism.

The President's message will be simple and clear: There can be no compromise with terror. The days of talk are over—it is time for action. Hamas and Islamic Jihad must be eliminated. States that sponsor and finance terrorism—Iraq, Libya, Syria—must be isolated. Our allies must join us in cutting off all sources of funding and support for terrorism.

Yitzhak Shamir wrote many years ago that, "Israel's twin goals have always been peace and security." We cannot have one without the other—and that is why we must continue to strive for both in the difficult days ahead. Thank you.

Mr. ROEMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of House Concurrent Resolution 149, and urge all of my colleagues to join me in supporting this resolution to condemn the despicable terrorist bombing attacks in Israel. I am hopeful that it sends a message to the people of Israel to let them know that the United States stands behind them and will provide every possible support against the increasing and menacing incidents of terrorism.

We condemn, will all our strength, the outrageous agenda by extremists seeking to rekindle the glowing ashes of irreconcilability in this long-suffering region. They seek to once again plunge the peaceseekers and the people of the Middle East into conflict and confrontation.

Mr. Speaker, this resolution expresses the sincere condolences of the United States to all of the families of those victims killed in the recent bombings. This resolution also sends a message that the people of Israel are not alone in their fight against terrorism. Indeed, the scourge of terrorism today has permeated each corner of the world, striking developing and developed nations alike.

At this crucial time, as sponsors of the Middle East peace process, we reaffirm our support for the peace process and remain confident that terrorists will not be allowed to obstruct the development of the Palestine-Israeli peace process, their constructive dialog and cooperation to resolve the existing problems. We encourage the Palestinian leadership, which has already condemned these abhorrent provocations, to follow this policy with even tougher measures.

Mr. Speaker, we have simply worked too hard for too long to allow terrorists to take over the peace process and determine the fate of peace after so much progress. Our support for the people of Israel, however, should not stop with passage of this resolution. Later this week, we will debate the antiterrorism legislation which seeks to provide significant resources to fight domestic and international acts of terrorism and bring swift justice to the perpetrators.

While nothing can take away the national and personal pain caused by terrorist attacks on innocent men, women, and children, perhaps this resolution can help in some small way by helping to bring an end to the violence. We strongly voice our support and understanding to the Jewish people of Israel and around the world for peace and against cowardly acts of terror.

Mr. FOX of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, like you, I was shocked and deeply saddened when I heard about the fourth suicide bombing which took place on the Eve of Purim in Tel Aviv's shopping district. The once-solid confidence of the people of Israel and of the pro-Israel community in the United States has been terribly shaken by the tragic events of the past weeks.

The United States and Israel are permanent partners in our pursuit of peace, prosperity, and the promise of liberty. We have built a strong foundation based on years of mutual respect and trust. Together, we share risks, rewards, and losses as we strive to make this world a better, safer place to live, work, and raise our families. The United States will continue to stand "shoulder to shoulder" with its closest ally, the State of Israel, during this troubling time. Hamas and other enemies of peace should know that no blast will be strong enough to weaken the indestructible link between our country and the state of Israel.

After returning from the funeral of the late Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, I remember thinking that in the long run, those who resort to violence will find that it accomplishes little. Often, it spurs people on to completion of the task at hand—in this case, peace in the Middle East. Just as we were building upon the legacy of Yitzhak Rabin, we will now continue on the path for peace, honoring the memory of the 61 innocent victims who were murdered and the 190 who were injured in the four recent reprehensible suicide bombings.

Seventeenth century Dutch philosopher Benedictus De Spinoza once said, "Peace is not the mere absence of war, but is a virtue that springs from force of character." During my trips to Israel this past year, it was clear to me that Yitzhak Rabin provided that force of character. And after meeting with Prime Minister Peres, Yitzhak Rabin's partner in peace, I became convinced that he would continue to provide that force. We must work with him to heal the wounds and move on toward a more permanent peace and sustained security for our Israeli allies.

As Members of Congress, we must not hesitate, together with our colleagues and the White House, to provide whatever diplomatic, economic, humanitarian, or military support is necessary so that Israel can combat the cowardly terrorists of Hamas and others who would seek to derail the peace for which Yitzhak Rabin and so many others gave their lives. The United States must continue to provide whatever form of assistance is required to preserve and protect the peace and security of Israel and its people.

While I am encouraged by the recent arrest of the head of the military wing of Hamas, we must continue to demand that PLO Chairman Arafat and the leaders of all the states of the Middle East join us in this war on terrorism. I am proud to stand in support of International Relations Committee Chairman BEN GILMAN's resolution to clearly communicate this message to Chairman Arafat—we will accept no less than full cooperation on this matter. Chairman GILMAN's legislation demands that the Palestinian Authority apprehend and punish terrorists, confiscate all unauthorized weapons, eliminate the terrorist structure and activities of Hamas, Palestinian Islamic Jihad, and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, ban the existence of all such organizations in the autonomous areas, and amend the Palestinian National Covenant to remove all hate-filled anti-Israel language. This legislation also calls upon all parties to the peace process to condemn terrorist acts and join us in the fight against terrorism. We insist that Iran and Syria cease all support for such deplorable activities. I salute the President for convening the antiterrorism conference tomorrow, and I am also strongly urging him to act decisively and swiftly against those who continue to harbor, arm, or finance terrorists seeking to undermine the peace process.

I thank the chairman for his leadership and I join you in praying for an end to the despicable violence committed by terrorists and for peace and prosperity for Israel and throughout the Middle East.

Mr. SANFORD. Mr. Speaker, this past month terrorist acts in Israel have taken the lives of innocent people. More than that, they have placed the peace of this region once again in jeopardy. Today, I rise to stand with the people of Israel and the Jews around the world. This measure, which we are currently considering, condemns the recent terrorist attacks as well as urges action in support of the peace process. However, it cannot console those who have become victims of a misguided attempt to settle a dispute over land. It cannot repair the buildings and lives which are now fragmented. Through this measure the United States states its opposition to actions such as those which have occurred recently in Israel. This Nation will not condone the senseless actions of terrorists. We stand with those for peace and for Israel.

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CAMP). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York [Mr. GILMAN] that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 149), as amended.

The question was taken.

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 5 of rule I and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on the subject of this concurrent resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

SUPPORT HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 149 CONDEMNING TERROR ATTACKS IN ISRAEL

(Mr. ENGEL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I wanted to add my voice to the comments of my colleagues about the resolution condemning terrorism, but we had hearings today in the House Committee on International Relations to try to find out if the Palestinian authority is doing all it can do or has done all it can do to curb the scourge of terrorism, and I think the frustration that one sees and hears; we feel, on the one hand, that the peace process needs to continue. On the other hand, we cannot continue with blinders and pretend that nothing has happened.

So I certainly support the resolution, I think we need to condemn terrorism, I think we need to reach out to the brave people of Israel. No country could tolerate this kind of wanton terrorism against its civilian population, and I think clearly the ball is in Mr. Arafat's court. He has to determine whether or not he is going to be serious about cracking down on the scourge of terrorism. It is not enough anymore just to condemn it, it is not enough anymore to say one is against it. We have to show actions speak louder than words. He has got to route out terrorism, the United States has to stand foursquare against terrorism, but all the nations of the world have to participate.

So I am happy to join in support of the resolution as I know every Member of Congress will. Terrorism is a threat to all of us everywhere in the world.

□ 1645

IN SUPPORT OF THE PEOPLE OF ISRAEL

(Mr. FOX of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FOX of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise to support the Gilman resolution. The terrible devastation of Israel,