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House of Representatives

The House met at 9 a.m.

The Chaplain, Rev. James David Ford, D.D., offered the following prayer:

Let us pray using the words of the 105th Psalm:

O give thanks to the Lord, call on his name, make known his deeds among the people.

Sing to him, sing praises to him, tell of all his wonderful works.

Glory in his holy name; let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice.

Seek the Lord and his strength, seek his presence continually.

Remember the wonderful works that he has done, his miracles, and the judgments he uttered,

O offspring of Abraham his servant, sons of Jacob, his chosen ones. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 1, rule I, I demand a vote on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The SPEAKER. The question is on the Chair's approval of the Journal.

The question was taken; and the Speaker announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. FORBES. 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. Pursuant to clause 5, rule I, further proceedings on this question are postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from New York [Mr. FORBES] come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. FORBES led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair desires to make an announcement.

After consultation with the majority and minority leaders, and with their consent and approval, the Chair announces that during the joint meeting to hear an address by His Excellency Binyamin Netanyahu, only the doors immediately opposite the Speaker and those on his right and left will be open.

No one will be allowed on the floor of the House who does not have the privilege of the floor of the House.

Due to the large attendance which is anticipated, the Chair feels that the rule regarding the privilege of the floor must be strictly adhered to. Children of Members will not be permitted on the floor, and the cooperation of all Members is requested.

RECESS

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to the order of the House of Thursday, June 27, 1996, the House will stand in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 9 o'clock and 4 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

□ 0948

JOINT MEETING OF THE HOUSE AND SENATE TO HEAR AN ADDRESS BY HIS EXCELLENCY BINYAMIN NETANYAHU, PRIME MINISTER OF ISRAEL

The Speaker of the House presided.

The Assistant to the Sergeant at Arms, Kerri Hanley, announced the Vice President and Members of the U.S. Senate who entered the Hall of the House of Representatives, the Vice President taking the chair at the right of the Speaker, and the Members of the Senate the seats reserved for them.

The SPEAKER. The Chair appoints as members of the committee on the part of the House to escort His Excellency, Binyamin Netanyahu, Prime Minister of Israel, into the Chamber: The gentleman from Texas [Mr. ARMEY]; the gentleman from Texas [Mr. DELAY]; the gentleman from Ohio [Mr. BOEHNER]; the gentleman from California [Mr. COX]; the gentleman from New York [Mr. PAXON]; the gentlewoman from New York [Ms. MOLINARI]; the gentleman from New York [Mr. GILMAN]; the gentleman from Louisiana [Mr. LIVINGSTON]; the gentleman from New York [Mr. SOLOMON]; the gentleman from Alabama [Mr. CALAHAN]; the gentleman from New Mexico [Mr. SCHIFF]; the gentleman from Pennsylvania [Mr. FOX]; the gentleman from Missouri [Mr. GEPHARDT]; the gentleman from Michigan [Mr. BONIOR]; the gentlewoman from Connecticut [Mrs. KENNELLY]; the gentleman from Texas [Mr. FROST]; the gentleman from Maryland [Mr. HOYER]; the gentleman from Indiana [Mr. HAMILTON]; the gentleman from Illinois [Mr. YATES]; the gentleman from Wisconsin [Mr. OBEY]; the gentleman from Texas [Mr. WILSON]; the gentleman from California [Mr. LANTOS]; the gentleman from California [Mr. BERMAN]; and the gentlewoman from New York [Mrs. LOWEY].

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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The VICE PRESIDENT. The President of the Senate, at the direction of that body, appoints the following Senators as a committee on the part of the Senate to escort His Excellency, Binyamin Netanyahu, the Prime Minister of Israel, into the House Chamber: The Senator from Mississippi [Mr. LOTT]; the Senator from Oklahoma [Mr. NICKLES]; the Senator from Florida [Mr. MACK]; the Senator from Idaho [Mr. CRAIG]; the Senator from New York [Mr. D'AMATO]; the Senator from South Carolina [Mr. THURMOND]; the Senator from North Carolina [Mr. HELMS]; the Senator from Utah [Mr. HATCH]; the Senator from Pennsylvania [Mr. SPECTER]; the Senator from South Dakota [Mr. DASCHLE]; the Senator from Kentucky [Mr. FORD]; the Senator from California [Mrs. BOXER]; the Senator from Wisconsin [Mr. FEINGOLD]; the Senator from California [Mrs. FEINSTEIN]; the Senator from New Jersey [Mr. LAUTENBERG]; the Senator from Vermont [Mr. LEAHY]; the Senator from Connecticut [Mr. LIEBERMAN]; the Senator from Rhode Island [Mr. PELL]; the Senator from Minnesota [Mr. WELLSTONE]; the Senator from Oregon [Mr. WYDEN]; and the Senator from Michigan [Mr. LEVIN].

The assistant to the Sergeant at Arms announced the acting dean of the diplomatic corps, the Honorable Nuzhet Kandemir, Ambassador of Turkey.

The acting dean of the diplomatic corps entered the Hall of the House of Representatives and took the seat reserved for him.

The assistant to the Sergeant at Arms announced the Associate Justices of the Supreme Court of the United States.

The Associate Justices of the Supreme Court of the United States entered the Hall of the House of Representatives and took the seats reserved for them in front of the Speaker's rostrum.

The assistant to the Sergeant at Arms announced the Cabinet of the President of the United States.

The members of the Cabinet of the President of the United States entered the Hall of the House of Representatives and took the seats reserved for them in front of the Speaker's rostrum.

At 10 o'clock and 7 minutes a.m., the assistant to the Sergeant at Arms announced the Prime Minister of Israel.

The Prime Minister of Israel, escorted by the committee of Senators and Representatives, entered the Hall of the House of Representatives, and stood at the Clerk's desk.

[Applause, the Members rising.]

The SPEAKER. Members of the Congress, it is my great privilege and I deem it a high honor and a personal pleasure to present to you His Excellency, Binyamin Netanyahu, the Prime Minister of Israel.

[Applause, the Members rising.]

ADDRESS BY HIS EXCELLENCY, BINYAMIN NETANYAHU, PRIME MINISTER OF ISRAEL

Prime Minister NETANYAHU. If I can only get the Knesset to vote like this.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Vice President, Members of Congress, this is not the first time that a Prime Minister of Israel addresses a joint meeting of Congress. My immediate predecessor, Shimon Peres, addressed this body, and before him, the late Yitzhak Rabin, who fell, tragically cut down by a despicable, savage assassin. We are grateful that Israeli democracy has proved resilient enough to overcome this barbaric act, but we shall always carry with us the pain of this tragedy.

I recognize, Mr. Speaker, that the great honor you have bestowed on me is not personal. It is a tribute to the unshakable fact that the unique relationship between Israel and the United States transcends politics and parties, governments and diplomacy. It is a relationship between two peoples who share a total commitment to the spirit of democracy, an infinite dedication to freedom. We have a common vision of how societies should be governed, of how civilizations should be advanced. We both believe in eternal values; we both believe in the Almighty; we both follow traditions hallowed by time and experience.

We admire America not only for its dynamism and for its power and for its wealth. We admire America for its moral force, as Jews and as Israelis. We are proud that this moral force is derived from the Bible and the precepts of morality that the Jewish people have given the world.

Of course, Israel and the United States also have common interests. But our bonds go well beyond such interests. In the 19th century citizens for all free states viewed France as the great guardian of liberty. In the 20th century every free persons looks to America as the champion of freedom.

Yesterday my wife and I spent a very moving hour at Arlington National Cemetery, and we saw there the evidence of the price you paid for that freedom in the lives of your best and brightest young men, and it is a toll that is exacted from you, from all of us, but from you these very days.

I think it was the terrible misfortune of the Jewish people that in the first half of this century the United States had not yet assumed its pivotal role in the world, and it has been our great fortune that in the second half of this century, with the miraculous renewal of Jewish nationhood, the United States became the preeminent power in the world. You, the people of America, offered the Jewish state, a fledgling Jewish state, succor and support. You stood by us time and time again against the forces of tyranny and totalitarianism, and I know that I speak for every Israeli and every Jew throughout the world when I say to you today: Thank you, people of America.

Perhaps our most demanding joint effort has been the endless quest to achieve peace and stability for Israel and its Arab neighbors. American Presidents have joined successive Israeli Governments in an untiring effort to obtain this peace. The first historic breakthrough was led by Prime Minister Begin and Presidents Carter and Sadat at Camp David, and the most recent success was the pact with Jordan under the auspices of President Clinton. These efforts, I believe, are clear proof of our intentions and our direction. We want peace.

We want peace with all our neighbors. We have no quarrel with them which cannot be resolved by peaceful means, nor, I must say, do we have a quarrel with Islam. We reject the thesis of inevitable clash of civilizations. We do not subscribe to the idea that Islam has replaced communism as the new rival of the West, because our conflict is specific. It is with those militant fanatics who pervert the central tenets of a great faith, toward violence and world domination. Our hand is stretched out in peace for all who would grasp it.

We do not care about the religion. We do not care about their national identity. We do not care about their ideological beliefs. We care about peace, and our hand is stretched out for peace.

Every Israeli wants peace. I do not think there is a people who has yearned or prayed or sacrificed more for peace than we have. There is not a family in Israel that has not suffered the unbearable agony of war and, directly or indirectly, the excruciating, everlasting pain of grief. The mandate we have received from the people of Israel is to continue the search for an end to wars and an end to grief. I promise you, we are going to live up to this mandate.

We will continue the quest for peace, and to this end, we are ready to resume negotiations with the Palestinian Authority on the implementation of our interim agreement.

I want to say something about agreements. Some of you speak Latin, or at least study Latin. Pax est summa servanda. We believe agreements are made to be kept. This is our policy. We expect the Palestinian side to abide by its commitments. On this basis, we will be prepared to begin final status negotiations as well. We are ready to engage Syria and Lebanon in meaningful negotiations. We seek to broaden the circle of peace to the whole Arab world and the rest of the countries of the Middle East.

But I want to make it clear that we want a peace that will last. We must have a peace based on security for all. We cannot, and I might say we dare not, forget that more men, women, and children have lost their lives through terrorist attacks in the last 3 years, than in the entire previous decade.

I know that the representatives of the United States sitting here, the people of the United States, are now becoming tragically familiar with this