

He left the negotiations, went back to his home in Gaza and ordered the suicide bombing to begin, still in the belief, 55 years later, after an offer of a Palestinian state for the third time, if he had to live next to a Jewish state of Israel, he did not want the deal. Get rid of Israel altogether or no deal. He did not care if his Palestinian people suffered or not, how many children he sent to die with bombs strapped to their back, how many hundreds of thousands of Palestinian refugees now multiplied in numbers over 55 years were going to rot in Palestinian refugee camps around the Middle East. He did not care. He would not live in peace next to the Jewish state of Israel.

That is where we are today, except they intensified their suicide bombings so that the Israelis have lost the equivalent in American people, given the difference in population, small Israel and big United States, of about 25,000 people in the last 18 months. Can you imagine, God forbid, if America lost 25,000 people to terror in the last 18 months, what we would do? That is what Israel is doing now, going into the areas controlled by Yasser Arafat, getting his weapons, getting his explosives.

Did the Israelis who have a great Air Force and all kinds of bombs drop bombs and destroy these villages entirely, men, women and children without regard? No. Could they have? Of course. They said, "We won't kill innocent civilians, even though they are killing ours." So they sent Israeli troops one by one, door by door to get specific terrorists. That is a democracy, with a moral sense, a moral code. And the number of civilian casualties in the Palestinian areas were minimized. Even though in America when we went into Afghanistan, unfortunately there were quite a lot of civilian casualties, but we did the same thing, tried to minimize them as well.

What is left for us now? What is left for us now is to have the Israeli people root out, as President Bush said, bring to justice, or to bring justice to those who have slaughtered their babies in school buses, in nursery schools, in pizza parlors, in cafes, on the streets and supermarkets.

□ 2030

Twenty-five thousand, the equivalent of American lives in the last 18 months alone. Yet the Israelis get the ammunition, the terrorists, put them in jail, get the explosives, clean up the area, and, then, finally, hope that the Palestinian people will finally accept an offer that they have rejected since 1947: accept your own state next to the Jewish State of Israel. Have your people live in peace and prosperity. Just say you will live in peace.

Mr. DEUTSCH. If the gentleman would try to wrap up, we will have some more time. I know there are a couple of other gentlemen.

Mr. KINGSTON. If the gentleman will yield, I will certainly say we will

be honored to yield to the gentleman more time when we have it, which will be in a few minutes. If I do not, my mother will kill me; and I understand that Mr. DEUTSCH's dad might get a little irritated himself. You are going to conclude, but you are not going to leave.

Mr. ROTHMAN. I will not leave.

Any nation that has said to Israel we are ready to make peace with you, Israel makes peace with them. Even a nation that attacks Israel and Israel defends itself, Israel gives back the lands. It happened to Egypt when they said they would make peace. It happened to Jordan, who invaded Israel several times and lost. They finally made an agreement, King Hussein and the Israelis. Now they live in peace.

What we need is a Palestinian leadership who wants to live in peace with the Jewish State. If they cannot do it, the Arabs and the Persians, the Iranians, they are not Arabs, they are Persians, so they tell me, and I accept their great culture, should have the Palestinian people take yes for an answer, and, after 55 years of rejecting statehood, accept statehood for themselves and for America's number one strategic ally in the Middle East, the only democracy in the Middle East, little tiny Israel. For Israel's sake, for the Palestinian people's sake, for the world's sake.

Mr. DEUTSCH. Mr. Speaker, reclaiming my time, I thank the gentleman. Again I would hope that the gentleman can continue to stay in the Chamber.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. KINGSTON).

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman, and again want to commend the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. ROTHMAN) on his excellent job, as usual.

I would ask the gentleman from Florida to also yield the floor to a very strong pro-Israel advocate who is also a freshman this year, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. CANTOR).

Mr. DEUTSCH. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. CANTOR).

Mr. CANTOR. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague from Georgia for his leadership on this issue and certainly my colleague from Florida for his steadfast leadership and for the incredible wealth of knowledge of my colleague from New Jersey. I thank him as well.

It really is an honor for me to be here and to address this body on such an occasion. We stand here to congratulate and join in celebration with the people of Israel on the 54th anniversary of the creation of the Jewish State of Israel.

It is particularly apt that we are here as this country of ours, the United States, is picking itself up, putting things back in order, from the horrific terrorist attacks on September 11 that killed thousands of innocent Americans. On that day we realize that we shared a common enemy with the people of Israel, an enemy that is as despicable as any we have seen in our

land, one that is after our way of life, our freedom of choice, and our faith in our creator.

Mr. Speaker, the State of Israel grew out of the ashes of the Holocaust, a time in which the Jewish people suffered under an evil and a systematic wickedness that killed 6 million innocent people. To this day, Mr. Speaker, the people of Israel continue to endure the wrath and hatred of so many of its neighbors, as has been pointed out by my colleagues this evening.

The people of Israel continue to endure on a daily basis what the people of our country endured on September 11. The atrocities, the death, the carnage that they must face on a daily basis brings us here this evening in solidarity.

This great country, the United States of America, was founded on the principle that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their creator with certain unalienable rights, and among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

As the legacy of those great 18th century Virginians who put forth those principles, we stand here tonight united in saluting our brethren in the State of Israel, those individuals who never cease to assert their right to a life of dignity, freedom and honest toil in their national homeland.

SUPPORTING ISRAEL'S RIGHT TO DEFEND ITSELF

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. AKIN). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2001, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. KINGSTON) is recognized for 60 minutes.

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, I thank the Speaker for recognizing me and want to immediately recognize my friend from Florida (Mr. DEUTSCH). We are doing this hour on a bipartisan basis tonight. The subject will continue as it did the past hour on our support for Israel's right to defend itself.

With that, let me yield to my friend, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. DEUTSCH).

Mr. DEUTSCH. Mr. Speaker, again, I appreciate this. I know in the last hour several additional colleagues have joined us, and I look forward to hearing from them over the next hour.

One colleague who has been very patient is one of the most knowledgeable Members in the Congress on the Middle East, again someone who has been active in Middle Eastern issues and concern far before he entered the Congress, the gentleman from New York (Mr. WEINER).

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from New York (Mr. WEINER).

Mr. WEINER. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from Florida and the gentleman from Georgia for once again organizing this.

There is a period of time between the commemoration of the anniversary of

the Holocaust and this period where we commemorate this evening the birth of the State of Israel, and those two things, of course, are inextricably linked. We have heard over the course of the last hour an extraordinarily well-detailed, particularly by my friend from New Jersey, a detailed history of the last 44 years.

I would like to spend just a moment talking about some of the ways we, in our rush for the 24-hour news cycle, our rush to try to understand things in 2-minute blurbs, have drawn many of the wrong conclusions about events going on today in the Middle East.

One of the things that is frequently pointed to as a source of the problem that we currently face in the Middle East, people have pointed to the current leadership of Israel, Ariel Sharon, the Prime Minister, and said it is his intransigence that has led to the explosion of violence.

Well, to say that ignores the fact that in fact this intifada began shortly after Camp David II, on September 29, 2000, a good 4 months before Sharon would even take office. Prime Minister Barak, the person who was at Camp David who had made the extraordinary concessions that we have heard about this evening, it was he, perhaps the most flexible, some in Israel almost say too flexible, leader of Israel, that was in power at the time that this explosion of violence began.

Second of all, the notion that Ariel Sharon's government and the people of Israel are not willing to enter into an agreement to end the violence is not true. The Mitchell Plan, which was a very long period of time headed up by former Senator Mitchell, included very difficult concessions for Israel, including things such as they had to withdraw from settlements.

Israel has accepted it. It is the Palestinians that have said they will not. Why will they not? Because the first element of the Mitchell Plan is there has to be a cessation of violence and then a cooling off period, a reasonable first step toward any peace plan. It is the Palestinians that have rejected it.

Then came the Tenet Plan, where the CIA Director went there to try to negotiate steps again to cool down the violence. It was Israel who said we will agree to the Tenet Plan. We will agree to loosen up the restrictions at the border crossings, to allow commerce to move more freely, if the Palestinians agree to stop the terrorism. Again, it was Israel who accepted and it was the Palestinians who said no.

So this idea that the present Government of Israel has been inflexible, intransigent, and that is what has led to the violence, is simply not.

Second of all, there have been some terrible images on television about the events that have gone on in the Middle East and the efforts by the Israelis to crack down on terrorism.

I would say at the outset, Mr. Speaker, no war is civilized. Whenever you are engaged in a war, it is going to

produce some unwanted fatalities; it is going to produce some images that are most troubling, particularly to those of us in a peace-loving nation.

But unlike the way other wars have been prosecuted, unlike the way we, for example, in Afghanistan waged the war at Tora Bora, from the safety of the skies, if you look at how the Russians waged war against Grozny, where there is not even a single building left standing in Grozny now, Israel made a different and arguably the most compassionate decision they could that they were going to go into places like Ramallah, go door by door, house by house, looking for people who had made it their business to go into discoteques and to go into Passover seders with human bombs laced with nails and ball bearings and blow innocent civilians up.

And what has been the result? Some people say why Ramallah? What is it about that town that has made it the subject of these house-by-house searches?

There have been 35 terrorist attacks originating from that city alone in the last 18 months; 417 Tanzim, all elements of the Fatah movement controlled by Yasser Arafat, these are the people he has on the speed dial of his phone, have been operating out of Ramallah.

This is a place where two IDF reserve soldiers in October of 2000 who accidentally took a wrong turn, and, just so you understand, these are reserve soldiers, these are 18- and 19-year-old boys, who were serving their mandatory service in the military, took a wrong turn and were lynched and hung from a Ramallah police station that Israeli dollars paid to build.

All of these things went oncoming from Ramallah. The Jerusalem cafe attack that killed 11 people and wounded 50 took place in Ramallah. Well, door to door the Israelis have been going, trying to find those that would do harm to their people.

I would read a quote from Secretary Rumsfeld talking about the necessity to sometimes go and get terrorists before they come and get your people. This is what he said on February 4, 2002:

"We have no choice. It is physically impossible to defend at every time, in every location, against every conceivable technique of terrorism. Therefore, if your goal is to stop terrorism, you cannot stop it just by defense. You can only stop it by taking the battle to the terrorists where they are and going after them."

I would argue, Mr. Speaker, that it is the Israelis that are the foremost practitioners today of that, the Bush Doctrine.

Finally, there have been perhaps some very troubling images of violence taking place around the Church of the Nativity, the birthplace of Jesus Christ. I have to say something very honestly. If there were Israelis inside that church surrounded by Palestinian

suicide bombers, there would not be a moment of hesitation on the part of the Palestinians to go in, regardless of the destruction to the church.

Not the case with the Israelis. And if you question what I say, Joseph's Tomb, a historic and important monument of the Jewish people, destroyed in October of 2000. An ancient synagogue in Jericho, torn to the ground also in October of 2000. You did not hear the type of protestations we hear now.

Yet what are the Israelis doing? Day in, day out, soldiers, sometimes in the pouring rain, encircling the Church of the Nativity, trying not to do any harm to that location. In the meantime, the terrorist are within. The Israelis are waiting, and they are going to continue to wait until they emerge.

Finally, let me conclude the way I began, and I thank the gentleman from Georgia and the gentleman from Florida once again. There is an inextricable link between the history of Israel, the history of the Jewish people, and their birth as a state.

On Saturday, April 13 in the New York Times, a gentleman named Daniel Gordis wrote about what it is like to live in Israel right now and what it is like to be celebrating Yom HaAtzmaut, which is the Hebrew word for the commemoration of the birth of Israel, and Yom HaShoah, which is the commemoration of the HaShoah.

□ 2045

And he concludes his article, and I would like to quote, and I will insert the entire article in the RECORD. "On Tuesday night, my 12-year-old son, Avi, told me about a Yom Hashoah class discussion about whether the Holocaust could happen again, a session he said he found stupid. Why, I asked? Because, we have a strong Army, he answered. America is our friend, and look out there now. We take care of ourselves."

"The next morning I watched him head off on his bike to school with pride, security and confidence. That is a lot more than Jewish kids in Europe had a few decades ago, a lot more than some Jewish kids have in Europe this week. That is why we need this country. That is why we will fight to keep it."

[From the New York Times, Apr. 13, 2002]

NEEDING ISRAEL
(By Daniel Gordis)

Tuesday was Yom Hashoah, Holocaust Remembrance Day, an agonizing day. In the afternoon, at work, we gathered in a circle while some colleagues quietly read the names of relatives who had been exterminated by the Nazis. Some had long lists; one even brought pictures. During the ceremony, word spread that a group of Israeli Defense Force soldiers—13, it would turn out—had been killed in an ambush in Jenin. Another, in Nablus, fell to friendly fire.

It is hard to describe what 14 soldiers means in this small country. People make frantic calls to find out where their husbands and fathers are. Then the hourly news announces to the entire country the location

and time of each funeral. At such moments it feels that living here makes one part of an extended family. No one in that family wants this war. But very few people here think we can do without it. Israelis understand why we're fighting. We also know why our soldiers are dying. There are significant pockets of armed resistance in the Jenin camp, but there are also lots of civilians. So we can't just bomb from the skies. We send soldiers house to house, only to watch as Hamas fighters use those same civilians as shields. On Tuesday we paid a heavy price.

We had 14 funerals because we won't fight this war the way the Russians fought in Grozny or the way the United States fought in Afghanistan—from the safety of the skies. Hardly a building in Grozny was spared in the bombing; the Russians knew the price they'd pay if they tried to fight on the street. If Israel hit a hospital from the skies the way that the Americans did not too long ago in Afghanistan, just imagine the world's reaction.

Palestinians say we won't let their ambulances in Jenin. Yet two weeks ago Israeli soldiers stopped a Palestinian ambulance with a child in the back on a stretcher, and under him soldiers found an explosive belt. Palestinians say that we're not letting them clear their dead from the streets. The Israeli Army claims that's a lie, that the Palestinians are leaving the bodies there intentionally for good footage on CNN. Who's telling the truth? I don't know.

Last week, when the siege around the Church of the Nativity began, many Israelis understood why we couldn't just shoot our way in, but the frustration was palpable. If it had been Israelis in a church, or a synagogue, and Palestinians on the outside, how long would the siege have lasted? Everyone here knows the answer. When the Palestinians burned down the synagogue at Joseph's tomb in October 2000, the Vatican didn't speak up. When they later destroyed an ancient synagogue near Jericho, European liberals didn't lose sleep.

The siege outside the church began in foul weather. According to reports on Israeli radio, some soldiers stood for hours in the driving rain, making sure that none of the armed Palestinians inside would escape. All that afternoon, the residents of Bethlehem pointed at the rain and shouted: "Get out of here. We hate you. The world hates you. And look, even the heavens hate you."

Maybe the world does hate us for having the audacity to protect ourselves, for meaning it when we say "never again." Maybe the world is secretly delighted that no war can be made to look civilized, so the Europeans and the Palestinians can point their fingers at us and say, "See, they do it, too." Then maybe what they did won't seem so horrific, so unforgivable.

One thing important to Jews is remembering. We won't forget the 20th century and the world's complicity, and when we recall this week, in which we buried 14 of our sons, brothers, husbands and fathers who didn't have to die except for our decision to do this fighting the hard way, we'll remember the world's double standard.

On Tuesday night, my 12-year-old son, Avi, told me about a Yom Hashoah class discussion about whether the Holocaust could happen again—a session he said he found "stupid." Why? I asked. "Because we have a strong army," he answered, "America is our friend, and look out there now—we take care of ourselves."

The next morning I watched him head off on his bike to school, with pride, security and confidence. That's a lot more than Jewish kids in Europe had a few decades ago. It's a lot more than some Jewish kids have in Europe this week. It's why we need this country. And it's why we'll fight to keep it.

"We have no choice. . . . It is physically impossible to defend at every time in every location against every conceivable technique of terrorism. Therefore, if your goal is to stop [terrorism], you cannot stop it just by defense. You can only stop it by taking the battle to the terrorists where they are and going after them."—U.S. Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld, February 4, 2002.

Mr. WEINER. Mr. Speaker, in this great House, we have always stood shoulder to shoulder from all parts of this country, Democrat and Republican alike, strongly allied with the democracy in the Middle East, Israel, and with God's good graces, I hope we stand with her for at least another 44 years.

Mr. DEUTSCH. Mr. Speaker, I know I had chills up my spine as the gentleman was speaking, he spoke so forcefully on the issue.

I yield back to the gentleman from Georgia, but knowing that he is going to introduce the gentleman from Florida, I would say of the gentleman from Florida (Mr. DIAZ-BALART), I think he stands almost alone in this Chamber, but clearly in a unique position, as someone who is incredibly insightful about world events and incredibly insightful about the evil that exists in the world, incredibly insightful about what can be done to fight that evil, and, in fact, has unfortunate personal knowledge of it because of his background and his family's background. He has traveled to Israel with me on at least 1 occasion, and I have seen his personal involvement, his personal connection to the struggle of the people of Israel. I am just very proud that he is with us this evening on this Special Order.

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, I certainly agree with those comments. The gentleman from Florida has been a true human rights leader, not just for his part of the globe, but for the entire world.

Before I yield the floor to him, though, I wanted to say something about what the gentleman from New York (Mr. WEINER) was saying in terms of the little boy on the bicycle leaving with pride that Israelis could defend themselves and having so much more spirit than maybe generations before him on another continent.

When I was in Jerusalem several years ago going through the Holocaust Museum, certainly, one cannot go through a Holocaust Museum without having some emotional twisting in your stomach, in your heart, and just kind of a cascade of different thoughts go through your mind, but one of the more optimistic things that I saw was actually at the end of the Museum, there were some soldiers who were going through the museum.

It happened that most of these soldiers were Israeli soldiers who were women. As the gentleman from Florida knows, they are armed most of the time, and it is almost a militia in that everybody is in the Army at some point in their lives. These young women were walking around in the museum, very casually, very focused on

the museum, yet they all had strapped to them M-16s. I thought, that is a very symbolic message for anybody going through the museum, that it is the intention of modern day Israel to never let that sort of thing happen to them again.

So as we as America look at the things in the Middle East, perhaps we do not appreciate the fervency which the Israelis have in terms of fighting for their independence here on Independence Day of their continued statehood because they have been through so much to get there. They cannot retreat at this point. I wanted to make that point based on what the gentleman from New York (Mr. WEINER) had said.

Now, having taken up some of the time of the gentleman from Florida (Mr. DIAZ-BALART), I wanted to ask the gentleman to do something that he never does here, and that is to tell us a little bit about his personal past. The gentleman from Florida (Mr. DEUTSCH) has touched on it, but I think that it qualifies the gentleman from Florida (Mr. DIAZ-BALART) to speak on the subject based on the gentleman's family situation. If the gentleman does not mind revealing some of that to us, I think it would be very helpful.

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Georgia, and also my good friend from south Florida. It is a privilege for me, and I consider it a true honor, to be here this evening in solidarity with Israel.

I have been an admirer for many years of the Jewish people. The gentleman from Georgia (Mr. KINGSTON) pointed out and talked a little bit about my background. My family had to leave the country that I was born in, Cuba, where I am in the fourth generation of, in this instance, Cuban American, fourth generation in our family of public service which began in Cuba when my great grandfather and his brothers began fighting for independence there. And then my grandfather, after independence, became a lawyer. He was a country lawyer in eastern Cuba and was the lawyer for the Jewish community in Banas, in eastern Cuba.

There was a very vibrant Jewish community in Cuba before the arrival of communism, a very vibrant, growing, prosperous, hard-working, honorable Jewish community in Cuba. Many of them are in south Florida today, and the gentleman from Florida (Mr. DEUTSCH) and I have the privilege of knowing them and working with them and really the honor of their friendship.

What always amazed me about the Jewish people, having lost the country of my birth to totalitarianism, and having lived and seen my country of birth live through 43 years of totalitarianism, and as a child, having been in exile, a refugee from that totalitarianism, and having seen what 43 years means in the life of human beings; 43 years in the life of a human being, in the life of a family, are many years.

Obviously, in the life of a people, 43 years are but a point of reference. But having seen that the Jewish people were forced out of their homeland and that somehow, due to an extraordinary and admirable love of their country and their nationality and their families and their traditions and their origins and their customs and their religion, and much faith and, above all else, perseverance, the Jewish people managed to remain a people, to survive during 1,800 years of exile, and then to finally, after 1,800 years of exile, to be able to return to their homeland and establish a modern-day nation state, that is something that I have always been in awe of and I admire deeply.

So tonight, we stand here in this great Congress saluting the people of Israel on the 54th anniversary of the establishment of their modernization State after 1,800 years of exile. And after the 1,800 years of exile, when the Jewish people were able to return to their homeland and establish the modern State of Israel, the reality of the matter is that there has been too much violence and war and suffering and pain that the Jewish people have had to suffer, and we see it to this day.

So this evening, not only do I consider it an honor to be here saluting and a privilege to be here saluting Israel because of and in commemoration of her 54th anniversary as a modernization State, but also I stand tonight in solidarity with the Jewish people, their right to live freely, their right to live as an independent, sovereign, democratic state, and their right to live in peace. So my hopes and my prayers go out to the Jewish people with a fervent wish for peace and also with a fervent statement of solidarity and support.

One of the reasons why I have found it such an honor to be a Member of this Congress for the last 10 years is that one of the issues that join us, one of the issues that unite us, whether we are Republicans or Democrats or conservatives or liberals, is our support for that friend of the United States, that democracy in the Middle East that is facing so many challenges, perhaps more challenges now than ever before, in some ways. So I respect the decisions of the sovereign democratic state of Israel. I, as a Member of this Congress, support and will continue to support Israel, and that, above all else, obviously in addition to my expression of solidarity and admiration for the Jewish people and for Israel, is what I wanted to do this evening.

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, we thank the gentleman for sharing that very personal, very, very credible testimony.

Mr. Speaker, our next speaker is a gentleman, and we have had a good mix of people tonight. We have had Jewish, Christian, Democrats, Republicans; we have had Members that are Cuban Americans originally, and now we have a gentleman from Indiana (Mr. PENCE),

who actually represents a district that does not have a single synagogue in it, and yet he stands 100 percent behind Israel's right to defend herself. I think it is just important that as we look at this, there are a lot of other Members in this 435-person body who have the same sentiments that those of us who have been here tonight have been expressing, and yet, for one reason or another, they are not with us tonight physically, but they certainly are with us in spirit. It is a great representative sampling.

Mr. DEUTSCH. Mr. Speaker, if the gentleman will yield, I would point out that we literally, across the country, we have had Members throughout America today speak from the heart about what their connection and their hopes and their prayers are this evening.

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding, and I thank the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. KINGSTON) and the gentleman from Florida (Mr. DEUTSCH) for putting this Special Order together.

As the gentleman from Georgia shared, I am a Christian, a conservative, and a Republican, in that order. My faith trumps my philosophy, and my philosophy trumps my partisanship, and it is from my faith and from my philosophy, as it is I believe for many Christian Americans, that I believe a passion to this issue. Not just during the present impasse have I been an advocate for Israel, but for many, many years in and out of public life in central Indiana, I have, Mr. Speaker, been an advocate of the dream that is Israel.

□ 2100

And it is a dream. I scarcely let a day go by that I do not pray for the peace of Jerusalem. I pray for security within her citadels, not just for the Jewish people there, but for the people of every race and every creed who convene there.

But when I say that Israel is a dream, I do not say that lightly, Mr. Speaker. Today, if I am pronouncing it right, we celebrate Israel's Independence Day, Yom HaAtzmaut. It is the 54th anniversary of an extraordinary occasion in human history.

It was an occasion when, while it was done under the rubric of the United Nations and under the color of international understandings, let there be no mistaking it, the people of the United States of America, by their beneficence and good will toward a people, 6 million of whom had been slaughtered by the Nazis in Central Europe, chose to use their power in the world to replace this displaced people in their historic homeland.

Never before, Mr. Speaker, does history record an occasion where a nation was born in a day until, in 1948, Israel, largely through the generosity of the people of the United States of America, was born. And it was in every sense a dream. It was a dream, as the gen-

tleman from Florida (Mr. DIAZ-BALART), just shared, a dream of some 1,800 years of a people that never gave up on a vision, that never gave up on the idea of returning home.

So as we think of the reasons why the United States of America should stand with Israel, Mr. Speaker, it begins with the fact that America established Israel in 1948 in her homeland. More than any other Nation, she is our ally. She is our friend in so many ways. We are the mentor, she is the mentee.

We entered into a partnership with Israel in 1948 which, Mr. Speaker, at the risk of becoming passionate and emotional, a partnership that could never be described as America becoming an honest broker, sliding to the middle of the table. From 1948 forward, America had one place at the table, and it was standing like a protector and a provider over the right shoulder of Israel.

So we stand with her because we were there in the beginning. We stand with her because she is our ally. But we also stand with Israel today because she is in trouble. She is beleaguered. Eighteen months of random violence since the Intifada began in the year 2000, and 400 citizens killed, thousands injured, millions distressed. Israel is ground zero in the war on terrorism. What better time to define the metes and bounds of our relationship and our alliance than when our friend is in her darkest hour?

I have been grieved, Mr. Speaker, by the ambiguity of U.S. policy, particularly during recent days. It seems to me America should stand, as we do, astride the world as the lone superpower, with our arms quietly folded, with a tear in our eye for the suffering of all of the people of the region, but we should stand quietly while our friend does what needs to be done to end the murdering in their own streets.

So America should stand with Israel because she is our ally from her beginning, and because she is distressed; also, because she is the only democracy in the Middle East. I have this idea, Mr. Speaker, that the people of the Middle East, as Prince Hassan of Jordan describes it, the people who live in the arc of crisis from India to the West Coast of Africa, are a people capable of democracy and self-government and civil liberties.

I believe in that dream. And Israel, as she did in 1948, rose out of the dust of the Middle East and established that the dream of democracy born on our shores in 1776 is not an American dream, it is a dream of all peoples of the world. With this, I close and yield back to more eloquent colleagues.

As I said in the beginning, Mr. Speaker, I come from a Christian and a conservative perspective, and I believe that our administration and the leaders of our government would do well to reflect, yes, on the passion of elected leaders from the Jewish community at all levels of government in America, but let them also reflect on the people

of Christian faith in America who cherish the dream of Israel, as the Bible says, as the apple of God's eye.

Because I believe it was from the hearts of people in the heartland of America, places like the little buckboard churches that dot the landscape of my eastern Indiana district, it is the people that fill up those churches on Sunday morning and Sunday night and Wednesday night who give me, as I travel my district, time after time standing ovations when I say America must have one position, and that is to stand with Israel, unambiguously.

And it is those people who believe in that simple principle, that part of our prosperity, part of our own destiny, is tied up in the belief that whoever blesses Israel will be blessed, whoever curses Israel will be cursed. Let it ever be that our government expresses the love that believing Christian Americans have for Israel, that believing Jewish Americans have for Israel. Let this American government always stand for that dream and that passion.

Mr. KINGSTON. I thank the gentleman for those passionate, very good, very clear words and that good message. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. DEUTSCH).

Mr. DEUTSCH. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding. This has been an evening where we have tried to elaborate on a couple of different themes.

From a historical perspective, this is Israel's Independence Day, but also we try to share information, both with those viewing and with other colleagues.

I think one of the questions which is a basic question is why are the Israelis presently making incursions into towns like Ramallah and Bethlehem and Nablus and Jenin.

I think one of the things, and I put this map back up just, again, to give a perspective which many, or in fact most, Americans have, but it is a perspective to think about, that the entire state of Israel is about the size of New Jersey. In fact, my congressional district, the northern border of my district is the Palm Beach County of Florida; the southern border of my district is Key West, Florida. In fact, the length of my district is longer than the length of the state of Israel.

The reason I mention that is just the size. If people have been to Israel, and especially for the first time, the thing that I think is so striking, besides the incredible sense that history is reality, that we can be on the steps Jesus walked on, or we can see the wall of the temple, or we can see the city of Jericho, and look out where Moses was not able to enter the promised land but actually see the mountains, besides the historical reality of the sites of the country is the size of the country.

People talk about neighborhoods like Ilo or Pisgot sev as if they are far away. They are Jerusalem. Those are neighborhoods that are being shot at. Just the country itself, the area be-

tween Natana and the West Bank is 12 miles. Twelve miles in my district would be the equivalent of from the city of Fort Lauderdale to north Miami Beach, from Fort Lauderdale to Dade, distances which people of south Florida can appreciate how small they are.

But again, why did Israel make those incursions? They made those incursions really because of the chart on the left, and also I am going to change charts and add an additional chart which we had showed earlier. What Israel's people had suffered, not just over the last 18 months but disproportionately over the last several months, is hard for us to comprehend the level, again, based on the size of the country.

One of the phenomena of 9/11, the attack on the World Trade Center, the Pentagon, and the plane that crashed in Pennsylvania, is most Americans in a sense were not just affected, but directly affected. Most of us know someone personally that had a tragedy that occurred, and we have seen it. We have literally felt it.

It is hard for us to contemplate what it would mean, again, with the comparable numbers of seven 9/11's in America, literally seven 9/11's, almost on a daily basis not being able to go to the grocery store or to have a celebration, a bar mitzvah or a wedding without an incredible concern of a violent attack.

The suffering, the direct acts of terrorism that Israel had been facing, were unprecedented for any nation, for any nation. And can we expect any nation to do nothing?

In the previous special order, I talked about two watershed events that occurred as recently as 3 months ago, 12 weeks ago. One was the Karine-A, the ship that the Israeli commandoes commandeered, and it had over \$20 million of sophisticated weapons from Iran that the Palestinian Authority bought.

Now, originally, Chairman Arafat denied any involvement with that ship. His only plausible deniability, in a sense, was he was not on the ship. But let me be specific. It has been discussed in the public domain at this point.

Both the Americans and the Israelis had direct knowledge of Chairman Arafat's personal involvement in the purchase of those weapons. Again, as has been discussed in the public domain, Colin Powell called up Chairman Arafat and said to him, why did you do this? These weapons were not rifles, they were mortars, sophisticated mortars, sophisticated weapons. We have seen pictures of them and a listing of those weapons.

Chairman Arafat's response to Colin Powell was, what weapons? What ship? I had nothing to do with it. But again, as I said, in the public domains, the Israelis and the Americans were aware of what occurred. Colin Powell said to him, we are going to show you the evidence. The evidence was presented to him. Yet, he then still said, what involvement? What ship?

If we think about that, how could we expect to have any negotiations, any

relationship, any prospect for a final status with someone who outright lies to us when we know that that person is lying? That is number one.

The second incident over the last 12 weeks, which was really a watershed incident, was a sniper attack on the Israelis at a checkpoint, the Israeli soldiers. About six Israel soldiers were killed in a matter of a couple of minutes.

For anybody who has been in Israel, or just again, the map of the small size of Israel, once that occurred, those sniper attacks, those sniper rifles could shoot several miles, so with a line of sight in the building we are in now, if someone was on the roof of this building with a sniper rifle, they could shoot literally, God forbid, someone standing in the driveway of the White House over a mile away.

Now, once that occurred and no one was trying to prevent that, after those incidents occurred, the Israeli government decided to go into some of these communities and literally go house to house and wall-to-wall to do what no one else was trying to do: to stop the terrorism that was affecting their people and killing their people on almost a daily basis. That is exactly what the Israelis were doing; no less, no more than America did and America must do in response to the attack on us on 9/11.

I think that is what the previous speaker talked about, the ambiguity issue. There is united 100 percent support in the United States of America for President Bush's efforts on the war on terrorism, for the efforts of the American men and women who are fighting that war in Afghanistan. And we are 100 percent, there is no daylight between any of the 435 Members of this Chamber on that issue, because we understand and we agree completely with the President's assessment of that threat to America, and we agree with the assessment of the threat to America from Iraq and from Syria, from North Korea, in terms of terrorism and weapons of mass destruction.

We will do everything we can as a society and as a nation to prevent those things from happening. We will do anything. I think those people understand that, because we have shown that we will do anything.

□ 2115

There is no question that what is happening in Israel is a level of terrorism unprecedented for a country. Can we expect the Israelis to do anything less than us? Can we expect them to do anything? Can we ask them to do anything less than us? If anything, what we should be doing is praising them for those efforts, supporting them for those efforts because those acts of terrorism must end.

Those acts of terrorism, again, I think as has been pointed out by my colleagues, are not just acts of terrorism against Israel. Make no mistake about it. Those acts of terrorism are not just acts of terrorism against

Israel. They are acts of terrorism against the United States of America, and when a bomb goes off in an Israeli pizzeria, an Israeli cafe, an Israeli banquet hall, the perpetrators of that action are as much trying to kill civilians in Israel as they are trying to destroy the United States of America, and what our actions should be as a society and as a country should be to prevent that from happening because if we do not prevent it there, I think unfortunately it is only a matter of time till it comes here.

So we are brothers and sisters with the people of Israel in this area. We are fighting together this war of terrorism, and we should not be trying to stop it. We should be trying to help it for it to come to a successful conclusion.

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, I now yield to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. ROTHMAN).

Mr. ROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

I want to build on what my colleagues have been talking about for the last several minutes. When the gentleman from Florida (Mr. DEUTSCH) mentioned that there were the equivalent of seven September 11's in Israel in the last 18 months, that is true, but it would be seven September 11's, not in a country as big as America, but in a land and a State the size of New Jersey, seven September 11's, God forbid, within the size of the State of New Jersey.

By the way, just to remind everybody, look at how the sliver that Israel is along the Mediterranean. When we compare it with Egypt and Jordan and Saudi Arabia and Iraq and Iran, all over here, Israel's infinitesimal. Syria, Turkey, a sliver.

For the last 54 years, Israel has been America's number one ally in a very hostile region. More importantly, Israel has been America's number one ally in an extraordinarily strategic region for the United States. As I said and as has been referred to before, Israel is America's battleship of democracy in a sea of totalitarians, dictators and murderous thugs. Saddam Hussein, Syrian dictator, the mullahs, the religious councils in Iran who overrule their own democracy, the slaughter that goes on by Lebanon which is now occupied by 45,000 Syrian troops. The world does not say a peep.

Does America's best friend for the last 54 years, Israel, by the way, who has the best voting record at the United Nations in support of the United States than any country in the Middle East and all of Europe, America's best friend, state of Israel, do they ask America to go fight Israel's battle? Have they asked for a single American soldier? No, they never have.

They did not in 1948 when all the surrounding armies invaded Israel. They did not in 1967 when all the surrounding Arab armies invaded Israel, saying to their people we are going to drive the Jews into the sea. They did not in 1973 when all the surrounding ar-

mies invaded Israel, and they have not asked for it now, despite the seven 9/11s of terrorism in the last 18 months alone.

Israel does not want special treatment. Israel wants to be considered like all the other Nations of the world which it is. It certainly has all the legitimacy of any other nation in the Middle East. Israel, recognized by the United Nations in 1948, all the major countries of the world agreeing, the Jewish state shall live. As they agreed Saudi Arabia should live in 1932, as Jordan should be created in 1946, as they said that Egypt should be recognized in 1922, as Syria recognized in 1946, as Iraq recognized in 1923, Iran recognized in 1925 and Lebanon recognized in 1943, so too Israel should be and was recognized in 1948.

So Israel's no youngster. It is celebrating its 54th birthday. What is left? Why is there still violence?

Well, the Palestinian people and their leaders, ever since 1947, when they were offered half of the State of Israel, with the Jews having the other half in 1947, a two-state solution offered by the United Nations under U.N. Resolution 181, in 1947, they were offered half of Israel. They rejected it, as they rejected Israel's offer of a two-state solution in 1967, as they rejected the offer of Israel for a two-state solution in the year 2000 at Camp David.

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, reclaiming my time, I have Mr. DEUTSCH's chart of some time, and what I thought I would do since it ties in with what my colleague is saying, I was going to go down some of these dates.

Mr. ROTHMAN. That would be great, if I could finish my line of thought.

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, what I would like the gentleman to do is as I call these out, maybe underscore and give some of his knowledge.

Mr. ROTHMAN. That is kind of the gentleman to say. I am going to finish my point, which is it breaks my heart, breaks the Israeli's people's heart. It would break any person's heart who has any shred of decency that the Palestinian leadership has turned down statehood for themselves and their people since 1947, offered it in 1947, 1967, and 2000. Does not it break my colleague's heart, that they condemn their own men, women and children to live in statelessness because they do not want to live next to the Jewish state recognized by the U.N., albeit the tiny little Jewish state in a sea of Arab Nations, Muslim Nations and Persian Nations?

Breaks my heart and so we plead for the Palestinians to get themselves a leadership that will, as Egypt did and as Jordan did, say they will live in peace with the Israelis for good, as their neighbor and they will have their own state and peace, accept as their own state that has been offered since 1947, as we say take yes for an answer. The Palestinians will never drive America's best friend Israel, will never

drive the Jewish state into the sea, never.

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman and I wanted to, having grabbed the gentleman from Florida's (Mr. DEUTSCH) chart a second ago, I wanted to go ahead and resubmit this for the RECORD. As maybe as I will read some of these key dates, anything the gentleman wants to add, I will go slowly, but I thought it would be good if we had it on the comments the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. ROTHMAN) was making.

The history of Israel, 1917, the Balfour declaration.

Mr. ROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, that is when England said after World War I, we want to, just as we are giving Arabia to the Saud family and we are giving Jordan to the Hussein family and creating all these countries, we think there should be a Jewish homeland in this area of the world, which the British owned by virtue of getting it as in the spoils of war after World War I, taking it from the Turks.

Mr. DEUTSCH. If I can just add, I think one of the important things to note from an historical basis is that at no time during that 1,800-year exodus was there not a Jewish presence in the area of Palestine or what has become the modern state of Israel.

Mr. KINGSTON. That is good to point out. 1922, the British divide the mandate of Palestine.

1947, the U.N. passes Resolution 181, the partition plan.

Mr. ROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, that is what we were just talking about, the 1947 partition plan that the Palestinians and the Arab world rejected when Israel would have been divided in half, half Palestinian, half Jewish, with Jerusalem as an international city. They rejected it. They thought they would just drive the Jews in the sea and have it all.

Mr. KINGSTON. The 1948, Ben Gurion declares Israeli independence, five surrounding Arab nations attack.

1956, the Sinai campaign.

Mr. ROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, by the way, the Sinai campaign refers to the fact that in 1967, the surrounding Arab nations went to war with Israel again.

Mr. DEUTSCH. Mr. Speaker, if the gentleman would yield, I would appreciate it.

This is a copy of a letter that the Israeli troops in some of the locations the Palestinian Authority uncovered arjans. These are people who are saying these are not accurate documents. I think that is hard to believe and not credible at all in terms of where they have been found and the authenticity of them. In fact, this particular one I do not think is even being challenged at this point in time.

The reason I think it is significant, tied directly into the comments just being made about 1947 is what is Chairman Arafat's goal or the goal of the Palestinian authority. Is it peace with Israel or the eradication of Israel? I think why this particular letter is so

significant is that it is a letter to the Arabs who live in Israel.

Israel is a Jewish state but has a significant population of non-Jews who are treated as equal citizens with equal rights, but what is significant is that this is a letter to the Arabs who live in Israel that was circulated amongst the group in Israel, literally calling for a war, a violent war within Israel proper today, not in the West Bank, not in Gaza.

So I think that from the perspective of the Israelis and I think the real question, this is concrete specific, in Arabic to Arabs, what Chairman Arafat's goals are, not an independent Palestinian state living side by side with Israel, but literally the eradication of the state of Israel.

Mr. ROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, I think that is a wonderful document that demonstrates why for 55 years now, ever since 1947, the Palestinians still believe they will destroy Israel and not have to share this with Israel, but imagine if it was 55 years after the American revolution and people came to war against us for four times. We would say do you not get it.

One last thing, the Church of Nativity is being surrounded by Israelis because there are 200 terrorists in there. They have offered the Palestinian terrorists in the Church of the Nativity either surrender and come to trial with international observers of the trial or we will let you go into exile in another country. These Palestinian terrorist extremists are so radical they want to rather die or kill Israelis or destroy the Church of the Nativity rather than go into exile or to seek to go before an international trial.

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, I wanted to also submit for the record an editorial written by William Daugherty, who is actually a former CIA employee who was one of the Iranian captives in 1979. He lives in Savannah, Georgia, works for Armstrong Atlantic State University, but he had this letter in the Savannah Morning News, and I thought it was very good to remind Americans, and I am going to read a lot of this.

It is going to take a few minutes, but he was just saying that we are focusing on the PLO as anti-Israeli force only and what Dr. Daugherty says is, yet they have killed Americans. The first American to be killed by a PLO-sponsored group was Shirley Anderson June 17, 1969. Since then the PLO groups have murdered more than 60 Americans and wounded at least as many. Among the dead were two ambassadors, an Olympic athlete, tourists, business persons and students.

PLO groups under the control of Arafat or his subordinates were the Black September, Force 17 and the Palestine Liberation Front. Black September was especially close to Arafat, existing as a front for Arafat's own mainstream Fatah, led by one of his closest lieutenants.

Then in this letter, I will not read all the umbrella groups that the PLO, as

an umbrella group for a number of different so-called liberation groups, but the Palestinians on one occasion resorted to contracting out terrorists attacks, notably when three members of the Japanese Red Army under the auspices of the PFLP carried out a deadly assault in the arrival area of Lod Airport outside Tel Aviv; 26 were killed and 78 wounded, the citizens of America being the majority.

□ 2130

"Americans were murdered in numerous other ways by PLO members. Eight were killed when their Swissair jet was blown up en route to Tel Aviv; others died in bus and car bombings or were shot. Especially shocking were the ax-murder of a student (1975) and the brutal murder of Leon Klinghoffer, a wheelchair-bound elderly tourist on the hijacked *Achille Lauro* (1985). But despite knowing the identities of at least some of the perpetrators, and almost always the organization that they belonged to, few have ever been arrested and none extradited to the United States."

The reason that I thought Mr. Daugherty's letter is important is that this group, led by Arafat, has been around terrorizing lots of people for a long time, and it has not been confined to Israelis.

REMEMBERING THE MANY AMERICAN VICTIMS OF ARAFAT'S TERRORIST NETWORK

It is worthwhile to remember that the Palestinian Liberation Organization, under Yasser Arafat, has been a terrorist organization for nearly 35 years, and that it and its subordinate groups have murdered a significant number of Americans during that time.

Yet not only have the tragedies been forgotten and the perpetrators mostly unpunished, Arafat, has been accorded head of state status by many "civilized" nations, admitted as an Observer to the United Nations, and permitted an office down the street from the White House. Leaving aside for now any "blame" for contemporary middle East history, a review of terrorism against Americans by the PLO will help Americans at least partially to understand why Arafat has not been and cannot be a partner for peace.

The first American to be murdered by a PLO-sponsored group was Shirley Anderson on June 17, 1969. Since then, PLO groups have murdered more than 60 American citizens and wounded at least as many. Among the dead were two ambassadors, an Olympic athlete, tourists, business persons and students.

PLO terrorist groups, under the control of Arafat or his chief subordinates were Black September, Force 17, and the Palestine Liberation Front. Black September was especially close to Arafat, existing as a front for Arafat's own "mainstream" Fatah, and led by Salah Khalaf (Abu Iyad), his closest lieutenant. Other groups existing under the PLO umbrella with responsibility for American casualties were the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, The Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-Special Command.

The Palestinians upon occasion further resorted to "contracting out" terrorist attacks, notably when three members of the Japanese Red Army, under the auspices of the PFLP, carried out a deadly assault in

the arrival area of Lod Airport outside of Tel Aviv; 26 were killed and 78 wounded, the majority American citizens.

Americans were murdered in numerous ways by PLO members. Eight were killed when their Swissair jet was blown up en route to Tel Aviv, others did in bus and care bombings or were shot. Especially shocking were the ax-murder of a student (1975) and the brutal murder of Leon Klinghoffer, a wheelchair-bound elderly tourist on the hijacked *Achille Lauro* (1985). But despite knowing the identities of at least some of the perpetrators, and almost always the organization they belonged to, few have ever been arrested and none extradited to the United States.

Perhaps if European countries had fought Palestinian terrorism in its early days as strenuously as they did their own domestic terrorism, the Middle East might be different today, with the PLO a legitimate organization headed by a Palestinian willing to live in peace with Israel. A few countries did fight the terrorists, particularly Great Britain and Germany. But others—France, Austria, Italy, Greece—not only did not pursue Palestinian terrorists, they either made deals to avoid acts of terrorism on their own soil or simply caved in without pressure, afraid of retaliation.

Rather than treat deaths caused by Palestinian terrorists as criminal murder, they viewed these abominations merely as "political acts" by "freedom fighters," and therefore excusable.

Best known is the Achille Lauro event and the murder of passenger Klinghoffer. The terrorists, led by Arafat Protege Abu Abbas, surrendered to the Egyptians who, rather than prosecute them as required by the international law, sent them on their way to Tunis—headquarters of the PLO at the time—in an Egyptian jet.

U.S. Navy aircraft intercepted the jet and forced it to land in Italy. Immediately behind was a transport with America's elite Delta Force, to take custody of these terrorists. Surrounding the jet with the terrorists, Delta then discovered that it was surrounded by Italian military forces. A firefight between allies seemed imminent, as the Italians refused to turn over the murderers.

Eventually, four lesser terrorists were indicted by Italy (and treated with leniency), while Abbas and his second in command were spirited away to Yugoslavia and thence to Tunis.

Elsewhere, France made deals with the deadly Abu Nidal Organization (not a PLO group, to be sure) to avoid terrorism on its territory; and when the ANO set of car bombs in Paris that killed and maimed several hundred French citizens, the Socialist government of Francois Mitterrand still kept its end of the bargain.

There are numerous other examples of Europeans aiding Palestinian terrorists, may almost beyond comprehension (France refused to arrest the mastermind of the Munich massacres and instead provided him protection). But had a Europe, united by revulsion at foreign-inspired terrorism, viewed murder for what it was—a criminal vice political act—and proceeded to work to eradicate it (while concurrently working with legitimate Palestinian groups to achieve a peace with Israel), the past 30 years might have been much different.

Instead, the leader the PLO continues to kill and maim while hiding behind the facade of statesmanship. It is time to remember the Americans who become victims of this terrorist and the dancing in the streets.

Mr. DEUTSCH. Mr. Speaker, I think that is an incredibly important statement because what we have acknowledged today is that Chairman Arafat

not only was a terrorist in the incidents the gentleman was describing in the 1960s, 1970s and 1980s, but literally into the 21st century. And one of the things that has been uncovered, again, are internal documents of the Palestinian Authority off of hard drives of computers so it is not credible that this is not authenticated, real information. These are copies which literally has Chairman Arafat's signature. These are two that are available, and these are specific requests of payments for terrorists, for people who are engaged in specific acts of terrorism. From the bar mitzvah ceremony, there are specific names of people and specific amounts that Arafat personally signed and approved, \$600 per person.

The other chart is a list of 10 people, specific terrorists; and what is interesting, the gentleman that sent the letter was just captured by Israelis, and he viewed himself as working directly for Chairman Arafat. So the terrorism that is described is not terrorism of 5 years ago or 5 months ago. The dates are interesting, September 19, 2001, and this is January of 2002.

The Arafat era is over, and I think there has to be an acknowledgment by the United States that that era is over. We have said repeatedly we cannot negotiate with terrorists, and that in fact is what Mr. Arafat is. We cannot negotiate with him. He cannot be a leader. He cannot be a partner. The Palestinian people have a right to choose their leader, but that leader cannot be a terrorist if they expect to be a state.

Mr. ROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, it breaks our hearts for the Palestinian people that they have refused to elect leaders who will deliver them a Palestinian state.

Mr. DEUTSCH. Mr. Speaker, it is not that they have not, but they have not been given a choice. One of the things that has been pointed out on this floor is that Chairman Arafat was supposed to be the leader, and he was elected in 1996, but that term expired in 2000. In 2000, there was supposed to be an election that he did not allow to take place.

Mr. ROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, the question is what should Israel be doing now. Israel is doing now what the United States is doing now: protecting its people from terrorists, and bringing justice to them or bringing them to justice, until these people either will say we will live in peace with you, or they will be so disabled by our military that they no longer threaten our men, women and children. That is what Israel is doing.

Israel, which has tremendous military intelligence-sharing with the United States for 50 years, and provides us with great military advantage in the Middle East, only one of many reasons they have been our best friend and remain our most important strategic ally in the whole Middle East for the last 55 years.

Mr. DEUTSCH. Mr. Speaker, tomorrow evening I am going to have the op-

portunity to have an interactive town meeting that will be available for people not just in Florida, but through satellite coordinants throughout the country. If people have questions, the former American ambassador, Martin Indyk, will be there. The e-mail address to ask questions is FL20townhall@mail.house.gov. The 800 number is 1-800-931-1303. The satellite coordinants can be acquired through our Web site. I welcome those comments.

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, in closing, while the background of this conflict is somewhat complicated, the moral dimensions are very, very clear-cut. We have one side that sends soldiers to wipe out suicide bombers; the other side that sends suicide bombers to wipe out guests at bar mitzvahs. We have one side that publishes maps showing how an Israel and Palestinian state can co-exist; the other side publishes a map which says Israel does not even exist now. One side apologizes when its explosives kill wives and children of killers it targeted; the other side targets wives and children. One side was grief-stricken on September 11 and declared a national day of mourning; and the other side danced in the streets and distributed candies in celebration. One side has never deployed a suicide bomber in its 54 years of existence; the other side has deployed more than 40 in the past 12 months alone.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. CLYBURN (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT) for today on account of official business in the district.

Mr. LATOURETTE (at the request of Mr. ARMEY) for today on account of attending a funeral.

SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. LIPINSKI, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. WATSON of California, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. NORTON, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. PALLONE, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. ALLEN, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. KAPTUR, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. LANTOS, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. JEFF MILLER of Florida) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. KNOLLENBERG, for 5 minutes, April 24.

Mr. JEFF MILLER of Florida, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. HORN, for 5 minutes, April 24.

Mrs. MORELLA, for 5 minutes, April 23.

Mr. KIRK, for 5 minutes, April 24.

Mr. SWEENEY, for 5 minutes, April 24.

Mr. WELDON of Florida, for 5 minutes, today and April 18.

Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. JONES of North Carolina, for 5 minutes, April 18.

Mr. SOUDER, for 5 minutes, today.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 9 o'clock and 37 minutes p.m.), the House adjourned until tomorrow, Thursday, April 18, 2002, at 10 a.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 8 of rule XII, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

6214. A letter from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Change in Disease Status of Austria Because of BSE [Docket No. 02-004-1] received March 22, 2002, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

6215. A letter from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Change in Disease Status of Finland Because of BSE [Docket No. 01-131-1] received March 22, 2002, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

6216. A letter from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Importation of Horses, Ruminants, Swine, and Dogs; Inspection and Treatment for Screwworm [Docket No. 00-028-2] received March 22, 2002, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

6217. A letter from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Citrus Canker; Removal of Quarantined Area [Docket No. 02-018-1] received March 22, 2002, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

6218. A letter from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Commuted Traveltime Periods: Overtime Services Relating to Imports and Exports [Docket No. 01-125-1] received March 22, 2002, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

6219. A letter from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Origin Health Certificates for Livestock Exported From the United States [Docket No. 99-053-2] received March 22, 2002, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

6220. A letter from the Secretary of the Navy, Department of Defense, transmitting notification that certain major defense acquisition programs have breached the unit