

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 308) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 308

Whereas ensuring that the citizens of the United States are globally literate is the responsibility of the educational system of the United States;

Whereas educating students internationally is an important way to share the values of the United States, to create goodwill for the United States around the world, to work toward a peaceful global society, and to increase international trade;

Whereas, according to a 2002 American Council on Education poll, 79 percent of people in the United States agree that students should have a study abroad experience sometime during college, but only 1 percent of students from the United States currently study abroad each year;

Whereas study abroad programs help people from the United States to be more informed about the world and to develop the cultural awareness necessary to avoid offending individuals from other countries;

Whereas a National Geographic global literacy survey found that 87 percent of students in the United States between the ages of 18 and 24 cannot locate Iraq on a world map, 83 percent cannot find Afghanistan, 58 percent cannot find Japan, and 11 percent cannot even find the United States;

Whereas studying abroad exposes students from the United States to valuable global knowledge and cultural understanding and forms an integral part of their education;

Whereas Congress recognized through the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001 et seq.) that the security, stability, and economic vitality of the United States in an increasingly complex global age depend largely upon having a globally competent citizenry and the availability of experts specializing in world regions, foreign languages, and international affairs;

Whereas the Coalition for International Education, an ad hoc group of higher education organizations with interests in the international education programs of the Department of Education, and Government Accountability Office reports have found that Federal agencies, educational institutions, and corporations in the United States are suffering from a shortage of professionals with international knowledge and foreign language skills;

Whereas, according to the Coalition for International Education, institutions of higher education in the United States are struggling to graduate enough students with the language skills and cultural competence necessary to meet the current demands of business, government, and educational institutions;

Whereas a survey done by the Institute for the International Education of Students shows that studying abroad influences subsequent educational experiences, decisions to expand or change academic majors, and decisions to attend graduate school;

Whereas substantive research literature demonstrates that some of the core values and skills of higher education are enhanced by participation in study abroad programs;

Whereas study abroad programs not only open doors to foreign language learning, but also empower students to better understand themselves and others through a comparison of cultural values and ways of life;

Whereas study abroad programs for students from the United States can provide

specialized training and practical experiences not available at institutions in the United States;

Whereas a blue ribbon task force of NAFSA: Association of International Educators, a global association of individuals dedicated to advancing international education and exchange, found that a national effort to promote study abroad programs is needed to address a serious deficit in global competence in the United States;

Whereas the bipartisan, federally-appointed Commission on the Abraham Lincoln Study Abroad Fellowship Program, established pursuant to section 104 of the Miscellaneous Appropriations and Offsets Act, 2004 (division H of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2004 (Public Law 108-199; 118 Stat. 435)), is scheduled to make recommendations by December 1, 2005, for a national study abroad program to meet this need: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates 2006 as the “Year of Study Abroad”;

(2) encourages secondary schools, institutions of higher learning, businesses, and government programs to promote and expand study abroad opportunities; and

(3) encourages the people of the United States to—

(A) support initiatives to promote and expand study abroad opportunities; and

(B) observe the “Year of Study Abroad” with appropriate ceremonies, programs, and other activities.

EXPRESSING SYMPATHY FOR THE PEOPLE OF JORDAN

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 309 which was submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 309) expressing sympathy for the people of Jordan in the aftermath of the deadly terrorist attacks in Amman on November 9, 2005.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. SALAZAR. Mr. President, I rise to express my deepest sympathies to the people of Jordan, and to all of those affected by the terrorist attacks that occurred yesterday in Amman.

Abu Musab al-Zarqawi and his al-Qaida organization in Iraq have taken responsibility for this attack, and if this is true, they have added still more blood to their hands. These attacks on civilians—guests, workers, a wedding party at three hotels in Jordan’s capital brutally illustrate the hateful agenda of the terrorists. The hotels themselves may have been associated with the West, but reports indicate that the victims of this terrorist attack were Americans, Palestinians, Chinese, Indonesians, Syrians, Saudi Arabians, and, of course, Jordanians. Just as global terrorist networks threaten all people of all faiths, so too did this attack cause terrible pain and loss for families and communities around the world.

Every time I read headlines like those we all read this morning, I am re-

mindful of the tragedy of September 11, 2001. The American people know something about how the people of Jordan feel today. We feel grief, but we also feel outrage, and these feelings merge into unshakable resolve. We will work in partnership with countries and communities around the world to resist and to defeat those who would have us live in fear.

Mr. FRIST. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 309) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 309

Whereas the United States and a broad international coalition are engaged in a Global War on Terrorism;

Whereas on November 9, 2005, a series of explosions struck 3 hotels in Amman, Jordan, killing at least 56 people and injuring at least 115 others;

Whereas the terrorist attacks on Amman, Jordan, were senseless and barbaric acts carried out against innocent civilians;

Whereas Al Qaeda in Iraq has claimed responsibility for the terrorist attacks in Amman, Jordan;

Whereas the people and Government of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan have been targeted in several attempted terrorist attacks over the past few years;

Whereas the people of Jordan have a long and enduring friendship with the people of the United States and their close cooperation in political, economic, and humanitarian endeavors has benefitted both nations and the people of the Middle East region;

Whereas the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan is a stalwart ally of the United States in the global war against terrorism;

Whereas the people of the United States stand in solidarity with the people of Jordan in fighting terrorism;

Whereas the Government of the United States immediately condemned the terrorist attacks and extended the support and condolences of the people of the United States to the people of Jordan; and

Whereas on September 12, 2001, in a letter to President George W. Bush condemning the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks on the United States, King Abdullah of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan stated that “the people of Jordan join the people of the United States in our absolute condemnation of the terrorist aggression against your nation . . . our hearts reach out to the victims and their families, and we honor the selfless men and women who have risked their lives to aid the injured and suffering . . . be assured that the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, its leaders and people stand with you against the perpetrators of these terrorist atrocities. We denounce the violence and hatred they represent.”: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) condemns, in the strongest terms, the senseless and barbaric terrorist attacks on the innocent people of Amman, Jordan, on November 9, 2005;

(2) expresses its condolences to the families and friends of those individuals who were killed in the attacks and expresses its sympathies to those individuals who have been injured;

(3) expresses the strong and continued solidarity of the people and Government of the

United States with the people and Government of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan as they recover from these inhumane attacks;

(4) declares its readiness to support and assist the authorities of Jordan in their efforts to bring to justice those individuals responsible for the attacks; and

(5) calls upon the international community to renew and strengthen efforts to—

(A) defeat terrorists by dismantling terrorist networks and exposing the violent and nihilistic ideology of terrorism;

(B) increase international cooperation to advance personal and religious freedoms, ethnic and racial tolerance, political liberty and pluralism, and economic prosperity; and

(C) combat the social injustice, oppression, poverty, and extremism that bolsters terrorism.

HONORING ISRAELI PRIME MINISTER YITZHAK RABIN

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 310 submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 310) honoring the life, legacy and example of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin on the tenth anniversary of his death.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. FRIST. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statements relating thereto be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 310) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 310

Whereas Yitzhak Rabin was born March 1, 1922, in Jerusalem;

Whereas Yitzhak Rabin volunteered for the Palmach, the elite unit of the Haganah (predecessor of the Israeli Defense Forces), and served for 27 years, including during the 1948 War of Independence, the 1956 Suez War, and as Chief of Staff in the June 1967 Six Day War;

Whereas, in 1975, Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin signed the interim agreement with Egypt (Sinai II) which laid the groundwork for the 1979 Camp David Peace Treaty between Israel and Egypt;

Whereas Yitzhak Rabin served as Ambassador to the United States from 1968–1973, Minister of Defense from 1984–1990, and Prime Minister from 1974–1977 and from 1992 until his assassination in 1995;

Whereas, on September 13, 1993, in Washington, D.C., Yitzhak Rabin signed the Declaration of Principles framework agreement between Israel and the Palestinians;

Whereas, upon the signing of the Declaration of Principles, Yitzhak Rabin said to the Palestinian people: “We say to you today in a loud and clear voice: Enough of blood and tears. Enough! We harbor no hatred toward you. We have no desire for revenge. We, like you, are people who want to build a home, plant a tree, love, live side by side with

you—in dignity, empathy, as human beings, as free men.”;

Whereas Yitzhak Rabin received the 1994 Nobel Prize for Peace for his vision and bravery as a peacemaker, saying at the time: “There is only one radical means of sanctifying human lives. Not armored plating, or tanks, or planes, or concrete fortifications. The one radical solution is peace.”;

Whereas, on October 26, 1994, Yitzhak Rabin and King Hussein of Jordan signed a peace treaty between Israel and Jordan;

Whereas, on November 4, 1995, Yitzhak Rabin was brutally assassinated after attending a peace rally in Tel Aviv, where his last words were: “I have always believed that the majority of the people want peace, are prepared to take risks for peace . . . Peace is what the Jewish People aspire to.”; and

Whereas Yitzhak Rabin dedicated his life to the cause of peace and security for the state of Israel by defending his nation against all threats, including terrorism, and undertaking courageous risks in the pursuit of peace: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) honors the historic role of Yitzhak Rabin for his distinguished service to the people of Israel and extends its deepest sympathy and condolences to the family of Yitzhak Rabin and the people of Israel on the tenth anniversary of his death;

(2) recognizes and reiterates its continued support for the close ties and special relationship between the United States and Israel;

(3) expresses its admiration for Yitzhak Rabin’s legacy and reaffirms its commitment to the process of building a just and lasting peace between Israel and its neighbors;

(4) condemns any and all acts of terrorism; and

(5) reaffirms unequivocally the sacred principle that democratic leaders and governments must be changed only by the democratically-expressed will of the people.

RECOGNIZING THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SECOND VATICAN COUNCIL

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H. Con. Res. 260 which was received from the House.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the concurrent resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 260) recognizing the 40th anniversary of the Second Vatican Council’s promulgation of *Nostra Aetate*, the declaration on the relation of the Roman Catholic Church to non-Christian religions, and the historic role of *Nostra Aetate* in fostering mutual interreligious respect and dialogue.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the concurrent resolution.

Mr. VOINOVICH. Mr. President, I rise to strongly encourage my colleagues in the Senate to support this resolution recognizing the 40th anniversary of the Second Vatican Council’s Declaration on the Relation of the Church to Non-Christian Religions, *Nostra Aetate*, and the continuing need for mutual interreligious respect and dialogue.

October 28, 2005 marked the 40th anniversary of *Nostra Aetate*, which

means “in our time.” On October 28, 1965, *Nostra Aetate* affirmed the respect of the Roman Catholic Church for Hinduism, Buddhism, Islam, and Judaism, and called upon all Catholics to engage in dialogue and cooperation with the followers of other religions. *Nostra Aetate* states that the Roman Catholic Church, moved by the Gospel’s spiritual love, decries hatred, persecution, and displays of anti-Semitism directed at Jews at any time and by anyone. As stated in the resolution, *Nostra Aetate* marked a new relationship between Catholics and Jews worldwide and opened a chapter in Jewish-Christian relations that is unprecedented in its closeness and warmth.

With *Nostra Aetate*, Pope John Paul VI called on all Catholics not only to decry the persecution of people of non-Christian religions, but also to love and respect them.

As it is stated in a passage from *Nostra Aetate*: “In our time, when day by day mankind is being drawn closer together, and the ties between different peoples are becoming stronger, the Church examines more closely its relationship to non-Christian religions. In her task of promoting unity and love among men, indeed among nations, she considers above all in this declaration what men have in common and what draws them to fellowship. . . . Men expect from the various religions answers to the unsolved riddles of the human condition, which today, even as in former times, deeply stir the hearts of men: What is man? What is the meaning, the aim of our life? What is moral good, what sin? Whence suffering and what purpose does it serve? Which is the road to true happiness? What are death, judgment and retribution after death? What, finally, is that ultimate inexpressible mystery which encompasses our existence: whence do we come, and where are we going?”

Nostra Aetate acknowledges that all people of all religions are united by the fact that we are all searching for the answers to the most basic questions about life and God, and that we must love and respect one another, despite our differences.

The message of *Nostra Aetate* is of particular importance today, amidst the conflict in the Middle East and terrorism in the name of Islam. As we continue the battle against the rise in anti-Semitism, prejudice against Muslims, and all other forms of intolerance and xenophobia, both internationally and within the United States, we must remember the value of this message that calls for interreligious respect, tolerance, and dialogue and decries all forms of hatred.

Mr. FRIST. I ask unanimous consent that the concurrent resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statements relating to the concurrent resolution be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.