

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

ISRAEL

Mr. GRAHAM. Mr. President, a couple things.

This is a very dark day for our friends in Israel. Apparently, earlier this morning, about an hour and a half after the agreed-upon cease-fire, an Israeli column of soldiers who were trying to decommission a terrorist tunnel, consistent with the terms of the cease-fire, were attacked by a suicide bomber that resulted in some Israeli casualties. That column also was hit by antitank missiles, and a group of Palestinian Hamas fighters engaged the column, resulting in the capture of one Israeli soldier.

For lack of a better way of explaining this, there was a cease-fire. Israel was acting consistent with the terms of the cease-fire, and this was a planned military operation to take advantage of the cease-fire. In the law of war this would be a great breach. At the end of the day Israel is a victim of a group of people called Hamas that lie, cheat, have everything in their being that most of us should condemn.

So what has the Senate done? This could be a very good day for the U.S.-Israeli relationship. To my Democratic and Republican colleagues in the Senate, you have risen to the occasion. I thank the majority leader Senator REID and the minority leader Senator MCCONNELL for bringing up Iron Dome funding. I thank all of my colleagues for allowing the funding to go forward. Senator COBURN was trying to find an offset. He is being consistent in trying to bring our fiscal house in order. He is a very principled man, but he understood the urgency of the matter in Israel and withdrew his objection last night.

To our friends in Israel, the Senate has acted in a unanimous fashion, bipartisan in nature, to appropriate \$225 million to resupply the missiles that you need to defend yourself under the Iron Dome Program. With the missiles comes a message. The message is we are with you. Take as long as you need. Go where you need to go to deal with this terrorist threat called Hamas.

To the Palestinian people, we are not your enemy. We hope one day you will reject Hamas and try to find a peaceful solution to your problems with your Israeli neighbors, and we stand ready to help in that regard.

The Palestinian Authority and Israel have a good working relationship when it comes to the West Bank. Hamas has been in charge of Gaza for several years now, and this cycle of violence repeats itself. You will have a cease-fire. You will have a lull in the violence. One year later you will fight Hamas again. They have fired over 15,000 rockets into Israel. In 2005 Israel withdrew from Gaza, giving land for peace. The land was given, the peace has been unattainable.

So the real root of the problem is Hamas. There is no moral equivalency here. Hamas is trying to kill every Israeli possible. They are firing missiles by the thousands indiscriminately into Israel. They could care less where they land. Thank God for the Iron Dome. The most heinous of all is they have put their own people in harm's way as human shields. As Israel tries to tell people to withdraw from an area because it is coming under attack, Hamas says: Ignore the leaflets. You go to that area.

There is a video where a hospital was occupied by Hamas fighters. Israel gave 2 days' notice to evacuate the hospital. When the hospital was destroyed militarily because it became a command center for Hamas, secondary explosions went on for quite a while. It was also an ammo dump.

So Hamas uses mosques, hospitals, apartment complexes. We found two instances of Hamas rockets being stored in U.N. schools. They are violating every known tenet of the law of war. They are using their own people as human shields in an unprecedented strategic manner.

As to the United Nations, you are about to run afoul of the Congress. The Human Rights Commission issued a resolution that had one sentence condemning the attacks on Israeli civilians. It never mentioned the word "Hamas." It basically accused Israel of being a war criminal.

It passed 27 to 1. We were the lone vote objecting to the resolution, which was so out of sync with reality, and several major nations abstained.

The United Nations is becoming more anti-Israeli as I speak. Anti-Semitism is spreading throughout the world, but let it be said that the Senate in a bipartisan fashion will have no part of this. The United Nations is a force that could be used for the good or it could be a force to make problems worse.

I consider myself, as a Republican, an internationalist. I believe in foreign assistance. I believe in helping people. I believe in leading the world, not having the world run us over. Ronald Reagan is a great role model from my point of view. He said: America makes history. That is our destiny. We shape history; we are not overrun by it. That does not mean we have to become the world's policeman or act as the Lone Ranger. It does mean we have to stay involved in the world. That is my point of view. But it is very hard to maintain that point of view when the United Nations, I believe, is being hijacked in such a fashion.

To the United Nations leadership: You are about to run afoul of the Congress, who wants to be part of the body that wants to shape the world for the better. By your constant condemning of Israel in a disproportionate manner to what is going on, on the ground in Gaza, beware of where you are taking this. To the Human Rights Commission: You have become a joke in the eyes of Congress.

The second thing I hope we can do is pass a resolution that was authored by myself and Senator MENENDEZ this morning. It is cleared on the Republican side. I think we are about there on the Democratic side.

So what have we done? Tactically, the Senate has acted in a fashion to resupply missiles to the Iron Dome Program that is literally under siege. Strategically, we have a partnership agreement pending before the Senate that reaffirms our relationship for years to come as a signal to Israel: Strategically, we will be your partner as far as the eye can see.

So that is pending before the Senate, and I hope we can clear it today. Today, of all days, would be a great time for us to make decisions that reinforce the military capability of the Israelis to defend themselves, recommit ourselves to a strategic partnership.

And the third thing we could do is lend our moral voices as a nation by condemning the attack of Hamas against the Israeli defense forces and the capturing of a soldier.

This resolution thoroughly points out the cease-fire breach by Hamas, the preplanned attack on the Israeli column during the cease-fire, the capturing of a soldier. We are condemning this activity as a breach of international law, and we are urging that Hamas return the IDF soldier.

This resolution would give the moral voice of our Nation and the Senate to the cause Israel faces. So if we could, in a dysfunctional Congress—and we deserve a lot of criticism, both parties are to blame—but if we could end the day speaking as one on something that is very important, the survival of our friends in Israel—not being anti-Palestinian but being pro-Israel and pro-peace and being anti-Hamas—I just wish and hope and pray the Palestinian people will reject Hamas and turn in a new direction because in that direction you will find peace and you will find America as a partner.

So let it be said the Senate, in the most turbulent political times, found its way when it came to supporting our friends in Israel by appropriating money to help their military which is under siege, by passing a strategic partnership agreement that reaffirms the relationship, and by lending our voice to what happened today in condemning, in no uncertain terms, the vicious attack and the breach of the cease-fire by Hamas.

If we could do those three things today, it would be the right message, it would send the right message at the right time, and it would solidify this relationship that is so important because the enemies of Israel are our enemies also. Radical Islam has the same desire to kill us and destroy our way of life as they do Israel. At the end of the day we have to understand our fates are tied together.

CRISIS ON THE BORDER

Mr. GRAHAM. Mr. President, the second issue I would like to talk about is my colleagues in the House are trying to find their way to pass legislation regarding the crisis on the border. They tried yesterday. They failed. They are back at it again.

I thank Speaker BOEHNER, from the Republican point of view, for not leaving town until we have a solution in a Republican-controlled House. It has been hard to find. It is an emotional issue. It is a difficult issue on many levels. The human suffering of the children—everybody is moved by that, as we should be. But we cannot incentivize these three countries in question to keep sending their children here, putting their children at risk, and overrunning our systems. That is not the way to deal with our neighbor.

So the House hopefully will pass legislation reforming the 2008 law that needs to be reformed to make children from Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, that region subject to the same laws as if you came from Mexico, and they are putting money aside to deal with the deportation problem and the humanitarian crisis.

If they can pass a solution to this problem, I am urging the majority leader of the Senate to bring us back in because we should not be gone for 5 weeks with something this important left unresolved. You may not agree with the House, but let's take up their proposal, amend it, vote on it, vote it up or vote it down, take the prior Democratic proposal, allow amendments to be had on both sides of the aisle, and see if we can find common ground on dealing with the border.

The President at one time embraced changes in the 2008 law. That has to be done or we will never solve the problem.

I do not mind spending money in a humanitarian fashion as long as we are spending money to solve the problem, not perpetuate it. So if the House can find its way in offering a solution to the border crisis, I am urging my Democratic colleagues who control this body to act. Let's not be gone for 5 weeks. Bring us all back. See if we can find a solution among ourselves in the Senate, talk to our colleagues in the House and solve the problem.

It is within our power to do so. I know we can get there. I know there are at least five or six Democrats who understand throwing money at the problem without changing the 2008 law gets you nowhere. There are plenty of people on our side who understand a humanitarian crisis does exist. Let's marry these forces and see if we can come up with a bipartisan compromise in the Senate.

The only way you can do that is to be allowed to offer amendments and debate. I cannot think of a problem more dramatic facing the Nation right now in terms of a crisis than what is happening on our border: 50,000 unaccompanied children, the spike in people

coming from Central America after President Obama unilaterally gave amnesty to children already here. No matter how well intentioned, it has created the belief in that part of the world that if you make it to America you can stay.

We want you to understand there is a legal way to get to America. Just do not show up on the doorstep and ask to be taken in. That is not a way for our Nation to have to deal with people wanting to come to this Nation. So I hope we will not be gone for 5 weeks with this problem unaddressed.

If the House can get its act together and pass a solution to the problem, it would be incumbent, in my view, upon the Senate to reconvene, deal with the House proposal, come up with one of our own, and engage the House to solve this problem. Five weeks is a very long time to be away from a problem this important.

As to the August break, contrary to what a lot of people may believe, we do not all go on vacation. We try to take some time for ourselves and our families. But it is a chance to go visit other parts of the world, to get informed on problems that can come here in terms of affecting our national security. Situations over there are going to come here if we do not deal with them responsibly. It is a chance to do things in your State. So people are very busy during August. They try to capture some time for themselves. But at the end of the day, 5 weeks is way too long to be absent from Washington as the crisis on the border gets worse. If the House can find a solution to this problem, I am urging the Democratic-controlled Senate to bring us back, take up their solution, vote it up, vote it down, bring back the Senate bill, allow it to be amended so we can find consensus. Consensus is there if we want to find it.

I appreciate the Presiding Officer's voice on national security. The Presiding Officer has been a stalwart friend of Israel in trying to find a way forward regarding the problems the Ukrainian people face. I hope we can find a solution to our border crisis. But a final thought as to Israel: Today could be a very good day for the U.S.-Israel relationship. It started in the Senate. I hope my House colleagues will pass the Iron Dome legislation that we passed by unanimous consent today. The House needs to get this done so the President can sign this into law.

To my colleagues in the House: Please take up Iron Dome. Let's get this right.

I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from California.

Mrs. BOXER. I ask that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—
S. 2673

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, we all know that our ally Israel is in a fight for survival because a terrorist group, so named by the United States and Europe, is at war with Israel right now. We remember how it all started, with the kidnapping of three Israeli boys and the torture and the deaths, and Hamas praised that. Tragically, there was a revenge killing, and the Israeli Government arrested the Israelis responsible for that and they are going to face justice, while Hamas praises—praises—what happened.

Today I spoke to the Ambassador, and this is what I heard him say—and I haven't fact-checked this, but as I understand it there was a cease-fire in place, all sides agreed everything was clear. Israel was going to be allowed to clear out the tunnels which are being used to open to Hamas the country of Israel, where they go under the ground and they have one objective—to kill Israelis, to torture them, to kidnap them. No country—no country—could ever live with that, no country—not our country.

Imagine if we had 100 rockets a day coming from Mexico or Canada or from the sea, either side. We would never ever sit back for that. We would never sit back if under our great cities we had terrorists building tunnels so they could sneak in suicide bombers to kill our people.

Here we had a cease-fire, and I know the Secretary of State worked hard. Yet and still what happened, even though it was known that Israel was permitted to continue clearing out these tunnels, a suicide bomber blew himself up, killed Israeli soldiers and someone else grabbed and kidnapped—we think—we think—an Israeli soldier. We don't know all the facts on it. This must be condemned.

We have a bill, Senator BLUNT and I, and it has 81 cosponsors on it. It is the Israeli American strategic partnership act, and it will send a strong signal today that we stand with Israel. We want peace. We want justice. We want a good life for the Israelis and the Palestinian people. But you cannot do it when you have a terrorist organization running, in essence, the Gaza Strip.

In this bill Senator BLUNT and I have worked on, there is a visa waiver section, and I want to go over that because I fear we may have objections to this. I am hoping not, I still hope we won't, but in this visa waiver section it does three things: First, it expresses the sense of the Senate that Israel should be designated as a program country under the Visa Waiver Program.

Second, it urges United States engagement with Israel to help it meet the requirements of the waiver program; i.e., when Israelis come over