

Israel's first prime minister, in the very declaration that established the state, and I quote, "We offer peace and amity to all neighboring states and their peoples. The State of Israel is ready to contribute its full share to the peaceful progress of the Middle East."

The Israeli people have been ready for peace, not just since Oslo in 1993, they have been ready for peace for 54 years. But peace requires a partner. It is clear that Yasir Arafat will not negotiate in earnest and will not keep his promises. He encourages suicide bombers. His actions threaten the security of Israel and the stability of the whole region. And they endanger our own country's war against terrorism.

My colleagues, we must remain actively and assertively engaged. Our message must remain unequivocal. Terror against any of us is terror against all of us, and it must stop.

Just as the United States decisively struck back against the terror perpetrated on our own shores, Israel must do the same. We have told Yasir Arafat what we expect, and he has met our requests with unreasonable demands and promises of violence. He has avoided real leadership, preferring to incite terror, hatred, and chaos. We must not bow to these tactics. I call on others in the region to put aside their dangerous flirtation with terror and push the Palestinian Authority towards the peace they claim to support. This is the only way progress can be achieved. The Israeli-Palestinian conflict can no longer be a pressure valve for their failings and for the resentments of their people. They must save the region from its path of slow self-destruction.

Today, as this long and sad saga continues, Congress will reaffirm the strength of the United States-Israel relationship. Let there be no mistake why this friendship endures. We both cherish democracy. We are both committed to freedom of speech and human rights. And we stand together against terror. I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

Mr. DIAZ-BALABRT. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Texas (Mr. PAUL).

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

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me this time, and I rise to express some concerns about the process that we are going through today.

I am on the Committee on International Relations, and we have not yet had a chance to really debate this. This was brought up rather rapidly last night. We had to not break the rules but bend the rules a little bit to get this resolution to the floor. It seems like it would have been reasonable to bring this up next week, but there may have been some other reasons why this is being pushed through today.

Certainly this would not have been the State Department's first choice. In talking with the State Department, matter of fact, they expressed some real reservations about this. They said it is not a very helpful approach, and they said we need to work with the situation as it is to be an honest broker.

This legislation is one-sided and, therefore, not very helpful. So here we are, as a Congress, in a desire to please certain people, moving quickly, even though it may affect what is going on in the State Department. And the State Department goes on to say that this one-sided legislation just comes when in the past 48 hours or so we have been making some progress.

Even our chairman of the committee was quoted in the paper this morning of saying, well, if he had his way, he would prefer a more balanced resolution. And he is a very, very strong supporter of Israel. Of course, I would like to see a more balanced resolution, too. I would like to see one where we balance America's interests as well as others.

There is a lot of talk about democracy and peace. I take a position of nonintervention in the affairs of other people. I believe very sincerely that it is consistent with the Constitution and very sincerely that it works to our best interest for national security and for defense; and that even though this is intended very sincerely to help Israel, motions like this, resolutions like this, can very well backfire and actually hurt Israel more so than they will help.

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER).

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the underlying resolution which supports Israel's response to the attacks on its people. For many years, in the early 1990s, I was one of the most outspoken Members of this body urging the United States and its European allies to act with force, if needed, to stop the slaughter and ethnic cleansing of the Muslim community in Bosnia-Herzegovina. I believe that we had a moral imperative to confront the Milosevic-inspired evil and to take action to stop it. I stood squarely with the Muslim community seeking international justice.

I do not choose to be evenhanded or neutral in the face of despots who preach death and destruction to others. I believe Yasir Arafat is such a despot. In the name of legitimate grievances, he and his terrorist allies employ grossly illegitimate means. We must bring peace to this savage region of our globe, but we must not achieve peace at the price of justice. Justice for Israel, the only democratic state in the region, and her people, and justice as well for the Palestinian people.

Today, Mr. Speaker, I join in supporting this resolution because I strongly support the right of Israel's people to eliminate the genesis of unconscionable terrorist attacks against innocent men, women and children. The State of Israel, like every other nation on earth, has the right of self-defense. This resolution is an expression of American solidarity with Israel as it acts to maintain and secure its independence as a free and sovereign nation.

At the same time, it is incumbent upon the United States as well as the

international community to continue to work with Israel and other States in the region to end this escalating cycle of violence, to relieve the suffering of all peoples of that region, and to work toward a permanent and stable peace. I absolutely believe the Israeli people share that goal. I pray that there are Palestinian leaders who share it as well. In his actions and his words, it is clear to me, however, that Yasir Arafat does not.

We must not shrink from our responsibility to stand for a just resolution of this continuing conflict, and we must surely avoid making muddled mistaken parallels between essentially justified defensive actions and terrorist tactics designed to inflame and destroy. We must be committed to helping the parties avoid violence and effect peace. We must be willing to help a Palestinian state realize economic stability. And we must be willing to be an honest broker to achieve these ends. But we must leave no doubt that we are absolutely and irrevocably committed to the survival of Israel and to its security and to its safety of its people. On that, my colleagues, there can be no neutrality.

Mr. DIAZ-BALABRT. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Virginia (Mr. CANTOR).

Mr. CANTOR. Mr. Speaker, I would like to first of all thank the majority whip, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DELRAY), and the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS) for their leadership in bringing forth this resolution.

As the men and women in uniform continue to fight our war against the terrorists in Afghanistan and continue to face resistance by al Qaeda forces, I think it is very important that we reflect upon the words of our President which he delivered on September 20. He said that any nation that continues to harbor or support terrorism will be regarded by the United States as a hostile regime.

I commend the President for these bold words and would suggest, Mr. Speaker, that our success in fighting this war depends upon America's preserving the precise definition of America's struggle. We cannot allow for exceptions or conditions. We cannot permit safe havens from which terrorists can operate with impunity. And we cannot shrink from our responsibility to support free nations under siege, especially Israel.

That is why we are here today, Mr. Speaker. The underlying resolution that we are here today to debate speaks very clearly of the failure by Mr. Arafat and his Palestinian Authority leadership to abide by the terms of the Oslo accords, to embrace non-violence and to renounce terrorism once and for all. Mr. Arafat has been unequivocal in his embrace of terrorism. The resolution points to the recent uncovering of evidence pointing to the direct financial support by Mr. Arafat and the Palestinian Authority to engage in the killing of innocent men, women, and children.