

107TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. CON. RES. 133

Expressing the sense of Congress relating to remarks by the President of Syria concerning Israel.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 15, 2001

Mr. FLAKE (for himself, Mr. GILMAN, Mr. CANTOR, and Mr. WEXLER) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on International Relations

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of Congress relating to remarks by the President of Syria concerning Israel.

Whereas on March 27, 2001, at the first regular Arab summit gathering in more than 10 years, President Bashar al-Assad used his speech to lash out at Israel;

Whereas on March 28, 2001, the New York Times reported, “In electing Mr. Sharon to be their leader, President Assad said, Israelis had chosen a man who hated anything to do with Arabs and had dedicated his career to killing them.”;

Whereas President Assad additionally said, “We say that the head of the government is a racist, it’s a racist government, a racist army and security force,” he said, adding

that by extension, “It is a racist society and it is even more racist than the Nazis.”;

Whereas on March 28, 2001, State Department spokesman Richard Boucher described President Assad’s remarks as, “absolutely wrong . . . totally unacceptable and inappropriate.”;

Whereas on March 29, 2001, the Bush administration’s top Middle East diplomat, Assistant Secretary of State Edward Walker, responding to Assad’s remarks stated, “His statement at the Arab League was unacceptable, particularly his reference to Zionism as racism.”;

Whereas on May 5, 2001, in his welcoming speech to Pope John Paul II, upon the Pope’s arrival in Damascus, President Assad said, “They, Israelis, try to kill all the principles of divine faiths with the same mentality of betraying Jesus Christ and torturing Him, and in the same way that they tried to commit treachery against Prophet Mohammad.”;

Whereas on May 6, 2001, at the Umayyad Mosque, Muhammad Ziyadah, Syria’s minister of religious affairs, said, “We must be fully aware of what the enemies of God and malicious Zionism conspire to commit against Christianity and Islam.”;

Whereas on May 7, 2001, State Department spokesman Richard Boucher condemned President Assad’s remarks, “Our view is that these comments are as regrettable as they are unacceptable. There’s no place from anyone or from any side for statements that inflame religious passions and hatred.”; and

Whereas it is only through constructive diplomacy, and not through hateful, counterproductive speech, that peace can

possibly be achieved in the Middle East: Now, therefore,
be it

1 *Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate*
2 *concurring)*, That, the Congress—

3 (1) condemns Syrian President Bashar al-Assad
4 for his inflammatory remarks on March 27, 2001,
5 and May 5, 2001;

6 (2) expresses its solidarity with the state and
7 people of Israel at this time of crisis;

8 (3) calls upon President Assad and the Syrian
9 Government to refrain from any future inflam-
10 matory remarks;

11 (4) commends the Administration for its swift
12 response to President Assad's remarks; and

13 (5) urges the Administration to emphasize to
14 Syrian Government officials the concerns of the
15 United States about the negative impact such re-
16 marks make on Middle East peace negotiations.

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