

108TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. RES. 276

Expressing the sense of the Senate regarding fighting terror and embracing efforts to achieve Israeli-Palestinian peace.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

NOVEMBER 25, 2003

Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself, Mr. CHAFEE, Mr. NELSON of Florida, Mr. LEAHY, and Mr. LAUTENBERG) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the Senate regarding fighting terror and embracing efforts to achieve Israeli-Palestinian peace.

Whereas ending the violence and terror that have devastated Israel, the West Bank, and Gaza since September 2000 is in the vital interests of the United States, Israel, and the Palestinians;

Whereas ongoing Israeli-Palestinian conflict strengthens extremists and opponents of peace throughout the region, including those who seek to undermine efforts by the United States to stabilize Iraq and those who want to see conflict spread to other nations in the region;

Whereas more than 3 years of violence, terror, and escalating military engagement have demonstrated that military means alone will not solve the Israeli-Palestinian conflict;

Whereas despite mutual mistrust, anger, and pain, courageous and credible Israelis and Palestinians have come together in a private capacity to develop serious model peace initiatives, like the People's Voice Initiative, One Voice, and the Geneva Accord;

Whereas those initiatives, and other similar private efforts, are founded on the determination of Israelis and Palestinians to put an end to decades of confrontation and conflict and to live in peaceful coexistence, mutual dignity, and security, based on a just, lasting, and comprehensive peace and achieving historic reconciliation;

Whereas those initiatives demonstrate that both Israelis and Palestinians have a partner for peace, that both peoples want to end the current vicious stalemate, and that both peoples are prepared to make necessary compromises in order to achieve peace;

Whereas each of the private initiatives addresses the fundamental requirements of both peoples, including preservation of the Jewish, democratic nature of Israel with secure and defensible borders and the creation of a viable Palestinian state; and

Whereas such peace initiatives demonstrate that there are solutions to the conflict and present precious opportunities to end the violence and restart fruitful peace negotiations: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the Senate—

2 (1) applauds the courage and vision of Israelis

3 and Palestinians who are working together to conceive

4 pragmatic, serious plans for achieving peace;

1 (2) calls on Israeli and Palestinian leaders to
2 capitalize on the opportunity offered by these peace
3 initiatives; and

4 (3) urges the President of the United States to
5 encourage and embrace all serious efforts to move
6 away from violent military stalemate toward achiev-
7 ing Israeli-Palestinian peace.

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