

108TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. RES. 477

Expressing the sense of the Senate in support of a reinvigorated United States vision of freedom, peace, and democracy in the Middle East.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

NOVEMBER 19, 2004

Mr. FRIST (for himself and Mr. REID) submitted the following resolution;
which was considered and agreed to

RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the Senate in support of a reinvigorated United States vision of freedom, peace, and democracy in the Middle East.

Whereas the President articulated to the world on November 12, 2004, a vision of freedom, peace, and democracy for the broader Middle East;

Whereas this vision was also shared and expressed by Prime Minister Blair of the United Kingdom;

Whereas that vision includes a just and peaceful resolution of the Arab-Israeli conflict based on 2 democratic States, Israel and Palestine, living side by side in peace and security;

Whereas the President again stated his commitment to the security of Israel as a Jewish State;

Whereas the road map, endorsed by the United States, the United Kingdom, Israel, the Palestinian Authority, the European Union, Russia, and the United Nations, remains a realistic and widely recognized plan for making progress toward peace;

Whereas the international community should support Palestinian efforts to build the necessary political, economic, and security infrastructure essential to establishing a viable, democratic state;

Whereas there will be no lasting peace in the Middle East without a Palestinian State that is democratic, free, and based on the rule of law, including free press, free speech, an open political process, and religious tolerance;

Whereas the Palestinian leaders must meet their commitments under the road map to fight terrorism and dismantle terrorist organizations;

Whereas the Palestinian Authority will need a credible and unified security structure capable of providing security for the Palestinian people and fighting terrorism;

Whereas Palestinian leaders, with help from the international community, must also develop effective and transparent financial structures that provide for the economic and social needs of the Palestinian people;

Whereas the President stated that now is the time to seize the opportunity of new circumstances in the region to redouble our efforts to achieve this goal;

Whereas achieving the goals of peace, security, and stability will require the United States, its international partners, and the parties involved to take the following steps articulated in a Joint Statement by President Bush and Prime Minister Blair on November 12, 2004:

(1) recommit to the overarching 2-State vision set out by President Bush in his statement of June 24, 2002 and repeated in the road map;

(2) support the Palestinians as they choose a new President within the next 60 days, and as they embark upon an electoral process that will lead to lasting democratic institutions;

(3) mobilize international support behind a plan to ensure that the Palestinians have the political, economic, and security infrastructure they need to create a free, viable, and democratic State, including free press, free speech, an open political process, and religious tolerance;

(4) support for the disengagement plan of Prime Minister Sharon from Gaza and stipulated parts of the West Bank as part of this overall plan; and

(5) recognize that these steps lay the basis for more rapid progress on the road map as a reliable guide leading to final status negotiations;

Whereas the United States will join with others in the international community to foster the development of Palestinian democratic political institutions, support the new leadership of the Palestinians that is committed to those institutions, assist in the reconstruction of civic institutions, promote the growth of a free and prosperous economy, and endorse the building of capable security institutions dedicated to maintaining law and order and dismantling terrorist organizations; and

Whereas in order to promote a lasting peace, all States in the region must oppose violence and terrorism, foster the development of democratic political and civic institutions, support the emergence of a peaceful and democratic Pal-

estine, and state clearly that they will live in peace with Israel: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved that the Senate—*

2 (1) endorses the Joint Statement made by
3 President Bush and Prime Minister Blair on No-
4 vember 12, 2004, expressing a shared vision of free-
5 dom, peace, and democracy in the broader Middle
6 East and supports a reinvigorated and concerted
7 United States-led international effort to achieve that
8 vision;

9 (2) supports explicitly the steps presented by
10 President Bush and Prime Minister Blair in that
11 Joint Statement as the basis for more rapid
12 progress on the road map as a reliable guide leading
13 to final status negotiations;

14 (3) reaffirms its commitment to a vision of 2
15 democratic States, Israel and Palestine, living side
16 by side in peace and security as the key to peace;
17 and

18 (4) expresses its commitment to the road map,
19 which was endorsed by the United States, Israel, the
20 Palestinian Authority, the European Union, Russia,
21 and the United Nations, as a realistic and widely
22 recognized plan for making progress toward peace.

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