

110TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. CON. RES. 329

Expressing the sense of Congress that former Presidents and high-ranking political figures should refrain from freelance diplomacy against the wishes of the current Government and stated United States foreign policy.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 16, 2008

Mr. SHUSTER submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of Congress that former Presidents and high-ranking political figures should refrain from freelance diplomacy against the wishes of the current Government and stated United States foreign policy.

Whereas Hamas has been designated by the United States and Israel as a terrorist group, and has been instrumental in organizing and executing acts of terror against innocent Israeli civilians;

Whereas the Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs reported that since the beginning of the most recent wave of attacks by Palestinian terrorist groups against Israel, Hamas has executed over 52 suicide attacks that killed 288 Israelis and wounded 1,646;

Whereas on March 6, 2008, eight students of the Mercaz Harav Yeshiva in Jerusalem were killed and 11 wounded when a terrorist gunman opened fire in the school’s library, where about 80 people were gathered;

Whereas Hamas released a statement approving of the Yeshiva attack, stating that the group “blesses the [Jerusalem] operation [and] it will not be the last”;

Whereas on Sunday, April 13, 2008, former President Jimmy Carter arrived in Israel for a nine day tour of the Middle East to investigate the current climate for future Israeli-Palestinian peace talks;

Whereas President Carter traveled to the Middle East without portfolio, despite being urged by the current Administration not to engage in freelance peace talks;

Whereas President Carter met with members of Hamas, including exiled leader Khalid Mashall, which contradicts stated United States policy on terrorist groups;

Whereas unofficial visits by former Presidents and high-ranking political figures in areas as unstable and important as the Middle East have the inherent danger of miscommunicating United States policy, and create a false impression of United States foreign policy to the region’s population; and

Whereas such actions could have a destabilizing effect on the region and the security of the United States: Now, therefore, be it

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

3 (1) expresses its solidarity with the State of
4 Israel and its democratic Government;

1 (2) continues its commitment to Israel's sov-
2 ereignty and the security of its people;

3 (3) disapproves of former President Jimmy
4 Carter's freelance diplomatic efforts in the Middle
5 East, which contradict the stated foreign policy posi-
6 tion of the current Administration;

7 (4) calls on President Carter to cease all diplo-
8 matic efforts with recognized terrorist groups;

9 (5) condemns Hamas for its relentless support
10 of terrorism and the slaughter of innocent Israeli ci-
11 vilians; and

12 (6) demands Hamas cease all terrorist and
13 paramilitary operations, throw away the failed policy
14 of aggression against Israel, and follow the path of
15 diplomacy to bring peace to the Israeli-Palestinian
16 conflict.

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