

103^D CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. RES. 566

Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives urging Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) to reach agreement on holding free and democratic elections in Gaza and the West Bank.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OCTOBER 4, 1994

Ms. DANNER (for herself, Mr. RAHALL, and Mr. KILDEE) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives urging Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) to reach agreement on holding free and democratic elections in Gaza and the West Bank.

Whereas the United States has traditionally supported the principle of free and democratic elections to settle political disputes;

Whereas elections are an essential step in establishing self-government for the Palestinian people of the West Bank and Gaza Strip and are thereby an indispensable element for reaching a comprehensive, just, and lasting peace in the Middle East;

Whereas Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization signed the historic Declaration of Principles on Interim

Self-Government Arrangements (DOP) at the White House on September 13, 1993;

Whereas Article III of the DOP calls for elections in the West Bank and Gaza Strip with the goal of holding the election no later than 9 months after the entry into force of the DOP so that the Palestinian people may govern themselves according to democratic principles;

Whereas the DOP calls for the direct, free, and general election of a “Council” under the supervision of international observers;

Whereas on May 4, 1994, the Government of Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization signed an interim agreement on self-rule in the Gaza Strip and the Jericho area that reaffirms the election of a Palestinian Council (Article III.6); and

Whereas Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat met in Gaza on September 25, 1994, to discuss the issue of Palestinian elections in the West Bank and Gaza and agreed to continue negotiations on the issue in the coming months: Now, therefore, be it

- 1 *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—
- 2 (1) urges Israel and the Palestine Liberation
- 3 Organization (PLO) to reach agreement on the mo-
- 4 dalities for holding free and democratic elections in
- 5 Gaza and the West Bank at the earliest possible
- 6 moment;
- 7 (2) calls upon the Administration to assist Is-
- 8 rael and the Palestinian Council in negotiating the

1 election modalities promptly and to offer the assist-
2 ance of United States agencies and institutions in
3 the preparation for Palestinian elections; and

4 (3) urges that universal suffrage be afforded to
5 all qualified Palestinians, including residents of East
6 Jerusalem and displaced Palestinians registered be-
7 fore June 4, 1967, as stipulated in the Declaration
8 of Principles on Interim Self-Government Arrange-
9 ments (DOP), without reference to race, religion,
10 gender, or citizenship.

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