

110TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. RES. 1249

Urging the Government of the Republic of Iraq to recognize the right of the State of Israel to exist and to establish diplomatic relations with Israel, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 5, 2008

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida (for himself, Ms. BERKLEY, Mr. CROWLEY, and Mr. HARE) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

RESOLUTION

Urging the Government of the Republic of Iraq to recognize the right of the State of Israel to exist and to establish diplomatic relations with Israel, and for other purposes.

Whereas on November 29, 1947, the United Nations approved United Nations General Assembly Resolution 181, which provided for the establishment of an independent Jewish state, which later became the State of Israel;

Whereas under President Truman, the United States was the first country to recognize Israel after it declared its statehood;

Whereas the following countries still do not recognize Israel's right to exist: Afghanistan, Algeria, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Brunei, Chad, Comoros, Cuba, Djibouti,

Guinea, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Morocco, Niger, North Korea, Oman, Pakistan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates, and Yemen;

Whereas Israel is the most reliable ally of the United States in the Middle East region and is an important strategic partner of the United States;

Whereas Israel signed bilateral peace treaties with Egypt in 1979 and with Jordan in 1994, and has continually expressed its desire to establish peaceful relations with all other Arab states;

Whereas although the United States has provided Iraq with almost \$50,000,000,000 in security and economic assistance to date, none of which has been repaid, the Government of Iraq refuses to recognize the existence of Israel, the most reliable ally of the United States in the Middle East region;

Whereas Israel has emerged as a worldwide leader and expert in the agricultural, medical, and technological fields, and has the ability to forge a unique partnership with Iraq, which would greatly benefit from the skills and knowledge of Israel's workforce;

Whereas a trade partnership between Israel and Iraq would encourage further growth in Iraq as Iraq works to reconstruct its country;

Whereas Iraq's recognition of Israel could greatly encourage diplomatic relations between the 2 countries;

Whereas Iraq's recognition of Israel would have a significantly positive impact on promoting security, stability, and potentially a long-term peace in the Middle East region; and

Whereas, as Israel celebrates its 60th anniversary, it is long overdue for Iraq and all other countries having diplomatic relations with the United States to recognize Israel's right to exist: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

2 (1) expresses deep concern that the Government
3 of the Republic of Iraq continues to refuse to recog-
4 nize the existence of the State of Israel and urges
5 the Government of Iraq to recognize the right of
6 Israel to exist and to establish diplomatic relations
7 with Israel;

8 (2) encourages the Government of Iraq to en-
9 gage with Israel, the United States, and all countries
10 in the Middle East region to weaken extremist
11 groups and existing threats within the region and to
12 work to advance peace throughout the region;

13 (3) calls on the Administration to use its influ-
14 ence to persuade Iraq and other countries with
15 which the United States has diplomatic relations to
16 recognize the right of Israel to exist and to establish
17 diplomatic relations with Israel; and

18 (4) reaffirms its support for Israel and Israel's
19 unequivocal right to exist.

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