

Middle East Peace Commitments Act of 2002

H.R.1646

Foreign Relations Authorization Act, Fiscal Year 2003 (Enrolled as Agreed to or Passed by Both House and Senate)

Subtitle A--Middle East Peace Commitments Act of 2002

SEC. 601. SHORT TITLE.

This subtitle may be cited as the `Middle East Peace Commitments Act of 2002'.

SEC. 602. FINDINGS.

Congress makes the following findings:

(1) In 1993, the Palestine Liberation Organization (in this subtitle referred to as the `PLO') made the following commitments in an exchange of letters with the Prime Minister of Israel:

(A) Recognition of the right of the State of Israel to exist in peace and security.

(B) Acceptance of United Nations Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338.

(C) Resolution of all outstanding issues in the conflict between the two sides through negotiations and exclusively peaceful means.

(D) Renunciation of the use of terrorism and all other acts of violence and responsibility over all PLO elements and personnel in order to assure their compliance, prevent violations, and discipline violators.

(2) The Palestinian Authority, the governing body of autonomous Palestinian territories, was created as a result of agreements between the PLO and the State of Israel that are a direct outgrowth of the commitments made in 1993.

(3) Congress has provided authorities to the President to suspend certain statutory restrictions relating to the PLO, subject to Presidential certifications that the PLO has continued to abide by commitments made.

SEC. 603. REPORTS.

(a) IN GENERAL- The President shall, at the times specified in subsection (b), transmit to the appropriate congressional committees a report on compliance by the PLO or the Palestinian Authority, as appropriate, with each of the commitments specified in section 602(1). The report shall include, with respect to each such commitment, the determination of the President as to whether or not the PLO or the Palestinian Authority, as appropriate, has complied with that commitment during the period since the submission of the preceding report or, in the case of the initial report, during the preceding six-month period. In the event that the President imposed one or more sanctions under section 604 during the period covered by the report, the report shall include a description of each such sanction imposed.

(b) TRANSMISSION- The initial report required under subsection (a) shall be transmitted not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act. Each subsequent report shall be submitted on the date on which the President is next required to submit a report under the P.L.O. Commitments Compliance Act of 1989 (title VIII of Public Law 101-246) and may be combined with such report.

SEC. 604. IMPOSITION OF SANCTIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL- If, in any report transmitted pursuant to section 603, the President determines that the PLO or the Palestinian Authority, as appropriate, has not complied with each of the commitments specified in section 602(1), or if the President fails to make a determination with respect to such compliance, the President shall, for a period of time not less than the period described in subsection (b), impose one or more of the following sanctions:

(1) DENIAL OF VISAS TO PLO AND PALESTINIAN AUTHORITY OFFICIALS- The Secretary shall direct consular officers not to issue a visa to any member of the PLO or any official of the Palestinian Authority.

(2) DOWNGRADE IN STATUS OF PLO OFFICE IN THE UNITED STATES- Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the President shall withdraw or terminate any waiver by the President of the requirements of section 1003 of the Foreign Relations Authorization Act of 1988 and 1989 (22 U.S.C. 5202) (prohibiting the establishment or maintenance of a Palestinian information office in the United States), and such section shall apply so as to prohibit the operation of a PLO or Palestinian Authority office in the United States from carrying out any function other than those functions carried out by the Palestinian information office in existence prior to the Oslo Accords.

(3) DESIGNATION AS A FOREIGN TERRORIST ORGANIZATION- The Secretary shall designate the PLO, or one or more of its constituent groups (including Fatah and Tanzim) or groups operating as arms of the Palestinian Authority (including Force 17), as a foreign terrorist

organization, in accordance with section 219(a) of the Immigration and Nationality Act.

(4) PROHIBITION ON UNITED STATES ASSISTANCE TO THE WEST BANK AND GAZA- United States assistance (except humanitarian assistance) may not be provided to programs or projects in the West Bank or Gaza.

(b) DURATION OF SANCTIONS- The period of time referred to in subsection (a) is the period of time commencing on the date that the report pursuant to section 603 was transmitted and ending on the later of--

(1) the date that is 180 days after such date; or

(2) the date that the next report under section 603 is required to be transmitted.

(c) WAIVER AUTHORITY- The President may waive any sanction imposed under subsection (a) if the President determines that such a waiver is in the national security interest of the United States. The President shall report such a determination to the appropriate congressional committees.