

Expressing the sense of the Senate in support of United States policy for a Middle East peace process. (Agreed to by Senate)

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Expressing the sense of the **Senate** in support of United States policy for a Middle **East peace** process.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

June 24 , 2004

Mr. FRIST (for himself, Mr. DASCHLE, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. NELSON, of Florida, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Ms. MUKULSKI, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. CORZINE, Mr. LAUTENBERG, and Mr. VOINOVICH) submitted the following **resolution** ; which was considered and agreed to

RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the **Senate** in support of United States policy for a Middle **East peace** process.

Whereas the Road Map, endorsed by the United States, 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, on **April 14 , 2004** , **President Bush** welcomed the plan of Israeli Prime Minister Ariel **Sharon** to remove certain military installations and all settlements from Gaza, and certain military installations and settlements from the West Bank;

Whereas under the Road Map, Palestinians must undertake an immediate cessation of armed activity and all acts of violence against Israelis anywhere, all Palestinian institutions, organizations, and individuals must end incitement against Israel, the Palestinian leadership must act decisively against terror (including sustained, targeted, and effective operations to stop terrorism and dismantle terrorist capabilities and infrastructure), and Palestinians must undertake a comprehensive and fundamental political reform that includes a strong parliamentary democracy and an empowered prime minister;

Whereas Prime Minister Sharon noted Israel's responsibilities under the Road Map include limitations on the growth of settlements, removal of unauthorized outposts, and steps to increase, to the extent permitted by security needs, freedom of movement for Palestinians not engaged in terrorism;

Whereas there likely will be no security for Israelis or Palestinians until they and all states join together to fight terrorism and dismantle terrorist organizations;

Whereas the United States remains committed to Israel's security, and well-being as a Jewish State, including secure, recognized, and defensible borders, and to preserving and strengthening Israel's capability to deter enemies and defend itself against any threat;

Whereas Israel has the right to defend itself against terrorism, including to take actions against terrorist organizations that threaten Israel's citizens;

Whereas, after Israel withdraws from Gaza and parts of the West Bank, existing arrangements regarding control of airspace, territorial waters, and land passages relating to the West Bank and Gaza are planned to continue;

Whereas, as part of a final peace settlement, Israel must have secure and recognized borders, which should emerge from negotiations between the parties in accordance with United Nations Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338;

Whereas, in light of realities on the ground, including already existing major Israeli population centers, it is unrealistic to expect that the outcome of final status negotiations will be a full and complete return to the armistice lines of 1949, but realistic to expect that any final status agreement will only be achieved on the basis of mutually agreed changes that reflect these realities;

Whereas Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon has stated: 'the barrier being erected by Israel is a security rather than political barrier, is temporary rather than permanent, and should therefore not prejudice any final status issues including final borders, and its route should take into account, consistent with security needs, its impact on Palestinian communities';

Whereas an agreed just, fair, and realistic framework for a solution to the Palestinian refugee issue as part of any final status agreement will need to be found through the establishment of a Palestinian state, and the settling of Palestinian refugees there, rather than in Israel;

Whereas the United States supports the establishment of a Palestinian state that is viable, contiguous, sovereign, and independent, so that the Palestinian people can build their own future;

Whereas the United States will join with others in the international community to assist in fostering the development of Palestinian democratic political institutions and new leadership committed to those institutions, the reconstruction of civic institutions, the growth of a free and prosperous economy, and 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 must oppose terrorism, support the emergence of a peaceful and democratic Palestine, and state clearly that they will live in **peace** with Israel: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the **Senate** --

(1) endorses the above-mentioned **principles** and practices of United States policy in the Middle **East**, and ongoing actions to make progress toward realizing the vision of two states living side by side in **peace** and security, as a real contribution toward **peace**, and as important steps under the Road Map;

(2) reaffirms its commitment to a vision of two states, Israel and Palestine, living side by side in **peace** and security as the key to **peace**; and

(3) supports efforts to continue working with others in the international community, to build the capacity and will of Palestinian institutions to fight terrorism, dismantle terrorist organizations, and prevent the areas from which Israel has withdrawn from posing a threat to the security of Israel.