

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

July 1, 2005

The Honorable George W. Bush
President of the United States of America
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

The death of PLO Chairman Arafat, the emergence of a new Palestinian leadership and the government of Israel's disengagement plan have created dramatic new openings in the Middle East. What happens over the next few months will determine whether those openings will in fact bring long-lasting changes to this troubled region. The key in many ways is the successful implementation of Israel's disengagement from Gaza and four settlements in the West Bank, which is crucial to the resumption of the Road Map and to any reinvigoration of the peace process.

By the end of this summer, Israel – at great political, financial and emotional cost - will withdraw its military and civilian presence from the Gaza Strip and four settlements in the West Bank. This presents a real opportunity for the Palestinian leadership to prove to the world and, more importantly, its own people, that it is capable of governing. If the Palestinian Authority is unable to establish governance in Gaza after Israel's departure and allows it to be used as a launching pad for terror or rocket attacks against Israel, it is very hard to see how future steps toward peace will be possible. There is now only a short window to take the steps necessary to make that withdrawal a success.

First, the newly elected Palestinian leadership must be urged to work with Israel to coordinate the details of the withdrawal. Clearly, the more coordination there is, the greater the chances of success.

Second, and most importantly, President Abbas must act decisively to assert his control over the disparate, armed groups in Gaza and the West Bank. While the Palestinian president should be commended for beginning to change the tone of Palestinian political discourse and for making some important moves in lessening incitement and in negotiating a period of calm, these actions, and the promise they hold, are now at risk. HAMAS, Islamic Jihad, and the other terror groups are using the "calm" negotiated by Abbas to re-arm and re-organize. Failure to establish the rule of law and confiscate weapons from the very groups who wish to see the peace process end will only doom his own prospects and set back the cause of peace and the betterment of his own people.

The United States must also be actively engaged to assure that other countries with critical roles to play in the success of the Gaza disengagement do their part. In all meetings with Arab states and European leaders, we must encourage them to actively

support disengagement, Palestinian security, economic and political reform and, most importantly, a large part of the substantial financial assistance the Palestinians will need to improve the economic prospects for Gazans following Israel's withdrawal.

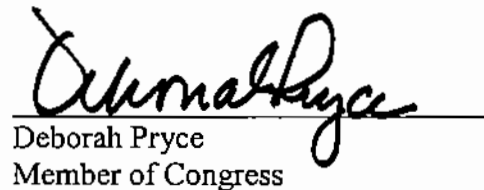
Egypt, in particular, has a special security interest in ensuring that Gaza does not become a haven for terrorism. Egypt should continue and expand its efforts to stop the increased arms smuggling taking place across the Egyptian/Gaza border and to provide Abbas the political support and encouragement he needs to dismantle the terrorist infrastructure.

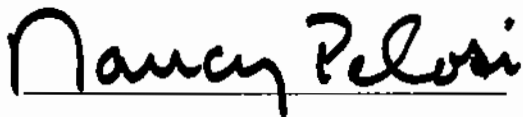
We understand how difficult this process is. We also understand the desire by some to rush to deal with final status issues soon after disengagement. We urge you to resist that pressure. Ultimately, the peace process will only succeed if the disengagement works well, if the Palestinians take real steps to end terror and institute real reform, and the parties then proceed to the next steps in the roadmap.

This process will take time and patience, but it is the only way to build the confidence and the reforms necessary to move forward. We appreciate the leadership you have demonstrated so far and stand ready to work together with you in these important efforts.

Sincerely,

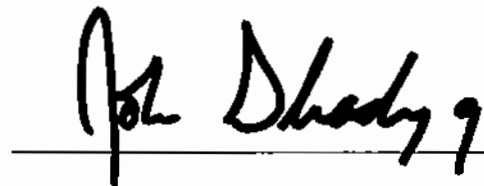

Robert Menendez
Member of Congress

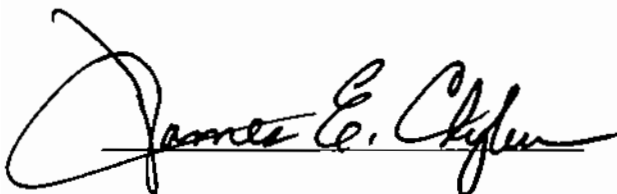

Deborah Pryce
Member of Congress

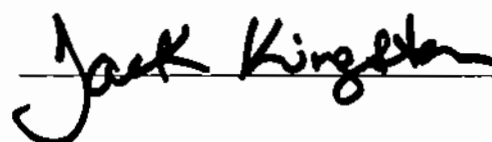












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John T. Doolittle

Corynna McCarthy

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Jim Langevin

John Sull

Ed Coan

Debbie Wasserman Schultz

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John E. Chafee

Andre Cunniff

Liane E. Watson

John Garamendi

Roi C. Hays

John Henshaw

Bob Aul

Jim Moran

Tom L. McKee

Lincoln Diaz-Fernandez

Pat J. Hensley

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Tom Odell

Judy Biggert

Jeffrey

Virginia Fox

~~Quincy Brown~~ Ted Strickland

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Janice Pad

Stephanie Lynch

Jim W

John B. Rasmussen

Linda J. Sanchez

Stephanie Parks Jones

Devin Nunes

Rush Holt

Melissa C. Hart

John Linden

Jan Schatzky

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Kenneth

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Paul Davis

Bob Brown

Alvin Brown - AL

J. G. Hill - 19

Melissa Bean

K. M. Young

Chris Child

Marsha Blackburn

Tom Price

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Luille Royal-Allard

Shel Burns

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Dee Decker

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J. Higgins

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Richard Pombo

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x Edward J. Markey

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~~Clara ...~~

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[Signature]

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Ed ~~W~~

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F. Allen

Paul Brown

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Jerry Lewis

Mrs. Adams

Anna Hunt

B. M. M. M.

Shelley Kelley

William D. Adams

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9	Barrett, J. Gresham	61	Davis, Artur	113	Hayworth, J.D.
10	Barrow, John	62	Davis, Danny K.	114	Hefley, Joel
11	Bass, Charles F.	63	Davis, Geoff	115	Hensarling, Jeb
12	Bean, Melissa L.	64	Davis, Jim	116	Herger, Wally
13	Beauprez, Bob	65	Davis, Lincoln	117	Herseth, Stephanie
14	Becerra, Xavier	66	Davis, Susan A.	118	Higgins, Brian
15	Berkley, Shelley	67	Davis, Tom	119	Holden, Tim
16	Berman, Howard L.	68	DeGette, Diana	120	Holt, Rush D.
17	Berry, Marion	69	Delahunt, William D.	121	Honda, Michael M.
18	Biggert, Judy	70	DeLauro, Rosa L.	122	Hoyer, Steny H.
19	Bilirakis, Michael	71	Diaz-Balart, Lincoln	123	Hulshof, Kenny C.
20	Bishop, Sanford D., Jr.	72	Diaz-Balart, Mario	124	Hunter, Duncan
21	Bishop, Timothy H.	73	Dicks, Norman D.	125	Inglis, Bob
22	Blackburn, Marsha	74	Doolittle, John T.	126	Inslee, Jay
23	Blunt, Roy	75	Doyle, Michael F.	127	Israel, Steve
24	Boehlert, Sherwood	76	Edwards, Chet	128	Issa, Darrell E.
25	Bonilla, Henry	77	Ehlers, Vernon J.	129	Jackson, Jesse L., Jr.
26	Bono, Mary	78	Emanuel, Rahm	130	Jackson-Lee, Sheila
27	Bordallo, Madeleine Z.	79	Emerson, Jo Ann	131	Jindal, Bobby
28	Boswell, Leonard L.	80	Engel, Eliot L.	132	Johnson, Nancy L.
29	Boustany, Charles W., Jr.	81	Eshoo, Anna G.	133	Johnson, Timothy V.
30	Boyd, Allen	82	Etheridge, Bob	134	Jones, Stephanie Tubbs
31	Bradley, Jeb	83	Evans, Lane	135	Kelly, Sue W.
32	Brady, Kevin	84	Faleomavaega, Eni F.H.	136	Kennedy, Mark R.
33	Brady, Robert A.	85	Farr, Sam	137	Kennedy, Patrick J.
34	Brown, Corrine	86	Feeney, Tom	138	Kildee, Dale E.
35	Brown, Sherrod	87	Ferguson, Mike	139	Kind, Ron
36	Brown-Waite, Ginny	88	Filner, Bob	140	King, Peter T.
37	Burgess, Michael C.	89	Fitzpatrick, Michael G.	141	Kingston, Jack
38	Buyer, Steve	90	Flake, Jeff	142	Kirk, Mark Steven
39	Camp, Dave	91	Forbes, J. Randy	143	Kline, John
40	Capito, Shelley Moore	92	Ford, Harold E., Jr.	144	Knollenberg, Joe
41	Cardin, Benjamin L.	93	Fortenberry, Jeff	145	Kuhl, John R. "Randy," Jr.
42	Cardoza, Dennis A.	94	Fossella, Vito	146	Langevin, James R.
43	Carnahan, Russ	95	Foxx, Virginia	147	Lantos, Tom
44	Case, Ed	96	Frank, Barney	148	Larsen, Rick
45	Chabot, Steve	97	Frelinghuysen, Rodney P.	149	Larson, John B.
46	Chandler, Ben	98	Garrett, Scott	150	Latham, Tom
47	Chocola, Chris	99	Gerlach, Jim	151	LaTourette, Steven C.
48	Cleaver, Emanuel	100	Gingrey, Phil	152	Levin, Sander M.
49	Clyburn, James E.	101	Gonzalez, Charles A.	153	Lewis, Jerry
50	Coble, Howard	102	Gordon, Bart	154	Lewis, John
51	Cole, Tom	103	Graves, Sam	155	Lewis, Ron
52	Conaway, K. Michael	104	Green, Al	156	Linder, John

157	Lipinski, Daniel	202	Olver, John W.	248	Shays, Christopher
158	LoBiondo, Frank A.	203	Owens, Major R.	249	Sherman, Brad
159	Lofgren, Zoe	204	Pallone, Frank, Jr.	250	Shimkus, John
160	Lowe, Nita M.	205	Pascrell, Bill, Jr.	251	Simmons, Rob
161	Lungren, Daniel E.	206	Pastor, Ed	252	Simpson, Michael K.
162	Lynch, Stephen F.	207	Payne, Donald M.	253	Skelton, Ike
163	Mack, Connie	208	Pelosi, Nancy	254	Smith, Adam
164	Maloney, Carolyn B.	209	Peterson, Collin C.	255	Smith, Christopher H.
165	Manzullo, Donald A.	210	Peterson, John E.	256	Smith, Lamar S.
166	Marchant, Kenny	211	Platts, Todd Russell	257	Sodrel, Michael E.
167	Markey, Edward J.	212	Poe, Ted	258	Souder, Mark E.
168	Marshall, Jim	213	Pombo, Richard W.	259	Stark, Fortney Pete
169	Matheson, Jim	214	Pomeroy, Earl	260	Stearns, Cliff
170	Matsui, Doris O.	215	Porter, Jon C.	261	Strickland, Ted
171	McCarthy, Carolyn	216	Price, Tom	262	Stupak, Bart
172	McCollum, Betty	217	Pryce, Deborah	263	Sullivan, John
173	McCotter, Thaddeus G.	218	Ramstad, Jim	264	Tancredo, Thomas G.
174	McDermott, Jim	219	Rangel, Charles B.	265	Tanner, John S.
175	McGovern, James P.	220	Reichert, David G.	266	Tauscher, Ellen O.
176	McHenry, Patrick T.	221	Renzi, Rick	267	Terry, Lee
177	McHugh, John M.	222	Reyes, Silvestre	268	Thompson, Mike
178	McIntyre, Mike	223	Rogers, Mike (AL)	269	Tiberi, Patrick J.
179	McKeon, Howard P. "Buck"	224	Rogers, Mike (MI)	270	Tierney, John F.
180	McNulty, Michael R.	225	Ros-Lehtinen, Ileana	271	Udall, Mark
181	Meehan, Martin T.	226	Ross, Mike	272	Udall, Tom
182	Meek, Kendrick B.	227	Rothman, Steven R.	273	Upton, Fred
183	Meeks, Gregory W.	228	Roybal-Allard, Lucille	274	Van Hollen, Chris
184	Melancon, Charlie	229	Rush, Bobby L.	275	Visclosky, Peter J.
185	Menendez, Robert	230	Ryan, Paul	276	Walden, Greg
186	Michaud, Michael H.	231	Ryan, Tim	277	Walsh, James T.
187	Miller, Brad	232	Ryun, Jim	278	Wasserman Schultz, Debbie
188	Miller, Candice S.	233	Sabo, Martin Olav	279	Watson, Diane E.
189	Moore, Dennis	234	Salazar, John T.	280	Waxman, Henry A.
190	Moore, Gwen	235	Sanchez, Linda T.	281	Weiner, Anthony D.
191	Moran, James P.	236	Sanchez, Loretta	282	Weldon, Curt
192	Murphy, Tim	237	Sanders, Bernard	283	Weldon, Dave
193	Musgrave, Marilyn N.	238	Schakowsky, Janice D.	284	Weller, Jerry
194	Nadler, Jerrold	239	Schiff, Adam B.	285	Westmoreland, Lynn A.
195	Napolitano, Grace F.	240	Schwartz, Allyson Y.	286	Wexler, Robert
196	Neal, Richard E.	241	Schwarz, John J.H. "Joe"	287	Wilson, Heather
197	Neugebauer, Randy	242	Scott, David	288	Wilson, Joe
198	Northup, Anne M.	243	Scott, Robert	289	Wolf, Frank R.
199	Norwood, Charlie	244	Serrano, José E.	290	Woolsey, Lynn C.
200	Nunes, Devin	245	Sessions, Pete	291	Wynn, Albert Russell
201	Nussle, Jim	246	Shadegg, John B.	292	Young, Don
		247	Shaw, E. Clay, Jr.		