



June 30, 2010

Dear Commissioners:

We understand that the 219<sup>th</sup> General Assembly will consider several initiatives relating to the Presbyterian Church's role in the Middle East and the relationship between the U.S. government and Israel. In addition to several proposed resolutions on this subject, we understand the General Assembly will consider the recommendations of the Middle East Study Committee (MESC).

As members of the Presbyterian Church (USA), we are deeply concerned about these recommendations and strongly counsel against their approval. The MESC report mischaracterizes the state of affairs in the Middle East and its recommendations, which appear to call for the PCUSA to join the boycott and divestment movement against Israel and support the suspension of U.S. military assistance to Israel, could damage U.S. interests and undermine the fragile Middle East peace process.

The United States has long emphasized the so-called "Quartet Principles," which require the Palestinian groups to accept Israel's right to exist, renounce violence, and accept past agreements with Israel, as a basis for meaningful peace negotiations. We support these principles and believe that without their implementation by both sides to the conflict, a stable and lasting peace is unlikely to be achieved. Pressuring Israel, the only democratic party in this process, will not speed the acceptance of the Quartet Principles among Israel's enemies.

As members of the U.S. Congress and the PCUSA, we urge you to exercise prudence in dealing with a matter as complex as the conflict in the Middle East.

Sincerely,

Frank R. Boy

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