

107TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. CON. RES. 222

Expressing the sense of Congress regarding the inherent right of self-defense.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 10, 2001

Mr. SAXTON (for himself, Mr. ADERHOLT, Mr. PLATTS, and Mr. SMITH of New Jersey) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on International Relations

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## CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of Congress regarding the inherent right of self-defense.

Whereas it is a recognized right of all sovereign nations to act in their self-defense;

Whereas Article 51 of the United Nations Charter guarantees the inherent right of all nations to act in their self-defense;

Whereas Israel is an ally of the United States with strong cultural, scientific, educational, and religious ties to the United States;

Whereas Israel is presently facing an enormous upsurge of terrorist attacks aimed at disrupting normal life and instilling terror in the Israeli population, including the June 2001 disco bombing in Tel Aviv where 20 were

killed and over 90 wounded as well as the August 9, 2001, restaurant bombing where 19 were killed and over 100 wounded;

Whereas according to the Mitchell Report's recommendations, Yassir Arafat, Chairman of the Palestinian Authority, was urged to rearrest terrorists that were released from prison, cease incitement, and take steps to prevent further terrorist activities;

Whereas Yassir Arafat and the Palestinian Authority have refused to arrest known terrorist leaders whose identity and whereabouts are known or have been provided by Israel;

Whereas because of the serious demonstrated threat of terrorism, Israel has been forced to act preemptively against known terrorist leaders;

Whereas by preemptively preventing planned terrorist attacks on its population, Israel is seeking to limit civilian casualties and diminish the need for wider military operations more likely to result in even greater numbers of casualties; and

Whereas the internationally accepted inherent right of self-defense and the limited right of anticipatory self-defense permit Israel to carry out preemptive, limited military actions to suppress the ability of terrorists or other armed actors to carry out planned attacks against its people or sovereign territory: Now, therefore, be it

1        *Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate*  
2 *concurring)*, That Congress—

3            (1) reaffirms the inherent right of self-defense  
4        against armed attack, as embodied in Article 51 of

1 the United Nations Charter, for all nations, includ-  
2 ing Israel;

3 (2) recognizes that preemptive measures used  
4 to prevent terrorist attacks on civilian populations  
5 are a recognized and legitimate use of state power  
6 in conformance with the inherent right of self-de-  
7 fense of all nations including Israel; and

8 (3) supports Israel in its legitimate exercise of  
9 internationally recognized rights of self-defense.

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