

At this crucial time, as sponsors of the Middle East peace process, we reaffirm our support for the peace process and remain confident that terrorists will not be allowed to obstruct the development of the Palestine-Israeli peace process, their constructive dialog and cooperation to resolve the existing problems. We encourage the Palestinian leadership, which has already condemned these abhorrent provocations, to follow this policy with even tougher measures.

Mr. Speaker, we have simply worked too hard for too long to allow terrorists to take over the peace process and determine the fate of peace after so much progress. Our support for the people of Israel, however, should not stop with passage of this resolution. Later this week, we will debate the antiterrorism legislation which seeks to provide significant resources to fight domestic and international acts of terrorism and bring swift justice to the perpetrators.

While nothing can take away the national and personal pain caused by terrorist attacks on innocent men, women, and children, perhaps this resolution can help in some small way by helping to bring an end to the violence. We strongly voice our support and understanding to the Jewish people of Israel and around the world for peace and against cowardly acts of terror.

Mr. FOX of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, like you, I was shocked and deeply saddened when I heard about the fourth suicide bombing which took place on the Eve of Purim in Tel Aviv's shopping district. The once-solid confidence of the people of Israel and of the pro-Israel community in the United States has been terribly shaken by the tragic events of the past weeks.

The United States and Israel are permanent partners in our pursuit of peace, prosperity, and the promise of liberty. We have built a strong foundation based on years of mutual respect and trust. Together, we share risks, rewards, and losses as we strive to make this world a better, safer place to live, work, and raise our families. The United States will continue to stand "shoulder to shoulder" with its closest ally, the State of Israel, during this troubling time. Hamas and other enemies of peace should know that no blast will be strong enough to weaken the indestructible link between our country and the state of Israel.

After returning from the funeral of the late Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, I remember thinking that in the long run, those who resort to violence will find that it accomplishes little. Often, it spurs people on to completion of the task at hand—in this case, peace in the Middle East. Just as we were building upon the legacy of Yitzhak Rabin, we will now continue on the path for peace, honoring the memory of the 61 innocent victims who were murdered and the 190 who were injured in the four recent reprehensible suicide bombings.

Seventeenth century Dutch philosopher Benedictus De Spinoza once said, "Peace is not the mere absence of war, but is a virtue that springs from force of character." During my trips to Israel this past year, it was clear to me that Yitzhak Rabin provided that force of character. And after meeting with Prime Minister Peres, Yitzhak Rabin's partner in peace, I became convinced that he would continue to provide that force. We must work with him to heal the wounds and move on toward a more permanent peace and sustained security for our Israeli allies.

As Members of Congress, we must not hesitate, together with our colleagues and the White House, to provide whatever diplomatic, economic, humanitarian, or military support is necessary so that Israel can combat the cowardly terrorists of Hamas and others who would seek to derail the peace for which Yitzhak Rabin and so many others gave their lives. The United States must continue to provide whatever form of assistance is required to preserve and protect the peace and security of Israel and its people.

While I am encouraged by the recent arrest of the head of the military wing of Hamas, we must continue to demand that PLO Chairman Arafat and the leaders of all the states of the Middle East join us in this war on terrorism. I am proud to stand in support of International Relations Committee Chairman BEN GILMAN's resolution to clearly communicate this message to Chairman Arafat—we will accept no less than full cooperation on this matter. Chairman GILMAN's legislation demands that the Palestinian Authority apprehend and punish terrorists, confiscate all unauthorized weapons, eliminate the terrorist structure and activities of Hamas, Palestinian Islamic Jihad, and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, ban the existence of all such organizations in the autonomous areas, and amend the Palestinian National Covenant to remove all hate-filled anti-Israel language. This legislation also calls upon all parties to the peace process to condemn terrorist acts and join us in the fight against terrorism. We insist that Iran and Syria cease all support for such deplorable activities. I salute the President for convening the antiterrorism conference tomorrow, and I am also strongly urging him to act decisively and swiftly against those who continue to harbor, arm, or finance terrorists seeking to undermine the peace process.

I thank the chairman for his leadership and I join you in praying for an end to the despicable violence committed by terrorists and for peace and prosperity for Israel and throughout the Middle East.

Mr. SANFORD. Mr. Speaker, this past month terrorist acts in Israel have taken the lives of innocent people. More than that, they have placed the peace of this region once again in jeopardy. Today, I rise to stand with the people of Israel and the Jews around the world. This measure, which we are currently considering, condemns the recent terrorist attacks as well as urges action in support of the peace process. However, it cannot console those who have become victims of a misguided attempt to settle a dispute over land. It cannot repair the buildings and lives which are now fragmented. Through this measure the United States states its opposition to actions such as those which have occurred recently in Israel. This Nation will not condone the senseless actions of terrorists. We stand with those for peace and for Israel.

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CAMP). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York [Mr. GILMAN] that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 149), as amended.

The question was taken.

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 5 of rule I and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on the subject of this concurrent resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

#### SUPPORT HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 149 CONDEMNING TERROR ATTACKS IN ISRAEL

(Mr. ENGEL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I wanted to add my voice to the comments of my colleagues about the resolution condemning terrorism, but we had hearings today in the House Committee on International Relations to try to find out if the Palestinian authority is doing all it can do or has done all it can do to curb the scourge of terrorism, and I think the frustration that one sees and hears; we feel, on the one hand, that the peace process needs to continue. On the other hand, we cannot continue with blinders and pretend that nothing has happened.

So I certainly support the resolution, I think we need to condemn terrorism, I think we need to reach out to the brave people of Israel. No country could tolerate this kind of wanton terrorism against its civilian population, and I think clearly the ball is in Mr. Arafat's court. He has to determine whether or not he is going to be serious about cracking down on the scourge of terrorism. It is not enough anymore just to condemn it, it is not enough anymore to say one is against it. We have to show actions speak louder than words. He has got to route out terrorism, the United States has to stand foursquare against terrorism, but all the nations of the world have to participate.

So I am happy to join in support of the resolution as I know every Member of Congress will. Terrorism is a threat to all of us everywhere in the world.

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#### IN SUPPORT OF THE PEOPLE OF ISRAEL

(Mr. FOX of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FOX of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise to support the Gilman resolution. The terrible devastation of Israel,