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## House of Representatives

The House met at 12:30 p.m.

### MORNING HOUR DEBATES

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 3, 2001, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning hour debates. The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to not to exceed 30 minutes, and each Member except the majority leader, the minority leader, or the minority whip limited to not to exceed 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. PENCE) for 5 minutes.

### ISRAEL ACTING IN SELF-DEFENSE

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today after a harrowing set of days, explosions, fire, innocent civilians running in panic through the streets; and I do not refer to life in America, New York City, or in the environs of the Pentagon on September 11; but I speak of Jerusalem and Israel. I speak of a nation that in the last week and past several days has grievously lost husbands and fathers, wives and mothers, sons and daughters, grandsons and granddaughters to the scourge of political terror.

I rise today humbly to speak of Israel and of the precious relationship that does and must continue to exist be-

tween the Government of the United States and the government of that great and historic people. As an American, a Christian, and a Hoosier, it is my firm belief now more than ever that it is my duty to insist that the United States of America never waver in protecting and defending the interests of the State of Israel in its battle for survival in this dangerous part of the world, and in its efforts now to open up, as the President's press secretary spoke yesterday, of the second front of the war on terrorism.

Mr. Speaker, many of these things may seem obvious, but many in the media are having a hard time figuring out who is right in the current conflict and how to best stop, we are told, the cycle of violence in order to help the parties get back to the negotiating table so they can iron out differences and misunderstandings. While I will say I am the first to admit that I know less than most of my colleagues do about Israel and its importance to America, let me say what I think this conflict is about and see whether my colleagues might agree.

Mr. Speaker, first I want to assert that I do not think that there is anything current about this conflict. I believe it is part of a continuing struggle being waged by many in the Arab world of extremists' views to do nothing other than to destroy the State of Israel, period. It is the historic aim of many in the terrorist organizations of Palestine and elsewhere, and the con-

flict today is simply an extension of that.

As to the question of who is right, that is simple. Mr. Speaker, it has ever been the policy of the United States of America and the people of this country since 1948 that Israel is right, believing as I do, as millions of Americans do, that He will still bless those who bless Israel, and so we stand with her.

A cycle of violence, I reject the term. When terrorists blow up a school bus or explode bombs in a mall killing children and innocent men and women, this is their aim. When Israel defense forces strike back, as they are at this hour and have in the last 24 hours, killing known terrorists and neutralizing terrorist assets, Mr. Speaker, this is not a cycle of violence; it is Israel performing her own self-defense.

As to returning to negotiations, one might ask what is there left to negotiate. Last summer at Camp David former Prime Minister Barak offered Yasser Arafat virtually everything. And how did Arafat respond? By launching a 9-month guerrilla war culminating this weekend, targeting women and children, some of whom were born in this country, and even in my State of Indiana. No, Yasser Arafat is not an effective negotiating partner. He is a terrorist, and it is time America stood strongly by Israel and said to Yasser Arafat, it is time that the terrorists and their capabilities are secured within the Palestinian Authority or else.

### NOTICE

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Michael F. DiMario, *Public Printer*

This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g.,  1407 is 2:07 p.m.

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