

On September 11, the USCP rose to the challenge. In the face of uncertainty and while our nation was under attack, the men and women of the Capitol Police remained behind as the Capitol compound was evacuated, while working to ensure our safety. On that day, every member of the House and Senate, staff, and visitors witnessed the bravery and commitment of the Capitol Police.

Today we mark three months since the terrorist attacks on the Pentagon and New York City. Since 9–11, twelve-hour days, six-day weeks, overtime and cancelled vacations are the norm, not the exception for the Capitol Police. This resolution, H. Res. 309, is a small token signifying that your dedication and personal sacrifices have not gone unnoticed. I thank you for your service to us, to our community and to our great nation and I urge all Members to vote in support of this important resolution.

GEORGE WILL ON "A PLAN FOR ARAFAT"

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 11, 2001

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, last weekend was a particularly horrible chapter in the ongoing strife in the Middle East. In a wave of violence, Palestinian terrorist suicide bombers killed 25 innocent Israeli children, women, and men as they were going about their daily activities—walking in a pedestrian mall and riding a public bus. The terrorist organization, Hamas, has taken "credit" for these deplorable acts. Their targeting civilians of all ages and walks of life is part of their cowardly and vicious attempt to destroy the State of Israel. Such acts cannot be tolerated.

Mr. Speaker, George F. Will has written a particularly insightful piece in the December 4th issue of the Washington Post. He spells out the misguided and dangerous actions of Yasser Arafat and the Palestinian Authority which have prevented peace from being attained in that very volatile region of the world, and he stresses the need for Israel aggressively to protect herself.

Where hope for a peaceful Middle East settlement once existed after the Madrid Conference in 1991 and the Oslo Agreement in 1993, we now find an environment of hate for Israel and the United States which has been fertilized and nourished by such debacles as the United Nations World Conference Against Racism, which was held in Durban, South Africa last summer.

Mr. Speaker, I was present at Durban for this conference, and I fully concur with George Will's assessment that this was truly not a conference against racism, but rather a racist conference! I have rarely seen such anti-Semitic and anti-Israel venom spewed as I did at that conference. Because of the level of hatred and the lack of fairness, the United States Government walked out of the conference. I was greatly disappointed that we had no choice but to walk out because this was an opportunity to deal meaningfully with the many problems of racism, discrimination, and xenophobia which the world faces. Instead of addressing these problems, the conference was hijacked by Arab extremists determined to sin-

gle out and politically punish Israel, our only democratic ally in the Middle East.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to read George Will's excellent and thought-provoking article, and I ask that the text be placed in the RECORD.

[From the Washington Post, Dec. 4, 2001]

A PLAN FOR ARAFAT

(By George F. Will)

Coming from the territory for which Yasser Arafat is responsible, terrorists last weekend killed 26 Israelis, a portion of Israel's population that is equal to 1,240 Americans. America is projecting power halfway around the world to collapse the Taliban regime because it harbors terrorists. It would be disgusting for America to call for Israeli "restraint" and to disapprove if Israel cleanses its back yard of Arafat's Palestinian Authority regime that welcomes terrorists except when, to distract America, it yet again promises to pass a few through the revolving doors of PA jails.

It is time for a novel approach to the war between Israel and Arafat's Palestinian Authority. The approach should begin with wisdom from a Donald Westlake crime novel mordantly titled "What's The Worst That Could Happen?" Westlake's amiable crooks want to rob a Las Vegas Casino, but don't know how. One of them says he has a lot of ideas, but Westlake writes: "A whole lot of ideas isn't a plan. . . . Ideas without a plan is usually just enough boulders to get you into the deep part of the stream, and no way to get back."

The latest U.S. idea is to send retired Marine Gen. Anthony Zinni to pick up the shards of the last idea, which was to send CIA Director George Tenet to implement former Senator George Mitchell's idea for a cease-fire followed by a cooling-off period followed by "confidence-building" measures. The idea of the Mitchell plan is that neither side is to blame—neither Israel, which wants to exist, nor the Palestinians who do not want it; neither the Palestinians who want to plant nail bombs on buses, nor Israel, which would prefer the Palestinians not do that. Rather, a mutual lack of "confidence" is to blame.

There is this much truth in that idea: the Palestinian Authority lacks confidence in Israel's willingness to commit suicide, and Israel lacks confidence that the PA will stop insisting on suicide as part of a "peace" agreement.

The idea behind dispatching Mitchell was to pick up where Dennis Ross left off. (Did you know that Donald Rumsfeld was special emissary to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict in 1983–84? There were many emissaries before him, and have been many since.) Ross's task, which he undertook with the energy and wisdom of a beaver, was to oversee the Oslo "peace process," which turned on Arafat's renunciation of violence. That process has required lots of overseeing, considering that terrorists have killed more Israelis in the eight years since Oslo began in 1993 than in the 45 years of Israel's existence before that.

The idea behind Oslo was for Israel to "take a risk for peace"—as though getting on a bus, visiting a pizzeria or disco, and walking down a street are not risky enough for Israelis. Israel would take a risk by yielding something tangible, control of land, for something intangible, Arafat's promises of peace. Israel did that. The current war refutes the Oslo idea.

The idea behind Oslo was to capitalize on the "spirit of Madrid," an Israeli-Palestinian conference convened in 1991, in the aftermath of the Gulf War. The idea behind Madrid was. . . . Does anyone remember?

You must remember this. On Aug. 31, Arafat, world's senior terrorist, did a star turn—at one point strolling with America's senior friend of terrorists, Jesse Jackson—in Durban, South Africa, at a U.N. orgy of hate directed against Israel and the United States and bearing an Orwellian title: World Conference Against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance. It was the kind of sewer of ideas that prepares the climate for the sort of things that happened in America 11 days after the conference opened, and what happened last weekend in Israel.

Now Israel should be as bold in its self-defense as America is being in its. In 1982, Israel drove Arafat and his thugs from Lebanon to Tunisia. He and his thugocracy have earned another expulsion from the eastern end of the Mediterranean. If he cannot control his territory, it is in anarchy and Israel must subdue it. If he can control it but won't, he has earned expulsion under the principle America cites in expelling the Taliban from power.

If expulsion strikes the U.S. State Department as, well, immoderate, here is a moderate version of the idea. When next the peripatetic Arafat flies off to visit world capitals, Israel should not let him come back: He cannot land in PA territory if Israel does not let him.

That is more than an idea. It is a plan.

IN HONOR OF STEPHEN V. BARBARO

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 11, 2001

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of Stephen V. Barbaro in recognition of his commitment to his community.

Stephen V. Barbaro was born and raised in New York City. He went to Midwood High School. After graduation he went on to receive his bachelor's degree from St. John's University. Following college, he received his Juris Doctorate from Brooklyn Law School. He is married to Margaret L. Pecoraro. Margaret is also an attorney. They are the proud parents of three wonderful children, Stephanie, Katherine, and Stephen Joseph.

Stephen has been a practicing attorney for almost twenty years. He is a partner in Alter & Barbaro, Esq., a well-known law firm with offices in Canarsie and Brooklyn Heights. He is engaged in a general practice, which include real estate, landlord tenant law, and general litigation.

Together with his partner, Mitch Alter, Stephen has been involved in numerous community activities and programs. They have a high school internship program; a minority scholarship program; and a computer literacy program. Their voluntary activities are designed to provide young people with increased opportunities as well as a chance to learn real world skills.

Mr. Speaker, Stephen V. Barbaro has been a dedicated community businessman and active volunteer during his twenty years of practicing law. As such, he is more than worthy of receiving our recognition today. I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring this truly dedicated man.