

the Palestinian community who again do not accept Israel's right literally to exist, want Israel to be destroyed, and for many in the Palestinian community, Israel is viewed no differently than the crusaders who took 150 years for the crusaders to leave. It is only a third of the way to that time frame.

But I think for those of us who understand the history of the State of Israel, it is not crusaders. I think part of what is going on now, and we can see it ourselves on TV or read about it, is that the Jews that are there are not leaving. This is a permanent home. This is not a temporary home. This is not a way station for the Jewish people; this is a permanent residence. I think when the Palestinians understand that, and I think that they will understand it, maybe they will not understand it this week or this month or maybe even this year or maybe even this decade, but when they understand that, the peace that the gentleman talked about that was on the table at Camp David will be an accepted peace.

Mr. ROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, if I could make one final comment, I know the gentleman from Georgia wanted to make additional comments as well. What the American people should be doing and the American Government is saying to the Palestinian people and all of the other Arab nations is the following: get a new leadership in the Palestinian Authority who will be ready to accept living in their own state next to the Jewish State of Israel. When the Arab world forces that upon the Palestinian leadership, then we can have what we want for the Jews and the Palestinians together, to live together in peace. Until then, it breaks my heart that the Palestinians are suffering at the hands of their own misguided leaders who, even after 54 years, will not accept the existence of the State of Israel.

Mr. DEUTSCH. Mr. Speaker, I would like to yield the last moments of my time and, hopefully, he will be able to claim some of his own time, to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. KINGSTON).

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, let me yield to the gentleman from New York (Mr. WEINER), because I know he wanted to make a comment.

Mr. WEINER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding. I just wanted to comment on the points made by my colleagues about the expanse of time. We frequently get into the misguided notion that everything has to run on a 24-hour news cycle, that sometimes we see something unsettling and we think instantly it is going to change.

□ 2230

I would remind my colleagues and remind those viewing at home that the first several weeks of the campaign against terror, against al-Qaeda in Afghanistan, we were all commenting, oh, my goodness, this does not seem to be working, this does not seem to be working; the terrorists seem to be sur-

ving. Then suddenly, almost overnight, there was a collapse of the terrorist infrastructure that has made us today a much safer country.

The same strategy is being pursued, although it was not their first choice, by the Israeli government. I think we make a mistake when we say, well, as unsettling as this is, it has to end tomorrow or the next day. It may take a while.

It is estimated that for every suicide bombing, it takes 40 individuals to make that bombing happen. There is the person that puts the bomb together, that figures out the lock, that locates the person who is going to do it, that makes the harness that goes around.

Destroying that infrastructure may take a little while. But the only way to do it is not to look at what is going to be on tomorrow's television, but to think about how we do it in the context of a military operation against a very difficult foe to catch.

When we watch those images, and they are unsettling, there is nobody in Israel, I can say almost to a person, who thinks this is a desirable way to go, but it is the only way to catch them where they are. I thank the gentleman for yielding to me.

Mr. ROTHMAN. To build on that last point, by the way, it is important to remember that while we were at war, the Cold War, but nonetheless a very dangerous war with the Soviet Union for 50 years, we are now friends with Russia. We had a terrible world war against the Germans and Japanese, terrible losses of life, lasting years. Now we are best friends. We had a revolution against the British and now we are best friends.

There is no reason, once this effort to rout out terrorists concludes, that the Israelis and Palestinians cannot be friends.

REQUIREMENTS FOR PEACE WITH ISRAEL

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. FLAKE). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2001, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. KINGSTON) is recognized for 60 minutes.

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield to my friend, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. ROTHMAN), to let him finish his comments.

Mr. ROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, I thank my dear friend, the gentleman from Georgia, for yielding.

All is not lost. We should not lose hope. As heartbreaking as it is to see these terrible images on our television, and we wonder what is going to happen, some things take time. But we have to do them right.

Sometimes our friends are put in very dangerous, difficult positions. We do not abandon our friends. To have a friend, as my dad used to say, you must be a friend. If we step away from our friend, Israel, after a friendship of an unparalleled kind for 50 years, what

does that say about us? What does that say when we go looking to the world for our friends to help us?

We cannot abandon Israel. Stand with Israel. Let Israel carry the day and rout out these terrorists. Let us get a just peace between the Israelis and Palestinians.

If the Palestinians ever put together a leadership, because the other Arab nations force them, or they on their own demand it of their own leaders, if they put together a leadership that is committed to living in peace next to the Jewish state of Israel in their own state of Palestine, then but only then will the Palestinians have what they want, which is their own state.

It is up to the Palestinians, and it is up to their Arab brothers and sisters to make them realize that they cannot continue to reject the offer of peace and statehood that Israel and the world has been making to them since 1947.

Mr. DEUTSCH. If the gentleman would yield, I think one of the interesting things also, as we enter a dialogue stage this evening, it is important to note that the gentleman's comments were so much on point regarding the leadership of the Palestinians.

I think there has been a misplaced emphasis in many ways by this administration on calling Chairman Arafat the leader of the Palestinians. Let us be very specific. I think most Americans need to really understand this, that Chairman Arafat was elected, but what he did was he refused to have a reelection. His term of office ended in 2000.

All of us who are elected officials, we stand for election every 2 years, and in the Senate every 6 years, and the President every 4 years. I was an election observer. Some of us have participated in international election observation teams. I was an election observer this past year in Belarus, where the president of the country reelected himself. We do not recognize their government. Yet, our government says that Chairman Arafat is the chosen leader, when he chose not to have an election.

Mr. ROTHMAN. If I may, as far as I am concerned, the Palestinians need to take responsibility for choosing their own leaders. If they choose to call Yasser Arafat their leader, so be it. But that does not change what we as Americans must do.

We must say to the Palestinians, they have to put forth a leadership that announces in English and Arabic and to the world that they are ready to live in peace next to the Jewish state of Israel, something the Palestinians regrettably have refused to do, believing that they would intimidate, terrorize, or in other ways use the leverage of middle eastern oil to force America or Europe to make Israel weak enough so that they could finally, after 5 attempts to destroy Israel in five wars, they could finally destroy Israel.

What they are learning now is that Israel will not be defeated militarily or

morally, since they have the legal right recognized by the U.N., and were established at the same time as all those other nations in the middle of the 20th century, and that they, the Palestinians, are the only ones. They must look in the mirror if they are looking for the culprit as to who has deprived them of statehood.

The Palestinians were offered statehood in 1947 by the U.N. They rejected it. They were offered it again in 1967, after they invaded Israel, along with all the other Arab armies. They rejected it. In the year 2000 at Camp David, they rejected a proposal for 97 percent of what they wanted, even though they were the defeated entity. They did not even come back with a counter offer.

It is time for the Palestinians to say to themselves, do you know what, it has been 55 years since 1947, since we turned down a Palestinian state because we did not want to live next to a Jewish state of Israel. We hoped this Jewish state, as tiny as it is in the huge Middle East, that the Jewish state would no longer exist.

They made a big mistake. It is time to give their children, their own Palestinian people, the blessings of a state and liberty next to the Jewish state of Israel.

Mr. DEUTSCH. If the gentleman could yield, I have a blow-up of a letter which has been in the press, and unfortunately, I think it is something which has not gotten enough press attention at this point. I think it is a very significant letter. It is a letter that was found in the Ramallah headquarters by Israeli defense forces troops. It is there, it is real. There is other information that I will present, as well, but it is disturbing, to say the least, in terms of the whole concept of interacting with Chairman Arafat as a leader in terms of his direct personal involvement in terrorism.

I started this evening talking about his direct, personal involvement with the Karine-A incident, which was a direct violation of Oslo, sending weapons to the Palestinian Authority, which was documented, which the Americans completely understand.

I think that is what is probably most troubling to the President of the United States, because I do not believe that he wants to deal with this gentleman at all, because he understands who he is.

If I can just read some of the specifics, this is a letter to Chairman Arafat from assan al Ashid, who is a senior Fatah activist in the West bank, specifically asking for sums of \$2,500 for the following brethren: three gentlemen who are specifically terrorists, they are known terrorists. And in Arafat's personal handwriting, with his signature, he says, "I will allocate \$600 to each of them" on September 19 of 2001. I do not think we need anymore proof.

Mr. KINGSTON. I would like to see the gentleman's other chart, as well,

because he has actually broken down Arafat's connection to terrorism in a particular region or city, has he not?

Mr. DEUTSCH. This is really the question on what has occurred, and the Israelis and the Americans, Israel wants a peace partner. Israel wants to have peace. Israel offered what we have discussed previously. They have negotiated with Chairman Arafat.

But I think what has occurred in the present time is not that Arafat might or might not be, is trying or is not trying, but I think the facts are there: Arafat has direct personal involvement in terrorism. He is a terrorist.

The President got a little squeamish when the press asked him, is he a terrorist. He refused to answer. Not only does he have blood on his hands yesterday, he has blood on his hands today. That is the person that the United States is requesting and demanding that Israel negotiate with, at the same time saying that we refuse to negotiate with terrorists.

Mr. KINGSTON. Further than that, if we do not call Arafat a terrorist, could we say that the PLO harbors terrorism? And certainly I think we would say yes to that, as well.

Mr. DEUTSCH. And let me go through the chart, which I think is interesting.

Chairman Arafat is part of the Fatah organization. Actually, I believe the gentleman has a chart, as well, which is very interesting and relevant to this. The Fatah organization is an organization that, in a particular region, many of us have heard of the city, the occupied and the non-occupied Tulkarm. It is a city with a leadership structure in Fatah, an organizational structure. There was a gentleman, Marwan Barghouti, Nasser Awis, Ra'ed Karmi, whose name was one of the names on the previous list as getting direct payment.

Mr. KINGSTON. These men, they all lead directly to Arafat?

Mr. DEUTSCH. They have said if Chairman Arafat requests, they will no longer engage in terrorist activities. Again, what the gentleman's chart points out is this organization, Fatah, which is directly tied to Arafat, in which the people themselves have said they report to Arafat, they have publicly stated if Arafat says to stop violence, they will stop violence.

The chart there is very illuminating, the gentleman's chart, which points out that in September to December of last year there were nine terrorist incidents and 66 Israelis were killed, the equivalent of more than one 9/11 for the state of Israel, that Fatah itself, Arafat's organization, claimed responsibility for nine incidents.

In January to April, when 99 Israelis were killed, several 9/11s, 67 were claimed by Fatah. Sixty-eight percent of this is suicide bombers were directly claimed by an organizational structure that reports to Arafat, that the members of that structure report to Arafat, and yet Arafat says he has no relation-

ship with that structure. It is not credible. It is not believable. It is not the truth.

Mr. ROTHMAN. If I can offer my agreement, Yasser Arafat is a terrorist. He is no Boy Scout. But that does not mean that he cannot make peace and be a partner in peace if he chooses. The problem is, so far, since 1948, since Israel was recognized by the United Nations, America, all the major nations of the world as an independent state and an independent country, since the Palestinians rejected their own state offered by the U.N. in 1947, Arafat has never said, never, we are prepared to live in peace next to the state of Israel, the Jewish state; never once.

The interesting point would be, what if Arafat said that in English and Arabic? What if all the other leaders of the Arab world were to say, you know, that is all that Israel has been asking for for the last 55 years of its existence, notwithstanding the fact that we in the Arab world have tried to drive these Jews into the sea for the last 55 years, without success. All the Israelis have ever said they want is to live in peace with their Arab neighbors. All they want from their Arab neighbors is a pledge to live in peace with them.

When Egypt made that offer, there is now a peace between Egypt and Israel, and Lebanon and Israel, and Jordan and Israel, albeit there are still some radical terrorists in Lebanon, fomented by Syria to try to stir things up.

But what we really need to do is to put the pressure on the Arab world, our friends, the Saudis, who we have done so much for, saved their necks countless times so they could charge us whatever they wanted at the oil pumps, but nevertheless, we did it, we saved their necks, say to the Saudis, tell Arafat his dreams of driving the Jews into the sea are over. If he wants to help the Palestinian people, tell him to live in peace with Israel, the Jewish state, and they will have negotiations and they will have a Palestinian state.

Why do not the leaders of Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, and all the Arab countries, make that demand to Arafat if they really are concerned about the Palestinian people? And I say to my friends, the Palestinian people, rise up and overthrow Arafat.

□ 2245

Get yourself leaders who will make peace for your children's sake.

Mr. DEUTSCH. Mr. Speaker, if the gentleman would yield on a specific point which he brought up again which is very much relevant to what is going on.

The gentleman mentioned Lebanon. For the last several days every day there have been artillery attacks from Lebanon to northern Israel. When Colin Powell and the President are calling for a cease fire, that is a cease fire they should be calling for. That is a border that has been peaceful, and there is absolutely no reason at all for

artillery to be shot at. We have mentioned this and many of us who have spoken this evening have talked about the analogy to the United States. Could you imagine how we would respond if there was artillery fire over the Canadian border or the Mexican border? There was a point in time when that happened many years ago, and we invaded both Canada and Mexico.

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, if the gentleman would yield, I wanted to pull out the gentleman from New Jersey's (Mr. ROTHMAN) map again, because we cannot emphasize this enough. Here is little Israel surrounded by Saudi Arabia, Yemen, Iran, Iraq, Afghanistan on the other side of it, Syria, Lebanon, Egypt, Somalia, Eritrea. It is not exactly the kind of neighborhood that is very pristine and peaceful and stable to begin with. Israel would not go out aggressively and start a conflict, as the gentleman pointed out, and I want to do it again. Statehood for these countries: Syria, 1946; Iraq, 1932; Iran, 1935; Saudi Arabia, 1932; Jordan, 1946; Lebanon, 1943; Egypt, 1952. To say Israel is the interloper because of 1948 is absurd, particularly given the fact that this is such a sliver of land here.

Mr. ROTHMAN. My colleague makes such a wonderful point. The Israelis are outnumbered 39 to one, some extraordinary number like 325 million Arabs and close to 6 million Israelis, most of them Jews, some Christians, some Israeli Arabs, outnumbered 39 to one. There is no oil in tiny little Israel. None. Tiny little Israel in a sea of other nations. Why do they focus so much attention on Israel? Why do they not just give their own people in Saudi Arabia, it is a monarchy, a kingdom, why do they not give their people democracy?

How about in Iraq? We know they are a dictatorship under Saddam Hussein. Why does he not give his people democracy and freedom? In Iran they have the mullahs, the religious council who are dictators themselves. Even over an elected Iranian president, the religious council overrules the elected officials. Why do they not give their people freedom?

The same as Syria with a totalitarian regime. Syria, who by the way has 45,000 Syrian troops in Lebanon. They are occupying Lebanon, Syria is. But why does the world focus attention on the tiny little only democracy in the entire Middle East, Israel?

Well, you know that saying when you have trouble at home you try to distract the locals by creating a bogeyman somewhere else. Rather than have the people living in these oppressive totalitarian countries fight against their totalitarian dictatorial rulers, they say all of your problems are caused by the tiny little Jewish state all these miles away who we outnumber 39 to one. It would be laughable if it were not such a horrible terrible tragedy.

America needs to talk to the Arab world and tell them, if you think the

lynch pin to peace in the Middle East is settling the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, then tell the Palestinians to accept statehood, the statehood that has been offered to them for 55 years, or at least to sit down at the negotiating table after having said, yes, we are prepared to live in peace next to the Jewish State of Israel. Then the Arab world can get the peace it says it needs before they then can free their own people. Of course, that is ridiculous.

These Arab dictatorships, monarchies, totalitarian regimes throughout the Middle East they can free their people right now, but they will not. They would rather distract them with the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. If there needs to be pressure, it needs to be put on the Arab regimes to force the Palestinians to give their own people a state by agreeing to live next to Israel.

Mr. KINGSTON. I thank the gentleman. I want to yield to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. DEUTSCH) for closing remarks and also I am ready to close.

I think that in my final words that we need to stand with our ally, Israel. We need to understand that they have the right to defend themselves, and we need to have that message heard in the Middle East that we believe that Israel does have this right and is acting accordingly.

Mr. DEUTSCH. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding to me.

I think by definition every day we wake up we live in historical times. In this Chamber where we speak, it is the oldest. We are as America the oldest democracy literally in the history of the world. Many people do not know, but the law givers of the world, the law givers of the world watch us in this Chamber. In fact, the greatest law giver in the history of the world is the gentleman in the center of the Chamber, Moses.

We are part of history as we speak here tonight and as we take action as Americans, as a Congress and our ally, Israel, takes action this evening. And I think the purpose of different Members from throughout the country getting together this evening to speak about this issue is to talk about our concern. That as much as we hope and we pray and we work towards Colin Powell's efforts for a cease fire, which again we were completely united in and support for, at that same time we urge Colin Powell and particularly, obviously, the President who Colin Powell works for, that the President understand that we are listening to him. We are supportive of him in the efforts against terrorism. But to stop Israel, to attempt to stop Israel from rooting out terrorism is sending a wrong message to terrorists.

It is saying that terrorism succeeds, that terrorist actions will get the United States to do things against its allies; that you can bomb us; you can suicide bomb us; you can sniper attack bomb us; you can kill our children, our women at sacred events in the most inhumane conceivable things and force

us to do things. And that is not the message that I believe President Bush has sent to the world nor can we send to the world.

We need to be supportive of Israel and its efforts to eliminate terrorism as they were of us, as the rest of the world was of us, as all Americans are with us. And I urge the President to continue in those efforts in the coming days.

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlemen for their leadership on this issue.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. BECERRA (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT) for today on account of business in the district.

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin (at the request of Mr. ARMEY) for today and the balance of the week on account of the death of his stepfather.

SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. DOGGETT) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Ms. KAPTUR, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. PALLONE, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. HOYER, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. NORTON, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. WELDON of Florida) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. RAMSTAD, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. WELDON of Florida, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. PAUL, for 5 minutes, April 10.

Mr. GEKAS, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. JONES of North Carolina, for 5 minutes, April 10.

Mr. FOLEY, for 5 minutes, today.

SENATE BILLS REFERRED

Bills of the Senate of the following titles were taken from the Speaker's table and, under the rule, referred as follows:

S. 1222. An act to redesignate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 89 River Street in Hoboken, New Jersey, as the "Frank Sinatra Post Office Building", to the Committee on Government Reform.

S. 1499. An act to provide assistance to small business concerns adversely impacted by the terrorist attacks perpetrated against the United States on September 11, 2001, and for other purposes to the Committee on Small Business.

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

Mr. Trandahl, Clerk of the House, reported and found truly enrolled bills of