

DEPLORING MISUSE OF INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE BY UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY FOR POLITICAL PURPOSE

SPEECH OF

HON. ROBERT T. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 14, 2004

Mr. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the resolution deploring the misuse of the International Court of Justice for its advisory opinion on Israel's security fence. I also stand in strong support of Israel's right to defend itself against the ongoing threat of terrorism.

There has been considerable debate about the line the security fence follows, but there can be no doubt about the effectiveness of the fence in protecting against suicide attacks. The fence simply works. There has been a dramatic drop in the number of attacks on Israelis where the fence is in place and operational. And according to Israel Defense Minister Shaul Mofaz, security officials have been able to prevent an estimated 95 percent of overall Palestinian attacks.

The reason there is need for a fence speaks directly to the heart of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict—there are no borders, but there is terrorism. There must be direct negotiations between the Israelis and Palestinians to reach an agreed upon solution that not only provides Israel with secure and defensible borders, but ultimately establishes a state for the Palestinians. But when this political debate will be resolved is unknown and until Israel has a legitimate partner to negotiate with, Israel must protect her people.

In endorsing the roadmap, even the United Nations acknowledged that this is a political debate that can only be resolved through direct negotiations. Yet, even though the U.N. Charter states that the General Assembly can only refer cases concerning legal issues to the International Court of Justice, ICJ, this political matter was taken under consideration. In their ruling, the ICJ did not take into account the context of the terrorist threat that led Israel to construct the fence. Nor did it consider the steps Israel has taken throughout construction of the fence. Numerous modifications and changes have been made to ease the hardship on Palestinians.

Most recently—even before the ICJ's ruling—the Israeli Supreme Court addressed the position of the fence and its effects on Palestinians' access to their homes and jobs. The Israeli government is moving quickly to change the route of the security fence. By doing this, Israel is responsibly balancing its security needs and the humanitarian needs of the Palestinians not involved in terrorists acts. Clearly there is no need for an outside organization to pass judgment.

Ultimately, the ICJ overstepped its jurisdiction by hearing the case in the first place, which could have negative consequences for the peace process. Over 40 countries, including the United States, Canada, and most European Union countries, opposed the ICJ's consideration of the case because of their concerns about jurisdiction and politicization of the court.

Israel has said the security fence is a temporary self-defense measure. It is not meant

to replace the peace process and does not preclude final status negotiations. The construction of the fence is reversible, but the taking of Israeli lives is not. The ICJ's ruling was inappropriate and harmful. The United States needs to stand firm with Israel, and as the United Nations continues to consider this issue, I call on the international community to recognize Israel's absolute right to defend itself.

DEPLORING MISUSE OF INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE BY UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY FOR POLITICAL PURPOSES

SPEECH OF

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 14, 2004

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I intend to vote "yes" on H. Res. 713.

I am voting for the resolution in part to dispel any notion that I am anti-Israel or that I am not sensitive to Israel's right to self-defense.

The United States cannot ignore the horror of terror against Israeli civilians and we should not ignore equally outrageous terror against Palestinian civilians. I also believe the President should express support of the United States toward an initiative that strives for peace for both sides instead of one side. The Congress should demand Israel as well as Palestine to live up to their commitment to peace.

I strongly support Israel, but I also strongly support efforts to bring about peace in the region, which will allow the Israeli and Palestinian people to live together side by side, peaceful and secure.

I am hopeful that soon this Congress will take up a balanced resolution that will address the needs of Israelis and Palestinians. When we do that, we will be taking one of the first steps to truly pursuing peace and advancing democracy.

DEPLORING MISUSE OF INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE BY UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY FOR POLITICAL PURPOSE

SPEECH OF

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 14, 2004

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my concerns regarding H. Res. 713.

I strongly believe that Israel has the right to defend itself against terrorism. I certainly share the conviction of many of my colleagues who supported this resolution that Israel has the right to construct a security barrier. That right of protection should be unquestioned. In fact, I suggested the construction of a security barrier between Israel and the Palestinians in the West Bank years ago, long before the Israeli government proposed erecting such a security fence.

While I support Israel's decision to build a security barrier, I recognize that the current path of the separation barrier has been questioned, notably by the Supreme Court of Israel, in large part because of the displacement of Palestinians. Fortunately, the orderly governmental process in Israel has resulted in a compromise that balances the security interests of Israel with rights of minorities. On June 30, the Supreme Court ordered the re-routing of a 20-mile section of the barrier inside the West Bank northwest of Jerusalem that was in the initial stages of construction because it was too burdensome on Palestinians. I applaud Israel's government for agreeing to comply with the Court's ruling.

Despite these positive developments in the region, today we are considering in the House a resolution that is divisive and not constructive. Over the decades, the United States has been essential in facilitating negotiations along the road to peace. The U.S. should be first in support of Israel's right to build a fence if she believes it will protect her citizens. However, Congress should not formally endorse the wall in its existing form, nor should we oppose it. To do either compromises the U.S. and any peace process. The U.S. should not get involved in that issue except as a facilitator of negotiations between the parties to advance the cause of peace.

I rarely vote present. However, the false choice presented by this resolution could justify neither a yea or nay vote. While the resolution expresses support for Israel's right to construct a security barrier, it is clear to me that this measure was a cynical attempt to divide people for political gain here in the United States.

It is the responsibility of the pro-Israel community—of which I am a member—to support measures that advance the security of Israel. This legislation does not do that. This measure is a cynical attempt that purports to support Israel but uses inflammatory language directed at members of the international community. This resolution undermines the steps we have taken to resolve the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, compromises our ability to assist in the future, and makes Israel and the entire region less secure.

The future security of the Middle East depends on negotiating a just, permanent, and peaceful settlement between Israelis and Palestinians that both guarantees Israel's security and establishes a Palestinian state. I cannot support resolutions, such as H. Res. 713, that are detrimental to this process.

CENTENNIAL OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF SECRETARIES OF STATE (NASS)

HON. ROY BLUNT

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 15, 2004

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. Speaker, as a former Secretary of State of Missouri, I am pleased to be able to speak today on behalf of the National Association of Secretaries of State.

The National Association of Secretaries of State is the oldest association of public officials in the United States, created and established in September 1904 at the World's Fair in St. Louis, Missouri. This year marks the

Centennial year of NASS and the Association is meeting in celebration of this very special milestone.

In 1904, NASS was organized and approved for assembly at the World's Fair in the administration building of the Fair—Brookings Hall—which still stands today and is in constant use by Washington University. The year 2004 also marks the 150th anniversary of Washington University. I am pleased to honor this fine institution and recognize its importance in the history of NASS.

Having left the organization as its president-elect, I continue to remember NASS as the most helpful and personally fulfilling professional organization I have been a member of.

On behalf of myself and my colleagues in the United States Congress who also served as Secretaries of State—Sherrod Brown of Ohio, Tom Cole of Oklahoma, Katherine Harris of Florida, Jim Langevin of Rhode Island and Candice Miller of Michigan—I gratefully acknowledge the value of NASS to us personally and to the nation.

RECOGNIZING THE CAREER AND RETIREMENT OF CAROL MADISON—EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE ILLINOIS CENTER FOR AUTISM

HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 15, 2004

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the career and retirement of Carol Madison, Executive Director of the Illinois Center for Autism for 27 years.

The Illinois Center for Autism, ICA, is a non-profit, community-based mental health treatment, special education center, and vocational training site, dedicated to prevent the unnecessary institutionalization of people with autism and help them achieve the highest level of independence possible in their home, school, and community. Students/Clients must be diagnosed as autistic and/or exhibit characteristics, such as severe communication disorders, severe behavioral disorders, uneven intellectual skills, and socially inappropriate behaviors.

Under Carol's direction and service as the ICA's first Executive Director, the Illinois Center for Autism was established in the fall of 1977 to provide a Special Day School Program. At that time, it was serving only eight children with autism.

In January 1978, the Illinois Center for Autism was incorporated as a 501c (3) not-for-profit corporation. The ICA's mission then was to prevent the unnecessary institutionalization of children with autism. ICA received accreditation in 1992 from the North Central Association (NCA). To this day, ICA has maintained its accreditation and serves both adults and children throughout Southern Illinois.

In 1992, under Carol's leadership, the ICA began an innovative initiative. With Carol's careful hand guiding the program, the ICA opened a gourmet Italian take-out eatery called Pasta Fare. Pasta Fare provides an ideal site for food service training for the ICA's clients. They assist in all aspects of the business, learning to apply their functional aca-

demic, social and communications skills in a work setting. All clients at Pasta Fare are employees of the Illinois Center for Autism. Clients are transitioned into the community for further competitive employment opportunities and many are placed into food service and related occupations.

Not only has Carol and the ICA been able to prevent the unnecessary institutionalization of hundreds of people with autism, she and the Center have also helped them to become productive members of society.

Carol has devoted her life to serving the needs of the disabled community. She has served as a Site Visitor for the US Department of Education's Blue Ribbon Schools program and as a Hearing Officer with the Illinois State Board of Education from 1977–1987. She has consulted with the Madison County Association for Retarded Citizens and served on the Illinois State Board of Education Advisory Council on the Education of Children with Disabilities from 1992–1999. She has served as the Director of the National Association of Private Education Centers and was the Chairman of the Illinois Guardianship and Advocacy Commission.

The future holds great promise for the Illinois Center for Autism and the people it serves and we owe a great debt of gratitude to Carol for the work she has done on behalf of hundreds of young people in our area.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the contributions of Carol Madison and wish her and her family the very best in the future.

AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2005

SPEECH OF

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 13, 2004

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4766) making appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2005, and for other purposes:

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of the Fiscal Year 2005 Agriculture Appropriations bill. The bill includes several projects that will benefit my district.

Imperial County in my Southern California district is a desert farming community located on the California-Mexico border. The county is one of the top agricultural counties in California. It produced over \$1.2 billion of agricultural products in 2002. The county is a leading producer of agronomic and winter vegetable crops, as well as livestock.

This bill contains language that directs the Under Secretary for Rural Development to give consideration to projects that would directly benefit my constituents:

The Imperial Valley Sugarcane/Renewable Energy/Ethanol Project—Environmental and water conservation issues are of grave concern to the agricultural producers in my district. Alternative, higher-value commodities

must become available to ensure the best economic and environmental use of the land and water. This rural development project could provide such an alternative to many of our farmers while producing sugar, ethanol, and renewable energy. My constituents are pursuing an economic development project to develop sugarcane production and processing capabilities, along with ethanol and renewable energy production, in the Imperial Valley. The number one crop in the Imperial Valley is alfalfa, which has a much lower dollar value than sugarcane. Due to a rural-to-urban water transfer that has reduced the number of acres that may be planted in the Valley, my rural constituents searched for an alternative to alfalfa—and found it in sugarcane. The economic conversion project includes development of sugarcane acreage in the Valley, as well as construction of a new sugarcane processing facility on the site of an existing sugar beet processing facility in the Valley. The current sugar beet facility, which currently only operates four months of the year, employs approximately 300 people (100 full-time and 200 seasonal employees). Opening the new sugarcane processing facility would allow year-round processing at the site, dramatically increasing the number of full-time job opportunities at the facility. The project would also allow the creation of a power plant reliant on renewable fuels, principally from residue from the production and processing of sugarcane. Further, the project includes plans for ethanol production from the sugarcane. Due to California's phase-out of MTBE as a gasoline oxygenate, the state requires a stable supply of ethanol, and a local supply will dramatically reduce transportation costs for ethanol purchasers. Sugarcane-to-ethanol production in the Imperial Valley will greatly benefit the economic well-being of my constituents—as well as reduce renewable and clean fuel costs for the nation while protecting environmental quality.

Environmental Technology Business Park—The County of Imperial is working to catalyze development of an EcoPark for location of renewable energy and “green technology” industrial projects. An investment in this project would leverage funding already allocated for development of biomass-to-ethanol projects in Imperial County over the past three years by local, state and federal agencies. The EcoPark is expected to attract more than \$400 million in private investment and sustain more than 4,000 jobs in the related industry and agricultural sectors. Further, a variety of new and established firms are interested in bringing additional technologies to the EcoPark, such as methane digesters, minibiorefineries for biodiesel, nutraceutical manufacture, liquid natural gas production, and solar power generation. The EcoPark will be a beacon of economic and environmental development for renewable fuels projects.

Desert Farming Institute and The National Center for the Study of International Trade in Agriculture—My constituents are interested in establishing a “California Desert Farming Institute” at the San Diego State University's Imperial Valley campus. The Imperial Valley of California is one of the most successful examples of desert farming in the world. San Diego State University-Imperial Valley campus, a Hispanic-Serving Institution, is located on the border with Mexico and thus a logical site for