

# Congressional Record

## of Support for Israeli-Palestinian Peacemaking

*“Indeed, a just resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian dispute and a comprehensive Arab-Israeli peace agreement should be our top priorities in the region.”*

*~ Sen. Dianne Feinstein (D-CA)*

The Arab-Israeli conflict will not be easily solved. ... But even if a settlement is not an immediate possibility, we have to demonstrate clearly that the United States is committed to helping facilitate a negotiated outcome. Progress in the Arab-Israeli conflict would not end the sectarian conflict in Iraq, but it could restore credibility lost by the United States in the region.

**Sen. Richard Lugar (R-IN) on “Elephants in the Room” in speech on Iraq. June 25, 2007**

The deteriorating situation in the Palestinian territories is both tragic and alarming. The cost of the Administration’s prolonged neglect of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and of restoring the peace process, while they have pursued a disastrous policy in Iraq, compounds by the day. Of course we should provide additional humanitarian aid to the Palestinians, who have been suffering extreme hardships and have virtually lost hope.

**Sen. Patrick Leahy (D-VT) on including funds for UNWRA, for Palestinian humanitarian relief, in the supplemental appropriations bill. June 18, 2007**

This resolution underscores the reality that the Israeli-Palestinian conflict frames and influences everything in the Middle East region. I recently returned from a nine-day trip to Jordan, Israel, the Palestinian territories and Lebanon. Nearly every leader and government official that I met stressed the urgency for new U.S. leadership efforts to revive the Israeli-Palestinian peace process. There will be no stability or security in the Middle East until all parties reach a higher ground of resolution based on common interests.

**Sen. Chuck Hagel (R-NE) in a joint press release announcing Senate Res. 224. June 7, 2007**

*Over, please*

**I**t has become quite clear to me that the current impasse is not sustainable. There is no military solution to this conflict. The lack of any movement in the peace process only emboldens the opponents of peace, strengthens the hands of the extremists, and puts the vital interests of Israel, the Palestinian people, and the United States at risk. Yet the vast majority of Israelis and Palestinians have made it clear that they want to end this conflict and live side by side in peaceful coexistence, mutual dignity, and security. We owe it to them and ourselves to do everything in our power to make this vision a reality. Indeed, a just resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian dispute and a comprehensive Arab-Israeli peace agreement should be our top priorities in the region.

**Sen. Dianne Feinstein (D-CA) introducing Senate Res. 224 reaffirming the Senate's commitment to a two-state solution and urging robust U.S. diplomacy. June 7, 2007**

**A**s Christians, Jews, and Muslims, we can best honor our holy city by helping it become a model of peace, unity, and reconciliation. Doing so requires sustained, courageous, and open-minded efforts to promote negotiations, stand against violence, and find solutions. Congress and our Administration must play a much more effective role, returning our nation to active and sustained engagement in seeking peace.

I just returned from a brief visit to Jerusalem, now divided, threatened, strained by the anxiety of constant conflict. It is my great hope to one day visit a revitalized Jerusalem, undivided and shared as the capital of Israel and an independent Palestinian state, where Jews, Muslims, and Christians live together in peace and mutually honor the sites sacred to all of us. I can only wish that the resolution before us more adequately expressed this aspiration.

**Rep. David Price (D-NC) in a floor speech during consideration of H. Con. Res. 152 commemorating the 40th anniversary of the Six Day War and the reunification of the city of Jerusalem. June 5, 2007**

**M**r. Speaker, if there's been any good news on the Middle East peace process over the last seven years, it's that barriers to ending the conflict are less about final-status issues and more about the challenge of reaching the outcome that majorities on both sides know will be necessary: an independent Palestinian state, based on the 1967 borders, living side by side with Israel in peace, with a shared Jerusalem and a negotiated solution to the Palestinian refugee problem. ... [W]e should keep faith with the Biblical injunction to 'pray for the peace of Jerusalem,' reject this senseless resolution, and recommit our support for serious efforts at peace in the Middle East and security for Israel.

**Rep. Earl Blumenauer (D-OK) in a speech on the floor opposing H. Con. Res. 152. June 5, 2007**