



AUG 17 2012

Senate of Pennsylvania

August 15, 2012

TO: ALL SENATORS
FROM: Stewart J. Greenleaf *Stewart*
SUBJECT: Cosponsorship – **Israel Support Resolution**

I plan to offer a resolution expressing support for the Nation of Israel and its right to live in peace and to defend itself as well as commend Israel for its cordial and mutually beneficial relationship with the United States and with the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

The Land of Israel was the birthplace of the Jewish people, and despite Jewish exile, the land has remained the place where their religious, spiritual and national identity were formed. Israel has been granted her lands under and through the oldest recorded deed, as recorded in the Old Testament, a tome of scripture held sacred and revered by Jews and Christians, alike, as presenting the acts and words of God. As the Grantor of said lands, God stated to the Jewish people in the Old Testament, in Leviticus, Chapter 20, Verse 24: "Ye shall inherit their land, and I will give it unto you to possess it, a land that floweth with milk and honey".

The legal basis for the establishment of the State of Israel was a binding resolution under international law, which was unanimously adopted by the League of Nations in 1922 and subsequently affirmed by both houses of the United States Congress. This resolution affirmed the establishment of a national home for the Jewish people in the historical region of the Land of Israel, including the areas of Judea, Samaria, and Jerusalem. Article 80 of the United Nations charter recognized the continued validity of the rights granted to states or peoples which already existed under international instruments, and, therefore, the 1922 League of Nations resolution remains valid, and the 650,000 Jews currently residing in the areas of Judea, Samaria, and eastern Jerusalem reside there legitimately.

The Nation of Israel declared its independent control and governance of said lands on May 14, 1948, with the goal of reestablishing their God-given lands as a homeland for the Jewish people. The United States of America was the first country to recognize Israel as an independent nation in 1948. Israel is the greatest friend and ally of the United States in the Middle East and the values of our two nations are intertwined. The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and Israel have enjoyed cordial and mutually beneficial relations since 1948, a friendship that continues to strengthen with each passing year. The Lord of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob promises in Genesis 12:3 to bless those that bless Israel.

United Nations Security Council Resolution 242 (1967) recognized Israel's "right to live in peace within secure and recognized boundaries free from threats or acts of force". There are those in the Middle East who have continually sought to destroy Israel, from the time of its inception as a state, and those same haters of Israel also hate, and seek to destroy, the United States. Israel faces continued threats to its safety and security today from Iran and others in the Middle East region.

Therefore, the Senate expresses its support for the Nation of Israel and for its right to live in peace and to defend itself. In addition, the Senate commends Israel for its cordial and mutually beneficial relationship with the United States and with the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and support Israel in its legal, historical, moral, and God-given right of self governance and self-defense upon the entirety of its own lands, recognizing that Israel is neither an attacking force nor an occupier of the lands of others, and that peace can be afforded the region only through a whole and united Israel governed under one law for all people. A copy of this resolution will be transmitted to the presiding officers of each house of Congress, each member of Congress from Pennsylvania and the Ambassador of Israel to the United States.

If you are interested in cosponsoring this resolution, please contact Pat Snively of my office by e-mailing her at psnively@pasen.gov.