

CONGRESSIONAL MONITOR

THE 111TH CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION: 5 JANUARY–22 DECEMBER 2010

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CongressionalMonitor.org, the companion site to this *JPS* section, allows users to explore current and past legislation on key subjects, by the members who initiated it, and much more.

Published each year, the Congressional Monitor provides summaries of all relevant bills and resolutions (joint, concurrent, and simple) introduced during the previous session of Congress that mention, even briefly, Palestine, Israel, or the broader Arab-Israeli conflict. The Institute for Palestine Studies' Congressional Monitor Database (CongressionalMonitor.org) contains all relevant legislation from 2001 to the present (the 107th Congress through the first session of the 111th Congress) and will be updated on an ongoing basis to include legislation prior to 2001 and after 2011. Material in this compilation was drawn from www.thomas.loc.gov, where readers can also find a detailed primer on the legislative process entitled "How Our Laws Are Made."

The 111th Congress was in session from 1/2009–12/2010. The first session (convened on 1/6/09 and adjourned on 12/24/09) was covered in *JPS* 155; the second session, covered below, opened on 1/5/10 and adjourned on 12/22/10, bringing the 111th Congress to a close.

Overview of Congressional Priorities in Context

Throughout the second session, perennial Congressional priorities with regard to Palestine, Israel, and the wider conflict included maintaining Israel's qualitative military edge, continuing U.S.-Israeli bilateral military cooperation (particularly developing antimissile capabilities to protect Israel against rocket fire from Gaza and Lebanon), and containing the threat of a nuclear Iran that sponsors Hizballah, Hamas, and other groups hostile to Israel. Support for the Palestinians remained largely confined to humanitarian assistance and training for Palestinian security forces. Holocaust remembrance and the release of IDF soldier Gilad Shalit (captured in Gaza in 2006) have also become routine.

In addition, the second session was marked by the continuation of specific trends carried over from the first session of the 111th Congress and President

Obama's first year in office. International pressure and criticism of Israeli policies, already exacerbated by Operation Cast Lead (12/2008–1/2009), the Goldstone and other investigations that followed, and the ongoing blockade of Gaza, received new impetus from the 5/2010 *Mavi Marmara* incident in which Israel staged a massive military assault on a humanitarian aid convoy organized by Turkish and international activists to break Israel's siege on Gaza, killing nine activists. Soon after, the Friends of Israel Initiative (FOII), a group of international public figures was organized by former Israeli diplomat and current president of the Jerusalem Center for Public Affairs, Dore Gold, to "combat attempts to delegitimize Israel," with Israel's right to self-defense becoming a prime issue. Meanwhile, ongoing U.S.-Israeli tensions over Israel's settlement construction and the stalled Israeli-Palestinian peace process were reignited in 3/2010 when Israel announced a major new East Jerusalem settlement project, thus derailing Israeli-Palestinian talks about to begin. The tensions over settlements continued (in varying degrees) until 9/2010, when a temporary West Bank "freeze" (agreed in 11/2009) ran out, and Obama having abandoned efforts to secure an extension, West Bank settlement

Journal of Palestine Studies Vol. XL, No. 4 (Summer 2011), pp. 177–202, ISSN: 0377-919X; electronic ISSN: 1533-8614. © 2011 by the Institute for Palestine Studies. All rights reserved. Please direct all requests for permission to photocopy or reproduce article content through the University of California Press's Rights and Permissions website, at <http://www.ucpressjournals.com/reprintInfo.asp>. DOI: jps.2011.XL.4.177.

construction resumed. With the peace process now completely dormant, the Palestinians, refusing to restart talks in such conditions, shifted their diplomatic focus to securing international recognition of a de facto Palestinian state at the UN.

By that time, Congress was already preoccupied with the midterm elections campaign, heightening Congress's already marked partisan divide. Earlier in the session, Democrats in general had supported Obama's peace stands, while Republicans accused his administration of pushing Israel too hard and not being "sufficiently pro-Israel." During the campaign, Republicans and Democrats, besides highlighting their support for Israel, engaged in a kind of one-upmanship on Iran, resulting in a series of hard-line anti-Iran measures seemingly more for show than expected to make it out of committee and into law.

The 11/2010 elections for the 112th Congress kept the Democrats in control of the Senate but brought a Republican majority to the House. Soon after, the presumptive House majority leader, Rep. Eric Cantor (R-VA) told the press that he had assured Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu at their recent one-on-one meeting in New York that the new Republican majority in the House "understands the special relationship between Israel and the U.S." and pledged to "serve as a check" on the Obama administration (seen by Republicans as too pro-Palestinian).

After the elections, House Democrats engaged in some last-minute jockeying over pro-Israel legislation before the Republican take-over in 1/2011. Rep. Howard Berman (D-CA) pushed through the passage of H. Res. 1765 of 12/15/10 "condemning unilateral measures to declare or recognize a Palestinian state" just before the winter recess. The Republicans had introduced more strident measures on the same issue in November, but Democrats, keen to be seen as taking the lead, sneaked the measure through under a "suspension of the rules" procedure and by voice vote with fewer than 10 representatives on the floor. Also on the eve of the winter recess, Congress, having failed to agree on the FY 2011 budget (which should have taken effect at the start of the U.S. fiscal year in 10/2010), managed to extend the current budget through 3/2011. As a result, disbursement of Israel's \$3 b. in military aid for FY 2011 was delayed.

Overview of Legislative Action

During the second session, Congress acted on a total of 73 measures relating to Palestine, Israel, and the Arab-Israeli conflict. Of these, 67 were newly introduced bills and resolutions (representing 1.4% of all measures introduced in Congress during 2010) and 6 were carried over from the first session. Of the 73 measures, 21 passed.

Bills and Joint Resolutions

Of the 73 relevant measures acted upon this session, 37 were bills or joint resolutions that have the force of law if passed. Of these, 7 were passed by both the House and Senate and signed into law by President Obama.

Of the 7 bills that became law, 4 contain provisions providing or authorizing military aid to Israel, as follows:

- Two stop-gap funding bills (necessary to keep the government from shutting down Congress) that allowed government operations for 2011 at the same levels as in 2010. The **Continuing Appropriations Act** (H.R. 3081 of 6/26/09) contained a legal fix permitting increased military assistance for Israel. The **Continuing Appropriations and Surface Transportation Extensions Act** (H.R. 3082 of 6/26/09) carried over that assistance, as well as economic aid for the West Bank and Gaza, until the 112th Congress could pass its own funding bill in 2011.
- Two bills granting new authorities to the president and the defense secretary to allow them to increase military assistance to Israel. The **Security Cooperation Act** (S. 3847 of 9/27/10) allowed the president to grant Israel access in emergencies to a growing stock of U.S. military equipment and supplies stored in Israel, and contains provisions expediting approval for proposed arms sales to Israel. The **2011 National Defense Authorization Act** (H.R. 6523 of 12/15/10) gave the defense secretary the authority to finance Israel's purchase of a missile defense system to defend against rockets from Gaza and Lebanon.

The other 3 bills that became law all contain provisions that undermine Israel's adversaries. These are:

- The **Comprehensive Iran Sanctions, Accountability, and Divestment Act** (H.R. 2194 of 4/30/09) required the president to implement potentially crippling sanctions against Iran and companies that do business there. The bill passed with overwhelming support in both chambers and represented a major triumph for the American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC) and the wider Israel lobby, which had been lobbying for such a bill for many years.
- The **Intelligence Authorization Act** (H.R. 2701 of 4/6/09) required the Director of National Intelligence to provide an assessment to Congress of the nuclear weapons programs of Syria, Iran, and North Korea.
- The **Prevent All Cigarette Trafficking Act** (S. 1147 of 5/21/09) cites among its justifications the need to cut off Hamas's and Hizballah's purported fundraising through the sale of illegal cigarettes in the U.S.

Hereafter, and throughout the text, the bills that have passed will be bolded and marked with an asterisk.

Of the 37 bills and joint resolutions introduced (or carried over) this session (including the 7 that became law), **16 directly benefited Israel**. Of these, 10 concern military funding or military assistance/cooperation. The others involve non-military aid or benefits, recognition, or diplomatic support. The bills providing diplomatic support include: pressing the U.S. government to move its embassy to Jerusalem (H. Amdt. 3690 to H.R. 4872 of 3/17/10); calling on the U.S. govt. to oppose any UN investigation into the *Mavi Marmara* affair and supporting Israel's right to self-defense and to blockade Gaza (H.R. 5501 of 6/10/10); calling for a diplomatic effort in favor of Israel's right to self-defense (H.R. 5351 of 5/20/10), and broadening the definition of anti-Semitism to include discourse "couched as expression against Israel" (H.R. 6277 of 9/29/10). Though counted (above) under military funding or assistance, S. 3676 of 7/29/10 also calls for Israeli-Arab normalization and for ending the Arab boycott, and conditions any funding for establishing a Palestinian state on fulfillment of certain Israeli demands.

An additional **13 bills, while not directly benefiting Israel, promoted its interests by undermining its adversaries or perceived enemies**. Seven of these involved **Iran**, North Korea, and Syria, (including ***H.R. 2701 of 6/4/10**) and Iranian "surrogates" Hezbollah and Hamas. Of these, 4 target Iran *principally*: 2 call for comprehensive sanctions, etc. (***H.R. 2194 of 4/30/09** and S. 2799 of 11/19/10); 1 calls for stopping Iran's nuclear weapons programs (H.R. 6296 of 9/29/10), and 1 essentially supports regime change (S. 3008 of 2/11/10). An additional 4 concern Hamas and Hizballah without mention of Iran (including S. 3676 of 7/29/10, which prohibits funding for the PA if Hamas joins the government, and ***S. 1147 of 5/21/09**). Finally, 2 joint resolutions sought to prevent the U.S. from selling advanced weapons to Saudi Arabia (H. J. Res. 99 of 11/18/10 and H. J. Res. 124 of 12/15/10).

Palestine was addressed in 3 funding bills: 2 provide economic aid and security training to the PA (***H.R. 3081** and ***H.R. 3082 of 6/26/09**) and the 3rd (S. 3676 of 7/29/10) sought to fund programs in the West Bank and Gaza requested by the president and State Dept. Of particular interest in this last bill are the provisions on a presidential waiver and PA compliance.

Four bills expressed Congressional ire at the **United Nations and affiliated bodies**: H.R. 4636 of 2/22/10 proposed ending aid to countries that voted less than 50% of the time with the U.S. at the UN; H.R. 5065 of 4/20/10 would limit U.S. funding to UNRWA and subject it to tight controls; H.R. 5351 of 5/20/10 would prohibit funding for U.S. participation in the International Criminal Court; and H.R. 5501 directs the U.S. to cease participation in the UN Human Rights Council and ensure that no U.S. contributions are used for investigation of *Mavi Marmara* Gaza flotilla.

Simple and Concurrent Resolutions

Simple and concurrent resolutions cannot become law if passed, but merely express the views, opinions, and (on occasion) the demands of Congress. Simple resolutions (designated H./S. Res.) are debated in only one chamber, concurrent resolutions (designated H./S. Con. Res.) in both chambers. Both require a simple majority to pass. While not legally binding, they can carry significant political weight.

In this session, **36 simple and concurrent resolutions were introduced**, of which **14 passed**. Of these, 5 offered recognition, congratulations, or condolences to various parties; 4 concerned the Holocaust, 2 called for the immediate release of Israeli soldier Gilad Shalit, 1 condemned the actions of those aboard the *Mavi Marmara*, 1 condemned Iran's pursuit of nuclear weapons, and 1 condemned the PA's effort to gain international recognition for a Palestinian state.

Israel is mentioned in 22 resolutions. Of these, the theme that stands out is Israel's **right to self-defense**, as mentioned above reflecting mounting international criticism of Israeli policies, especially in Gaza. in H. Con. Res. 315 of 9/14/10. Three of the 4 resolutions concerning the *Mavi Marmara* (***S. Res. 548 of 6/9/10**, H. Res. 1440 of 6/14/10, and H. Res. 1599 of 7/30/10) emphasized Israel's right to self-defense against the terrorists on board the humanitarian aid ships; the last resolution (H. Res. 1532 of 7/15/10) implies a self-defense motive in Israel's attack on the ship by asserting that the flotilla attempted to "breach Israel's coastal security" and "assault" its navy. Other resolutions emphasizing Israel's right to defend itself are H. Con. Res. 260 of 4/13/10 (in general); H. Res. 1553 of 7/22/10 and H. Con. Res. 315 of 9/14/10 (against Iran and the nuclear threat); H. Res. 1241 of 4/13/10 (against terrorists). Also of note are the 2 resolutions on **Jerusalem** (H. Res. 1191 of 3/18/10, urging the relocation of the U.S. embassy to Jerusalem, and H. Con. Res. 271 of 4/29/10, reaffirming Jerusalem as Israel's undivided capital), whose timing was certainly related to U.S.-Israeli dispute over Israel's settlement building in East Jerusalem reignited in early 3/10.

Iran was another important focus of the session, figuring in 10 resolutions. Of these, 7 were directed against Iran *primarily*: 2 with reference to nuclear weapons (***H. Res. 1457 of 6/22/10**; H. Res. 1553 of 7/22/10); 3 calling for diplomatic or legal measures against it (H. Res. 1181 of 3/12/10, H. Con. Res. 256 of 3/22/10, H. Con. Res. 295 of 7/1/10) and 2 concerning domestic issues (H. Res. 1431 of 6/10/10 on abuses against Iranian citizens, and H. Res. 1497 of 6/30/10 on the content of Iranian textbooks). Five of the Iran resolutions also reference its support of Hizballah and/or Hamas. H. Res. 1285 of 4/21/10

on Syria condemns it for transferring Scud missiles to Hizballah.

Three resolutions address **Palestinian diplomatic efforts** to gain international recognition of a Palestinian state: H. Res. 1731 of 11/18/10 and H. Res. 1734 of 11/29/10 (which also called on the Obama administration to suspend aid to the PA if it unilaterally declared a state) and ***H. Res. 1765 of 12/15/10**.

Lobbies and Congress

As in previous years, the pro-Israel lobby intervened publicly in a number of congressional initiatives during 2010. AIPAC is the most visible of the lobbies and arguably has the most influence in Congress. Its annual conferences, held in Washington every May, are its most important public lobbying events, drawing large numbers of congressmen, featuring major speakers, and devoting a full day to lobbying Congress. The 2010 conference (its 51st) took place 5/21-23 with a record attendance of 7,500. On the final day, some 4,000 AIPAC volunteers lobbied their senators and representatives in about 500 scheduled meetings. Talking points distributed to the volunteers at preparatory workshops emphasized AIPAC's 2010 priority issue, Iran sanctions, as well as the perennial need to support U.S. military assistance to Israel. The congressmen were also urged to sign 2 letters (sponsored by their colleagues in the House or Senate): one to President Obama on the urgency of sanctions against Iran, and one to Secretary of State Clinton on the urgency of reducing the U.S.-Israeli tensions over settlements that were running high at the time.

Letters on U.S. policy that circulate in Congress, often sponsored by congressional leaders of both parties with influence over legislation dealing with U.S. foreign affairs, are widely believed to be authored by AIPAC itself, often reproducing verbatim arguments made in AIPAC press releases and position papers, themselves often echoed in congressional measures. Senators and representatives active in pushing the AIPAC agenda are often rewarded with campaign contributions from pro-Israel political action committees (PACs); 5 of the those with prominent roles in this session's efforts (Howard Berman, Chair of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs [HCFA]; Ileana Ros-Lehtinen [R-FL], ranking Republican on the

HCFA; Ron Klein [D-FL], member of HCFA; House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer; and House Minority Whip Eric Cantor) were among the top 10 recipients of pro-Israel PAC money for the 2009–10 election cycle. (See **H.R. 2194 of 4/30/09**, **H. Con. Res. 260 of 4/13/10**, and **H. J. Res. 99 of 11/18/10** for the measures this session where AIPAC's role was most visible; **H.R. 2194 of 4/30/09** also featured lobbying efforts by other Jewish groups, including the Zionist Organization of America, which generally keep lower profiles).

The AIPAC lobbying model has been adopted by the Christians United for Israel (CUFI), the largest pro-Israel organization in America, which claims 500,000 members. Rooted in End Times theology and with political positions based on literal interpretations of scripture, the organization drew 5,000 CUFI members to its 2010 annual summit (7/20–22). Its main themes (not very different from AIPAC's) were the Iranian threat; terrorism; Israel's sacrosanct right to self-defense, including by military action (this last theme is based on a passage from Deuteronomy when God calls on the Israelites to annihilate their enemies); and Israel's God-given right to its ancient land (and therefore to build settlements and to resist U.S. pressure to curb them). CUFI summits (like AIPAC annual conferences) end with a lobbying day on Capitol Hill where CUFI members (4,000 in 2010) meet their senators and representatives to press upon them these principles and their biblical origins. Founded in 2006, CUFI's influence in no way approaches AIPAC's, and tends to be greater among republicans. (See **H. Res. 1553 of 7/22/10** where a CUFI role is discerned.)

Notes on Legislative Procedure

In terms of process, for a bill to become law it must be agreed to in identical form by the House and the Senate, and signed by the president. The president may refuse to sign and thus veto a bill, but the veto can be overturned by a two-thirds majority vote in each chamber. If Congress is not in session, the president can veto a bill simply by not taking action for 10 days after its presentation. (This action is called a "pocket veto.") As already noted, simple or concurrent resolutions have no legal force if passed. Simple resolutions can be passed by either the House or the Senate, whereas both chambers must pass concurrent

resolutions. After the resolution is introduced, it is automatically referred to the appropriate committee; in the great majority of cases (22 out of 36 in this session), it goes no farther.

Among the most important bills passed by Congress are authorization and appropriations bills. Authorization bills provide the legal authority for federal agencies and departments to exist and carry out their various programs. Appropriations bills allow agencies to draw funds from the U.S. Treasury in order to pay for their activities.

Understanding the Congressional Monitor

Presented here is a list of all relevant bills and resolutions introduced or acted upon in 2010. Measures are listed in the order in which they were first introduced, with a brief title provided after the date. The second line of each entry provides the bill or resolution number, the name and affiliation of the original sponsor, and the number of cosponsors.

For many bills and resolutions, a "See also" entry has been added to refer readers to similar or related measures. Under this entry, measures listed in boldface contain text that is similar or identical and also include a summary description.

The "Last major action" entry indicates where the bill or resolution stood at the end of the Congress in 12/2010. Once the Congress ends the measure must be reintroduced in the next Congress and start the legislative process from the beginning.

Key:

- * ——— Denotes a bill or resolution that passed
- H. Con. Res. ——— House Concurrent Resolution
- H. J. Res. ——— House Joint Resolution (having the force of law)
- H.R. ——— House Bill (having the force of law)
- H. Res. ——— Simple House Resolution
- S. ——— Senate Bill (having the force of law)
- SA ——— Senate Amendment
- S. Con. Res. ——— Senate Concurrent Resolution
- S. J. Res. ——— Senate Joint Resolution (having the force of law)
- S. Res. ——— Simple Senate Resolution
- Voice vote: Vote taken verbally and therefore not recorded
- Vote tally: Yay–Nay–Present

***30 April 2009: Comprehensive Iran Sanctions, Accountability, and Divestment Act of 2010**

H.R. 2194, Howard Berman (D-CA), 343 cosponsors.

This “omnibus” sanctions bill combines the provisions of a number of bills requiring the president to impose economic and trade sanctions against Iranian government officials and financial institutions, and companies doing business there. According to its sponsor Howard Berman, the bill is designed to cripple the Iranian economy by limiting its access to refined petroleum (e.g., gasoline, kerosene, and fuel oil) and the international financial system. The bill requires the president to sanction any company that sells refined petroleum products to Iran, shipping companies that transport the products, and companies that insure them.

The president may waive application of these measures against individual companies and persons if he finds it in U.S. national security interests and reports his justification for the waiver to Congress. The administration wanted authority to grant blanket exemptions for cooperating countries and the companies based there, but key members of the House and Senate, as well as AIPAC, opposed such broad waiver authority.

The bill further states the finding of Congress that Iran’s nuclear program and support for international terrorism threaten Israel, and the sense of Congress that U.S. policy should be to counter the support given to Hizballah by Iran and other countries by imposing sanctions on Hizballah and renewing international efforts to disarm it.

The bill and its Senate companion measure (S. 908 of 4/28/09) were originally introduced days before AIPAC’s 2009 annual policy conference opened on 2 May. It ended on 5 May with a lobbying day on Capitol Hill, when thousands of AIPAC supporters met with their representatives and senators to press for AIPAC-backed legislative initiatives, of which the Senate and House versions of this bill were the top priority. Additionally, on 10 September 2009, some 200 representatives of national Jewish organizations lobbied Congress and the Obama administration to support the bill in an initiative dubbed the National Jewish Leadership Advocacy on Iran. The effort was organized by the Inter-Agency

Task Force on Iran led by the Conference of Presidents of Major Jewish Organizations, among others.

By the beginning of 2010, the bill had already passed in the House, and the Senate had passed its own version. But with the two bodies required to reconcile the differences and agree on an identical text, the bill stalled, as leaders in the House, especially Foreign Affairs committee chairman Berman, held up the reconciliation process to allow President Obama to pursue multilateral sanctions against Iran through the UN Security Council. An article published on 3/6/10 by the *New York Times* revealing that the past three U.S. administrations had awarded contracts, grants, and loans worth \$170 m. to companies doing business with Iran in defiance of existing sanctions laws introduced a sense of urgency to pass the bill. In response, AIPAC President David Victor and Executive Director Howard Kohr made the rare move of sending a public letter to every member of Congress calling on them to investigate why successive administrations failed to implement existing U.S. sanctions on Iran, to enact this bill without delay, and to demand the Obama administration enforce existing sanctions.

On 3/17/10, AIPAC circulated a memo titled “Crippling Sanctions Needed to Prevent Nuclear Iran.” Two days later, two letters (covering many of the same points) began circulating, one in the Senate and one in the House, for signatures and eventual delivery to President Obama. After laying out the advanced state of Israel’s nuclear program, the letters urged Obama to take immediate action (1) to stop Iran’s nuclear program because of the threat posed to the U.S., Israel, and the region; (2) to impose unilateral sanctions without any delay caused by inaction at the UN; (3) to enforce existing sanctions; and (4) to implement the sanctions in this bill. The Senate letter was circulated by Sens. Chuck Schumer (D-NY) and Lindsay Graham (R-SC), both of whom addressed the 2010 AIPAC conference days later. The letter eventually gained 82 signatures and was sent to Obama on 4/14/10. The House letter, circulated by Reps. Jesse Jackson Jr. (D-IL) and Mike Pence (R-IN), was sent to Obama with 366 signatures on 4/15/10.

AIPAC’s 2010 policy conference (3/21–3/23/10) followed a few days after the letter initiative was launched and ended with

the customary lobbying day on Capitol Hill to press for the passage of the sanctions bill and for signatures to the letters. Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu was one of the main speakers, adding to the momentum to pass the bill. Netanyahu also met with President Obama and with Jewish members of Congress, reportedly urging them to pass the sanctions even if they could potentially harm Iranian citizens, not just the government. Passage of sanctions against Iran was also the top priority of the ZOA 21 April 2010 lobbying effort dubbed the "Mission to Washington, DC." The ZOA reported that its activists held over 100 meetings with members of Congress and their staff urging passage of "immediate, crippling sanctions" and stressing the "necessity of military action" should diplomatic efforts fail to halt Iran's nuclear program.

The bill was ultimately passed with overwhelming support, and as noted without the waiver authority requested by the president. However, its passage was delayed long enough to give Obama time to secure international sanctions on Iran through the UN Security Council. Berman was able to prevent the process for reconciling the House and Senate versions until 4/22/10, and later, working with Senator Chris Dodd (D-CT), he was able to delay the formulation of a House-Senate compromise bill until 6/23/10, almost two weeks after the Security Council vote.

See also: companion measure **S. 908 of 4/28/09**; similar measure S. 2799 of 11/19/09; and related measures S. 3008 of 2/11/10 and H.R. 5350 of 5/20/10.

Last major action: 7/1/10 became public law 111-195 (6/24/2010 conference report passed in the Senate 99-0 and in the House 408-8-1).

***21 May 2009: Prevent All Cigarette Trafficking (PACT) Act, 2009**

S. 1147, Herb Kohl (D-WI), 20 cosponsors.

Regulates the sale of cigarettes over the Internet, increases penalties for cigarette smuggling, and creates new legal mechanisms to increase the collection of cigarette taxes because, among other reasons, "Hezbollah, Hamas, al Qaeda, and other terrorist organizations have profited from trafficking in illegal cigarettes."

See also: companion measure H.R. 1676 of 3/23/09 in *JPS* 155.

Last major action: 3/31/10 became public law 111-154 (3/17/10 passed in House 387-25; 3/11/10 passed in Senate by unanimous consent).

***4 June 2009: Intelligence Authorization Act for FY2010**

H.R. 2701, Silvestre Reyes (D-TX), no cosponsors.

One section of the bill requires the director of national intelligence to submit a report to Congress every 180 days assessing the nuclear weapons programs of Syria, Iran, and North Korea.

Last major action: 10/7/10 became public law 111-259 (9/29/10 Senate-amended version passed in House 244-181; 9/27/10 passed in Senate with an amendment by unanimous consent).

***26 June 2009: Continuing Appropriations Act, 2011**

H.R. 3081, Nita Lowey (D-NY), no cosponsors.

Formerly the Dept. of State and foreign operations funding bill for FY2010, this bill was completely rewritten as a continuing resolution, a blanket measure that provides stop-gap funding for the federal government to remain in operation past the end of the fiscal year, in this case until 12/3/10. Ordinarily, Congress passes 12 regular appropriations bills each year which provide funding for various parts of the federal government. These bills are lengthy and highly detailed in order to fund and regulate specific activities and programs carried out by government agencies. Funding from the FY2010 appropriations bills passed the previous year ran out on 10/1/10, and because Congress was not able to pass any of the annual, regular appropriations bills for FY2011 by that date, this continuing resolution was necessary. This relatively short-term extension was meant to give the House and Senate more time to pass regular appropriations bills before the Congress adjourned in late December.

Specifically, the bill contains a blanket measure that continues funding for the State Dept. and foreign operations at the level provided for FY2010 in the Consolidated Appropriations Act (see H.R. 3288 of 7/22/09 in *JPS* 155 for details). This means that until a regular appropriations bill was passed, the State Dept. could only spend the same amount of money on the same projects that were provided for by the

Consolidated Appropriations Act unless an earmark in this bill specifically increases funding for it. One such earmark increases the Foreign Military Financing (FMF) grant to Israel to \$2.775 b., which is over and above the funding provided by the Consolidated Appropriations Act (\$2.22 b.). In 2009, Congress passed two bills providing military aid to Israel (the other being the Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2009, H.R. 2346 of 5/22/10), which together provided the \$2.775 b. pledged to Israel by the George W. Bush administration for FY2010. This special provision grants Israel the amount provided by both bills.

Despite the increase, this amount is still \$225 m. below the \$3 b. pledged to Israel by the George W. Bush administration for FY2011. The administration signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Israel in August 2007 which lays out the precise amount of military aid the U.S. will provide Israel for each year from 2009 to 2018. Israel's FMF grants funds are normally to have been approved and deposited into an interest-bearing account with the U.S. Federal Reserve bank at the beginning of the fiscal year (1 October) or shortly thereafter. Although the additional \$225 m. was passed in April 2011 by the 112th Congress, delaying the deposit reduced the amount of interest Israel could earn on its military aid.

These other funding also remained unchanged from 2010:

For Israel:

\$202.434 m. for the Dept. of Defense to continue research, development, and procurement of missile defense systems for Israel that are being jointly developed by the U.S. and Israel.

\$68.5 m. for the Dept. of Defense to build a facility to develop the land-based SM-3 missile system. The SM-3 is being developed for use by the U.S. military as well as for possible use by Israel should it be required.

\$25 m. for the United Israel Appeal, which in turn helps finance programs of the Jewish Agency for Israel that aim to integrate Jewish migrants into Israeli society.

For the West Bank and Gaza:

A total of \$102.5 m. to provide training and nonlethal equipment to the Palestinian Authority (PA) security forces.

\$400.4 m. in economic assistance to the PA, including \$150 m. to be transferred directly to the PA treasury and \$248 m. to fund U.S. Agency for International Development programs in the West Bank and Gaza.

For Lebanon:

\$238 m. in economic and security assistance that the Dept. of State requested in order to counteract Hizballah and police Palestinian refugee camps.

Peacekeeping Operations:

\$26 m. for the Multinational Force and Observers mission in the Sinai, which supervises the implementation of 1979 Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty.

See also: related measure S. 3676 of 7/29/10.

Last major action: 9/30/10 became public law 111-242 (9/30/10 passed in House by 228-194; 9/29/10 passed in Senate by 69-30).

***26 June 2009: Continuing Appropriations and Surface Transportation Extensions Act, 2011**

H.R. 3082, Chet Edwards (D-TX), no cosponsors.

This continuing resolution allows the federal government to remain in operation from 12/3/10 through 3/4/11 by continuing the funding provided by the Continuing Appropriations Act (see **H.R. 3081 of 6/26/09** above for specific funding levels and more on FY2011 funding through continuing resolutions). In effect, government agencies can only spend the same amount of money on the same projects as they did in the previous fiscal year until Congress passes a regular appropriations bill. Budget disputes between Democrats and Republicans made passage of regular appropriations impossible before the end of the 111th Congress. This measure delayed the need for passage of long-term spending bill until after the start of the 112th Congress when Republicans assumed control of the House of Representatives and a larger minority in the Senate.

Specifically for Israel this means that the United Israel Appeal will receive \$25 m. to help integrate Jewish migrants into Israeli society. Israel will also receive its annual Foreign Military Financing (FMF) grant; however, the continuing resolution

caps the grant at \$2.775 b. This amount is \$225 m. below the \$3 b. pledged to Israel by the George W. Bush administration for FY2011. The administration signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Israel in August 2007 which lays out the precise amount of military aid the U.S. will provide Israel for each year from 2009 to 2018. Israel's FMF grants funds are normally to have been approved and deposited into an interest-bearing account with the U.S. Federal Reserve bank at the beginning of the fiscal year (1 October) or shortly thereafter. Although the additional \$225 m. was passed in April 2011 by the 112th Congress, delaying the deposit reduced the amount of interest Israel could earn on its military aid.

Additionally, passage of the continuing resolution also delayed a planned increase in funding for missile defense programs for Israel being jointly produced by the U.S. and Israel, as well as President Obama's request for \$205 m. for Israel to purchase its own Iron Dome missile defense units.

For the West Bank and Gaza, while the level of aid was not deeply affected, passage of this bill delayed the start of any new U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) projects there, and only allowed existing projects to continue. Much of the aid given to West Bank and Gaza is distributed by USAID to nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) and international organizations that carry out a multitude of different economic, humanitarian, infrastructure, and social projects in the territories. A \$50 m. funding increase for U.S. Security Coordinator's training program of the PA security forces was also delayed.

See also: similar measure H.R. 3081 of 6/26/09 and related measure S. 3676 of 7/29/10.

Last major action: 12/22/10 became public law 111-322 (12/21/10 passed in House 193-165; 12/21/10 passed in Senate 79-16).

19 November 2009: Comprehensive Iran Sanctions, Accountability, and Divestment Act of 2009

S. 2799, Chris Dodd (D-CT), no cosponsors.

This "omnibus" sanctions bill combines the provisions of a number of previous bills which would impose various economic and trade sanctions against Iran. Much of this bill was incorporated into

H.R. 2194 of 4/30/09 above. It also contains the same sense of Congress statement regarding Hizballah. Finds that Iran's nuclear program and support for international terrorism represent threats to Israel (the Senate Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs names Hezbollah, Hamas, and Palestinian Islamic Jihad specifically in its report on the bill).

See also: similar measure **H.R. 2194 of 4/30/09** and related measures S. 3008 of 2/11/10 and H.R. 5350 of 5/20/10.

Last major action: 1/28/10 passed in Senate by voice vote.

13 January 2010: Belarus Arms Transfers Accountability Act of 2009

H.R. 4436, Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL), 21 cosponsors.

Would require the secy. of state to report to Congress on weapons exports by Belarus, especially to countries designated as state sponsors of terrorism or as not cooperating fully with U.S. antiterrorism efforts.

Among the findings of Congress supporting this reporting requirement are public references to Belarus supplying weapons to Palestinian extremist groups, Iran, and Syria; remarks reportedly by Belarus President Aleksandr Lukashenko that he will continue to help Syria militarily despite international criticism; an assertion that Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez maintains close ties to Syria and Iran, to whom Belarus sells weapons; media reports that Russia plans to sell the S-300 anti-aircraft missile system to Iran through Belarus; and a statement that a "high-ranking Israeli official strongly cautioned Belarus against strengthening ties with Iran."

See also: related measures H. Res. 1285 of 4/21/10, H.R. 5350 of 5/20/10, S. 3454 and S. 3455 of 6/4/10, H. Res. 1532 of 7/15/10, S. 3676 of 7/29/10, and H.R. 6296 of 9/29/10.

Last major action: 1/13/10 referred to House committee.

21 January 2010: Authorizing the secretary of homeland security to refuse or revoke visas

S. 2944, John Cornyn (R-TX), 6 cosponsors.

Would grant the secy. of homeland security the power to refuse or revoke a visa, and the sole authority to issue, refuse, and

revoke visas at all issuing posts in Egypt, Tel Aviv, Jerusalem, Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, and Turkey, among other countries.

See also: similar measures S. 3077 and H.R. 4758, both of 3/4/10.

Last major action: 1/21/10 referred to Senate committee.

***27 January 2010: Commemorating the 65th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz**

H. Res. 1044, Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL), 21 cosponsors.

See also: related measures H. Con. Res. 236 of 2/22/10 and S. Con. Res. 71 of 8/5/10.

Last major action: 2/3/10 passed in House 414-0.

29 January 2010: Foreign Relations Authorization Act, Fiscal Years 2010 and 2011

S. 2971, John Kerry (D-MA), 1 cosponsor.

Would authorize increases for the State Dept.'s Migration and Refugee Assistance (MRA) and the Emergency Refugee and Migration Assistance spending accounts. A specific authorization allowing for the use of \$25 m. from the MRA account to resettle humanitarian migrants to Israel is included.

See also: related measures H.R. 3081 and H.R. 3082 of 6/26/09, and S. 3676 of 7/29/10 for MRA funding for migrants to Israel.

Last major action: 9/23/10 placed on Senate legislative calendar.

***4 February 2010: Honoring the life of Miep Gies, who aided Anne Frank's family while they were in hiding and preserved her diary for future generations**

H. Res. 1074, Mary Jo Kilroy (D-OH), 60 cosponsors.

See also: related measure H. Res. 1743 12/1/10.

Last major action: 2/24/09 passed in House 421-0.

4 February 2010: Holocaust Insurance Accountability Act of 2010

H.R. 4596, Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL), 37 cosponsors.

Would allow Holocaust survivors and their heirs to sue insurance companies for unpaid Holocaust-era policies, regardless

of any executive agreement entered by the U.S. and a foreign country. The U.S. signed two such agreements with Germany and Austria which prohibited these lawsuits from being heard in U.S. courts. In exchange, holders of these policies or their heirs were permitted to submit claims to the International Commission for Holocaust Era Insurance Claims, which would investigate them and seek payment from insurance companies on behalf of the claimants.

This bill was opposed by several Jewish groups, including the Anti-Defamation League, American Jewish Committee, and the World Jewish Congress, because of fears that the lawsuits would disrupt negotiations with Germany to pay out millions of dollars in compensation to Holocaust survivors.

See also: companion measure S. 4033 of 12/15/10 and related measure H.R. 6347 of 9/29/10.

Last major action: 9/22/10 House subcommittee meetings held.

11 February 2010: Iran Democratic Transition Act of 2010

S. 3008, John Cornyn (R-TX), 20 cosponsors.

Would authorize the president to provide assistance to democratic opposition organizations in Iran. Finds that Iran has employed terrorism to oppose Arab-Israeli peace by aiding Hamas, Hizballah, and Palestinian Islamic Jihad; and that Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad and Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei have made numerous statements predicting Israel's destruction.

See also: related measures H.R. 2194 of 4/30/09, S. 2799 of 11/19/09, H.R. 4728 of 3/2/10, H.R. 5350 of 5/20, and H. Res. 1431 of 6/10/10.

Last major action: 2/11/10 referred to Senate committee.

***22 February 2010: Permitting the use of the rotunda of the Capitol for a ceremony commemorating victims of the Holocaust**

H. Con. Res. 236, Ron Klein (D-FL), 4 cosponsors.

See also: related measure H. Res. 1044 of 1/27/10 and S. Con. Res. 71 of 8/5/10.

Last major action: 3/5/10 passed in Senate by unanimous consent (3/3/10 passed in House by voice vote).

22 February 2010: UN Voting Accountability Act of 2010

H.R. 4636, Louie Gohmert (R-TX), 13 cosponsors.

Would prohibit U.S. assistance to any country which has voted with the U.S. less than 50% of the time in the UN General Assembly and/or the Security Council. Aid would only be restored if there is "a fundamental change in the leadership and policies of the government" in question such that it no longer opposes the position of the U.S. at the UN.

See also: related measures H.R. 5351 of 5/20/10 and H.R. 5501 of 6/10/10.

Last major action: 2/22/10 referred to House committee.

***24 February 2010: Recognizing the 189th anniversary of the independence of Greece**

H. Res. 1107, Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL), 46 cosponsors.

Cites Greece as having maintained excellent relations with Muslim nations and Israel.

See also: companion measure S. Res. 464 3/22/10 and related measure S. J. Res. 37 of 8/2/10.

Last major action: 3/11/10 passed in House 414-0-1.

2 March 2010: Balkan Counter-Extremism and Security Act

H.R. 4728, Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL), 15 cosponsors.

Would authorize the president to provide counterterrorism assistance to countries in the Balkans. Cites a 1996 CIA report that identified 16 Islamic charities in the region with connections to groups such as Hamas and Hizballah.

See also: related measure S. 3008 of 2/11/10.

Last major action: 3/2/10 referred to House committee.

4 March 2010: Secure Visas Act

S. 3077, John Cornyn (R-TX), 4 cosponsors.

See also: companion measure H.R. 4758 of 3/4/10 and similar measure S. 2944 of 1/21/10.

Last major action: 3/4/10 referred to Senate committee.

4 March 2010: Secure Visas Act

H.R. 4758, Lamar Smith (R-TX), 7 cosponsors.

See also: companion measure S. 3077 of 3/4/10 and similar measure S. 2944 of 1/21/10.

Last major action: 4/26/10 referred to House subcommittee.

12 March 2010: Calling on the UN to reject Iran's bid to join the UN Human Rights Council

H. Res. 1181, Thaddeus McCotter (R-MD), 12 cosponsors.

Cites the Iranian regime as having officially incited anti-Semitic hatred, promoted Holocaust denial through its state-controlled media, required Jewish schools remain open on the Sabbath, and created a climate of hostility and intimidation for Iranian Jews.

See also: related measures H. Con. Res. 256 of 3/22/10, H. Res. 1497 of 6/30/10, and H.R. 6277 of 9/29/10.

Last major action: 3/12/10 referred to House committee.

17 March 2010: Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010

H.R. 4872, John Spratt, Jr. (D-SC), no cosponsors.

This bill makes several amendments to the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act. During the Senate debate on the bill, two pertinent amendments were offered but did not pass and were not included in the final text:

S. Amdt. 3669, submitted on 3/24/10 by David Vitter (R-LA), no cosponsors.

Seeks to permit U.S. pharmacists, pharmacies, and drug wholesalers to import certain prescription medications from several countries, specifically including Israel. *See also:* an identical measure S. 80 of 1/6/09 in *JPS* 155. *Last major action:* this amendment was ordered to lie on the table on 3/24/10 and was not considered by the Senate.

S. Amdt. 3690, submitted on 3/24/10 by Sam Brownback (R-KS), no cosponsors.

Would revoke the president's authority to waive the provision in the Jerusalem Embassy Act of 1995 that requires the State Dept. to relocate the U.S. embassy in Israel to Jerusalem. Further, this amendment would withhold half the Dept. of State's budget for building and maintaining its facilities abroad until the secy. of state certifies to Congress that the U.S. had officially

opened its embassy in Jerusalem. *See also:* related measures H. Res. 1191 of 3/18/10, H. Con. Res. 260 of 4/13/10, and H. Con. Res. 271 of 4/29/10. *Last major action:* this amendment was ordered to lie on the table on 3/24/10 and was not considered by the Senate.

18 March 2010: Urging the expedient relocation of the U.S. Embassy in Israel to Jerusalem

H. Res. 1191, Doug Lamborn (R-CO), 23 cosponsors.

Would reaffirm that Jerusalem "is and should continue to be the undivided capital of the State of Israel" and encourage the president to urge other governments to recognize Israel's right to exist with Jerusalem as its undivided capital.

See also: similar measure H. Con. Res. 271 of 4/29/10; and related measures S. Amdt. 3690 to H.R. 4872 of 3/24/10 and H. Con. Res. 260 of 4/13/10.

Last major action: 3/18/10 referred to House committee.

22 March 2010: Declaring that Iranian officials or Iranian Revolutionary Guard officers are presumptively ineligible for a travel visa to the U.S.

H. Con. Res. 256, James Himes (D-CT), 8 cosponsors.

Cites Iran's support for Hizballah and Hamas, and the belligerent statements made by Iranian officials regarding Israel, including denial of the Holocaust and calls for the destruction of Israel.

See also: related measures H. Res. 1431 of 6/10/10 and H. Res. 1457 of 6/22/10.

Last major action: 6/15/10 referred to House subcommittee.

***22 March 2010: Recognizing the 189th anniversary of the independence of Greece and celebrating Greek and American democracy**

S. Res. 464, Arlen Specter (D-PA), 31 cosponsors.

See also: companion measure **H. Res. 1107 of 2/24/10.**

Last major action: 3/22/10 passed in Senate by unanimous consent.

13 April 2010: Recognizing the 62nd anniversary of the independence of the State of Israel

H. Con. Res. 260, Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL), 191 cosponsors.

Would recognize Israel as a national homeland for the Jewish people and further reaffirmed Congress's enduring support for the U.S.-Israeli relationship, Israel's security, its right to exist as a democratic Jewish state, and its right to self-defense.

Introduced nearly every year, resolutions commemorating the founding of Israel typically pass overwhelmingly and without controversy. Included in this resolution, however, were "whereas" clauses taking critical aim at the Obama administration's diplomatic dispute with the Netanyahu government over settlement construction in East Jerusalem. The dispute also featured prominently at AIPAC's May 2010 annual conference in Washington, where lobbying efforts included thousands of AIPAC supporters urging their senators and representatives to add their signatures to the letters then circulating in the House and the Senate addressed to Secy. of State Clinton urging her to act to reduce the tensions with Israel that distracted both countries from the peace process and from the Iranian threat. The House letter, circulated by House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer (D-MD) and House Minority Whip Eric Cantor (R-VA), was delivered to Clinton with 334 signatures (327 in three days) on 3/26/10. The Senate version was circulated by Barbara Boxer (D-CA) and Johnny Isakson (R-GA) and sent on 4/13/10 with 76 signatures.

See also: related measures H. Res. 1191 of 3/18/10, SA 3690 to H.R. 4872 of 3/24/10, and H. Con. Res. 271 of 4/29/10.

Last major action: 4/13/10 referred to House committee.

13 April 2010: Supporting the right of Israel to defend itself against terrorists

H. Res. 1241, Scott Garrett (R-NJ), 70 cosponsors.

Citing the threat to international security and regional stability posed by the situation in Gaza, this resolution would, inter alia, (1) express the House's support for Israel's pledge to maintain its security by constructing walls along the West Bank, Gaza Strip, and Egypt; and (2) recognize "the remarkable success of the existing security fence in keeping out terrorists," whereas before it was built "terrorists had simply to walk across the border."

See also: related measures H.R. 5351 of 5/20/10, S. Res. 548 of 6/9/10, H.R. 5501

6/10/10, H. Res. 1440 of 6/14/10, H. Res. 1553 of 7/22/10, H. Res. 1599 of 7/30/10, and H. Con. Res. 315 of 9/14/10.

Last major action: 4/13/10 referred to House committee.

20 April 2010: UNRWA Humanitarian Accountability Act

H.R. 5065, Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL), 26 cosponsors.

Would withhold U.S. contributions to the regular budget of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) until the secy. of state certifies that no UNRWA “official, employee, consultant, contractor, subcontractor, representative, or affiliate” is a member of a foreign terrorist organization; has distributed or incited “anti-American, anti-Israel, or anti-Semitic rhetoric or propaganda”; or has used any UNRWA resources to distribute political materials regarding the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Further, the secy. of state would have to certify that: no UNRWA facility or resource is being used by a foreign terrorist organization; UNRWA is subject to financial audits by an internationally recognized, independent auditing firm and has implemented an effective system of vetting and oversight to prevent the use of any UNRWA resources by any foreign terrorist organization; no UNRWA-funded school uses textbooks or other educational materials that propagate “anti-American, anti-Israel, or anti-Semitic rhetoric, propaganda or incitement”; and that no recipient of UNRWA funds or loans is a member of a foreign terrorist organization.

The certification would be effective for 180 days unless the secy. of state “receives information rendering that certification factually inaccurate.” Theoretically, U.S. funding for UNRWA would thus be subject to anyone who wishes to provide the secy. of state with such information.

Would limit U.S. funding for UNRWA to an amount: (1) no greater than the highest annual contribution made by a member country of the League of Arab States; (2) that, as a proportion of the total UNRWA budget, exceeds the proportion of the total budget for the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) paid by the U.S.; or (3) that exceeds 22% of the total budget of UNRWA.

Finally, the bill would express the sense of Congress that:

- The president and secy. of state should lead a high-level diplomatic effort to encourage other “responsible nations” to withhold contributions to UNRWA until the above conditions are met;
- In order to alleviate the suffering of Palestinian refugees, responsibility for them should be transferred to the Office of the UNHCR;
- Citizens of recognized states should be removed from UNRWA’s jurisdiction; and
- UNRWA replace its definition of “refugee” with the one used by the UNHCR.

UNRWA defines refugees as “people whose normal place of residence was Palestine between June 1946 and May 1948, who lost both their homes and means of livelihood as a result of the 1948 Arab-Israeli conflict.”

By contrast, UNHCR defines a refugee as a person who “owing to a well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group, or political opinion, is outside the country of his nationality, and is unable to or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to avail himself of the protection of that country...”

See also: similar measures H.R. 557 of 1/13/10, H.R. 3475 of 5/19/09 in *JPS* 155; related measures H.R. 5351 of 5/20/10, H.R. 5501 of 6/10/10, S. 3676 of 7/29/10, H.R. 6277 of 9/29/10, H. Res. 1731 of 11/18/10, and H. Res. 1734 of 11/29/10.

Last major action: 4/20/10 referred to House committee.

20 April 2010: Commending the Israeli people for their outstanding contributions to earthquake relief in Haiti

H. Res. 1277, Henry Johnson (D-GA), 86 cosponsors.

Last major action: 4/20/10 referred to House committee.

21 April 2010: Condemning Syria for transferring Scud missiles to Hizballah

H. Res. 1285, Eliot Engel (D-NY), 20 cosponsors.

See also: related measures H.R. 4436 of 1/13/10 and H.R. 5350 of 5/20/10.

Last major action: 4/21/10 referred to House committee.

26 April 2010: National Defense Authorization Act for FY2011

H.R. 5136, Ike Skelton (D-MO), 1 cosponsor.

Would authorize the secy. of defense to provide a grant to Israel for it to procure Iron Dome missile batteries. See **H.R. 6523 of 12/15/10** which passed instead for details.

In its report accompanying the bill, the House Committee on Armed Services recommended that \$209.7 m. be provided for Israeli ballistic missile defense systems being developed jointly by the U.S. and Israel. This represents an \$88 m. increase over the Obama administration's request. Of the total, \$84.7 m. would go to the David's Sling short-range ballistic missile system, \$66.2 m. to procure missiles and components from Boeing and Israel aerospace industries for the Arrow-2 system, and \$58.8 m. for research and development of the Arrow-3 system.

See also: similar measures S. 3454 and S. 3455 of 6/4/10 and H.R. 6523 of 12/15/10; and related measures H.R. 5327 of 5/18/10 and S. 3451 of 5/27/10.

Last major action: 6/28/10 placed on Senate legislative calendar for action by full Senate (5/28/10 passed in House 229-186).

28 April 2010: Calling on the U.S. government to investigate the case of Tristan Anderson

H. Con. Res. 270, Barbara Lee (D-CA), 4 cosponsors.

Anderson was critically injured after being struck in the head by a tear-gas canister fired by Israeli border police during a protest in the West Bank village of Ni'lin.

See also: S. 3676 of 7/29/10 for more on deaths and injuries of Americans in the West Bank.

Last major action: 4/28/10 referred to House committee.

29 April 2010: Commemorating the 43rd anniversary of the reunification of Jerusalem

H. Con. Res. 271, Joe Wilson (R-SC), 47 cosponsors.

Would call upon the president and the secy. of state to "repeatedly affirm publicly, as a matter of U.S. policy, that Jerusalem must remain the undivided capital" of Israel.

See also: Similar measure H. Res. 1191 of 3/18/10; and related measures S. Amdt.

3690 to H.R. 4872 of 3/24/10, and H. Con. Res. 260 of 4/13/10.

Last major action: 4/29/10 referred to House committee.

29 April 2010: Urging the secy. of state to designate the Caucasus Emirate as a foreign terrorist organization

H. Res. 1315, Alcee Hastings (D-FL), no cosponsors.

Cites the Caucasus Emirate, an unrecognized state declared by former Chechen Republic of Ichkeria President Doku Umarov in 2007, as having declared a holy war against Israel.

See also: related measure H. Res. 1532 of 7/15/10.

Last major action: 6/15/10 referred to House subcommittee.

***13 May 2010: Demanding the immediate and unconditional release of Israeli soldier Gilad Shalit**

H. Res. 1359, Gary Ackerman (D-NY), 72 cosponsors.

See also: similar measure S. Res. 571 of 6/28/10.

Last major action: 6/24/10 passed in House by voice vote.

18 May 2010: U.S.-Israel Rocket and Missile Defense Cooperation and Support Act

H.R. 5327, Glenn Nye (D-VA), 54 cosponsors.

Would grant the Dept. of Defense the legal authority to finance Israel's purchase of Iron Dome missile batteries and related systems. The Iron Dome is designed to intercept short-range rockets and artillery of the kind fired from Gaza and Lebanon. Unlike the other missile defense systems for Israel funded by the U.S., the Iron Dome is produced solely by Israel's Raphael Advanced Defense Systems, and not in collaboration with U.S. defense firms.

As the system was being developed, officials from the Israeli Defense Ministry requested from their U.S. counterparts that the U.S. provide \$300 m. for the Iron Dome. It was not until Israeli Minister of Defense Ehud Barak made a final request during an April 2010 visit to the U.S. that the Obama administration agreed to provide Israel with \$205 m. for the purchase. On 5/12/10, the Obama administration asked Congress to provide the funds. The public request came as Obama sought to

assure members of Congress and U.S. Jewish groups of his commitment to Israel's security while the dispute with the Netanyahu government over settlements in East Jerusalem continued.

The authorization to fund the system was included in the Ike Skelton National Defense Authorization Act for FY2011 (H.R. 6523 of 12/15/10) which passed instead.

See also: companion measure S. 3451 of 5/27/10; and related measures H.R. 5136 of 4/26/10, S. 3454 of 6/4/10, and H.R. 6523 of 12/15/10.

Last major action: 5/24/10 referred to Senate committee (5/20/10 passed in House 410-4).

20 May 2010: North Korea Sanctions and Diplomatic Nonrecognition Act of 2010

H.R. 5350, Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL), 8 cosponsors.

States the findings of Congress that North Korea has "provided Iran's surrogates, Hezbollah and Hamas, with both missile technology and training in tunneling techniques with which to attack Israel"; that North Korea helped Syria build the nuclear reactor destroyed by Israel in 2007; and (according to a statement by Israeli Foreign Minister Avigdor Lieberman) that a North Korean weapons shipment seized in Bangkok in 2009 was bound for Hizballah and Hamas. These findings were, inter alia, the basis for the sanctions against North Korea that would remain in effect until the president certifies that, among other things, the North Korean government "is no longer engaged in training in combat operations or tunneling, or harboring, supplying, financing, or supporting in any way" Hamas or Hizballah.

See also: similar measures S. 837 of 4/20/09 and H.R. 1980 of 4/21/09 in *JPS* 155; and related measures H.R. 2194 of 4/30/09, S. 2799 of 11/19/09, H.R. 4436 of 1/13/10, S. 3008 of 2/11/10, and H. Res. 1285 of 4/21/10.

Last major action: 5/20/10 referred to House committee.

20 May 2010: American Self-Defense Protection Act of 2010

H.R. 5351, Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL), 30 cosponsors.

Would prohibit funding for any U.S. participation in the International Criminal

Court (ICC). The findings in the bill state that those seeking to prevent Israel from defending itself from militant groups and their sponsors have used the ICC to do so. These efforts have included the PA's request for the ICC to investigate Operation Cast Lead, and the recommendation by the UN Fact Finding Mission on the Gaza conflict that the Goldstone Report be referred to the ICC for further action.

Would state the sense of Congress that the president and secy. of state should lead a diplomatic effort to defend the right to self-defense of the U.S. and its indispensable ally Israel against efforts to deny that right to democracies.

See also: related measures H.R. 4636 of 2/22/10, H. Res. 1241 of 4/13/10, H.R. 5065 of 4/20/10, S. Res. 548 of 6/9/10, H.R. 5501 of 6/10/10, H. Res. 1440 of 6/14/10, H. Res. 1553 of 7/22/10, S. 3676 of 7/29/10, H. Res. 1599 of 7/30/10, H. Con. Res. 315 of 9/14/10, H. Res. 1731 of 11/18/10, and H. Res. 1734 of 11/29/10.

Last major action: 5/20/10 referred to House committee.

***25 May 2010: Congratulating Israel for gaining membership to the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development**

H. Res. 1391, Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL), 56 cosponsors.

See also: related measure S. J. Res. 37 of 8/2/10.

Last major action: 5/28/10 passed in House 418-0.

27 May 2010: U.S.-Israel Rocket and Missile Defense Cooperation and Support Act

S. 3451, Barbara Boxer (D-CA), no cosponsors.

See also: companion measure **H.R. 5327 of 5/18/10**; related measures H.R. 5136 of 4/26/10, S. 3454 of 6/4/10, and H.R. 6523 of 12/15/10.

Last major action: 5/27/10 referred to Senate committee.

4 June 2010: Department of Defense Authorization Act for FY2011

S. 3454, Carl Levin (D-MI), no cosponsors.

In its report on the bill the Senate Committee on Armed Services recommended an increase of \$25 m. over President Obama's funding request to continue

development of the David's Sling short-range ballistic missile defense system for Israel. The committee cited the need to accelerate development of David's Sling in the face of the increased threat from short-range missiles fired by Hizballah.

Would require the secy. of defense to submit a report to Congress detailing any assistance provided by Venezuela to any terrorist organization. The report would focus on four "Terrorist Organizations of Particular Interest": Hamas, Hizballah, the National Liberation Army (ELN), and the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Columbia (FARC).

See also: similar measures H.R. 5136 of 4/26/10, S. 3455 of 6/4/10, and H.R. 6523 of 12/15/10; and related measures H.R. 4436 of 1/13/10, H.R. 5327 of 5/18/10, S. 3451 of 5/27/10, H. Res. 1532 of 7/15/10, S. 3676 of 7/29/10, and H.R. 6296 of 9/29/10.

Last major action: 12/9/10 motion to invoke cloture and end a filibuster defeated in Senate 57-40.

4 June 2010: Department of Defense Authorization Act for FY2011

S. 3455, Carl Levin (D-MI), no cosponsors.

Would require the secy. of defense to submit the same report on Venezuelan involvement with Hamas and Hizballah as required in **S. 3454 of 6/4/10**.

See also: similar measures H.R. 5136 of 4/26/10, **S. 3454 of 6/4/10**, and H.R. 6523 of 12/15; and related measures H.R. 4436 of 1/13/10, H. Res. 1532 of 7/15/10, S. 3676 of 7/29/10, and H.R. 6296 of 9/29/10.

Last major action: 6/4/10 placed on Senate legislative calendar.

***9 June 2010: Condemning the actions by extremists aboard the ship Mavi Marmara**

S. Res. 548, John Cornyn (R-TX), 14 cosponsors.

Further expresses the sense of the Senate that Israel has an inherent and undeniable right to defend itself against any threat; to condemn any future attempts to break the blockade of Gaza; to condemn Hamas for not recognizing Israel's right to exist, committing abuses in Gaza, and rejecting the peace process; to condemn Iran for supporting Hamas; and to encourage Turkey to recognize the

importance of continued strong relations with Israel and closely scrutinize organizations with potential ties to terrorist groups.

See also: similar measure H. Res. 1440 of 6/14/10; related measures H. Res. 1241 of 4/13/10, H.R. 5351 of 5/20/10, S. Res. 548 of 6/9/10, H.R. 5501 6/10/10, H. Res. 1440 of 6/14/10, H. Res. 15322 of 7/15/10, H. Res. 1553 of 7/22/10, H. Res. 1599 of 7/30/10, and H. Con. Res. 315 of 9/14/10.

Last major action: 6/24/10 passed in Senate by voice vote.

10 June 2010: America Stands with Israel Act

H.R. 5501, Peter King (R-NY), 90 cosponsors.

Would express the sense of Congress that the U.S. should oppose any UN investigation into the Gaza flotilla incident and support Israel's unconditional right to self-defense and blockade Gaza. Further, the bill would require the secy. of state to: (1) direct the U.S. permanent representative to the UN to cease participation in the UN Human Rights Council; (2) not contribute any funds to the UN for any investigation into the Gaza flotilla incident; and (3) ensure that no previous contributions to the UN are used for such an investigation, and if necessary withhold future contributions to the UN in an amount equal to that spent on an investigation.

See also: related measures H.R. 4636 of 2/22/10, H. Res. 1241 of 4/13/10, H.R. 5065 of 4/20/10, H.R. 5351 of 5/20/10, S. Res. 548 of 6/9/10, H. Res. 1440 of 6/14/10, H. Res. 1532 of 7/15/10, H. Res. 1553 of 7/22/10, S. 3676 of 7/29/10, H. Res. 1599 of 7/30/10, H. Con. Res. 315 of 9/14/10, H. Res. 1731 of 11/18/10, and H. Res. 1734 of 11/29/10.

Last major action: 6/10/10 referred to House committee.

10 June 2010: Calling for an end to the human rights abuses by Iran against its citizens

H. Res. 1431, Bob Filner (D-CA), 112 cosponsors.

Cites Iran's support for Hamas and Hizballah and thwarting of the peace process between Palestine and Israel.

See also: related measures S. 3008 of 2/11/10, H. Con. Res. 256 of 3/22/10, and H. Res. 1457 of 6/22/10.

Last major action: 6/10/10 referred to House committee.

14 June 2010: Recognizing Israel's right to defend itself against the terrorists aboard the Mavi Marmara

H. Res. 1440, Anthony Weiner (D-NY), no cosponsors.

Alleges that Gaza flotilla organizers Free Gaza and İnsan Hak ve Hürriyetleri ve İnsani Yardım Vakfı (IHH) had terrorist ties, that five passengers of the Mavi Marmara had known links to Hamas and al-Qa'ida, that flotilla organizers had announced weeks in advance that they would resist Israeli forces, and that Israel soldiers found caches of weapons on board the Mavi Marmara. Would state that the House of Representatives stands by Israel for its actions against the Gaza flotilla, place blame with the Free Gaza movement for the subsequent deaths of nine members of the flotilla, and affirm that the U.S. shall consider all further attempts to break the blockade of Gaza illegal and a threat to international peace.

See also: similar measure S. Res. 548 of 6/9/10; and related measure H. Res. 1241 of 4/13/10, H.R. 5351 of 5/20/10, H.R. 5501 of 6/10/10, and H. Res. 1532 of 7/15/10, H. Res. 1553 of 7/22/10, H. Res. 1599 of 7/30/10, and H. Con. Res. 315 of 9/14/10.

Last major action: 6/14/10 referred to House committee.

***22 June 2010: Condemning Iran's continued denial of human rights and pursuit of nuclear weapons**

H. Res. 1457, Jim Costa (D-CA), 20 cosponsors.

Cites Iran as the most active state sponsor of terrorism for its support of Hamas, Hizballah, and other groups.

See also: related measures S. 3008 of 2/11/10, H. Con. Res. 256 of 3/22/10, and H. Res. 1431 of 6/10/10.

Last major action: 6/24/10 passed in House by voice vote.

***28 June 2010: Calling for the immediate and unconditional release of Gilad Shalit**

S. Res. 571, Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY), 7 cosponsors.

See also: companion measure H. Res. 1359 of 5/13/10.

Last major action: 6/28/10 passed in Senate by unanimous consent.

30 June 2010: Condemning the inflammatory anti-Israeli, anti-Semitic, and anti-Western content in Iranian textbooks

H. Res. 1497, Peter Roskam (R-IL), 13 cosponsors.

See also: related measure H. Res. 1181 of 3/12/10, H. Con. Res. 256 of 3/22/10, and H.R. 6277 of 9/29/10.

Last major action: 6/30/10 referred to House committee.

1 July 2010: Condemning the 1994 attack on the Argentine Jewish Mutual Association (AMIA) in Argentina

H. Con. Res. 295, Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL), 33 cosponsors.

States that extensive evidence links the planning of the attacks to the government of Iran and the execution of the attacks to Hizballah. Would urge all nations to arrest and extradite to Argentina any Hizballah operatives who have had either an Argentine arrest warrant or an Interpol Red Notice issued against them. Would urge governments in the Western Hemisphere to draft, adopt, and implement legislation designating Hizballah as a terrorist organization, banning their fundraising and recruitment activities, and applying "the harshest penalties" on those providing support for activities involving Hizballah.

Last major action: 7/1/10 referred to House committee.

15 July 2010: Urging an investigation into the İnsan Hak ve Hürriyetleri ve İnsani Yardım Vakfı (IHH)

H. Res. 1532, Dina Titus (D-NV), 23 cosponsors.

Would urge the secy. of state to conduct an investigation into the role of any government, including Turkey, which may have aided the Gaza flotilla in attempting to breach Israeli coastal security and assault Israel's navy.

See also: related measures H.R. 4436 of 1/13/10, H. Res. 1315 of 4/29/10, S. Res. 548 of 6/9/10, S. 3454 and S. 3455 of 6/4/10, H.R. 5501 of 6/10/10, H. Res. 1440 of 6/14/10, S. 3676 of 7/29/10, H. Res. 1599 of 7/30/10, and H.R. 6296 of 9/29/10.

Last major action: 7/15/10 referred to House committee.

22 July 2010: Expressing support for Israel's right to defend itself and to use all means necessary to eliminate nuclear threats posed by Iran

H. Res. 1553, Louie Gohmert (R-TX), 46 cosponsors.

Would affirm the House's condemnation of Iran for its threats to annihilate the U.S. and Israel and its incitement to genocide against Israelis; support for all means of persuading Iran to stop its nuclear program; and reaffirm the U.S.-Israeli bond and pledge to ensure that Israel gets the military and economic assistance it needs to address the Iranian threat.

Louie Gohmert introduced this resolution on the last day of the CUFU annual summit in Washington, which he attended with CUFU founder John Hagee. As at the AIPAC conference, the CUFU summit's last day is devoted to lobbying Congress (see introduction for details). While CUFU members are not instructed to advocate for specific legislation, the resolution echoes two tenets of the "CUFI Pledge," namely the obligation to support Israel's right to defend itself by any means and to stand with Israel whenever necessary until attacks from its enemies and terrorists cease.

The day before introducing this resolution, Gohmert attended a press conference with Michele Bachmann (R-MN), Steve King (R-IA), and John Culberson (R-TX) to announce their formation of the Tea Party caucus in the House of Representatives. Bachmann, King, and Culberson all signed on as cosponsors of this resolution, along with 21 other members of the 52-member caucus.

See also: related measures H. Res. 1241 of 4/13/10, H.R. 5351 of 5/20/10, S. Res. 548 of 6/9/10, H.R. 5501 of 6/10/10, H. Res. 1440 of 6/14/10, H. Res. 1599 of 7/30/10, and H. Con. Res. 315 of 9/14/10.

Last major action: 7/22/10 referred to House committee.

29 July 2010: Dept. of State and Foreign Operations Appropriations Act, 2011

S. 3676, Patrick Leahy (D-VT), no cosponsors.

Although never passed, S. 3676 was the only bill introduced in 2010 which would have provided regular, annual funding for the State Dept. and the foreign operations of the U.S. worldwide for FY2011. If passed, it would have largely granted the Obama administration's request to fund its

programs in Palestine, Israel, and related activities in the region. As such, it is a useful indicator of the administration's priorities and the support they were given by Senate appropriators.

For the West Bank and Gaza, aid was provided through the following spending accounts:

Economic Support Funds (ESF):

Would fully fund Obama's request for \$400.4 m. in ESF, and make available an additional \$9.3 m. from the Middle East Partnership Initiative (see below) for U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) programs in the West Bank and Gaza. Obama requested that \$200 m. of this sum be available for direct transfer to the PA treasury account. Ordinarily, lawmakers set a limit on how much the president may transfer, but this bill contains no such provision. The U.S. retains prior approval of any transactions from the PA treasury account and a three-year power of audit over these funds. U.S. assistance is used by the PA to pay debt to creditors or suppliers of consumer commodities vetted and deemed eligible by the Dept. of State.

The remaining funds would go to USAID, which funds projects carried out primarily by U.S.-based NGOs, but also by international organizations and local and international NGOs. According to the State Dept., the programs are designed to "strengthen the PA as a credible partner in Middle Eastern peace," provide humanitarian assistance to Gaza, support economic development in the West Bank, and support the stability and capacity of the PA. Programs in the West Bank tend to focus on economic, infrastructure, and social development programs, while those in Gaza primarily provide humanitarian aid such as food assistance through the UN World Food Program. Aid to Gaza is further vetted to ensure that it is delivered only through U.S., international, or local NGOs, or municipalities not controlled by foreign terrorist organizations.

The State Dept. proposed these spending priorities in its request to Congress:

- \$55 m. to support the Palestinian Ministry of Health in implementing its Institutional Development Plan aimed at improvements to the overall Palestinian health care system.

- \$40 m. to develop new water sources, protect aquifers from contamination, rehabilitate and expand sewage systems, and upgrade sanitation systems.
- \$9.5 m. to fund a new program designed to enable reforms in the Palestinian Ministry of Education and Higher Education to improve management practices. The money would also fund programs to renovate schools, expand access to public schools especially for poorer students, improve teaching methodologies, and introduce information technology in classrooms.
- \$81.4 m. for various types of economic assistance programs, including \$45.4 m. for infrastructure programs, development of a contiguous road network, and repair of existing roadways being the top priority. The rest of the funds are to upgrade vocational and technical schools; increase competitiveness and access to loans in the agriculture, tourism, marble and stone, and IT industries; and improve freedom of movement by improving efficiency on the Palestinian side of check points.
- The request for funding for USAID direct humanitarian assistance programs was reduced by \$32.6 m. from the 2010 level to \$15.5 m. The State Dept. assumed there would be a decrease in the need for these programs, particularly in Gaza. The remaining funds were requested to provide food assistance and medical supplies, as well as assistance for higher-level economic and social needs.

International Narcotics and Law Enforcement (INCLE) funds: Would provide all of President Obama's request for \$150 m., an increase of \$50 m. over the 2010 level, mainly for the activities of the U.S. Security Coordinator. \$139.5 m. was requested to provide training, nonlethal equipment, and garrisons for the PA security forces (PASF). \$43.5 m. of the \$50 m. increase went to this program.

The remaining \$10.5 m. was requested to provide training and technical equipment to enable civilian management and administration of the PASF and ensure the justice and corrections sectors are able to keep pace with the PASF's increasing arrest rate while prosecuting and incarcerating those arrested by the PASF efficiently, fairly, and humanely.

Migration and Refugee Assistance (MRA): Would provide the president with \$1.695 b. to meet the needs of refugees worldwide. Though funding for UNRWA is not addressed specifically, it is from this account that yearly U.S. contributions to UNRWA are made. The U.S. contribution to UNRWA is typically 20–30% of its annual budget, though additional contributions may be made in response to emergencies or special appeals by UNRWA.

For Israel:

Foreign Military Financing (FMF) Program: Would grant Israel \$3 b. to purchase U.S.-produced weapons, defense equipment, defense services, and military training. Israel may also use \$789 m. of these funds to purchase Israeli weapons and military equipment (no other recipient of FMF is permitted to spend the funds on its own equipment). The funds would be required to be disbursed in full within 30 days of passage of the bill into an interest-bearing account with the U.S. Federal Reserve bank. Early dispersal in of the funds allows Israel to earn maximum interest on the funds it receives (other recipients of FMF typically receive it in installments throughout the fiscal year). The interest accrued cannot be used to purchase Israeli equipment.

Migration and Refugee Assistance: Would provide \$25 m. for the Humanitarian Migrants to Israel Program. These funds are delivered through a grant to the United Israel Appeal, which in turn helps finance programs of the Jewish Agency for Israel to settle Russian, Eastern European, and Ethiopian Jews inside Israel. In its report on the bill, the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations stated its support for the program as long as it continues to operate within Israel.

For Egypt:

Nonproliferation, Antiterrorism, Demining, and Related Programs: Would provide Egypt with \$2.6 m. to maintain border security equipment purchased from the U.S. to help reduce weapons smuggling into Gaza.

For International and Regional Programs:

Israeli Arab Scholarship Program: Would provide the \$375,000 requested by the Obama administration for the Israeli

Arab Scholarship Program. The program awards scholarships to Israeli Arabs to attend colleges and universities in the U.S. Its funding comes from the interest earned on an endowment established in 1992.

Middle East Multilaterals (MEM): Would provide \$1.5 m. for the MEM program. MEM was established after the Madrid Peace Conference to fund Arab, Israeli, and PA government officials and technical experts to conduct cooperative projects on regional issues such as water, health, and economic development.

Middle East Partnership Initiative (MEPI): Would provide \$60 m. of Obama's \$86 m. request for MEPI, a State Dept. program that works with local and regional organizations in the Middle East to promote change.

Though funding levels for individual projects were not specified, MEPI carries out programs in the West Bank and Gaza, which have included: building the technical capacities of the Ma'an network of independent Palestinian TV stations and the al-Wattan TV station; providing scholarships to Palestinians to attend local universities in the West Bank and Gaza; providing grants to students competing for scholarships to study in the U.S.; strengthening secular, democratic political parties in preparation for national elections; and helping to train women law students and lawyers. In Israel MEPI's programs have included women's rights awareness campaigns and increasing high school matriculation rates, both in Bedouin communities, and trainings for civil society organizations to combat corruption in Israeli Arab communities.

American Schools and Hospitals Abroad (ASHA) Program: The Senate Committee on Foreign Relations recommended that \$23.5 m. for the ASHA program. The committee further recommended that USAID consider proposals from the Feinberg Graduate School of the Weizmann Institute of Science, the Hadasah Medical Organization, and the Israel Center for Excellence through Education.

Report on American Deaths and Injuries in the West Bank and Gaza:

The secy. of state would be required to submit a report detailing the actions being taken by Israel, the PA, and the State Dept. to conduct investigations of each case of an American citizen being killed or injured in the West Bank or Gaza since 2001.

The bill would also carry over these annual funding restrictions and presidential authorities:

International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Funding: Would be continued unless the secy. of state determines that Israel is "being denied its right to participate in the activities" of the IAEA.

Middle East Peace: Would state that funds provided by the bill "should be made available in a manner to further peace in the Middle East between Israelis and Palestinians."

Prohibition on Aid: Would continue the prohibition of any funds being made available in the bill from being used for assistance or reparations to the government of Syria.

Presidential Waiver Authority: Would continue the president's authority to waive a provision in the Anti-Terrorism Act of 1987 prohibiting the Palestinian Liberation Organization from establishing an office in the U.S. if he determines it to be in the national security interest of the U.S. to do so. The president has waived this provision every six months since 1994.

Arab League Boycott: Would restate the sense of Congress that the Arab League boycott of Israel should end, relations between Arab states and Israel should be normalized, and the U.S. should vigorously oppose the boycott.

Palestinian State: Would continue the prohibition on U.S. assistance for the establishment of a Palestinian state unless the secy. of state certifies that certain conditions are met. These include, inter alia, that the PA is working toward peaceful coexistence with Israel, peace in the Middle East, the dismantling of terrorist infrastructures, and is cooperating with Israeli security organizations.

Business with the PA in Jerusalem: Would continue the prohibition on the use of any funds for any U.S. agency in Jerusalem, except the U.S. consulate, that conducts business with the PA or any successor government.

Palestinian Broadcasting Corporation: Would continue the prohibition on any U.S. funding for the Palestinian Broadcasting Corporation.

Vetting of Aid to the West Bank and Gaza: Would carry over oversight and vetting clauses to ensure that ESF funds do not serve terrorist activity; prohibit U.S.

security assistance to the West Bank and Gaza until the secy. of state reports on PA compliance with certain benchmarks; and permit \$500,000 to be used by USAID for audits to ensure compliance with these provisions.

Presidential Waiver and Certifications of PA Compliance: Would continue the prohibition on funding for the PA without a waiver by the president stating that providing the funds is in the national security interests of the U.S. The waiver must be accompanied by a report detailing the justification for the funds, the purposes for which the funds will be spent, and the steps the PA has taken to arrest terrorists and dismantle terrorist infrastructure. The secy. of state must also certify that the PA has established a single treasury account for all PA expenses, eliminated all parallel accounts, and established a single civil service roster and payroll.

Funds would not be permitted to be spent for assistance to any PA personnel located in Gaza, Hamas, any entity Hamas controls, or any power-sharing government including Hamas unless the president certifies that all of the members of that government have (1) publicly accepted Israel's right to exist and (2) agreed to abide by all past agreements and understandings between the PA, Israel, the U.S., and the international community, including the road map.

This language was requested by the Obama administration in 2009 to allow funding for the PA to continue in the event that reconciliation talks between Fatah and Hamas were successful. Prior to mid-2009, funding for a unity government was prohibited until Hamas *as an organization* agreed to these conditions. The secy. of state must also submit a report within 120 days of the presidential certification, and quarterly thereafter, indicating whether the members of the power-sharing government are continuing to comply with the above conditions; detailing the amount, purposes, and delivery mechanism of any U.S. assistance; and a full accounting of any direct support of the government.

Cluster Munitions: Would continue the prohibition on the sale or transfer of cluster munitions to any foreign country unless the weapons have a 1% or lower dud rate and the sale or transfer is conditioned on the weapons only being used against military targets.

Defense Financing Authority: Would extend the authority of the president to provide U.S. financing for Israel to procure defense articles by leasing them from U.S. commercial suppliers.

See also: related measures H.R. 3081 of 6/26/09 and H.R. 3082 for FY2011 appropriations; H.R. 5065 of 4/20/10, H.R. 5351 of 5/20/10, H.R. 5501 of 6/10/10, H. Res. 1731 of 11/18/10, and H. Res. 1734 of 11/29/10 on funding cuts to the PA and international organizations; H.R. 4436 of 1/13/10, S. 3454 and S. 3455 of 6/4/10, H. Res. 1532 of 7/15/10, and H.R. 6296 of 9/29/10 for government reports and investigations into organizations and states cooperating with those in conflict with Israel.

Last major action: 7/29/10 placed on Senate legislative calendar for further action by the whole Senate.

30 July 2010: Reaffirming Israel's right to defend itself and condemning the violent, premeditated actions of the IHH

H. Res. 1599, Carolyn McCarthy (D-NY), 2 cosponsors.

Would further express Congress's commendation of the Obama administration's support for Israel at the UN in the wake of the Gaza flotilla incident.

See also: related measures H. Res. 1241 of 4/13/10, H.R. 5351 of 5/20/10, S. Res. 548 of 6/9/10, H.R. 5501 of 6/10/10, H. Res. 1440 of 6/14/10, H. Res. 1532 of 7/15/10, H. Res. 1553 of 7/22/10, H. Res. 1599 of 7/30/10, and H. Con. Res. 315 of 9/14/10.

Last major action: 7/30/10 referred to House committee.

2 August 2010: To ensure U.S. leadership in advancing the aims of the Helsinki Final Act

S. J. Res. 37, Benjamin Cardin (D-MD), 4 cosponsors.

Cites the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe as maintaining important relations with Israel among others beyond the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development region.

See also: related measures H. Res. 1107 of 2/24/10, S. Res. 464 of 3/22/10, and H. Res. 1391 of 5/25/10.

Last major action: 12/21/10 placed on Senate legislative calendar for further action by the whole Senate.

5 August 2010: Honoring the memory of Holocaust victims and affirming that it is in the interest of the U.S. to prevent future acts of genocide

S. Con. Res. 71, Russell Feingold (D-WI), 21 cosponsors.

See also: related measures H. Res. 1044 of 1/27/10 and H. Con. Res. 236 of 2/22/10.

Last major action: 12/23/10 message on Senate passage sent to House (12/22/10 passed in Senate by unanimous consent).

14 September 2010: Recognizing the formation and affirming the goals of the Friends of Israel Initiative

H. Con. Res. 315, Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL), 2 cosponsors.

The Friends of Israel Initiative (FOII) was launched shortly after the Mavi Marmara attack to counter attempts to delegitimize Israel. FOII was reportedly established with the help of Dore Gold, a former Israeli diplomat and government advisor, and current president of the Jerusalem Center for Public Affairs, a right-wing Israeli think tank. The group's goals are to combat the delegitimization of Israel, show solidarity with its democratic institutions, support its right to self-defense, oppose a nuclear-armed Iran, ensure Israel is accepted as a Western country, and reaffirm the value of the religious, moral, and cultural Judeo-Christian heritage as the main source of the liberal and democratic Western societies. As an indicator of the group's ideology, Friends of Israel founder, chairman, and former Spanish Prime Minister José María Aznar repeatedly cited President Obama's lack of Western values as the main reason for the "growing attacks against Israel, and the general campaign of delegitimization" against it.

Ros-Lehtinen introduced this resolution on the day the Friends of Israel announced its launch in the U.S. The following day, also as part of this international launch campaign, the group held a breakfast for lawmakers at the U.S. Capitol hosted by Ros-Lehtinen and Rep. Albio Sires (D-NJ). Members of the Friends of Israel board were presented with leather-bound copies of this resolution.

See also: H. Res. 1241 of 4/13/10, H.R. 5351 of 5/20/10, S. Res. 548 of 6/9/10, H.R. 5501 6/10/10, H. Res. 1440 of 6/14/10, H. Res. 1553 of 7/22/10, and H. Res. 1599 of 7/30/10.

Last major action: 9/14/10 referred to House committee.

16 September 2010: Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2011

S. 3800, Daniel Inouye (D-HI), no cosponsors.

Would provide a total of \$415.115 m. to fund research, development, and procurement of various missile defense systems for Israel. \$210.115 m. is for three systems that have been jointly developed by the U.S. and Israel over many years, including \$84.722 m. for the David's Sling short-range ballistic missile defense program, \$66.427 for the existing Arrow-2 system, including \$12 m. to procure Arrow-2 missile components from Boeing and Israeli aerospace industries, and \$58.966 for research and development of the long-range Arrow-3 missile defense system.

The remaining \$205 m. would be provided to Israel to finance the purchase of additional batteries of the Iron Dome missile defense system, which is designed to defend against rockets and mortars fired from the Gaza Strip. See H.R. 5327 of 5/18/10 for more on the Iron Dome and U.S. funding for the system.

Finally, the Senate Committee on Appropriations directed in its report (No. 111-295) that \$281.378 m. be allocated to continue research and development on the land-based SM-3 antiballistic missile system. This system is being developed for use by the U.S. military and also as a backup system to be provided to Israel if development of the Arrow-3 should fail.

See also: related measures H.R. 3081 and H.R. 3082 of 6/26/09 for FY2011 defense appropriations, and H.R. 5327 of 5/18/10 for more on U.S. funding for the Iron Dome.

Last major action: 9/16/10 placed on Senate legislative calendar.

***27 September 2010: Security Cooperation Act of 2010**

S. 3847, John Kerry (D-MA), 1 cosponsor.

This law allows expedited arms sales to Israel by reducing the amount of time Congress has to review and approve each sale after it is proposed by the president. This is the same review period given to NATO members. Arms sales above a certain dollar amount are required by law to be reported to Congress, which may then pass a joint

resolution forbidding it. Further, the bill gives the president the authority to provide Israel with "obsolete or surplus items" from U.S. weapons stockpiles at Israeli military bases. These war reserve stockpiles were established in 1990 and are intended for use either by the U.S. military or by Israel in an emergency situation. Israel was granted access to the stockpile during the 2006 war with Lebanon when its ammunition stocks began to run low.

The weapons stored in Israel were valued at a congressionally authorized ceiling of \$800 m. in 2010, and this bill permits an increase in that amount to \$1.2 b. by 2012. The types and quantities of weapons and ordinance to be added are subject to negotiations between the U.S. and Israeli militaries. Missiles, armored vehicles, aerial ammunition, and artillery ordnance are currently stored there.

Authority to transfer weapons to Israel had lapsed in 2008 and is granted here for only eight years. Any transfers are to be made in exchange for concessions to be negotiated by the secy. of defense that are equal to the market value of the weapons received by Israel. The president is required to notify Congress of any items transferred and the concessions received in exchange for them.

See also: related measures H. J. Res. 99 of 11/18/10 and H. J. Res. 124 of 12/15/10.

Last major action: 10/8/10 became public law 111-266 (9/28/10 passed in House by voice vote; 9/27/10 passed in Senate by unanimous consent).

29 September 2010: Combating Anti-Semitism Act of 2010

H.R. 6277, Christopher Smith (R-NJ), 1 cosponsor.

Would amend the Global Anti-Semitism Act to require the secy. of state to submit a report to Congress on acts of anti-Semitism in countries around the world, including anti-Semitic incitement and discourse couched as expression against Israel, and the responses of governments to the anti-Semitic acts.

Would replace the Special Envoy for Monitoring and Combating Anti-Semitism, a State Dept. official who is currently appointed by the secy. of state, with the Ambassador at Large for Monitoring and Combating Anti-Semitism, who would be nominated by the president and approved by the Senate. Further amendments to the

Foreign Service Act of 1980 would require Foreign Service officers to receive instruction on anti-Semitism and legal and law enforcement issues related to combating anti-Semitism.

See also: related measures H. Res. 1181 of 3/12/10, H.R. 5065 of 4/20/10, and H. Res. 1497 of 6/30/10.

Last major action: 9/29/10 referred to House committee.

29 September 2010: Stop Iran's Nuclear Weapons Program Act of 2010

H.R. 6296, Brad Sherman (D-CA), 9 cosponsors.

Would impose further sanctions against Iran, the Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps., and companies that do business in Iran. Title IV would require the president to report to Congress the identity of any person or entity believed to be involved in uranium milling efforts in Iran, North Korea, or Syria.

See also: related measures H.R. 4436 of 1/13/10, S. 3454 and S. 3455 of 6/4/10, H. Res. 1532 of 7/15/10, and S. 3676 of 7/29/10.

Last major action: 12/20/10 referred to House subcommittee.

29 September 2010: Holocaust Accountability and Corporate Responsibility Act of 2010

H.R. 6347, Ron Klein (D-FL), 1 cosponsor.

Would require any company applying for a contract on a federally funded high-speed rail project to certify whether it had direct involvement in the deportation of any individuals to death camps, or any facility used to transit individuals to death camps, between 1 January 1942 and 31 December 1944. If the company has failed to make restitution to surviving victims or their families for these actions, it would be deemed ineligible to be awarded any contract.

See also: related measures H.R. 4596 of 2/4/10 and S. 4033 of 12/15/10.

Last major action: 9/30/10 referred to House subcommittee.

29 September: Supporting Law Enforcement through Lessons of the Holocaust Act

H.R. 6363, Carolyn McCarthy (D-NY), no cosponsors.

Would require the U.S. attorney general to establish a competitive grant program to

fund training and education programs on the implications of the Holocaust for modern-day police.

Last major action: 9/29/10 referred to House committee.

29 September 2010: Supporting efforts to ensure that Holocaust survivors in the U.S. are able to live with dignity, comfort, and security

H. Con. Res. 323, Debbie Wasserman Schultz (D-FL), 105 cosponsors.

Would urge the Obama administration to provide Holocaust survivors with needed social services through existing programs, and encourage it to implement programs to ensure they can avoid institutionalization in their remaining years.

Last major action: 12/15/10 referred to Senate committee (12/1/10 passed in House 406-0).

18 November 2010: Disapproving a proposed sale of defense articles and defense services to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

H.J. Res. 99, Anthony Weiner (D-NY), 2 cosponsors.

Would prohibit the Obama administration's proposed multiyear \$60 b. arms sale to Saudi Arabia. The proposed sale generated much opposition from Congress. On 11/10/10 a letter signed by 198 members of the House was sent to Secy. of Defense Robert Gates and Secy. of State Hillary Clinton which voiced deep concerns about the impact of the arms sales, especially with regard to Israel. Circulated by Rep. Howard Berman (D-CA) and Rep. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-CA), the letter was strongly supported by AIPAC, which posted the names of all 198 signatories on its Web site, encouraging supporters to contact and thank them.

Two days later, AIPAC released an issue memo making substantially the same points as the letter, namely, that the Obama administration must detail (1) the impact of the sale on Israel's qualitative military edge in the region, (2) the measures needed to maintain that edge if Saudi Arabia acquired the weapons, and (3) whether the Saudi government had agreed to cooperate more fully on U.S. goals with regard to the peace process and countering Iranian influence in the region.

Unlike this resolution, neither the letter nor the AIPAC issue memo actually

advocated the sale's cancellation, but instead called for scrutiny and oversight. While the joint resolution was introduced shortly before Congress's review period expired (allowing Obama to move forward with the sale), Congress could pass a joint resolution forbidding the deal right up to the point of delivery. As chair of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs, Berman could have moved the resolution out of committee and to the House floor for a vote but did not do so. Meanwhile, the Israeli government offered no public objection to the deal.

See also: identical measure H. J. Res. 124 of 12/15/10 and related measure S. 3847 of 9/27/10.

Last major action: 11/18/10 referred to House committee.

18 November 2010: Reaffirming opposition to the declaration of a Palestinian state

H. Res. 1731, Ted Poe (R-TX), 3 cosponsors.

This resolution was introduced amidst media reports that the PA would soon seek recognition of a Palestinian state from the UN. The language of this resolution is harsher and more demanding of the Obama administration than a similar resolution which was passed instead (**H. Res. 1765 of 12/15/10**), but the substance of the two is largely the same.

One clause in this resolution that is not echoed in the version that passed calls on the Obama administration to (1) affirm that the U.S. would deny support of any kind (i.e., economic or security aid) to any unilaterally declared Palestinian state; (2) urge other nations to do the same; and (3) make clear that any declaration would "constitute a grievous violation of the principles underlying the Oslo Accords and the Middle East peace process."

See also: identical measure H. Res. 1734 of 11/29/10 and similar measure **H. Res. 1765 of 12/15/10**.

Last major action: 11/18/10 referred to House committee.

29 November 2010: Reaffirming opposition to the unilateral declaration of a Palestinian state

H. Res. 1734, Ted Poe (R-TX), 33 cosponsors.

Otherwise identical to **H. Res. 1731 of 11/18/10**, Rep. Poe added the word

“unilateral” to the title to gain additional support for the resolution.

See also: identical measure **H. Res. 1731 of 11/18/10** and similar measure H. Res. 1765 of 12/15/10.

Last major action: 11/29/10 referred to House committee.

***1 December 2010: Congratulating Holocaust survivor Gerda Weissmann Klein on being selected to receive the Presidential Medal of Freedom**

H. Res. 1743, Harry Mitchell (D-AZ), 98 cosponsors.

See also: H. Res. 1074 of 2/4/10.

Last major action: 12/15/10 passed in House 407-0.

***7 December 2010: Mourning the loss of life and expressing condolences to the families affected by the tragic forest fire in Israel**

H. Res. 1751, Ron Klein (D-FL), 45 cosponsors.

Specifically cites 22 countries that provided or offered assistance to Israel during the fires but does not mention the PA for having sent 21 firefighters, three of whom were later denied entry into Israel to attend a ceremony honoring their efforts.

Last major action: 12/7/10 passed in House by voice vote.

***15 December 2010: Ike Skelton National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2011**

H.R. 6523, Ike Skelton (D-MO), no cosponsors.

This annual bill provides the legal authority to the Dept. of Defense to carry out its activities. It authorizes the secy. of defense to provide \$205 m. to Israel for the Iron Dome short-range rocket defense system. Unlike the other missile defense systems for Israel funded by the U.S., the Iron Dome is produced solely by Israel's Raphael Advanced Defense Systems, and not in collaboration with U.S. defense firms. Israeli Minister of Defense Ehud Barak requested the additional funding for the Iron Dome during a visit to the U.S. in April 2010. President Obama requested the funds from Congress on 5/12/10. See H.R. 5327 of 5/18/10 for more on the Iron Dome.

Authorizes construction of a testing facility to develop a land-based SM-3 (Aegis Ashore) missile defense system at the

Pacific Missile Range Facility in Hawaii. The SM-3 is being developed only by U.S. companies but is intended for use by U.S. forces and as a backup missile defense system for Israel should its unproven Arrow-3 system fail.

See also: similar measures H.R. 5136 of 4/26/10, and both S. 3454 and S. 3455 of 6/4/10; and related measures H.R. 5327 of 5/18/10 and S. 3451 of 5/27/10, and H.R. 6523 of 12/15/10.

Last major action: 1/7/11 became public law 111-383 (12/22/10 passed in Senate by unanimous consent; 12/17/10 passed in House 341-48).

15 December 2010: Disapproving the proposed sale of defense articles and defense services to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

H. J. Res. 104, Anthony Weiner (D-NY), 2 cosponsors.

See also: **H. J. Res. 99 of 11/18/10.**

Last major action: 12/15/10 referred to House committee.

15 December 2010: Restoration of Legal Rights for Claimants under Holocaust-Era Insurance Policies Act of 2010

S. 4033, Arlen Specter (D-PA), no cosponsors.

See also: companion measure **H.R. 4596 of 2/4/10** and related measure H.R. 6347.

Last major action: 12/15/10 referred to Senate committee.

***15 December 2010: Honoring the exceptional achievements of Ambassador Richard Holbrooke**

H. Con. Res. 335, Nita Lowey (D-NY), 3 cosponsors.

Cites Holbrooke's role as the U.S. Permanent Representative to the UN in the effort to include Israel in the UN Western European and Others Group and end Israel's exclusion from regional deliberations.

Last major action: 12/18/10 passed in Senate by unanimous consent (12/17/10 passed in House by voice vote).

***15 December 2010: Condemning unilateral measures to declare or recognize a Palestinian state**

H. Res. 1765, Howard Berman (D-CA), 53 cosponsors.

Citing reports of the PA seeking recognition of a Palestinian state from the UN

and the announcements by Brazil, Argentina, and Uruguay of their recognition of a Palestinian state, this resolution reaffirms the House's support for a negotiated solution resulting in a Jewish state of Israel and a viable, democratic Palestinian state. The House urges Palestinian leaders to cease all efforts at circumventing the peace process and resume direct talks with Israel immediately. Further, it supports the Obama administration's opposition to a unilateral declaration of a Palestinian state and calls upon it to (1) lead a diplomatic effort to

persuade other nations and international bodies to oppose such a declaration and (2) affirm that the U.S. would not recognize a Palestinian state and would veto any UN resolution to establish or recognize one.

See also: similar measures H. Res. 1731 of 11/18/10 and H. Res. 1734 of 11/29/10; and related measure S. 3676 of 7/29/10 for laws regarding a Palestinian state.

Last major action: 12/15/10 passed in House by voice vote.