

AMENDMENT TO H.R. 1646, AS REPORTED
OFFERED BY MR. FLAKE OF ARIZONA

Page 122, after line 23, insert the following:

1 **SEC. 747. SENSE OF CONGRESS RELATING TO REMARKS BY**
2 **THE PRESIDENT OF SYRIA CONCERNING**
3 **ISRAEL.**

4 (a) FINDINGS.—The Congress finds the following:

5 (1) On March 27, 2001, at the first regular
6 Arab summit gathering in more than 10 years,
7 President Bashar al-Assad used his speech to lash
8 out at Israel.

9 (2) On March 28, 2001, the New York Times
10 reported, “In electing Mr. Sharon to be their leader,
11 President Assad said, Israelis had chosen a man who
12 hated anything to do with Arabs and had dedicated
13 his career to killing them.”.

14 (3) President Assad additionally said, “We say
15 that the head of the government is a racist, it’s a
16 racist government, a racist army and security force,”
17 he said, adding that by extension, “It is a racist so-
18 ciety and it is even more racist than the Nazis.”.

19 (4) On March 28, 2001, State Department
20 spokesman Richard Boucher described President



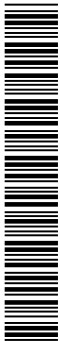
1 Assad's remarks as, "absolutely wrong...totally unac-
2 ceptable and inappropriate."

3 (5) On March 29, 2001, the Bush administra-
4 tion's top Middle East diplomat, Assistant Secretary
5 of State Edward Walker, responding to Assad's re-
6 marks stated, "His statement at the Arab League
7 was unacceptable, particularly his reference to Zion-
8 ism as racism."

9 (6) On May 5, 2001, in his welcoming speech
10 to Pope John Paul II, upon the Pope's arrival in
11 Damascus, President Assad said, "They, Israelis, try
12 to kill all the principles of divine faiths with the
13 same mentality of betraying Jesus Christ and tor-
14 turing Him, and in the same way that they tried to
15 commit treachery against Prophet Mohammad."

16 (7) On May 6, 2001, at the Umayyad Mosque,
17 Muhammad Ziyadah, Syria's minister of religious af-
18 fairs, said, "We must be fully aware of what the en-
19 emies of God and malicious Zionism conspire to
20 commit against Christianity and Islam."

21 (8) On May 7, 2001, State Department spokes-
22 man Richard Boucher condemned President Assad's
23 remarks, "Our view is that these comments are as
24 regrettable as they are unacceptable. There's no



1 place from anyone or from any side for statements
2 that inflame religious passions and hatred.”.

3 (9) It is only through constructive diplomacy,
4 and not through hateful, counterproductive speech,
5 that peace can possibly be achieved in the Middle
6 East.

7 (b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—The Congress—

8 (1) condemns Syrian President Bashar al-Assad
9 for his inflammatory remarks on March 27, 2001,
10 and May 5, 2001;

11 (2) expresses its solidarity with the state and
12 people of Israel at this time of crisis;

13 (3) calls upon President Assad and the Syrian
14 Government to refrain from any future inflam-
15 matory remarks;

16 (4) commends the Administration for its swift
17 response to President Assad’s remarks; and

18 (5) urges the Administration to emphasize to
19 Syrian Government officials the concerns of the
20 United States about the negative impact such re-
21 marks make on Middle East peace negotiations.

