

RECOGNIZING THE 57TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE INDEPENDENCE OF THE STATE OF ISRAEL; URGING WITHDRAWAL OF SYRIAN FORCES FROM LEBANON, SUPPORT FOR DEMOCRATIC ELECTIONS IN LEBANON, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES; EXPRESSING SENSE OF THE HOUSE REGARDING MANIFESTATIONS OF ANTI-SEMITISM BY U.N. MEMBER STATES, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES; AND WELCOMING THE PRESIDENT OF AFGHANISTAN ON HIS MAY 2005 VISIT TO THE U.S., AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

MARKUP

BEFORE THE

SUBCOMMITTEE ON THE MIDDLE EAST
AND CENTRAL ASIA

OF THE

COMMITTEE ON
INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

ONE HUNDRED NINTH CONGRESS

FIRST SESSION

ON

**H. Con. Res. 149, H. Res. 273, H. Res. 282, and
H. Con. Res. 153**

MAY 18, 2005

Serial No. 109-53

Printed for the use of the Committee on International Relations



Available via the World Wide Web: http://www.house.gov/international_relations

U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE

21-305PDF

WASHINGTON : 2005

For sale by the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office
Internet: bookstore.gpo.gov Phone: toll free (866) 512-1800; DC area (202) 512-1800
Fax: (202) 512-2250 Mail: Stop SSOP, Washington, DC 20402-0001

COMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

HENRY J. HYDE, Illinois, *Chairman*

JAMES A. LEACH, Iowa	TOM LANTOS, California
CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH, New Jersey, <i>Vice Chairman</i>	HOWARD L. BERMAN, California
DAN BURTON, Indiana	GARY L. ACKERMAN, New York
ELTON GALLEGLEY, California	ENI F.H. FALEOMAVAEGA, American Samoa
ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN, Florida	DONALD M. PAYNE, New Jersey
DANA ROHRBACHER, California	ROBERT MENENDEZ, New Jersey
EDWARD R. ROYCE, California	SHERROD BROWN, Ohio
PETER T. KING, New York	BRAD SHERMAN, California
STEVE CHABOT, Ohio	ROBERT WEXLER, Florida
THOMAS G. TANCREDO, Colorado	ELIOT L. ENGEL, New York
RON PAUL, Texas	WILLIAM D. DELAHUNT, Massachusetts
DARRELL ISSA, California	GREGORY W. MEEKS, New York
JEFF FLAKE, Arizona	BARBARA LEE, California
JO ANN DAVIS, Virginia	JOSEPH CROWLEY, New York
MARK GREEN, Wisconsin	EARL BLUMENAUER, Oregon
JERRY WELLER, Illinois	SHELLEY BERKLEY, Nevada
MIKE PENCE, Indiana	GRACE F. NAPOLITANO, California
THADDEUS G. McCOTTER, Michigan	ADAM B. SCHIFF, California
KATHERINE HARRIS, Florida	DIANE E. WATSON, California
JOE WILSON, South Carolina	ADAM SMITH, Washington
JOHN BOOZMAN, Arkansas	BETTY MCCOLLUM, Minnesota
J. GRESHAM BARRETT, South Carolina	BEN CHANDLER, Kentucky
CONNIE MACK, Florida	DENNIS A. CARDOZA, California
JEFF FORTENBERRY, Nebraska	
MICHAEL McCAUL, Texas	
TED POE, Texas	

THOMAS E. MOONEY, SR., *Staff Director/General Counsel*

ROBERT R. KING, *Democratic Staff Director*

SUBCOMMITTEE ON THE MIDDLE EAST AND CENTRAL ASIA

ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN, Florida, *Chair*

STEVE CHABOT, Ohio, <i>Vice Chair</i>	GARY L. ACKERMAN, New York
THADDEUS G. McCOTTER, Michigan	HOWARD L. BERMAN, California
JOHN BOOZMAN, Arkansas	ELIOT L. ENGEL, New York
CONNIE MACK, Florida	JOSEPH CROWLEY, New York
JEFF FORTENBERRY, Nebraska	SHELLEY BERKLEY, Nevada
JO ANN DAVIS, Virginia	ADAM B. SCHIFF, California
MIKE PENCE, Indiana	BEN CHANDLER, Kentucky
KATHERINE HARRIS, Florida	DENNIS A. CARDOZA, California
DARRELL ISSA, California	

YLEEM POBLETE, *Subcommittee Staff Director*

MATT ZWEIG, *Professional Staff Member*

DAVID ADAMS, *Democratic Professional Staff Member*

LEE COHEN, *Staff Associate*

CONTENTS

	Page
MARKUP OF	
H. Con. Res. 149, Recognizing the 57th anniversary of the independence of the State of Israel	2
H. Res. 273, Urging the withdrawal of all Syrian forces from Lebanon, support for free and fair democratic elections in Lebanon, and the development of democratic institutions and safeguards to foster sovereign democratic rule in Lebanon	5
H. Res. 282, Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives regarding manifestations of anti-Semitism by United Nations member states and urging action against anti-Semitism by United Nations officials, United Nations member states, and the Government of the United States, and for other purposes	9
H. Con. Res. 153, Welcoming His Excellency Hamid Karzai, the President of Afghanistan, on the occasion of his visit to the United States in May 2005 and expressing support for a strong and enduring strategic partnership between the United States and Afghanistan	15
Amendments to H. Res. 273 and H. Con. Res. 149	21

RECOGNIZING THE 57TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE INDEPENDENCE OF THE STATE OF ISRAEL; URGING WITHDRAWAL OF SYRIAN FORCES FROM LEBANON, SUPPORT FOR DEMOCRATIC ELECTIONS IN LEBANON, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES; EXPRESSING SENSE OF THE HOUSE REGARDING MANIFESTATIONS OF ANTI-SEMITISM BY U.N. MEMBER STATES, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES; AND WELCOMING THE PRESIDENT OF AFGHANISTAN ON HIS MAY 2005 VISIT TO THE U.S., AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

WEDNESDAY, MAY 18, 2005

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
SUBCOMMITTEE ON THE MIDDLE EAST
AND CENTRAL ASIA,
COMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS,
Washington, DC.

The Subcommittee met, pursuant to call, at 9:30 a.m. in room 2172, Rayburn House Office Building, Hon. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (Chair of the Subcommittee) presiding.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. The Subcommittee on the Middle East and Central Asia is now in session with Mr. Lantos, Mr. Mack, and Mr. Boozman present.

Pursuant to notice, I call up the following measures for purposes of markup and move their recommendation to Full Committee: H. Con. Res. 149, Recognizing the 57th anniversary of the independence of the State of Israel; H. Res. 273, Urging the withdrawal of Syrian forces from Lebanon, support for free and fair democratic elections in Lebanon, and the development of democratic institutions and safeguards to foster sovereign democratic rule in Lebanon; H. Res. 282, Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives regarding manifestations of anti-Semitism by United Nations member states . . . , and for other purposes; and H. Con. Res. 153, Welcoming His Excellency Hamid Karzai, the President of Afghanistan, on the occasion of his visit to the United States in May 2005 and expressing support for a strong and enduring strategic partnership between the United States and Afghanistan.

[The resolutions referred to follow:]

109TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. CON. RES. 149

Recognizing the 57th anniversary of the independence of the State of Israel.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 11, 2005

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina (for himself, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Mr. CANTOR, Mr. PENCE, Mr. ACKERMAN, Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, and Mr. LANTOS) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on International Relations

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Recognizing the 57th anniversary of the independence of
the State of Israel.

Whereas on May 14, 1948, the State of Israel was established as a sovereign and independent nation;

Whereas the United States was one of the first nations to recognize Israel, only 11 minutes after its creation;

Whereas Israel has provided the opportunity for Jews from all over the world to reestablish their ancient homeland;

Whereas Israel is home to many religious sites which are sacred to Judaism, Christianity, and Islam;

Whereas Israel provided a refuge to Jews who survived the horrors of the Holocaust and the evils committed by the Nazis which were unprecedented in human history;

Whereas the people of Israel have established a unique, pluralistic democracy which includes the freedoms cherished by the people of the United States, including freedom of speech, freedom of religion, freedom of association, freedom of the press, and government by the consent of the governed;

Whereas Israel continues to serve as a shining model of democratic values by regularly holding free and fair elections, promoting the free exchange of ideas, and vigorously exercising in its Parliament, the Knesset, a democratic government that is fully representative of its citizens;

Whereas Israel has bravely defended itself from attacks repeatedly since independence;

Whereas the Government of Israel has successfully worked with the neighboring Governments of Egypt and Jordan to establish peaceful, bilateral relations;

Whereas, despite the deaths of over one thousand innocent Israelis at the hands of murderous, suicide bombers and other terrorists during the past 4 years, the people of Israel continue to seek peace with their Palestinian neighbors;

Whereas the United States and Israel enjoy a strategic partnership based on shared mutual democratic values, friendship, and respect;

Whereas the people of the United States share affinity with the people of Israel and view Israel as a strong and trusted ally;

Whereas Israel has made significant global contributions in the fields of science, medicine, and technology; and

Whereas Israel's Independence Day on the Jewish calendar coincides this year with May 12, 2005: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate*
2 *concurring)*, That Congress—

3 (1) recognizes the independence of the State of
4 Israel as a significant event in providing refuge and
5 a national homeland for the Jewish people;

6 (2) praises the efforts of President George W.
7 Bush and Prime Minister Ariel Sharon to create the
8 conditions for peace in the Middle East;

9 (3) commends the bipartisan commitment of all
10 United States administrations and United States
11 Congresses since 1948 to stand by Israel and work
12 for its security and well-being; and

13 (4) extends warm congratulations and best
14 wishes to the people of Israel as they celebrate the
15 57th anniversary of Israel's independence.

○

109TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 273

Urging the withdrawal of all Syrian forces from Lebanon, support for free and fair democratic elections in Lebanon, and the development of democratic institutions and safeguards to foster sovereign democratic rule in Lebanon.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 11, 2005

Mr. McCOTTER (for himself, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. COX, Mr. BURTON of Indiana, and Mr. SCHWARZ of Michigan) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on International Relations

RESOLUTION

Urging the withdrawal of all Syrian forces from Lebanon, support for free and fair democratic elections in Lebanon, and the development of democratic institutions and safeguards to foster sovereign democratic rule in Lebanon.

Whereas the people of the Lebanese Republic have a rich, proud, and honorable history dating from ancient times to the present, and Lebanon has been a free and democratic nation for much of its modern history;

Whereas Lebanon and the United States have enjoyed a history of friendship and cooperation which has been witnessed by the immigration of millions of Lebanese to the

United States where they and their descendants have contributed greatly to the fabric of American life;

Whereas Syria has dominated Lebanese politics and political leaders, resulting in a deterioration of Lebanon's human rights situation, the engineering of Lebanese election results to Syria's liking, and the imposition of curbs on Lebanon's media, once the freest in the Arab world;

Whereas Syria has publicly withdrawn its military forces from Lebanon, leaving behind a pro-Syrian intelligence structure within the Lebanese intelligence agencies;

Whereas Congress conditioned the lifting of sanctions on Damascus in the Syria Accountability and Lebanese Sovereignty Restoration Act of 2003 (Public Law 108-175) upon the Government of Syria ending its occupation of Lebanon, including the complete withdrawal of intelligence and all other security-related personnel in Lebanon, and upon other factors;

Whereas the international community has reaffirmed its call for the strict respect of Lebanon's sovereignty, territorial integrity, unity, and political independence under the sole and exclusive authority of the Government of Lebanon through the passage of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1559 (2004);

Whereas there remains unresolved and as a matter of national and world concern the assassination of Rafiq al-Hariri, former Lebanese prime minister, which has justly been condemned as a terrorist act;

Whereas the international community has begun investigations into the assassination of Rafiq al-Hariri and it is the policy of the United States to urge full compliance with the investigations;

Whereas the international community is considering further action to promote Lebanese sovereignty;

Whereas the emancipation of political prisoners and detainees held in Syrian and Lebanese prisons is a requirement to a national reconciliation and rebuilding of Lebanon's democratic institutions; and

Whereas general elections in Lebanon are scheduled to begin on May 29, 2005: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That it is the sense of the House of Rep-
2 resentatives that—

3 (1) Syria should complete its withdrawal of all
4 remaining intelligence and security forces from the
5 Lebanese Republic in accordance with United Na-
6 tions Security Council Resolution 1559 (2004);

7 (2) Lebanon should allow unfettered access to
8 international monitors verifying compliance with
9 United Nations Security Council Resolution 1559
10 (2004);

11 (3) Lebanon should hold free, fair, and trans-
12 parent elections to begin on May 29, 2005, in ac-
13 cordance with all international standards and agree-
14 ments;

15 (4) the United States should aid the people of
16 Lebanon in their efforts to restore the separation of
17 powers, the rule of law, and the proper respect for
18 fundamental freedoms of every citizen; and

1 (5) it should be the policy of the United States
2 Government to—

3 (A) support free and fair elections in Leb-
4 anon by encouraging international election as-
5 sistance and observers;

6 (B) urge the development of democratic in-
7 stitutions and safeguards to foster sovereign
8 democratic rule in Lebanon; and

9 (C) call for the immediate release of all po-
10 litical prisoners and detainees held in Lebanese
11 and Syrian prisons.

○

.....
(Original Signature of Member)

109TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. _____

Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives regarding manifestations of anti-Semitism by United Nations member states and urging action against anti-Semitism by United Nations officials, United Nations member states, and the Government of the United States, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on _____

RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives regarding manifestations of anti-Semitism by United Nations member states and urging action against anti-Semitism by United Nations officials, United Nations member states, and the Government of the United States, and for other purposes.

Whereas the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights recognizes that “the inherent dignity and equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human fam-

ily is the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world”;

Whereas United Nations General Assembly Resolution 3379 (1975) concluded that “Zionism is a form of racism and racial discrimination” and the General Assembly, by a vote of 111 to 25, only revoked Resolution 3379 in 1991 in response to strong leadership by the United States and after Israel made its participation in the Madrid Peace Conference conditional upon repeal of the resolution;

Whereas during the 1991 session of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights, the Syrian Ambassador to the United Nations repeated the outrageous “blood libel” that Jews allegedly have killed non-Jewish children to make unleavened bread for Passover and, despite repeated interventions by the Governments of Israel and the United States, this outrageous lie was not corrected in the record of the Commission for many months;

Whereas in March 1997, the Palestinian observer at the United Nations Commission on Human Rights made the contemptible charge that the Government of Israel had injected 300 Palestinian children with HIV (the human immunodeficiency virus, the pathogen that causes AIDS) despite the fact that an Egyptian newspaper had printed a full retraction to its earlier report of the same charges, and the President of the Commission failed to challenge this baseless and false accusation despite the request of the Government of Israel that he do so;

Whereas Israel was denied membership in any regional grouping of the United Nations until the year 2000, which prevented it from being a candidate for any elected positions within the United Nations system until that time, and Israel continues to be denied the opportunity

to hold a rotating seat on the Security Council and it is the only member of the United Nations never to have served on the Security Council although it has been a member of the organization for 56 years;

Whereas Israel continues to be denied the opportunity to serve as a member of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights because it has never been included in a slate of candidates submitted by a regional grouping, and Israel is currently the only member of the Western and Others Group in a conditional status limiting its ability to caucus with its fellow members of this regional grouping;

Whereas the United Nations has permitted itself to be used as a battleground for political warfare against Israel led by Arab states and others, and 6 of the 10 emergency sessions of the United Nations General Assembly have been devoted to criticisms of and attacks against Israel;

Whereas the goals of the 2001 United Nations World Conference Against Racism were undermined by hateful anti-Jewish rhetoric and anti-Israel political agendas, prompting both Israel and the United States to withdraw their delegations from the Conference;

Whereas in 2004, the United Nations Secretary General acknowledged at the first United Nations-sponsored conference on anti-Semitism, that: “It is clear that we are witnessing an alarming resurgence of this phenomenon in new forms and manifestations. This time, the world must not—cannot—be silent.”;

Whereas in 2004, the United Nations General Assembly’s Third Committee for the first time adopted a resolution on religious tolerance that includes condemnation of anti-

Semitism and “recognized with deep concern the overall rise in instances of intolerance and violence directed against members of many religious communities . . . including . . . anti-Semitism . . .”;

Whereas in 2005, the United Nations held an unprecedented session to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the liberation of the Auschwitz concentration camp;

Whereas democratic Israel is annually the object of nearly two dozen redundantly critical resolutions in the United Nations General Assembly, which rarely adopts resolutions relating to specific countries; and

Whereas the viciousness with which Israel is attacked and discriminated against at the United Nations should not be allowed to continue unchallenged: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That—

2 (1) the House of Representatives—

3 (A) welcomes recent attempts by the
4 United Nations Secretary General to address
5 the issue of anti-Semitism;

6 (B) calls on the United Nations to offi-
7 cially and publicly condemn anti-Semitic state-
8 ments made at all United Nations meetings and
9 hold accountable United Nations member states
10 that make such statements; and

11 (C) strongly urges the United Nations
12 Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organiza-
13 tion (UNESCO) to develop and implement edu-

1 cation awareness programs about the Holocaust
2 throughout the world as part of an effort to
3 combat the rise in anti-Semitism and racial, re-
4 ligious, and ethnic intolerance; and

5 (2) it is the sense of the House of Representa-
6 tives that—

7 (A) the President should direct the United
8 States Permanent Representative to the United
9 Nations to continue working toward further re-
10 reduction of anti-Semitic language and anti-Israel
11 resolutions;

12 (B) the President should direct the Sec-
13 retary of State to include in the Department of
14 State's annual Country Reports on Human
15 Rights Practices and annual Report on Inter-
16 national Religious Freedom information on ac-
17 tivities at the United Nations and its con-
18 stituent bodies relating to anti-Semitism by
19 each of the countries included in these reports;
20 and

21 (C) the President should direct the Sec-
22 retary of State to use projects funded through
23 the Middle East Partnership Initiative and
24 United States overseas broadcasts to educate
25 Arab and Muslim countries about anti-Semi-

1 tism, religious intolerance, and incitement to vi-
2 olence.

109TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. CON. RES. 153

Welcoming His Excellency Hamid Karzai, the President of Afghanistan, on the occasion of his visit to the United States in May 2005 and expressing support for a strong and enduring strategic partnership between the United States and Afghanistan.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 16, 2005

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN (for herself, Mr. ACKERMAN, Mr. LANTOS, Mr. FALCONE, Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. BURTON of Indiana, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. PENCE, Mr. MCCOTTER, and Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on International Relations

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Welcoming His Excellency Hamid Karzai, the President of Afghanistan, on the occasion of his visit to the United States in May 2005 and expressing support for a strong and enduring strategic partnership between the United States and Afghanistan.

Whereas Afghanistan, a great nation located at the crossroads of many civilizations, has suffered the ravages of war, foreign intervention, occupation, and oppression;

Whereas the Afghan people courageously resisted the decade-long occupation of their country by the former Soviet

Union, forcing a Soviet withdrawal in 1989 and thereby contributing to the end of the Cold War;

Whereas following the Soviet withdrawal, Afghanistan went through a period of chaos and conflict, exacerbated by insufficient attention from the international community, during which time the Taliban militia seized control of much of the country and provided a base of operations to Al Qaeda and other terrorist elements;

Whereas following the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, the United States launched Operation Enduring Freedom, liberating the Afghan people from tyranny, transforming Afghanistan from a haven for terrorists into a strategic partner in the struggle against international terrorism, and helping Afghans build a democratic government;

Whereas the Afghan Constitution, drafted by a broadly representative Loya Jirga, or Grand Council, and enacted on January 4, 2004, provides for equal rights for and full participation of women, mandates full compliance with international norms for human and civil rights, establishes procedures for free and fair elections, creates a system of checks and balances between the executive, legislative and judicial branches, encourages a free market economy and private enterprise, and obligates the state to prevent all types of terrorist activity and the production and trafficking of narcotics;

Whereas more than 10.5 million Afghan men and women voted in national presidential elections in October 2004, demonstrating commitment to democracy, courage in the face of threats of violence, and a deep sense of civic responsibility;

Whereas Hamid Karzai, formerly the interim President, was elected to a five-year term as Afghanistan's first democratically-elected President in the country's history;

Whereas nationwide parliamentary elections are planned for September 18, 2005, and further demonstrate the Afghan Government's commitment to adhere to democratic norms;

Whereas the Government of Afghanistan has demonstrated a firm commitment to halting the cultivation and trafficking of narcotics and has cooperated fully with the United States and its allies on a wide range of counter-narcotics initiatives;

Whereas in addition to military and law enforcement operations, President Karzai welcomes the United States and the international community to assist Afghanistan's counter-narcotics campaign by supporting programs to provide alternative livelihoods for farmers, sustained economic development, and governmental and security capacity building;

Whereas recognizing that long-term political stability requires sustained economic security, Afghanistan is striving to create an economic base to provide meaningful livelihoods for all of its people, and the United States has a cooperative interest in helping Afghanistan achieve this goal;

Whereas section 101(1) of the Afghanistan Freedom Support Act of 2002 (22 U.S.C. 7511(1)) declares that the "United States and the international community should support efforts that advance the development of democratic civil authorities and institutions in Afghanistan and the establishment of a new broad-based, multi-ethnic,

gender-sensitive, and fully representative government in Afghanistan”;

Whereas on June 15, 2004, during President Karzai’s visit to the United States, President George W. Bush stated: “Afghanistan’s journey to democracy and peace deserves the support and respect of every nation. . . . The world and the United States stand with [the people of Afghanistan] as partners in their quest for peace and prosperity and stability and democracy.”;

Whereas on June 15, 2004, in his address to a joint meeting of Congress, President Karzai stated: “We must build a partnership that will consolidate our achievements and enhance stability, prosperity and democracy in Afghanistan and in the region. This requires sustaining and accelerating the reconstruction of Afghanistan, through long-term commitment. . . . We must enhance our strategic partnership. The security of our two nations are intertwined.”;

Whereas on April 13, 2005, while receiving the visiting United States Secretary of Defense, Donald Rumsfeld, President Karzai, in expressing the desire of the Afghan people for a long-term strategic partnership with the United States, stated: “They want this relationship to be a wholesome one, including a sustained economic relationship, a political relationship, and most important of all, a strategic security relationship that would enable Afghanistan to defend itself, to continue to prosper, to stop interferences, the possibility of interferences in Afghanistan.”; and

Whereas the people of the United States, and their elected representatives, are honored to welcome President Karzai back to the United States in May 2005 on a visit that

will further advance the close partnership between the United States and Afghanistan: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate*
2 *concurring), That—*

3 (1) Congress welcomes the first democratically-
4 elected President of Afghanistan, His Excellency
5 Hamid Karzai, as an honored guest and valued
6 friend upon his visit to the United States in May
7 2005; and

8 (2) it is the sense of Congress that—

9 (A) a democratic, stable, and prosperous
10 Afghanistan is a vital security interest of the
11 United States; and

12 (B) a strong and enduring strategic part-
13 nership between the United States and Afghani-
14 stan should continue to be a primary objective
15 of both countries to advance a shared vision of
16 peace, freedom, security, and broad-based eco-
17 nomic development between the two countries
18 and throughout the world.

○

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. It is the intention of the Chair to ask unanimous consent to consider the measures en bloc, and that the resolutions and the amendments which the Members have before them be considered as read. All Members are given lead to insert their prepared remarks into the record.

[The amendments referred to follow:]

**AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE
TO H. RES. 273
OFFERED BY MS. ROS-LEHTINEN**

Strike the preamble and insert the following:

Whereas the people of the Lebanese Republic have a rich, proud, and honorable history dating from ancient times to the present;

Whereas Lebanon and the United States have enjoyed a history of friendship and cooperation which has been marked by the immigration of many Lebanese to the United States where they and their descendants have contributed greatly to the fabric of American life;

Whereas Syria has dominated the Lebanese political scene, resulting in a deterioration of Lebanon's human rights situation, the manipulation of Lebanese election results to meet Syria's requirements, and the imposition of curbs on Lebanon's media, once the freest in the Arab world;

Whereas Syria has publicly withdrawn its military forces from Lebanon, leaving behind, however, an intelligence structure;

Whereas Congress conditioned the lifting of sanctions on Damascus in the Syria Accountability and Lebanese Sovereignty Restoration Act of 2003 (Public Law 108-175) upon the Government of Syria ending its occupation of Lebanon (including the complete withdrawal of intelligence and all other security-related personnel in Lebanon) and upon other factors;

Whereas the international community has, through the passage of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1559

(2004), reaffirmed its call for the strict respect of Lebanon's sovereignty, territorial integrity, unity, and political independence under the sole and exclusive authority of the Government of Lebanon;

Whereas there remains unresolved and as a matter of national and world concern the assassination of Rafiq al-Hariri, former Lebanese prime minister, which has justly been condemned as a terrorist act;

Whereas the international community has begun investigations into the assassination of Rafiq al-Hariri and it is the policy of the United States to urge full cooperation with the investigations;

Whereas the international community is considering further action to promote Lebanese sovereignty;

Whereas the emancipation of political prisoners and detainees held in Syrian and Lebanese prisons is a precondition for national reconciliation and a rebuilding of Lebanon's democratic institutions; and

Whereas general elections in Lebanon are scheduled to begin on May 29, 2005: Now, therefore, be it

Strike all after the resolving clause and insert the following:

- 1 That it is the sense of the House of Representatives
- 2 that—
- 3 (1) Syria should complete its withdrawal of all
- 4 remaining intelligence and security forces from the
- 5 Lebanese Republic in accordance with United Na-
- 6 tions Security Council Resolution 1559 (2004);

1 (2) Lebanon should allow unfettered access to
2 international monitors present for the purpose of
3 verifying compliance with United Nations Security
4 Council Resolution 1559 (2004);

5 (3) Lebanon should hold free, fair, and trans-
6 parent elections to begin on May 29, 2005, in ac-
7 cordance with all international standards and agree-
8 ments;

9 (4) the United States should aid the people of
10 Lebanon in their efforts to restore the separation of
11 powers, the rule of law, and a proper respect for
12 fundamental freedoms of every citizen; and

13 (5) it should be the policy of the United States
14 Government to—

15 (A) support free and fair elections in Leb-
16 anon by encouraging international election as-
17 sistance and observers;

18 (B) support a national dialogue that tran-
19 scends sectarian divisions and urge the develop-
20 ment of democratic institutions and safeguards
21 to foster sovereign democratic rule in Lebanon;
22 and

23 (C) call for the immediate release of all po-
24 litical prisoners and detainees held in Lebanese
25 and Syrian prisons.

Amend the title so as to read: “Resolution recognizing the courageous efforts of the people of Lebanon to restore their independence and urging the withdrawal of all Syrian forces from Lebanon, the support for free and fair democratic elections in Lebanon, and the development of democratic institutions and safeguards to foster sovereign democratic rule in Lebanon.”.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Lantos.

Mr. LANTOS. Madam Chair, we have no objections; and we strongly support the resolutions.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Thank you very much, Mr. Lantos.

If there is no further discussion, without objection, all the measures on the agenda for today's markup will be reported favorably to the Full Committee, and the amendments which the Members have before them will be considered as adopted.

The Subcommittee stands adjourned.

[Whereupon, at 9:33 a.m., the Subcommittee was adjourned.]

