

107TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1795

To require the imposition of sanctions with respect to the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) or the Palestinian Authority if the President determines that these entities have not complied with certain commitments made by the entities, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 10, 2001

Mr. ACKERMAN (for himself, Mr. GILMAN, and Mr. LANTOS) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on International Relations

A BILL

To require the imposition of sanctions with respect to the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) or the Palestinian Authority if the President determines that these entities have not complied with certain commitments made by the entities, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Middle East Peace
5 Commitments Act of 2001”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress makes the following findings:

1 (1) In 1993, the Palestine Liberation Organiza-
2 tion (hereinafter in this title referred to as the
3 “PLO”) made the following commitments in an ex-
4 change of letters with the Prime Minister of Israel:

5 (A) Recognition of the right of the State of
6 Israel to exist in peace and security.

7 (B) Acceptance of United Nations Security
8 Council Resolutions 242 and 338.

9 (C) Resolution of all outstanding issues in
10 the conflict between the two sides through nego-
11 tiations and exclusively peaceful means.

12 (D) Renunciation of the use of terrorism
13 and all other acts of violence and responsibility
14 over all PLO elements and personnel in order
15 to assure their compliance, prevent violations,
16 and discipline violators.

17 (2) The Palestinian Authority, the governing
18 body of autonomous Palestinian territories, was cre-
19 ated as a result of agreements between the PLO and
20 the State of Israel that are a direct outgrowth of the
21 commitments made in 1993.

22 (3) The PLO made the following commitments
23 in the Declaration of Principles on Interim Self-Gov-
24 ernment Arrangements of 1993, the Israeli-Pales-
25 tinian Interim Agreement on the West Bank and the

1 Gaza Strip of 1995, and the Wye River Memo-
2 randum of 1998:

3 (A) To resolve disputes arising out of any
4 agreements pertaining to the interim period by
5 negotiations, arbitration, or other mutually
6 agreed upon mechanisms of conciliation.

7 (B) To take all measures necessary in
8 order to prevent acts of terrorism, crime and
9 hostilities directed against the State of Israel.

10 (C) To abstain from incitement, including
11 hostile propaganda, against the State of Israel,
12 and to take legal measures to prevent such in-
13 citement by organizations, groups, or individ-
14 uals under their control.

15 (D) To arrest and prosecute individuals
16 suspected of perpetrating acts of violence and
17 terror and to punish all persons involved in acts
18 of violence and terror.

19 (E) To provide for the protection of Jewish
20 holy sites in areas under the administration of
21 the Palestinian Authority, as well as persons
22 visiting them, and to ensure the peaceful use of
23 such sites, to prevent any instances of disorder
24 and to respond to any incident.

1 (F) To prevent the establishment or oper-
2 ation in the West Bank or Gaza Strip of any
3 armed force other than the Palestinian Police
4 and Israeli military forces.

5 (G) To establish, and vigorously and con-
6 tinually implement, a systematic program for
7 the collection and appropriate handling of all il-
8 legal firearms, ammunition or weapons.

9 (H) To maintain continuous intensive and
10 comprehensive bilateral security cooperation
11 with Israel.

12 (4) The President of the United States wit-
13 nessed and signed the Declaration of Principles on
14 Interim Self-Government Arrangements of 1993, the
15 Israeli-Palestinian Interim Agreement on the West
16 Bank and the Gaza Strip of 1995, and the Wye
17 River Memorandum of 1998, placing at issue the
18 credibility and reputation of the United States with
19 regard to the implementation of the agreements.

20 (5) The United States has a longstanding, and
21 enduring, vital national security interest in the
22 peaceful resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict,
23 and to that end has provided the parties with its
24 good offices and considerable financial assistance.

1 (6) The State of Israel has made incontrovert-
2 ible and extensive efforts to resolve its conflict with
3 the PLO by negotiating in good faith and offering
4 concessions of a magnitude to demonstrate conclu-
5 sively its clear commitment to reaching a just and
6 enduring settlement of the Israeli-Palestinian con-
7 flict.

8 (7) The PLO's commitment to its freely accept-
9 ed obligations, specified in paragraphs (1) and (3),
10 has come into question as a result of the violence
11 and mayhem occurring since September 28, 2000,
12 creating significant doubt as to the PLO's commit-
13 ment to the fundamental principle of resolving its
14 conflict with the State of Israel exclusively through
15 direct bilateral negotiations.

16 **SEC. 3. REPORTS.**

17 (a) IN GENERAL.—The President shall, at the times
18 specified in subsection (b), transmit to the appropriate
19 congressional committees a report on compliance by the
20 PLO or the Palestinian Authority, as appropriate, with
21 each of the commitments specified in section 2(1) and
22 2(3). The report shall include, with respect to each such
23 commitment, the determination of the President as to
24 whether or not the PLO or the Palestinian Authority, as
25 appropriate, has complied with that commitment during

1 the period since the submission of the preceding report
2 or, in the case of the initial report, during the preceding
3 six-month period. In the event that the President imposed
4 one or more sanctions under section 4 during the period
5 covered by the report, the report shall include a descrip-
6 tion of the each such sanction imposed.

7 (b) TRANSMISSION.—The initial report required
8 under subsection (a) shall be transmitted not later than
9 30 days after the date of enactment of this Act. Each sub-
10 sequent report shall be submitted on the date on which
11 the President is next required to submit a report under
12 the P.L.O. Commitments Compliance Act of 1989 (title
13 VIII of Public Law 101–246) and may be combined with
14 such report.

15 **SEC. 4. IMPOSITION OF SANCTIONS.**

16 (a) IN GENERAL.—If, in any report transmitted pur-
17 suant to section 3, the President determines that the PLO
18 or the Palestinian Authority, as appropriate, has not com-
19 plied with each of the commitments specified in section
20 2(1) and 2(3), or if the President fails to make a deter-
21 mination with respect to such compliance, the President
22 shall, for a period of time not less than the period de-
23 scribed in subsection (b), impose one or more of the fol-
24 lowing sanctions:

1 (1) DENIAL OF VISAS TO PLO AND PALES-
2 TINIAN AUTHORITY OFFICIALS.—The Secretary of
3 State shall not issue a visa to any member of the
4 PLO or any official of the Palestinian Authority.

5 (2) DOWNGRADE IN STATUS OF PLO OFFICE IN
6 THE UNITED STATES.—Notwithstanding any other
7 provision of law, the President shall withdraw or ter-
8 minate any waiver by the President of the require-
9 ments of section 1003 of the Foreign Relations Au-
10 thorization Act of 1988 and 1989 (22 U.S.C. 5202)
11 (prohibiting the establishment or maintenance of a
12 Palestinian information office in the United States),
13 and such section shall apply so as to prohibit the op-
14 eration of a PLO or Palestinian Authority office in
15 the United States from carrying out any function
16 other than those functions carried out by the Pales-
17 tinian information office in existence prior to the
18 Oslo Accords.

19 (3) DESIGNATION AS A FOREIGN TERRORIST
20 ORGANIZATION.—The President shall designate the
21 PLO, or one or more of its constituent groups (in-
22 cluding Fatah and Tanzim) or groups operating as
23 arms of the Palestinian Authority (including Force
24 17) as a foreign terrorist organization, in accordance

1 with section 219(a) of the Immigration and Nation-
2 ality Act.

3 (4) PROHIBITION ON UNITED STATES ASSIST-
4 ANCE TO THE WEST BANK AND GAZA.—United
5 States assistance (except humanitarian assistance)
6 shall not be provided to programs or projects in the
7 West Bank or Gaza.

8 (b) DURATION OF SANCTIONS.—The period of time
9 referred to in subsection (a) is the period of time com-
10 mencing on the date that the report pursuant to section
11 3 was transmitted and ending on the later of—

12 (1) the date that is six months after such date;

13 or

14 (2) the date that the next report under section
15 3 is required to be transmitted.

16 (c) WAIVER AUTHORITY.—The President may waive
17 any or all of the sanctions imposed under subsection (a)
18 if the President determines that such a waiver is in the
19 national security interest of the United States. The Presi-
20 dent shall report such a determination to the appropriate
21 congressional committees.

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