

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1221

To seek the establishment of and contributions to an International Fund
for Israeli-Palestinian Peace.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 27, 2017

Mr. FORTENBERRY (for himself and Mr. CROWLEY) introduced the following
bill; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

A BILL

To seek the establishment of and contributions to an
International Fund for Israeli-Palestinian Peace.

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 “International Fund
5 for Israeli-Palestinian Peace Authorization Act of 2017”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSES.**

7 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

8 (1) Peaceful co-existence in the Middle East be-
9 tween Israelis and Palestinians, and between Mus-
10 lims, Christians, Jews, and those of all backgrounds

1 is in the interests of the United States, Israel, the
2 Palestinian people, and the world.

3 (2) While the United States and its inter-
4 national allies continue to support diplomatic and
5 political negotiations between the representatives of
6 the parties to the conflict as well as others, in the
7 long run such efforts require broad popular support
8 among people in order to succeed. In order to
9 achieve lasting peace in the region, the people who
10 live there must, over time, sustain any potential
11 high-level agreements.

12 (3) Through many independent individual and
13 nongovernmental activities, tens of thousands of peo-
14 ple of different backgrounds are already working to-
15 gether to build better relations between people,
16 through people-to-people coexistence and trust-build-
17 ing measures, activities, and other cooperative ef-
18 forts.

19 (4) By working cooperatively on shared goals
20 and addressing mutual understanding, participants
21 in such activities, including youth, can come to re-
22 ject violence and understand the promise of peaceful
23 coexistence.

24 (5) Through support for people-to-people ex-
25 changes in the region and joint economic initiatives,

1 millions of ordinary citizens affected by this conflict
2 can assist in building support for lasting peace.

3 (6) Working together, the United States, coun-
4 tries around the world, and the private sector can,
5 and often seek to support opportunities that, help
6 sustain support for peace with the establishment and
7 funding of an independent International Fund for
8 Israeli-Palestinian Peace (referred to in this Act as
9 the “International Fund”), to promote and support
10 contact, cooperation, dialogue, shared community
11 building, peaceful coexistence, joint economic devel-
12 opment, and reconciliation between Israelis and Pal-
13 estinians.

14 (7) United States and international support for
15 grassroots people-to-people efforts can help serve as
16 an antidote to false propaganda by terrorist groups
17 and the growing issue of incitement.

18 (8) The International Fund shall serve as a co-
19 ordinating entity offering expertise and support, ad-
20 hering to best practices for governance, trans-
21 parency, assessment and accountability. The Inter-
22 national Fund will be an ongoing presence and cata-
23 lyst for rejecting violence and building broad public
24 support for sustaining peace in the region. The
25 International Fund is not intended to be a political

1 forum, but a grant-making body to facilitate endur-
2 ing people-to-people relationships and sustained joint
3 economic development.

4 (b) PURPOSES.—The purposes of this Act are as fol-
5 lows:

6 (1) To urge the President to make every effort,
7 in conjunction with the Government of Israel, the
8 Palestinian Authority, regional governments, and the
9 international community to establish a non-political,
10 mutually acceptable International Fund to promote
11 and support contact, cooperation, dialogue, shared
12 community building, peaceful coexistence, joint eco-
13 nomic development, and reconciliation between
14 Israelis and Palestinians.

15 (2) To provide for United States contributions
16 to consist of amounts made available to carry out
17 chapter 4 of part II of the Foreign Assistance Act
18 of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2346 et seq. (relating to the
19 Economic Support Fund)) for payment to the Inter-
20 national Fund to carry out the activities described in
21 paragraph (1), in addition to overhead costs of the
22 establishment of said fund and the function of its
23 oversight board.

1 **SEC. 3. ESTABLISHMENT OF INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR**
2 **ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN PEACE.**

3 Congress urges the President to make every effort,
4 in conjunction with the Government of Israel, the Pales-
5 tinian Authority, and the international community, to es-
6 tablish an International Fund for Israeli-Palestinian
7 Peace governed by a board of the constituent parties to
8 carry out the purposes described in section 2(b).

9 **SEC. 4. UNITED STATES CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE INTER-**
10 **NATIONAL FUND FOR ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN**
11 **PEACE.**

12 (a) IN GENERAL.—Of the amounts made available
13 for each of fiscal years 2017 through 2021 to carry out
14 chapter 4 of part II of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961
15 (22 U.S.C. 2346 et seq. (relating to the Economic Support
16 Fund)), \$50,000,000 is authorized to be appropriated for
17 United States contributions to the International Fund fol-
18 lowing the committee of jurisdictions agreement to the
19 structure of the fund and its board.

20 (b) ADDITIONAL AUTHORITIES.—Amounts author-
21 ized to be appropriated pursuant to subsection (a)—

22 (1) are in addition to amounts otherwise au-
23 thorized to be appropriated for such purposes; and

24 (2) are authorized to remain available until ex-
25 pended.

1 **SEC. 5. CONDITIONS AND UNDERSTANDINGS RELATING TO**
2 **INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR ISRAELI-PALES-**
3 **TINIAN PEACE.**

4 (a) **SUPPORT AND PROMOTION OF PURPOSES.—**
5 United States contributions to the International Fund
6 provided for in section 4 may be used only to support and
7 promote the purposes described in section 2(b).

8 (b) **ADDITIONAL RESTRICTIONS.—**The restrictions
9 described in section 531(e) of the Foreign Assistance Act
10 of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2346(e)) shall apply to United States
11 contributions to the International Fund provided for in
12 section 4 to the same extent and in the same manner as
13 such restrictions apply to amounts made available to carry
14 out chapter 4 of part II of the Foreign Assistance Act
15 of 1961. The United States contributions shall be man-
16 aged and dispersed through existing USAID mechanisms.

17 (c) **UNITED STATES REPRESENTATION ON BOARD**
18 **OF INTERNATIONAL FUND.—**The United States shall pro-
19 vide two representatives from different political parties to
20 the Board of the International Fund. The function of the
21 board is to provide recommendations for programmatic
22 support and direction on promoting contact, cooperation,
23 dialogue, shared community building, peaceful coexistence,
24 joint economic development, and reconciliation between
25 Israelis and Palestinians. The board should oversee and

1 contain an expertise in program integrity, monitoring and
2 evaluation and assessment.

3 **SEC. 6. ANNUAL REPORT.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—At the end of each fiscal year in
5 which the United States Government makes any contribu-
6 tion to the International Fund in accordance with this Act,
7 the President shall transmit to Congress a written report
8 on the extent to which the International Fund and United
9 States contributions to the International Fund have con-
10 tributed to promoting and supporting contact, coopera-
11 tion, dialogue, shared community building, peaceful coex-
12 istence, joint economic development, and reconciliation be-
13 tween Israelis and Palestinians.

14 (b) MATTERS TO BE INCLUDED.—The reports re-
15 quired under subsection (a) shall also include the fol-
16 lowing:

17 (1) Information on contributions pledged to,
18 contributions (including donations from the private
19 sector) received by, and projects funded by the
20 International Fund, and the mechanisms established
21 for transparency and accountability in the grant-
22 making process.

23 (2) A description of the International Fund's
24 operations, activities, budget, receipts, and expendi-
25 tures for the preceding 12-month period, including

1 an audited report of the International Fund's fi-
2 nances, including statements of financial position,
3 operations, and cash flows, in accordance with the
4 United States generally accepted government audit-
5 ing standards as prescribed by the Comptroller Gen-
6 eral.

7 (3) Insights gleaned from what drives the effi-
8 cacy of people-to-people relationships in addition to
9 a description of potential strategies for getting to
10 sustainability for civic institutions that the fund cre-
11 ates or supports including novel financing mecha-
12 nisms.

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