

March 6, 2015

Dear Mr. Danilow,

Thank you for taking the time to contact me with your thoughts on relations between the United States and Israel. I appreciate hearing your thoughts on this issue.

Israel and the United States have a special relationship. With our shared history and common values, the American and Israeli people have formed a bond that unites us across the many thousands of miles between our countries and calls us to work together toward peace and prosperity for our countries.

Only Israel can decide what is in her security interest, not the United States and certainly not the United Nations. Friends do not coerce friends to trade land for peace, or give up the vital security interests of their people. In the recent past, Israel has had to defend itself against Hezbollah in Lebanon and now faces near daily cross-border rocket attacks from Hamas in Gaza. Additionally, Israel must deal with potential nuclear threats in the region. Israeli military actions are completely up to the leaders and military of Israel, not the whims of Washington.

In a deal announced in April 2014, terrorist organization Hamas joined with Fatah as part of the Palestinian Authority unity government. Hamas' charter declares, "there is no solution to the Palestinian question except by Jihad." For those seeking peace, this move is extremely troubling. Hamas' commitment to Israel's destruction compels action to prevent U.S. taxpayer money from falling into the hands of terrorists who would further destabilize the region and do harm to our friend and ally.

With that in mind, I introduced the Stand with Israel Act (S. 2265). This bill has 17 cosponsors and would impose conditions on U.S. foreign assistance to the Palestinian Authority. The Stand with Israel Act would prohibit foreign assistance to the Palestinian Authority until it recognizes Israel's right to exist, renounces terrorism, and honors diplomatic agreements. I have called for Congress to take immediate action on this legislation, and have gone to the Senate floor several times to attempt to pass the bill so that Congress can move it to the president's desk as soon as possible. I will continue to urge my colleagues to allow the bill to be debated and voted on by the full Senate.

Again, thank you for sharing your thoughts on this issue. Please do not hesitate to contact me regarding federal issues in the future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rand Paul". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Rand Paul, MD  
United States Senator