

10 A RESOLUTION CONCERNING
20 NEW LEADERSHIP IN PALESTINE

30 WHEREAS: The Arab-Israeli peace process has imploded, largely because Palestinian leader
40 Yasser Arafat reneged on his obligations under the 1993 Oslo agreement to halt
50 Palestinian terrorism against Israel; following the failed July 2000 Camp David
60 summit, Arafat unleashed the intifadah (uprising) in September 2000 and
70 orchestrated an intensifying terrorist campaign against Israel; and,

80 WHEREAS: Both Israel and the Bush Administration have ruled out Arafat as a credible
90 negotiating partner for peace in the region; to revive the failed Israeli-
100 Palestinian peace negotiations, Washington must find a way to isolate Arafat
110 and help Palestinians develop alternative leadership that is amenable to a
120 genuine peace with Israel; and,

130 WHEREAS: The Palestinian Authority appointed a new Prime Minister named Mahmoud
140 Abbas who will eventually begin to run the day-to-day affairs of government,
150 with responsibility for security and public order in the areas of the West Bank,
160 which the PA nominally controls but which are now mostly occupied by the
170 Israeli army; and,

180 WHEREAS: Arafat's grip will be weakened, but not removed; he will remain the
190 authorities president, with the power to fire Mr. Abbas; and;

200 WHEREAS: As chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organization, Arafat will continue to
210 reign supreme on matters to do with negotiations with Israel, foreign policy and
220 "national security"; and,

230 WHEREAS: Mr. Abbas will also be involved in negotiations with Israel, but as head of the
240 PLO negotiations team, not as prime minister, and again answerable to his boss;
250 and,

260 WHEREAS: Pressured by continued spasms of violence and terrorism in the Middle East, the
270 Bush Administration, which initially was reluctant to become mired in the
280 Israeli-Palestinian peace process, became increasingly active in searching for a
290 way to jump-start the moribund peace talks; and,

300 WHEREAS: However, as a result of the January 3, 2002, interception of a Palestinian ship
310 carrying 50 tons of weapons that were purchased from Iran and Arafat's
320 continued lying about Palestinian involvement in that affair, the Bush
330 Administration denounced Arafat's duplicity and refused to meet with him at a
340 high diplomatic level; and,

350 WHEREAS: The Bush Administration's growing disgust with Arafat's continued support for
360 terrorism led President George W. Bush to make a landmark speech on June 24,
370 2002, in which he declared, "Peace requires a new and different Palestinian
380 leadership, so that a Palestinian state can be born"; and,

390 WHEREAS: The speech injected a degree of common sense and realism into U.S. policy that
400 was sorely lacking throughout the Clinton Administration; Bush set forth a "two
410 state" solution for the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, but recognized that the United
420 States could not work to revive peace negotiations as long as Yasser Arafat, the
430 principal architect of Palestinian terrorism, continued to dominate Palestinian
440 politics; and,

450 WHEREAS: By calling on the Palestinian people "to elect new leaders, not compromised by
460 terror," Bush identified the chief obstacle to peace and placed the onus clearly
470 on the Palestinians to take action to halt terrorism; and,

480 WHEREAS: The President also called on Israel to make some hard sacrifices, notably: a
490 return to the military positions that existed before the outbreak of the intifadah
500 in September 2000; an end to new settlement activity in the disputed territories;
510 and, ultimately, a return to the "land for peace" deal envisioned under U.N.
520 Resolution 242, which saw peace negotiations based on the return of territory
530 occupied by Israel in the 1967 Arab-Israeli war in exchange for peace; and,

540 WHEREAS: Significantly, the Israelis will not be asked to surrender more land until the
550 Palestinians have demonstrated that they are capable of delivering peace; this
560 places an immediate burden on the Palestinians to break with Yasser Arafat's
570 failed policies and to cooperate in building a genuine peace if they are to
580 succeed in obtaining a state of their own; and,

590 WHEREAS: The Bush Administration should stay the course and make it clear that Yasser
600 Arafat can play no role in a U.S.-sponsored peace process; the wily Palestinian
610 leader, who rose to power through terrorism, has given ample evidence over the
620 past decade that he will never abandon the violent tactics that have brought him
630 to power.

640 THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That the Maryland Student Legislature urges the Bush
650 Administration to break off diplomatic relations with Arafat's Palestine
660 Liberation Organization and close down its offices inside the United States;
670 and,

680 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That Washington also should press its European allies to
690 condition continued economic aid to the Palestinians on the creation of a
700 Palestinian Authority that rejects terrorism, combats corruption, and renounces
710 Arafat's disastrous leadership; and,

720 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That the Bush Administration, Israel, and the Palestinian
730 Authority recognize that ultimately, a genuine Israeli-Palestinian peace is
740 impossible without a fundamentally reformed Palestinian leadership.

750 MANDATES: President George W. Bush
760 Vice President Dick Cheney
770 Secretary of State Collin Powell
780 Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist
790 Senate Minority Leader Tom Daschle
800 House Majority Leader Tom Delay
810 House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi
820 Congresswoman Sue Kelly
830 Prime Minister of Israel, Ariel Sharon
840 King of Jordan, Abdallah II
850 Chair of the Palestinian Authority, Yassir Arafat
860 United Nations Secretary General Kofi Annan

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