

Congressman Paul Tsongas can tell you what he's done.



The Record

- * Support for every Foreign Aid and International Security appropriation bill containing funds for Israel. Opposed every attempt to weaken those bills such as the Obey Amendment in 1976 which sought to cut military credits to Israel and the Miller Amendment in 1977 and 1978 calling for across-the-board cuts in foreign aid.
- * Honored by the New England region Zionist Organization of America with a medallion celebrating the 30 year anniversary of Israel's founding. The award to Paul Tsongas was made "in consideration of his views toward Israel" in October, 1977.
- * Supported anti-boycotts provisions in the Export Administration Act prohibiting compliance with the Arab trade boycott against Israel.
- * Voted for implementing legislation for an early warning system in the Sinai in 1975 and opposed the Findley Amendment which would have restricted the President's authority to assign American monitors to the area.
- * Cosponsored resolutions condemning the U.N. resolution equating Zionism with racism and calling for a reassessment of the U.S. relationship with the U.N. General Assembly if Israel were expelled.
- * Introduced legislation protesting French release of Arab terrorist, Abu Daoud. Met with French Ambassador to protest the release as an "unconscionable breach of international law and justice." The French Ambassador called the Tsongas resolution undue interference in the internal affairs of his country.
- * Signed letter in October, 1977 expressing concern over joint U.S.-Soviet statement on the Middle East. The letter reaffirmed that the conflict should be settled on the basis of secure and defensible borders and direct negotiations between the nations involved.
- * Opposed the Administration's Middle East arms sales "package". His opposition was based on his disagreement with the package concept, his concern over the sale of sophisticated combat aircraft to a new potential confrontation state (Saudi Arabia), and on the departure which it represented from America's historic responsibility for the security of Israel.
- * Cosponsored the Wright-Rhodes Resolution condemning the attack by the PLO in Israel in March, 1978. The resolution expressed hope for a successful conclusion of negotiations between Israel and Egypt-- the most effective means of bringing peace to the Middle East.
- * Introduced and cosponsored legislation, written numerous letters and public addresses on behalf of more than two dozen Jewish prisoners of conscience in the Soviet Union. Among those Tsongas has sought to help are Anatoly Shcharansky, Josef Mendeleovich, Yuri Orlov, Alexander Ginzburg, Ida Nudel, Maria Slepak, Andrei Sakharov, Jessica Katz, Viktors Kalnins and Helena Celmina.
- * Joined in letter to Lord Killanin, President of the International Olympic Committee urging the Committee to use its influence to oppose Soviet government policy in regard to political dissidents. Letter warns that if the Soviet Union continues to "sanitize" its cities in preparation for the 1980 Olympics, the U.S. will demand forceful action to prevent a repeat of the mockery that characterized the 1936 games.

Proposals: -

- * The U.S. must maintain its historic commitment to the security of the nation of Israel. This means acceptance of the principle of secure and defensible borders.
- * The U.S. role must be one of facilitating direct negotiations between Israel and Arab countries.
- * A settlement cannot be imposed by the regions outside the country.
- * Until Israel is certain that the U.S. will not back away from its historic commitment to Israel's security, the peace initiatives may be stymied while Israel's full attention is turned to shoring its security.
- * The emphasis of any initiatives must be on continuing the peace process begun last winter by the exchange of visits between Sadat and Begin.
- * Commitment of the U.S. to Israel is the cornerstone of U.S. foreign policy. If we were to back down, we would not only jeopardize Israel and the stability of that region, but our role as a world leader. U.S. commitments in all future dealings in the international community would be suspect.
- * The stability of the Middle East is critical-- to upset that balance would lead to power confrontations throughout the world.
- * We must not allow economic blackmail or threats from Arab oil interests influence our commitment to Israel's security.

Paul Tsongas on the Middle East

Without strong, unswerving U.S. support for Israel's basic security, the peace process will not go forward. As long as Israel's attention is focused on "secure and defensible borders", she will be unable to show flexibility at the peace table.

U.S. assurances of support for "secure and defensible borders" must be firm. The stability of the Middle East is critical to our own interests as well as to Israel's.

It is clear that concessions will have to be made on both sides to forge a lasting peace. However, the U.S. must affirm that any concessions must be consistent with its historic commitments to the security of Israel.

In the end, although the U.S. must play a key role in providing assurances, it is the nations of the Middle East who must arrive at peace. It cannot be imposed from the outside.