Resolutions ACPC NATIONAL CONFERENCE Washington, D. C.

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Preamble: Our interest in the Near East—in Israel and the Arab states—is aroused by the needs of its people, by its prospects for development, and by the importance of the area in defending and strengthening the free world.

Impelled by our faith in democracy and our religious principles to "see visions and dream dreams" of a Near East area becoming once again a center of creative civilizations, we look forward to a new flowering of the genius of the Hebraic and Arabic peoples and the cultural enrichment of the world community.

We believe it is imperative to reaffirm our friendship for Israelis and Arabs alike. We support Israel in her struggle to attain cultural freedom for dispossessed and persecuted Jews. We hail Israel's advances in founding a democratic society and in reclaiming a neglected land. We are eager likewise to see the completion of such land reform measures as decreed by Naguib in Egypt, by Shishekly in Syria and by the Shah of Iran. We commend those measures in the Arab world which have been taken to reclaim land and provide more health and educational opportunities to the neglected and victimized masses of Arab peoples.

The Near East is emerging from its ancient patterns and seems destined to secure a greater measure of the good life for all the peoples in the Mediterranean. Therefore, nothing is more urgent than peace as a condition of progress. To continue the existing conflict obstructs all efforts to raise living standards and nourish democratic growth. Only immediate, honest negotiation between Israel and the Arab states will provide the opportunity of terminating this conflict.

We applaud the constructive efforts of the United States Government to aid all the peoples of the Near East.

Sensitive to the urgent needs of two refugee peoples in the area, Arab and Jewish alike, Congress has made generous grants under three successive Mutual Security Acts to both of these refugee groups in the hope of alleviating their plight and aiding in their resettlement. These funds were voted on the recognized fact that Arab and Jewish refugees were similar in number and that both needed and deserved help.

The United States Congress has also recognized the need for technical assistance in this underdeveloped region. Our experts have helped local populations deal with problems of health, sanitation, administration, road construction, water and soil conservation, and farming techniques. Both Israel and several of the Arab states have benefitted from these programs, with the Arab areas receiving the larger share of the funds appropriated.

We support the principle announced by President Dwight D. Eisenhower of "sympathetic and impartial" friendship for the peoples of the Near East.

We urge, however, that this nation stand steadfast upon those fundamental principles that have thrust our country into world leadership. We feel that our national interests can be served only through firm support of those principles of self-determination and national sovereignty which both Jew and Arab have been seeking in this region for more than a generation.

We support our government in its efforts to persuade the Arab States to accept Israel as a free and sovereign nation within the Near East context, and we commend Secretary of State John Foster Dulles for forthrightly supporting direct negotiations between Israel and Jordan.

We applaud the efforts of our government to seek, in cooperation with the United Nations, a program for the regional development of water resources in the Near East.

Effective cooperation in the use of the waters of the Jordan, Litani, and Yarmuk Rivers can vastly increase the amount of land under intensive cultivation and can produce the electric current necessary to operate factories, light cities, and mechanize farms. These improvements will aid both the refugees and the underprivileged masses of Jewish and Arab people in the region. Where a regional approach to the development of the water is not feasible, we believe in the development of such resources within each country.

We applaud the sacrificial efforts on the part of the Jewish communities of America to provide both gifts and capital funds for Israel, the greatest rescue and refugee resettlement venture of history.

The Jewish people throughout the world have provided immediate relief for the 750,000 Israel newcomers (350,000 of them from the Arab and Moslem lands of the Near East and Africa) and are helping to settle them on farms and in factories with a reasonable standard of living for all Jews and Arabs alike.

We urge that the vast oil and land wealth of the Arab world be similarly used to help bring new opportunity to their brothers in the Arab refugee camps.

We applaud Israel's acts of friendship and good faith:

1) in releasing Arab blocked bank accounts of former Palestinian Arabs despite the failure of the Arab states, notably Iraq, to release the blocked accounts of their former Jewish residents;
2) in offering to pay for Arab lands abandoned in Israel as a part of a peace settlement, taking into accounts the lands and property abandoned by Jews in Arab lands;
3) in offering Jordan the use of a free port in the newly-constructed Kishon River harbor in Haifa Bay;
4) in accepting as citizens some 28,000 Arabs who have illegally returned to Israel since the hostilities of 1948;
5) in voting for the admission of the Arab state of Libya into the United Nations;
6) in offering to redraw the Israel-Jordan boundary lines in the major trouble areas, so that farm homes might be reunited with farm lands, and so that the constant human pressures to break across artificial and arbitrary boundaries will not continue to be the cause of daily depredations from both sides.

We regret that these acts of friendship have either been rejected or have failed to elicit from the Arab nations a desire to negotiate an overall settlement.

We applaud Israel for seeking to establish a democratic society with full civil, religious, cultural, and political freedom for all its citizens.

It is a cause for great satisfaction that eight Arabs are members of the Knesset (the Israel Parliament), that there is universal education, universal franchise, and equal wages for equal work, despite the present conflict between Israel and the Arab states. Since the surrounding Arab nations have not yet recognized Israel as a nation and continue to threaten her very existence by encouraging infiltration for acts of violence and sabotage, Israel must continue military control and require military passes for Arabs and Jews alike in a number of vulnerable areas. These security measures cannot be relieved in the absence of peace.

We applaud Zionists and the friends of Zionism throughout the world who have long sought to provide a homeland so that Jews who felt the sting of discrimination and the lash of persecution might live in freedom and dignity.

It was always the hope of the Zionists to achieve their goal in cooperation with the local Arab peoples. Prior to the Arab war against Israel, Arabs were not displaced by the colonizing efforts of these idealistic Jewish pioneers, but were benefitted in many ways through creative Zionism.

We are confident that the people of the United States will keep in mind the high principles and constructive record of Zionism over the past three-quarters of a century.

We deplore repeated statements of Arab leaders that they will never negotiate a settlement with Israel, but seek only to destroy it.

We are shocked by the reported statement, as transmitted through the Associated Press, of King Saud of Saudi Arabia that "Israel, to the Arab world, is like a cancer to the human body and the only way of remedy is to uproot it just like a cancer. We Arabs total about 50,000,000. Why don't we sacrifice 10,000,000 of our number to live in pride and self-respect?" This is a direct challenge to the spiritual foundations of the United Nations.

Likewise, we cannot countenance irresponsible statements of the few but articulate Israelis who speak of expanding Israel's borders to the Jordan River or to its ancient boundaries, including the