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One Hundred Ninth Congress

Congress of the United States
Committee on International Relations

House of Representatives
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November 22, 2005

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DEMOCRATIC CHIEF COUNSEL

Dr. Gunter Pleuger
Ambassador
Permanent Mission of Germany to the United Nations
871 U.N Plaza
New York, N.Y. 10017

Dear Ambassador Pleuger:

We write to express our strong support for the position announced at the UN Budget Committee by our Deputy Chief of Mission, Ambassador Anne Patterson, regarding the need to abolish the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People (CEI) and the Division of Palestinian Rights (DPR), and we ask that you please inform your government of the importance we attach to this issue.

These bodies, as well as the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Human Rights practices affecting the Palestinian People and other Arabs of the Occupied Territories, are nothing more than UN-funded propaganda organs dedicated exclusively to the demonization and delegitimization of the State of Israel. They consume millions of dollars of scarce resources, produce nothing but sinecures and hate-speech, and unhelpfully render the UN a biased party, limiting its role in helping resolve the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Nothing good is produced, much that is valuable is lost. There is no reason to perpetuate these wasteful organs and there is considerable reason to end them.

We would suggest, for example, that the resources these organs have previously enjoyed could be dedicated instead to furthering the mission of the Quartet's Special Envoy James Wolfensohn and his efforts to help the two parties move forward following Israel's disengagement from Gaza. As constituent partners with the United States in the Quartet, we hope your government will recognize the opportunity and value of shifting UN resources from feckless and vituperative jawboning to constructive work at building peace from the ground up.

The Security Council only days ago condemned statements made by Iran's president calling for Israel's extirpation. Does it make any sense for this action to be followed by the General Assembly

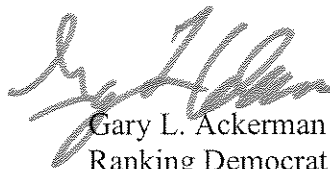
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establishing bodies within the UN itself that foster arguments that are little different in content and are identical in spirit? Have these bodies ever made even the smallest identifiable contribution to peace?

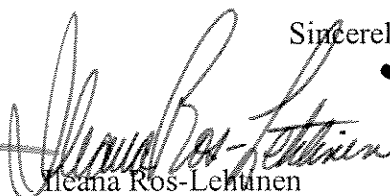
As the Quartet recognized in September, Israel's withdrawal from Gaza "is an important step towards achieving the vision of two democratic States" and pledged at that time "to continue to lead international efforts to support the sustainable growth of the Palestinian economy and to help strengthen the capacity of the Palestinian Authority to assume its responsibilities through an aggressive pursuit of State-building and democratic reform efforts."

We would respectfully suggest that working to block the renewal of the anti-Israel propaganda organs in favor improving the capacity of the Wolfensohn mission would show what the Quartet's pledges really stand for. We hope your government will join the United States in this important effort.

Sincerely,



Gary L. Ackerman
Ranking Democrat
Subcommittee on
Middle East and
Central Asia



Heana Ros-Lehtinen
Chairwoman
Subcommittee on
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