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United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 3, 1988

Peace Process

The Honorable George Shultz
Secretary of State
21st and C Streets, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Secretary Shultz:

We are writing to express our support for your effort to break the dangerous Middle East stalemate, a stalemate that has led to the current cycle of violence and counter-violence.

We support your mission of peace, which is based on United Nations Security Resolution 242 (as restated in Resolution 338), a resolution which has been at the foundation of United States diplomacy in the region through five Administrations and which has been endorsed by Israel and most of the Arab parties to the conflict.

The meaning of this resolution is clear. It requires the Arab states to accept Israel's right to "live in peace within secure and recognized boundaries, free from threats or acts of force...." It requires Israel to withdraw from some of the territories occupied during the 1967 war. It can be summarized in three words: land for peace.

Unfortunately, with the exception of Egypt, no Arab state has demonstrated willingness to implement this formulation. To one degree or another, the Arab states have resisted recognition of Israel and peace with it. As for the Palestinians, they not only refuse to recognize Israel, they have refused to meet with you during your visit. For some 50 years, those who have indicated a willingness to negotiate with Israel have paid with their lives. Others have been intimidated.

Israel, for its part, has manifested its commitment to Resolution 242 and the "land for peace" formula in a tangible way. In return for Egypt's recognition of Israel and its acceptance of peace, Israel returned the Sinai peninsula to Egyptian sovereignty including the oil fields located therein.

Successive Israeli leaders have declared their dedication to the Camp David Accords including Resolution 242's "land for peace" formula and have indicated that it would apply to the West Bank and Gaza. According to this formulation, Israel would contemplate the relinquishing of territory in exchange for a peace treaty guaranteeing Jordanian and Palestinian recognition and acceptance of Israel.

That has always been our understanding.

Accordingly, we were dismayed to read in the New York Times of February 26 that Prime Minister Shamir had said that "...this expression of territory for peace is not accepted by me."

We hope that the Prime Minister's statement did not indicate that Israel is abandoning a policy that offers the best hope of long-term peace. Israel cannot be expected to give up all the territory gained in 1967 or to return to the dangerous and insecure pre-'67 borders. Resolution 242 does not require it to do so. On the other hand, peace negotiations have little chance of success if the Israeli government's position rules out territorial compromise.

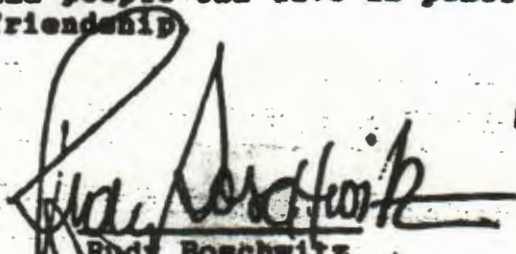
We are also disturbed by reports that Jordan may be backing away from the idea of a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation that would negotiate with the Israelis at a peace conference. These accounts indicate that Jordan may insist on an independent PLO presence at the negotiating table.

We hope that these reports are without foundation. Israel rejects negotiations with the PLO, and rightly so. However, its officials have indicated that it would negotiate with a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation. Jordan's abandonment of the joint delegation concept now would deal a serious blow to the peace process.

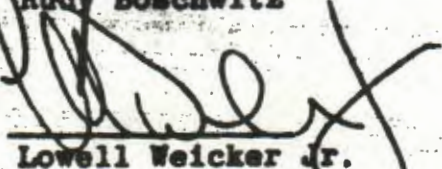
We believe that it is only through compromise by both sides that we will achieve Middle East peace.

We applaud your effort to get the peace process moving and share your determination to build a Middle East where every nation and people can live in peace, security and, ultimately, even friendship.

Sincerely,



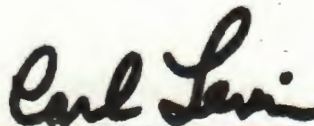
Rudy Boschwitz



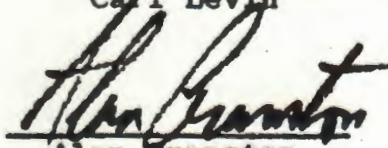
Lowell Weicker Jr.



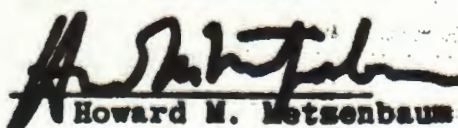
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Donald Riegle Jr.

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Daniel Inoué
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