

Dale V.C. Holness Position Paper on Israel

OVERVIEW

The United States of America and Israel have maintained strong bilateral relations based on several factors, including robust domestic U.S. support for Israel and its security; shared strategic goals in the Middle East; a mutual commitment to democratic values; and historical ties dating back decades.

Israel is America's closest and most reliable ally in a volatile region of the world, as the sole democracy in the Middle East, and as a haven for the Jewish people.

TRADE

I visited Israel on a trade and cultural mission in 2019 as the Vice Mayor of Broward County with City of Fort Lauderdale Mayor Dean Trantalis. I had a chance to observe firsthand the full potential and possibilities of future export opportunities with Broward County businesses that would attract foreign direct investment between Israel and Broward County. I didn't know what to expect from the outset, but the trip far surpassed my expectations, and the experience is one that I will remember always.

The United States is Israel's single largest trading partner. In FY 18, total exports were \$399 million. Israel ranks as Port Everglades' 55th trading partner with \$40.61 million in total trade value. Haifa is the sister city of Fort Lauderdale. It is the third largest city in Israel after Jerusalem and Tel Aviv. Our delegation met with Deputy Mayor, David Etzioni, to discuss collaborations to grow the sister city relationship. One proposition was to connect Port Everglades with the Port of Haifa to increase bilateral trade between the two ports.

ISRAELI SECURITY

I am committed to Israeli security and believe that Israelis should live in safety and peace. I also believe in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights where both parties should live in peace.

4325 W. Sunrise Blvd
Plantation FL 33313



info@holnessforcongress.com



954-379-8683



As a member of congress, I will support the annual foreign aid bill and its provisions providing military aid to Israel. I support the Memorandum of Understanding between the U.S. and Israel that was negotiated by the Obama Administration, which provides \$3.8 billion in annual military funding, including \$500 million for missile defense. It is worth noting that most of these funds are spent in the United States. Lastly, I do not believe we should add any additional conditions. The conditions are already very strict.

IRAN

Iran must not be allowed to acquire nuclear weapons because they pose not only a threat to Israel, but to the Middle East and the U.S. It is a global security issue. Among the many risks posed by a nuclear Iran is the existential threat it would present to Israel, who Iran has threatened to “wipe off the map.” I also fear that Iran’s acquisition of a nuclear bomb would spur a nuclear arms race in the Middle East and lead to Turkey, Saudi Arabia, Egypt and others seeking nuclear weapons capabilities. I support President Biden’s efforts to get a “longer and stronger” nuclear agreement with Iran. We need a long term and short-term comprehensive strategy toward the prevention of Iran getting a nuclear weapon.

In Congress, I will be following his efforts closely and will encourage his administration to reach a deal that addresses the shortcomings of The Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, including its failure to address Iran’s ballistic missile program or Iran’s support for regional terrorist proxies like Hezbollah and Hamas. The deal’s sunset provisions must also be extended to prevent Iran’s import and export of sophisticated weapons and prevent further development of nuclear capabilities. In the end, Iran’s support for terrorism ballistic missiles coupled with the sanctions makes for a climate of terrorism and absolute chaos. To note, the President of Iran is currently under sanctions for War Crimes in the 90’s because of the hanging of 5,000 political prisoners. Ultimately, we can’t only focus on Iran’s capabilities of acquiring nuclear arsenals but how they can destabilize the region.

4325 W. Sunrise Blvd
Plantation FL 33313



info@holnessforcongress.com



954-379-8683



ANTISEMITISM

The spike in hate crimes and antisemitism is very concerning to me, both in the United States and abroad. While the rise in global anti-Semitism underscores the importance of Israel's security, Jews must be safe everywhere.

I oppose the global Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) movement which seeks to weaken, isolate, and delegitimize Israel. The BDS movement was founded by people who oppose Israel's right to exist and want to use it as a means of inflicting harm on Israel. BDS is also counterproductive to peacefully resolving the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Recent events are a reminder that antisemitism still exists here in the United States and must be confronted. This includes white Supremacists and neo-Nazis marching in Charlottesville chanting "Jews will not replace us;" shootings at places of worship like the Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh; an insurrection at our nation's capital carried out by people wearing, among other things, "Camp Auschwitz" t-shirts; and even a member of congress trafficking in conspiracy theories about wealthy Jewish families using space lasers to start wildfires.

As a black man in America, I have some understanding of the impact this kind of prejudice and hatred can have. Therefore, I look at support of Israel as also supporting the security of the Jewish people.

THE PEACE PROCESS

A two-state solution, where Israelis and Palestinians live side-by-side in peace and security, is the best solution to resolving the conflict. Peace can only be achieved by Israelis and Palestinians sitting together, negotiating with one another, and finding a resolution to the conflict. Attempts to impose a resolution to the conflict - whether by the United States, European Union, United Nations, or others - will ultimately be unsuccessful. Only if the two parties, Israelis, and Palestinians, negotiate an agreement and are invested in it can there be hope of a lasting, sustained, and permanent peace agreement.

4325 W. Sunrise Blvd
Plantation FL 33313



info@holnessforcongress.com



954-379-8683



Palestinians must halt the indiscriminate bombing of civilians, especially women and children, as codified by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights promulgated by the United Nations. Chapter VII Article 51 of the United Nations Charters allows for self-defense. Israel has the right to defend itself against rocket missile attacks.

It is worth noting that the U.S. recognized Jerusalem as the Capitol of Israel. Nothing will prevent East Jerusalem from a peace deal to become the capitol for Palestinians.

To move the peace process forward, Palestinians must recommit to achieving statehood peacefully. Rather than attempting to achieve statehood by going to international bodies or pursuing claims against Israel in international courts, Palestinians should return to the negotiating table with Israel. Similarly, Palestinians must stop practices which promote terrorism and undermine confidence in their commitment to peace, such as making payments to the families of those who perpetrate acts of terrorism. I am reminded of the Taylor Force Act. Taylor was an American veteran in Israel on vacation who was killed by paid Palestinian mercenaries. The U.S. ceased funding to the Palestinians for this egregious act of terrorism.

Conversely, Israel must demonstrate their commitment to achieving a two-state solution by stopping construction of settlements on land the Palestinians see as the site of their future state. Israeli leaders should also desist from talks of annexation of parts or all the West Bank. Such actions also do not create a climate for peace and reconciliation.

The parties have been in conflict for decades and if elected, I will work to promote greater cooperation and reconciliation between Israelis and Palestinians. Only by fostering hope, defeating terror, and improving the lives of ordinary people with a climate of trust, mutual respect and peaceful coexistence will there be an

4325 W. Sunrise Blvd
Plantation FL 33313



info@holnessforcongress.com



954-379-8683



opportunity to resolve the conflict. The new Israeli governing coalition including Arabs shines a bright ray of hope of a resolution to the ongoing conflict.

I am encouraged by the normalization agreements negotiated between Israel and the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Morocco, and Sudan. These agreements are encouraging signs that things are changing in the Middle East and Israel is gaining acceptance in the Arab world. I will support efforts of President Biden and his administration to promote additional normalization agreements between Arab countries and the State of Israel.

AMERICAN INVESTMENT IN ISRAEL & CULTURE VISITS

The relationship between the U.S. and Israel is defined by more than just issues related to conflicts in the region. Israel has many highly regarded technology companies and, working with their American counterparts, can solve problems, address human needs, and promote economic growth. We can learn so much from each other and, as a Member of Congress, I will support initiatives to promote further cooperation and collaboration between the U.S. and Israel.

I also support programs that can improve the lives of Palestinians and their economy, and support U.S. funding of programs that do so while preventing the diversion of funds to advance hostility toward Israel.

Israel recycles nearly 90% of its wastewater, leads the world in water conservation and desalinization technology, and is the only country in the world with more trees at the turn of this century than the last. Israel's expertise in renewable energy, water resource management, and environmental security – as well as cybersecurity and health care technology -- are additional reasons it is a valuable partner for the United States and are areas for further development and cooperation.

4325 W. Sunrise Blvd
Plantation FL 33313



info@holnessforcongress.com



954-379-8683



CONCLUSION

Jewish Americans and African Americans share histories of slavery and emancipation. Similarly, the United States and Israel have shared histories of being

places of refuge for people seeking the freedom to practice their faith while living in freedom and security. As a black male and strong supporter of the U.S.-Israel alliance, I look forward to working with the Jewish community to strengthen our bonds and the relationship between the United States and Israel.

Further, Alcee Hastings, who was a dear friend and mentor to me and voiced his endorsement of me to those closest to him before his passing, was always a strong advocate and champion for Israel. As someone who has visited the country over twenty times, as a member of Congress I will continue his leadership and follow in his footsteps.

United We Stand!



Dale V.C. Holness
Congressional Candidate, FL-20
(C) 954-325-4040

4325 W. Sunrise Blvd
Plantation FL 33313



info@holnessforcongress.com



954-379-8683

