

Zionist Organization of America

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SUBMISSION TO THE 1972 REPUBLICAN
NATIONAL CONVENTION COMMITTEE ON
RESOLUTIONS (Platform) ON AUGUST 15,
1972, IN MIAMI, FLORIDA

On Behalf of

THE ZIONIST ORGANIZATION OF AMERICA

By Herman L. Weisman, President

Preliminary Statement

A. The Zionist Organization of America ("ZOA") founded in 1897 in Chicago, Illinois, is celebrating its 75th anniversary year. It is the oldest Zionist organization and currently has in excess of 100,000 members. The ZOA draws support from the great mass of middle class Americans of the Jewish faith as well as from substantial numbers of their fellow Americans across the country for its principal objective, namely: The establishment of a free and sovereign State of Israel within the area recognized by collective international action as the national home of the Jewish people and the recognition of Israel's sovereignty within secure and defensible borders to be defined by a negotiated peace settlement of the Arab-Israel conflict that will preserve the sovereignty and security of all the states of the area and pave the way for the development and progress of their peoples.

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B. During the past twenty-five years of turbulence in the Middle East, the United States Government under Democratic and Republican administrations, backed by bipartisan support by the Congress irrespective of which party commanded a majority in the House or in the Senate, acknowledged by word and deed that America's national interests and the goal of world peace could best be furthered by assisting Israel to overcome threats to its existence and the security of her people and at the same time, declaring the interest of the United States in the preservation of the sovereign integrity of all the nations of the Middle East.

C. In response to conditions in the Middle East, exposed by the Arab-Israel war of 1967 and events which followed, the United States under President Nixon, and likewise backed by significant bipartisan support, recognized that the State of Israel presents the principal, most reliable and formidable force socially, politically and militarily which could and did well serve American national and foreign policy interests in the Mediterranean and Middle East areas. Another Arab-Israel military conflict, and the dreaded possibility of a resulting confrontation between great world-powers were avoided not alone by Israel's preparedness and determination but in very considerable measure by this Administration's policy of realistic military

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deterrence, substantial assistance to Israel to maintain a favorable balance of military capability for self-defense, by substantial economic aid to soften the impact of enormous costs of defense and preparedness on Israel's economy, the American initiative resulting in a cease-fire which after two years is still in effect, and by the great moral force of this great nation's advocacy of a just and durable peace to solve the Arab-Israel conflict.

D. Two recent messages to the ZOA from President Nixon state the overall objective of American policy towards Israel. On July 11, 1972 President Nixon on the occasion of the 75th Jubilee Convention of the ZOA stated (in relevant part):

"I salute you today as people who truly share the heritage of two great nations, Israel and the United States. Both countries are strengthened by your leadership. Both countries share a common goal, the preservation of freedom and peace in the world.

...
"In my recent discussions with Soviet leaders on the Middle East, I made clear the commitment of the American people to the survival of the State of Israel and to a peaceful settlement that would be just for all countries in the area.

"Be assured that our dedication to these goals is abiding and that our efforts to achieve them will remain undiminished."

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On July 12, 1972, Governor Nelson Rockefeller delivered "in addition, this personal word" from President Nixon to the Zionist Organization of America:

"The search for global peace -- the paramount objective of the United States -- cannot succeed without the achievement of peace and security in the Middle East.

"My primary purpose in my summit meetings in Peking and Moscow was to begin building a framework of relationships among the great powers which will assure the smaller nations of the world the opportunity to determine their own future and preserve their security and freedom.

"The United States in this Administration will never abandon its friends. I have consistently demonstrated my commitment to maintain the military balance and ensure stability in the Middle East -- as a foundation for negotiation of a reliable peace settlement among the parties involved. The survival of Israel can never be compromised in this process."

The reduction in the presence of military personnel of the USSR in Egypt (but not its military weaponry and aircraft) on request of the President of Egypt and the concurrent initiative of several Arab countries to restore diplomatic relations with the United States indicates, without assuring, the likelihood of progress towards the American objective of peace in the Middle East. The dominant military and naval presence of the USSR in and near the

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countries and seas of that region remains to threaten the southern tier of NATO allies of the United States and other American interests, and the persisting expressions of intransigence and belligerency by the Arab countries in respect of Israel still becloud the prospects of peace. Consequently, the need for ongoing American policy and action as announced and carried out by this Administration is as essential for the future as much as clarity and firmness served the cause of peace in the recent past.

In this context, the ZOA respectfully submits to this honored Committee on Resolutions the following proposed planks for the 1972 Republican platform relating to American Foreign Policy affecting Israel and the Middle East:

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PROPOSALS FOR THE 1972 PLATFORM OF THE REPUBLICAN PARTY

The Republican Party pledges the next administration to the following:

1. Forthrightly to implement President Nixon's position that the existence and security of Israel serves the cause of world peace as well as the economic and strategic interests of the United States, our NATO allies and the sovereign integrity and stability of the countries in the Middle East.
2. To continue the American policy of keeping Israel adequately supplied with the military weaponry and aircraft necessary for its defense on a basis that will serve as a realistic deterrent to mobilization or attack against her by air or otherwise; and provide economic aid on terms no less favorable than in the case of an ally of the United States in order substantially to offset the adverse impact on Israel's economy of the huge costs of defense and preparedness.
3. To recognize that Israel in the course of its efficient labors and great national sacrifice in her efforts at self-defense has, at the same time, well served the interests of the United States to broaden the base of the collective strength of the free world; and the United States should accordingly deem Israel eligible for the status of an ally of our country in parity with the status enjoyed by members

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of NATO located in the Mediterranean region of the Middle East and take the necessary steps to negotiate and formalize a suitable alliance with Israel.

4. To implement the proposal of Rep. Gerald R. Ford, endorsed by other leaders in the Congress, to recognize Jerusalem as the capital of Israel and promptly move the United States Embassy in Israel to Jerusalem.

5. To exercise the best efforts and influence of the United States speedily to achieve direct negotiations between Israel and Egypt and other states involved in the Arab-Israel conflict as the customary and most effective means of reaching agreement on a just and durable peace; and in support of such efforts to bring about recognition of the following:

a. Negotiations for peace are the direct responsibility of the parties to the conflict who should welcome direct negotiations for peace as the supreme expression of sovereignty, international responsibility and national honor;

b. Nations not directly involved cannot make a durable peace for the nations and governments who are involved;

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c. Extending the conditions of no-war, no-peace, which invites recurrence of sporadic violence and provocative incidents, will not serve the interests of anyone;

d. The United States will not itself or in conjunction with anybody else, directly or indirectly, seek, favor or endorse the imposition of any terms or prior conditions for the negotiation and settlement of the Arab-Israel conflict on an interim or final basis.

6. To strengthen American efforts to enhance the faithful observance of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights with particular emphasis on allowing Soviet Jews to emigrate to a country of their choice, free of governmental or administrative restrictions which would subject those who apply for exit visas to unjust delay, humiliation, immediate loss of gainful employment, unfair expense and other oppressive conditions.

Respectfully submitted,
ZIONIST ORGANIZATION OF AMERICA



By Herman L. Weisman, President