

Dear Colleague:

I hope you will consider joining me in sending the below letter regarding the Palestinians' plans to advance a resolution in the United Nations which elevates their status to observer state and passes judgment on final status issues. The letter will go to approximately 40 key European heads of state who are wavering on whether to stand with the U.S. and Israel, and it is crafted to appeal directly to this audience.

I expect the Palestinians to introduce their resolution at any point, so this letter is very timely. If you would like to join the letter, please contact xxxxxxxxx in my office by 9:00AM on THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 15.

Current signatories include: Hoyer, Berman, Lowey, Waxman, Deutch, Berkley, Ackerman, Cardoza, Schiff, Nadler, Engel, Connolly.

Thanks for your review and consideration.

Rep. Steny H. Hoyer
Democratic Whip

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Dear _____:

We write on a matter of great urgency, on the eve of the United Nations General Assembly meeting. It is our understanding that the leadership of the Palestinian Authority will pursue a resolution at the United Nations – in either or both the Security Council and the General Assembly – to grant the Palestinians the equivalent of statehood and/or prejudge final issues, including borders and the status of Jerusalem. One of the major goals of this effort is for the Palestinians to better position themselves to petition the International Criminal Court, very possibly bogging down the court for the foreseeable future.

It is our strong belief that such unilateral action would have devastating consequences for the peace process and the Palestinians themselves. Accordingly, we urge you in the strongest terms not to support this effort.

We believe that the only way to achieve a two-state solution is through direct negotiations leading to a peace treaty fully accepted by both governments and by both peoples. A just and lasting peace cannot and must not be imposed on the parties. If the Palestinians pursue such a unilateral approach, it violates the letter and spirit of the Oslo Accords and will deal a significant blow to future negotiations. Given the expectations gap among the Palestinian public, such action could lead to widespread violence on the ground, jeopardizing the West Bank's impressive economic and security gains over recent years. There is also a substantial risk of more broadly inflaming the region and

increasing violence at a time of already great instability. Finally, the United States will reconsider its assistance program for the Palestinian Authority and other aspects of U.S.-Palestinian relations if they choose to pursue such a unilateral effort.

We are confident that your government shares the United States' commitment to a comprehensive resolution of the conflict between the Israelis and the Palestinians. That outcome can only be achieved through direct negotiations. A vote on a unilateral UN resolution will likely set prospects for peace back years.

Our bilateral relationship is based on certain fundamental values. We urge you to vote those values, and to stand with the United States in not supporting unilateral action at the UN that would impede the peace we all seek.

Thank you for your consideration of our views.