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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

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HOUSING AND COMMUNITY OPPORTUNITY

July 29, 2011

His Excellency Ferit Hoxha
Republic of Albania Mission to the United Nations
320 East 79th Street
New York, NY 10075

Dear Ambassador Hoxha,

I write to express my concerns regarding a matter of great importance to the United States of America. In September, the Arab League, on behalf of the Palestinian Authority, is expected to offer a resolution to the United Nations General Assembly which seeks to unilaterally declare an independent state of Palestine. While the United States is ultimately committed to a future where the two states – Israel and Palestine – live side by side in long-term peace and security, an attempt to circumvent direct negotiations and seek statehood outside of a genuine agreement between the Israeli government and the Palestinian Authority holds extremely troubling implications for the future.

I firmly believe that a unilateral declaration of statehood by the Palestinians at the United Nations will dismantle critical efforts to bring peace to the region. Rather than demonstrating a commitment to direct negotiations and peace, Palestinian officials have made it clear that this unilateral effort is intended as another means of isolating Israel and escalating the conflict against her.

Efforts to avoid and undermine the peace process should be rejected by those nations in the world which support the goal of a mutually-accepted peace agreement that truly resolves this conflict. On July 7, 2011, the United States House of Representatives voted in overwhelming support of House Resolution 268, which reaffirms our support for direct negotiations between the Israeli government and the Palestinian Authority. This principle is based on the plain understanding that a lasting peace cannot be imposed from the outside.

Your country's vote at the United Nations General Assembly in September will have far-reaching implications for the future of peace in the Middle East. As a Member of the United States Congress, I respectfully and strongly encourage your country to consider the impact of this vote on U.S.-supported peace efforts in the Middle East, and to oppose any resolution in the General Assembly that seeks to unilaterally declare an independent state of Palestine.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Robert J. Dold".

Robert J. Dold
Member of Congress