

JCPA

JEWISH COUNCIL
FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS

POLICY COMPENDIUM

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INTRODUCTION

The JCPA Policy Compendium is a compilation of the current policy of the Jewish Council for Public Affairs. The positions set forth in this Compendium were taken by the JCPA in Resolutions, Joint Program Plans, Agendas for Public Affairs, and in various studies taken through the years. As new positions are adopted by the agency, they will be added to this Compendium which will be made available on the JCPA website.

The Policy Compendium is not an exhaustive record of all policies ever taken by the JCPA during its more than 50 year history. That would be a massive document many thousands of pages long. We look forward to the day, no doubt soon, when technology will enable us to place the entire rich historical record of JCPA policies at our fingertips. The Policy Compendium, however, is a different document entirely. It is an authoritative record of the current positions of the JCPA.

Eliminated from the Compendium are the background text that provided the context for the statements but did not express policy positions. Neither does this Compendium include the full history of each position. In many instances positions were restated, often multiple times, over the years – and policies evolved in light of changing conditions. Where a policy position was superseded by a subsequent statement on the same subject, the most recent policy statement is included in the Compendium. In several instances different aspects of the same issue were covered in subsequent years. In those situations, each policy position is included. In all instances, the year and source are noted. Where a policy position was rendered entirely moot by historical circumstances, it has been eliminated. An addendum will be drafted that will include those subjects addressed in policies many years ago which might not be moot, but have not been reexamined in recent years.

ISRAEL, WORLD JEWRY, AND INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS

ISRAEL AND THE MIDDLE EAST

U.S. - Israel Relations

The JCPA calls upon the United States to continue to build upon its special partnership with Israel, the only democracy in the Middle East (Resolution adopted in February 2001); supports continued strengthening of the U.S.-Israel alliance at the governmental and grass roots levels; adequate funding for the Israel and U.S.-sponsored "Arrow" anti-missile initiatives; and close United States-Israel coordination of peace initiatives (Agenda 1999-2000; Agenda 2000-2001).

Peace Process

In June 2002, President Bush outlined a vision, which contemplated the possibility of two states, Israel and Palestine, living side by side. Such a vision, however, will only be realized when a Palestinian leadership emerges that accepts the legitimacy of Israel as a Jewish state, takes effective action to end all violence and incitement against Israelis and Jews, recognizes the historical and religious attachment of the Jewish people to Jerusalem, and foregoes the claim that all Palestinian refugees have a "right" to return to their villages and towns inside Israel. (Resolution adopted in February 2003). The JCPA reaffirms its strong support for Israel's pursuit of a secure and lasting peace with her Arab neighbors; and calls for active U.S. facilitation and mediation of the peace process. Differences between the parties must be resolved through direct, bilateral negotiations based on the Oslo Accords and UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 (Resolution adopted in June 1999; Resolution adopted in February 2000; Agenda 1999-2000; Agenda 2000-2001), and unilateral actions that contradict them should be avoided (Agenda 1999-2000).

The JCPA pledges to reinvigorate its solidarity with and action on behalf of Israel; expresses support for Prime Minister-elect Ariel Sharon's search for a secure and lasting peace in the Middle East, as with all of his predecessors (Resolution adopted in February 2001); expresses its support for the Israeli government and its solidarity with the Israeli people during this difficult period, which has seen widespread violence; and sends our condolences to the families who have lost loved ones, whether Arabs or Jews (Statement adopted in October 2000).

The JCPA believes responsibility for the violence falls squarely on the shoulders of Chairman Yasser Arafat and the Palestinian Authority (PA); deplores the rioting, the shootings by Fatah street gangs (Tanzim), the brutal lynching of Israeli soldiers in Ramallah, and the destruction of Jewish holy places in Nablus and Jericho. Regrettably, all of these represent gross violations of past agreements signed by Chairman Arafat, particularly the Oslo Accords, which the JCPA has consistently supported; and calls for the re-arrest of Hamas and Islamic Jihad terrorist leaders released from PA prisons (Statement adopted in October 2000). The JCPA disapproves of Chairman Arafat's decision not to grasp the outstretched Israeli hand for peace at Camp David, which has set back prospects for advancing negotiations and caused many in Israel and the American Jewish community to lose confidence in him as a peace partner (Statement adopted in October 2000). The JCPA calls on Chairman Yasser Arafat and other leaders of the PA to stop the Palestinian-initiated violence, cease anti-Israel incitement, eliminate hatred toward Israel and Jews being taught in Palestinian schools and fulfill all of their obligations under the Oslo Accords (Resolution adopted in February 2000; Resolution adopted in February 2001).

The JCPA urges Egypt, Jordan, Turkey and other moderate states in the Middle East to encourage the Palestinians to move in this direction; to realize Arab summit statements critical of Israel and the severing

of relations with Israel by Morocco, Tunisia, and Oman only undermine chances for returning to a constructive political process (Statement adopted in October 2000); to live up to their commitments to eradicate anti-Israel and anti-Semitic incitement and to begin to seriously educate their populations – children and adults – on the peace process, tolerance and non-violence; and to promote normal relations with the people of Israel. (Statement adopted in October 2000; Resolution adopted in February 2000; Resolution adopted in February 2001).

The JCPA calls on Syria, in demonstration of good faith to Israel, to cease to publish incendiary anti-Semitic articles in its press; and encourages the Syrian leadership to issue public statements favorable to reconciliation with Israel and begin preparing its citizenry for peace (Resolution adopted in February 2000).

The JCPA appreciates the overwhelming support demonstrated by Congress in adopting measures that strengthen Israel and prospects for genuine peace in the region; opposes any aid to the PA if Chairman Arafat unilaterally declares an independent Palestinian state - while supporting humanitarian and democracy-building assistance to the Palestinians through programs run by responsible non-governmental organizations (Statement adopted in October 2000); supports close monitoring of U.S. assistance to the Palestinians to ensure that it is used to further the cause of peace (Agenda 2000-2001); calls for generous U.S. security and economic assistance to Israel and its peace partners (Agenda 1999-2000; Agenda 2000-2001); encourages President Bush and Secretary of State Colin Powell to continue the important U.S. role of encouraging and assisting the parties to reach agreements; welcomes the administration's stated intention to move beyond the Palestinian-Israeli issue and to focus sustained attention on threats to regional stability emanating from Iran and Iraq; calls upon the U.S. to press Syria to rein in Hezbollah terrorists who continue to attack Israeli targets from southern Lebanon (Resolution adopted in February 2001); and welcomes statements by senior U.S. government officials and members of Congress opposing the Arab states initiatives to revive UN General Assembly Resolution 181 and to convene a conference of the signatories to the Fourth Geneva Convention, actions, which can only serve to undermine the peacemaking environment (Resolution adopted in June 1999).

The JCPA mourns the loss of innocent Israeli and Palestinian lives, the enormous suffering and the human toll the conflict has had on both societies. At the same time, we condemn the decision of the Palestinian leadership to use deadly terrorist acts as a tool to achieve political goals. The continued failure of that leadership to prepare its people for peace, to stop the teaching of hate and to abandon, finally, its goal of destroying the state of Israel, has contributed enormously to the deteriorating conditions in the area. We support Israel's efforts to suppress terrorism by any reasonable means. We further support Israeli government efforts to provide humanitarian aid to the non-combatant population. We support Israeli efforts to exercise great caution to minimize the deaths of innocent Palestinians, including those who are caught in the cross-fire when Palestinian forces intentionally position themselves among civilian populations. We support the Israeli government's continued efforts to prevent any vigilante actions by individuals directed against Palestinians and/or Israelis in the West Bank, Gaza, or in Israel proper. We support the vital continued facilitating role the United State has historically played in the Middle East process. We urge active efforts by the American government to work with Israeli, Palestinian, and other Middle Eastern leaders to find common ground and a road that will lead to a cessation of violence and a resumption of negotiations, while ensuring that no pressure is placed on Israel to take steps that would jeopardize its citizens' security and decrease prospects for peace. We further endorse President Bush's call for such reforms as a necessary step toward the possibility of enduring peace. We support the special relationship between the United States and Israel as two allied democracies in an international campaign against terrorism. As both countries confront an extensive network of Islamic extremist groups, including Al Qaeda, that vow destruction here and abroad, we express our gratitude to the United States for its strong support of Israel, including its growing recognition of the common threat faced by both nations.

We call on the United States and the international community to intensify their efforts to pressure those specific governments that finance and glorify terrorism to cease all support of terrorism. We also urge sustained efforts to encourage political, educational and economic reform in Arab and Muslim states as well as Palestinian society, to develop democratic, pluralistic, free and open societies with a commitment to the rule of law and human rights. We express our outrage about the continuous hateful anti-Semitism conveyed through government-controlled media, religious institutions, and schools in much of the Arab and Islamic world, including the Palestinian Authority. We call upon the Administration to pay close attention to incitement in the Arab media. We urge American Jews to maintain a strong sense of unity and solidarity with the people of Israel, while recognizing that within this solidarity there is a diversity of views on some matters of Israeli government policy. We welcome that diversity as healthy debate provided that it is not aimed at weakening American support so critical for Israel's security. The JCPA encourages its member agencies to share these positions and views with members of the Jewish community, U.S. and Israeli officials, and opinion-molders in the general community. (Resolution adopted at the 2004 Plenum.)

The JCPA believes that new circumstances, especially the passing of Yasser Arafat, offer an opportunity to advance the peace process between Israel and the Palestinians. The community relations field is encouraged to convey the aforementioned positions and messages to members of the Jewish community, to decision-makers and opinion molders in the general community, to the administration and Congress, as well as to leaders in Israel, the Arab world and the international community. (Resolution adopted at the 2005 Plenum.)

Israel, in accord with the Roadmap, has undertaken responsibilities with respect to settlement activity including the dismantling of unauthorized outposts. With regard to the issue of settlements generally, we recognize that within our own community there are divergent views about current and future policies of the Israeli government toward settlements. At the same time, we are united in the belief that the root cause of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is not Israeli settlements but the continued unwillingness of the Palestinian national leadership and most Arab states to accept the state of Israel as a permanent sovereign Jewish state in the Middle East within secure borders. (Resolution adopted at the 2008 Plenum)

The JCPA believes that the Bush Administration should be commended for its active diplomacy in this arena, including its leadership in convening the Annapolis conference and its recognition that direct bilateral negotiations between the two parties -- free of external pressures and deadlines, and conducted in the spirit of reconciliation and compromise -- is the surest path to peace; for its efforts to expand support for peace and security throughout the region; and for its steadfast commitment to Israel's security. The organized American Jewish community should support the Government of Israel's insistence that the Palestinian Authority recognize Israel as a Jewish State.

The organized American Jewish community should affirm its support for two independent, democratic and economically viable states -- the Jewish State of Israel and a State of Palestine -- living side-by-side in peace and security. We note, with sorrow, that Israel's repeated offers to establish "two democratic states living side by side in peace and security," have been met, time after time, by violence, incitement and terror. (Resolution adopted at the 2008 Plenum)

Palestinians should receive closely monitored assistance in building the political, economic, and security institutions necessary to lay the foundation for statehood.

Active support of religious leadership can play an important role in improving the peacemaking environment. We encourage implementation of the promising commitments in the recent Communiqué of the Council of Religious Institutions of the Holy Land.

The international community should continue its policy of isolating Hamas unless it fundamentally transforms itself and meets the international community's three demands.

As the Israeli government enters negotiations on permanent status issues (including settlements, borders, Jerusalem, and refugees) to reach a comprehensive and just peace agreement with the Palestinians, the organized Jewish community should support those efforts, consistent with our longstanding tradition of supporting the efforts of Israel's government to achieve peace and security. (Policy Adopted by the 2008 JCPA Plenum)

(Dissent: The Orthodox Union does not agree with and dissents from the statement that “The organized American Jewish community should affirm its support for two independent, democratic and economically viable states – the Jewish State of Israel and a State of Palestine – living side-by-side in peace and security.”)

As stated in our amendment to the resolution's text, “[w]e note, with sorrow, that Israel's repeated offers to establish ‘two democratic states living side by side in peace and security, ‘have been met, time after time, by violence, incitement, and terror.”

Hamas controls the Gaza strip and continues to wage open warfare and terrorism against Israel. The Palestinian Authority, which controls the Palestinian areas in the West Bank, has not demonstrated sufficient capacity or willingness, as noted by the resolution, to prepare its people for recognizing Israel's right to exist as a Jewish state and the homeland of the Jewish people. If anything, such a statement appears to reward the very acts of terrorism and anti-Israel behavior that other provisions of the resolution criticize.

The Orthodox Union further disagrees with and dissents from the resolution's statement that the American Jewish community should support an Israeli government's negotiation efforts with regard to the status of Jerusalem – should that include the Government of Israel's possible assent to the re-division of the Holy City which the global Jewish community continues to view as the “eternal and indivisible capital of Israel and the Jewish people.”)

Foreign Aid to Israel

The JCPA supports adequate funding for the Israel and U.S.-sponsored “Arrow” anti-missile initiatives; generous U.S. foreign assistance to Israel and its peace partners (Agenda 1999-2000).

Economic Sanctions Including Divestment

The JCPA believes that Economic sanctions against companies doing business with Israel evince a misunderstanding of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and are a cause for great concern. They polarize people and communities in such a way that the actions themselves, and not peace, become the central issue, making constructive actions for peace less possible; Efforts to single Israel out for economic sanctions, to the exclusion of other regions and nations around the world, evidence a troubling double standard that poses a serious challenge to intergroup relations; Support of economic sanctions against companies doing business with Israel reward intransigence by suggesting that international pressure can replace efforts to negotiate in good faith; Economic sanctions targeting Israel would also adversely affect the Palestinian people, as the Israeli and Palestinian economies are intertwined, and thousands of Palestinians work in Israel. Attacks on the economic life of the Israeli people not only undermine Israel's

survival but also the economic viability of Israeli Arabs and Palestinians and contribute to instability in the region. They detract from the goal of a formation of a lasting and solid peace based on co-existence, economic relations and trade as well as other needed aspects of normalization that are crucial to the building of that long dreamed-of peace; and, Those seeking to hasten peace should focus on efforts of reconciliation, including investment in the many meaningful coexistence programs, that are necessary to foster a generation of Israelis and Palestinians which will work and live side-by-side and move past the teaching of hate and the resort to violence.

The community relations field should Educate and encourage the Jewish community, including the campus community, to engage in dialogue within local communities with other faith and community groups to build understanding and develop bridges of communication; and, Actively engage religious, civic, political, labor, academic and other institutions to inform the community at large about the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, to oppose the use of economic sanctions, including shareholder actions and divestment, as tools to address the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, and support efforts to change such policies where they have been adopted. Joint travel opportunities can be an important part of this effort. (Resolution adopted at the 2005 Plenum)

Israel's Environment

The JCPA believes that pollution and the depletion of natural resources in Israel threaten public health, future economic viability, and regional stability the Jewish tradition, informed by primary Jewish sources and by contemporary Jewish insights, includes a mandate to cultivate, protect and nurture the environment; the organized Jewish community has an opportunity to help Israel benefit from the substantial environmental expertise of the United States — through continued support and further development of cooperative projects between the Israeli and United States governments. Faced with these threats to the health and well being of Israel's population, and in the spirit of friendship and mutual benefit that has long characterized the relationship between the United States and Israel The JCPA therefore resolves to support the passage of legislation in Congress which would allocate previously undesignated funding for the implementation of the U.S./Israel MOU on environmental cooperation; educate the Jewish community about the severity and urgency of the environmental crisis in Israel and urge our members to make tackling this issue a priority in the upcoming year; work in coalition with both faith-based and environmental organizations to help bring American expertise and resources to bear on the environmental problems in Israel; encourage JCPA agencies and communities to aid in the search for research grants that address these issues. (Resolution adopted at the 2004 Plenum.)

ISRAEL AND THE UNITED NATIONS/INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY

The JCPA supports enhanced relations between Israel and the international community; initiatives by the UN and other international bodies that reinforce the peace process; expanded diplomatic and economic relations between Israel and the Arab world; Israel's admission as a full-fledged member of the UN's Western European and Others Group (WEOG); recognition of Israel's Magen David Adom (red star of David) as an official emblem of the movement along with the red cross and red crescent (Agenda 1999-2000; Agenda 2000-2001); rejects one-sided United Nations resolutions that condemn Israel for employing "excessive force" (Statement adopted in October 2000); urges the U.S. to support greater political and economic cooperation between the international community and Israel; encourage other countries to sharply reassess their posture toward Israel in the UN, in particular the votes of most member countries on anti-Israel resolutions in the General Assembly (JPP 1993-1994)

Jewish - Arab Co-Existence

The JCPA calls for continuing support by the organized Jewish community for coexistence projects in Israel designed to improve relationships between Israeli Jews and Arabs; applauds the efforts by many of our communities to enhance Israeli Jewish/Arab relations and encourages community relations agencies

to work in partnership with local federations, where appropriate, to strengthen these co-existence programs and to include access to such programs on their missions; and supports Israel's commitment to maintain a strong vibrant democracy with active participation by all its citizens (Agenda 1999-2000; Resolution adopted in February 2001); condemns the violent and lawless acts committed by a small minority of Israeli Arab citizens during the riots of September 2000 and anyone who expresses support for any acts of terrorism, including such acts carried out by Hamas and Hezbollah; and reaffirms that Israel was created as a Jewish state, must continue to be supported as a Jewish state, and categorically reject any suggestions that would compromise the institutions that make Israel a Jewish state; applauds the Israeli government's decision to significantly increase its financial commitment to predominantly Arab communities within Israel – to improve both infrastructure and social conditions; believes that such steps will help to reduce the level of tension within Israeli society and strengthen Israel's security; and commends the government's decision to establish a commission to investigate Israel's response to Israeli Arab rioting (Resolution adopted in February 2001).

Israeli MIAs

The JCPA feels passionately about the fate of our Israeli brothers and sisters; is especially concerned with the plight of those held captive in Lebanon by the Hezbollah in clear violation of international law and the UN-endorsed agreement in regard to Israel's withdrawal from southern Lebanon; and urges the United States government, UN Secretary General Kofi Annan, the international community, human rights groups and people of goodwill everywhere to do everything possible to secure their immediate release and safe return to their families. (Resolution adopted in February 2001; Statement adopted in October 2000); urges the American and Israeli governments to keep the issue of Israeli MIAs on their diplomatic agendas and pledges to support efforts to increase public awareness of the MIAs (Resolution adopted in 1996; Resolution adopted in 1997).

American Jewish – Israel Relations

The JCPA supports efforts to develop pragmatic and consensus-based solutions to religious and personal status issues in Israel; programs that educate the Jewish community regarding the complexity of religion-state issues in Israel; initiatives that foster unity, cohesiveness, mutual respect, and tolerance among diverse segments of Israeli society; continued philanthropic support to address the humanitarian needs of all the people of Israel; and programs that strengthen the bonds between Israeli and American Jews (Agenda 1999-2000; Agenda 2000-2001).

The JCPA will work vigorously in support of efforts to condemn Jewish extremist rhetoric and violence, and to promote intracommunal dialogue. We will urge the full spectrum of religious institutions in Israel and the American Jewish community to consistently condemn explicit extremist rhetoric or hate speech; encourage the development of new initiatives through Israeli and American Jewish institutions, including Jewish-Jewish dialogue, to promote civility and respect for democratic values; counter any attempts to characterize an entire segment of the Jewish community as being monolithic or supportive of the kind of extremist rhetoric that can create a volatile atmosphere: encourage the teaching of Jewish traditions of mutual respect, democratic values and civility as part of the core curriculum in all Israeli and American-Jewish educational institutions; urge all Jewish institutions in Israel, the United States and elsewhere to cultivate an atmosphere of civil and respectful communal discussion on issues related to the peace process and other controversial issues. (JPP 1996-1997)

The JCPA will participate in the wider Jewish communal effort to shape the future of American Jewish-Israel relations, particularly Jewish identity building activities, such as expanding the number of young Jews spending periods of time in Israel, and supporting preparatory and post-experience activities for these individuals; continue to examine the nature and extent of its involvement in those internal public affairs issues in Israel that have implications for American Jewish-Israel relations; and explore joint

initiatives with Israel that reflect the Jewish tradition of tikkun olam and that strengthen the bonds between the American Jewish community and Israel. (JPP 1995-1996)

(Dissent: The Union of Orthodox Congregations of America considers this topic to be outside the purview of the JCPA.)

The JCPA continues to support Israeli government programs and initiatives by private organizations that promote democracy and pluralism in Israel...we support the principle of electoral reform in Israel as a means of strengthening Israeli democracy and the ability of the government to act decisively. (JPP 1992-1993)

(Dissent: The Union of Orthodox Congregations of America considers this topic to be outside the purview of the JCPA.)

Jerusalem

The JCPA supports the preservation of an undivided Jerusalem as Israel's capital under Israeli sovereignty (Agenda 1999-2000; Agenda 2000-2001; Resolution adopted in February 2001); continues to call for the swift implementation of the Jerusalem Embassy Relocation Act of 1995, acknowledging Jerusalem as the capital of Israel and calling for the immediate transfer of the United States Embassy to that city (Resolution adopted in February 2001); deplors attempts by Chairman Arafat and other Arab leaders to deny Jerusalem's unique place within Jewish religion and history; and reaffirms our support for Jerusalem as the eternal, undivided, Capital of Israel. (Agenda 1999-2000; Resolution adopted in February 2001)

Palestinian "Right of Return"

The JCPA rejects any effort, under the banner of the "right of return," to force Israel to accept hundreds of thousands of Palestinian refugees, a claim which has no legitimacy and is nothing more than a formula for Israel's destruction (Agenda 1999-2000; Resolution adopted in February 2001)

Iraq

The JCPA strongly supports the Administration's efforts to bring about Iraqi compliance with United Nations resolutions adopted in the wake of Saddam Hussein's aggression against Kuwait and Israel (Resolution adopted in 1998); and endorses the objectives of U.S. policy to obtain withdrawal of Iraqi forces from Kuwait, to protect foreign nationals, especially American citizens being held against their will by Iraqi authorities, to maintain the free flow of oil in the Middle East and to deter Saddam Hussein from aggression against Saudi Arabia and any other state in the region. (Resolution adopted in 1990)

Arab Economic Boycott

While the primary boycott [Arab boycott of Israel and Israeli companies] is appropriately a subject for discussion in the peace process, the JCPA believes that an end to the secondary and tertiary boycotts should be aggressively pursued outside that framework because the targets are companies from the U.S. and other countries, which are not involved in the Arab-Israeli dispute (JPP 1992-1993).

Environment

The JCPA calls on the Israeli government to address the rapidly deteriorating environmental conditions in Israel. The Palestinian Authority and neighboring countries are also called upon to remedy environmental challenges that impact the entire region. (Agenda 2000-2001)

Travel to Israel

The JCPA reaffirms its unflinching support for the Jewish State; encourages all American Jews to visit Israel in the very near future as an expression of their solidarity with the people and the land of Israel (Resolution adopted in June 2001).

Teaching about the Middle East

The JCPA encourages the field to identify problems with respect to anti-Israel bias in curriculum materials for primary and secondary schools and teacher training programs on the Middle East; work with local school officials to promote programs and materials that create a better understanding of Israel and the challenges it faces (JPP 1994-1995); the approach to this issue should not be exclusively reactive...Academic and “think tank” institutions should be encouraged to publish and disseminate curricular materials and to sponsor teacher-training programs that portray Middle East issues fairly and accurately (JPP 1992-1993).

Social Justice in Israel

The gap between the rich and poor in Israel has continued to grow, with Israel now rated second in the Western world, after the United States, as having the largest gap in income. The hardest hit tend to be Ethiopian Jews, recent immigrant communities, Mizrachim (Jews from the Middle East and North Africa), and/or families living in smaller development towns. Arab citizens of Israel, roughly 20 percent of the population, also suffer tremendously from these problems. We as an American Jewish community need to renew our commitment to assist those Israelis in greatest need. We should do more to help address the social and economic inequities within Israel. This includes narrowing the gap between the rich and the poor, improving educational opportunities for all Israelis, especially in development towns and immigrant communities such as Ethiopian Jews, and ensuring that all citizens of Israel are treated to an equal share of social services. (Resolution adopted at the 2003 Plenum).

Israelis Evacuated by the Disengagement

The Israeli citizens evacuated from their homes in Gaza and northern Shomron amidst the hope that peace would follow still await the resources they need to rebuild and relocate their lives. Many evacuees are without permanent housing, stable jobs, or the resources necessary to fully rehabilitate themselves following the ordeals they experienced. These Israeli citizens need further assistance as they continue to rebuild their lives. The JCPA believes the global Jewish Community must remain committed to supporting these displaced and traumatized Israelis; Commends the assistance of the United Jewish Communities and other organizations and communities to these individuals. JCPA member organizations are encouraged to provide financial assistance and emotional support for the displaced former residents of Gaza and the northern Shomron who were evacuated from their homes; Raise awareness regarding the plight of the Gaza and northern Shomron evacuees and seek necessary support for them; Advocate in their meetings with Israeli government officials for the full compensation and rehabilitation of the Gaza and North Shomron evacuees, requesting in their discussions that the Government of Israel declare the housing, employment and social welfare of these Israeli citizens a national mission of appropriate priority. (Resolution adopted by 2007 Plenum)

Israelis Attacked and Displaced by Lebanon War

More than a million Israelis were affected by the devastating attacks of Hezbollah rockets. The JCPA believes the global Jewish Community must remain committed to supporting these displaced and crisis-weary Israelis. JCPA member organizations are encouraged to provide financial assistance and emotional support for all the residents of the northern and southern communities affected by Hezbollah and Palestinian attacks; Raise awareness regarding the plight of the residents of Sderot and other affected southern towns and seek necessary support for them; Advocate in their meetings with Israeli government officials for economic support for affected southern towns, requesting in their discussions that the

Government of Israel declare the housing, employment and social welfare of these Israeli citizens a national mission of appropriate priority. (Resolution adopted by 2007 Plenum)

Israel's Security Fence

The General Assembly's entangling the ICJ in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, to give an opinion on matters that should be determined through bilateral negotiations, is a dangerous politicization of international law for short-term public relations gain, with potentially grave repercussions for the integrity of international law and of the ICJ. The JCPA believes that consistent with the framework of Arab-Israel peace agreements, issues relating to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict should be settled through bilateral negotiations. Solutions should not be predetermined or imposed by the International Court of Justice or other international bodies; that the United Nations General Assembly resolution requesting an advisory opinion from the ICJ on Israel's security fence reflects a long campaign by Israel's detractors to manipulate and abuse the U.N. system to isolate and demonize the Jewish State. This anti-Israel environment in the U.N. serves to undermine constructive efforts to promote Israeli-Palestinian negotiations; that the ICJ involvement in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict has potentially dangerous repercussions for the integrity of the Court and international law. The community relations field should monitor the proceedings, educate the community, media and local officials about the anti-Israel bias implicit in the process, and make the case for Israel's security needs in the face of Palestinian unceasing terrorism; reach out to U.S. officials and to the legal community, urging them to speak out publicly with concerns about the politicization and misuse of the International Court of Justice and its repercussions for the integrity of international law; educate the community, local media and opinion molders on the misuse of international bodies such as the U.N. and the ICJ to single out and isolate Israel. (Resolution adopted at the 2004 Plenum.)

WORLD JEWRY

Anti-Semitism Related To Middle Eastern Tensions

The JCPA is greatly concerned by the spate of anti-Semitic incidents, which appear to be related to Israel-Palestinian tensions; urges government and community leaders to make it clear that they will not tolerate attacks against Jewish institutions and that disagreements over the situation in the Middle East, however passionate, must be expressed with civilized speech and behavior; calls on the Palestinian Authority, Egypt and Jordan to live up to their commitments to eradicate anti-Israel and anti-Semitic incitement in the media and in the classroom, and begin to seriously educate their populations – children and adults – on Jews, Israel, tolerance and non-violence (Resolution adopted in October 2000; Resolution adopted in February 2001); and pledges to persevere both in its support for Middle East peace and Jewish-Muslim understanding here in America (Resolution adopted in October 2000).

Jews in the Former Soviet Union

The JCPA supports increased vigilance and advocacy by the organized Jewish community and the U.S. government with regard to anti-Semitism in the Former Soviet Union (FSU); efforts to promote the rule of law, as well as economic and democratic reforms in the FSU, in order to ensure a safe and productive environment for Jewish expression and aliyah agenda; programs that promote the safety and welfare of the Jewish community in the FSU (Agenda 1999-2000; Agenda 2000-2001); encourages engagement in renewal of Jewish communal life through Kehilla projects, humanitarian assistance and other exchanges (Agenda 1998-1999); supports annual waivers of Jackson-Vanik legislation, which links trade benefits to country's respect for right of its citizens to emigrate, for eleven out of twelve newly independent states of the FSU based on their current policies, and supports exemption of Russia from the annual review process itself (Agenda 1997-1998); encourage government and community leaders, academics, journalist in the successor states of the FSU to take public stands against anti-Semitism and racism generally, and to adopt and enforce laws against racial incitement; promote institutionalization of judicial, legislative and law

enforcement reform which will help the FSU states make the transition to rule of law societies (JPP 1995-1996).

Ethiopian Jews

The JCPA supports a greater effort by the Israeli government and American Jewish community to meet absorption needs of the Ethiopian community in Israel; and expeditious and sensitive resolution of the Falash Mura issue (Agenda 1999-2000; Agenda 2000-2001).

The JCPA urges the Israeli government to take all necessary measures, including intensive discussions with the Ethiopian government, to accelerate the movement to Israel of those Falash Mura near the Addis Ababa compound who are eligible for Israeli citizenship and to expedite pending investigations of the remaining Falash Mura; seeks to assure that the humanitarian needs of those Falash Mura found ineligible to go to Israel also are addressed in an appropriate manner, and explores with U.S. government officials, if appropriate, how this country might provide diplomatic and other assistance. (Resolution adopted in 1996)

Iranian Jews - Iran 10

The JCPA is extremely concerned by the fate of 10 Iranian Jews from the city of Shiraz unjustly convicted of spying for Israel; urges all people of good will, including religious, human rights, and political leaders to join with us in calling upon the Iranian Government immediately to release them; and urges all those with governmental and business ties to Iran to continue to press for their immediate and unconditional release (Resolution adopted in June 1999; Resolution adopted in February 2001).

Argentinean Jewry

The JCPA stands in solidarity with the Jewish community in Argentina; calls upon the Argentinean government to safeguard against future attacks on the Jewish community, including addressing the problem of extreme political forces in the country that promote or tolerate racial hatred and engage in acts of anti-Semitism (Resolution adopted in February 2000; Resolution adopted in February 2001); and urges development of cooperation among the various Argentine faith communities, including lay and religious leaders, as a means of enhancing security in the country. (Resolution adopted in February 2000).

The JCPA calls upon the Argentinean government to bring all the perpetrators of the heinous Israeli embassy and AMIA bombings before competent judicial tribunals; advocates for access at the AMIA trial to independent human rights organizations and NGOs in order to insure a transparent and fair proceeding and calls upon the international community to join in monitoring the trial; urges our member organizations to keep these issues at the forefront of the U.S and world attention until they have been resolved in a satisfactory manner; calls upon President George W. Bush and the members of the 107th Congress to use their good offices with the government of Argentina to do everything possible to bring the perpetrators of the two terrorist attacks to justice (Resolution adopted in February 2000; Resolution adopted in February 2001).

Jews in Central and Eastern Europe

For Jews in Central and Eastern Europe, new freedoms accompanying the democratization process are enabling revitalization of Jewish life...the specter of anti-Semitism, however, is reappearing in varying degrees...the JCPA supports democratically-oriented forces in Central and Eastern European countries; monitoring of anti-Semitism there; deepening of relations between American Jewish community and Jewish communities in Central and Eastern Europe (JPP 1990-1991).

International Anti-Semitism

We urge government officials, as well as political and religious leaders to condemn anti-Semitism and to continue to make it clear that neither violent attacks against Jewish institutions, nor the rhetoric which immediately incites such attacks, will be tolerated. Furthermore, we hope that political and religious leaders will make it clear that disagreements over the situation in the Middle East, however passionate, must be expressed with appropriate behavior and in appropriate language. (Resolution adopted in February 2002). The JCPA believes the rise of anti-Semitism globally and particularly in Europe is a significant and serious problem, and one that is deeply troubling given the unique and tragic history of the Jews in that region. This problem has serious implications not only for the Jewish communities of Europe, but also for Israel and the worldwide Jewish community; it is important to become familiar and make contacts with key parties within the European political system; recent initiatives to fight anti-Semitism, including the upcoming OSCE conference and specific programs in France, are important and welcome. However, the success of these initiatives will require a sustained and serious commitment to combating anti-Semitism by these governments. The community relations field should monitor and expose developments and occurrences of anti-Semitism in Europe, including violence, vandalism, and expressions of anti-Semitic sentiment in the media and government; develop an effective media relations strategy by engaging in a long term, on-going dialogue with newspapers, radio and television stations raising awareness of the problem of anti-Semitism in Europe; encourage the U.S. Administration to continue using its global leadership position to impress upon world leaders the significance of anti-Semitism to the United States; educate local diplomats, media and the community on how incendiary rhetorical assaults on Israel help create a climate in which some individuals believe that their violent attacks against the Jewish community will be tolerated; encourage full investigation of incidents of anti-Semitism and surveys of anti-Semitic sentiment, and encourage accurate reporting of such incidents and surveys; work with non-Jewish and interfaith leadership to increase their understanding of the frequent linkages between anti-Israel rhetoric and anti-Semitism; urge that existing European hate-crime and anti-discrimination laws be enforced to the fullest extent of the law; and urge those countries that do not have such laws to enact and vigorously enforce them; build bridges to Jewish and non-Jewish groups in Europe to dispel misperceptions and improve relations. (Adopted at the 2004 Plenum.)

International Religious Freedom

The JCPA is committed to protecting religious freedom by raising awareness about and speaking out against religious persecution wherever it exists. The JCPA resolves to call upon the governments of the world to end all persecution on the basis of religious beliefs or practices; ratify the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and abide by the provisions of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights; and hold themselves and other governments to commitments arising from their ratification of international agreements as they apply to religious freedoms; without the creation of exceptions; call upon the United States government to support religious freedom around the world and take appropriate action when there are violations of religious freedom; and call upon the United States government to implement the recommendations of the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom, including but not limited to engaging in high-level dialogue with foreign governments aimed at addressing religious persecution; facilitating reform in countries that restrict religious freedom by providing training for lawyers, lawmakers, and judges; encouraging other governments to ratify agreements to uphold religious freedom and other human rights, and holding participating governments to commitments made by their ratification of international agreements; placing sanctions on foreign governments when ongoing systemic persecution persists; enhancing the training of foreign service officers and U.S. Administration and legislative officials about the role of religion in the world's varied societies and the problems of religious persecution; and supporting and cooperating with organizations and coalitions working for religious freedom, and providing humanitarian and legal support to victims of religious persecution. (Resolution adopted at the 2004 Plenum).

Venezuelan Jewry

The presence of terrorist cells in Venezuela, in addition to the sympathy of the Chavez government to suspected Arab and Muslim terrorists, should raise serious questions as to whether Venezuela could become a likely target for another terrorist attack against Israeli or Jewish institutions in Latin America or even the United States due to its geographical proximity to this country. The JCPA recommends the organized American Jewish community, the State of Israel and the United States government should monitor developments in Venezuela much more closely, especially as they affect the security and well being of the Jewish community in that country. In addition, the Chavez government should be made aware that providing support and safe haven to terrorists will not be tolerated. (Resolution adopted at the 2004 Plenum.)

Jews from Arab Countries

In 1948 an estimated 940,000 Jews called the Arab world home; today only an estimated 8-12,000 Jews remain in the entire Arab world in ever dwindling numbers. Since 1947, over 681 UN General Assembly resolutions have been passed on the Arab-Israeli conflict. Of these, 101 exclusively deal with Palestinian refugees. Not one UN resolution has been passed that deals exclusively with the Jewish refugees from Arab states, and their just rights. A recognition of the past is essential to the integrity of the Middle East peace process.

The community relations field should tell the story of Jewish refugees from Arab states. The world must know about the plight of Jews from Arab states as former refugees. The Jews from Arab states were victims of mass violations of human rights, and justice calls for their story to be told, and their rights addressed. Reestablish historical context by returning the story of Jewish refugees from Arab states to the narrative of the modern Middle East. Help bring about a just solution to the Middle East crisis. Seek international recognition by demanding that the United Nations address the grievances and injustices to the displaced former Jewish refugees from Arab countries, and acknowledge the centuries-old, vibrant Jewish life that has been expunged from the history of the Middle East.

The JCPA reaffirms its support for the initiative “*Justice for Jews from Arab Countries (JJAC)*” and recalls its commitment to provide the Jewish community relations field with periodic updates regarding its progress. Further, the JCPA supports local efforts that work at the grassroots level to bring this issue to the public’s attention. The community relations field should support an internal registry campaign to assist in the collection of testimonials and the compilation of records in order to preserve the historical narrative as well as to document the physical and material losses suffered by Jews displaced from Arab countries. Document the legal bases, in international law and jurisprudence, for pursuing rights and redress for the losses suffered by Jews displaced from Arab countries. The community relations field should raise the issue of Jews displaced from Arab countries in professional or legal associations, with relevant governments and international bodies, and in meetings with officials of municipal, state and federal or international entities. Mobilize Jewish communal support and action in support of the rights of Jews from Arab countries including lectures, media relations, and educational efforts, among others. (Resolution adopted at the 2004 Plenum)

U.S. FOREIGN POLICY

Support of United Nations

The JCPA supports full payment of United States dues to the United Nations (Agenda 1999-2000; Agenda 2000-2001) While not perfect, the UN continues to offer the best forum for discussing global issues. (Resolution adopted in 1997)

Terrorism, Arms Control and Weapons of Mass Destruction

The JCPA supports vigorous United States and international efforts to restrain Iran, Iraq, and other rogue states and terrorist groups from acquiring weapons of mass destruction and delivery capability; and prevention of nuclear arms races in volatile areas of the world (Agenda 2000-2001); urges the U.S. to place a high priority on developing and enforcing more stringent international controls on the sale and transfer of advanced weapons and technology (Agenda 1997-1998). With the collapse of the Soviet Union, and with it the U.S.-U.S.S.R. superpower rivalry, the JCPA urges the U.S. government to pursue a world-wide ban on nuclear testing...encourages the international community to address the problem of both legal and illegal trade of nuclear and other non-conventional weapons, including the safe disposal and/or control of nuclear material. (JPP 1996-1997)

(Dissent: The Jewish War Veterans considers the call for a world-wide ban on nuclear arms testing misconceived and dangerous. Until all nations are fully divested of their nuclear arsenals and the ability to create them, such talk of a ban on nuclear weapons testing is premature.)

The JCPA supported legislation that includes economic sanctions on both companies and countries engaged in the production and use of chemical and biological weapons (JPP 1992-1993); supports the Iran-Libya Sanctions Act (ILSA) that imposes sanctions for investment by foreign companies in Iran's petroleum sector; and the Iran Missile Proliferation Sanctions Act of 1997 that impose sanctions against companies violating U.S. legal prohibitions against transfer of missile technology to Iran (Agenda 1998-1999).

We call on other nations to applaud the freezing of assets of groups and individuals that have been linked to terrorist activities, as well as moves by major corporations and philanthropies who have blocked donations to such organizations (Resolution Adopted at the 2002 Plenum)

Austria

The JCPA condemns the inclusion of the Freedom Party in the new Austrian government; supports efforts by the United States, the EU nations, the State of Israel and the Austrian Jewish community to hold accountable the new government in Vienna; and urges the Austrian government to engage in a full examination of its role and responsibility with regards to the Holocaust (Resolution adopted in February 2000).

Germany

The neo-Nazi threat in Germany demands vigorous response by German authorities, supported by allies in the west (JPP 1994-1995); stronger steps need to be taken to protect the rights of minorities and to counter extremist movements in Germany; call on federal and state officials in Germany to work with civic education organizations and the school systems in the eastern states to develop prejudice reduction programs, including study of the Holocaust (Resolution adopted in 1992); calls upon the government of the unified Germany and its people to take steps that the following areas will be codified in law and institutionalized: institutionalization of memory of the Holocaust; systematic educational approach to the Holocaust; special relationship with Israel; compensation to Jewish people for crimes of the Holocaust; renewed attention to prosecution of Nazi war criminals; unified Germany based on principles of democratic pluralism and Germany's position in the world (Statement adopted in June 1990).

Africa

The JCPA emphasizes the need for greater attention to the African continent; advocates for humanitarian assistance to and humanitarian intervention in African countries during times of crisis; calls upon the Secretary General of the United Nations, the President of the United States, all world leaders, and members of the 107th Congress, to condemn acts of violence against innocent populations as well as the

horror of slavery; reaffirms our commitment to basic international human rights, including, but-not limited to- political organization, free assembly, free speech, health care, family planning and reproductive freedom, education, a healthy environment, women's rights and core labor rights, and the elimination of hunger, poverty and discrimination; advocates for a variety of increased economic development initiatives for Africa, including trade priorities, debt relief where appropriate, micro enterprises, training and business programs (including those for women), which serve as catalysts for sustained growth and equitable development while protecting the environment; advocates for expansion of government funds for African development, including the U.S. Development Fund for Africa and the U.S. Agency for International Development, to meet the pressing needs of civil society, such as measures to prevent the spread of HIV and sleeping sickness disease, develop treatments for AIDS, and eliminate hunger; reaffirms our dedication to combat global poverty and hunger by recognizing the priority of policies that focus on poor countries; and commends the State of Israel for its support of economic and social development and humanitarian and medical assistance in Africa, and urges recognition of Israel's positive role by governments and the media. (Resolution adopted in February 2001). The JCPA resolves to commend those governments, international organizations, and private foundations that have taken the lead in combating the global AIDS pandemic and call upon the United States government and governments and non-governmental organizations around the world to commit to funding a need-based response to the global AIDS pandemic; call on the United States to contribute an amount commensurate to its relative wealth, as measured by the World Bank, to the global effort to combat AIDS, TB, and Malaria, without restrictions which limit options for treatment and prevention programs; support efforts to combat the global AIDS pandemic that integrate comprehensive, science-based prevention strategies, especially the search for effective, low cost and universally available vaccines; access to life-saving medications; and universal AIDS related education; support efforts to combat the global AIDS pandemic that incorporate a comprehensive response to the growing orphan crisis, including universal access to education, housing, health care, and other social services; urge U.S. bilateral aid and the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria, which is already coordinating much of the global response to the AIDS crisis; support U.S. trade policies that ensure access to affordable generic drugs for all developing countries; and support the use of the United States government's influence as the largest donor to the World Bank and International Monetary Fund to negotiate debt cancellation for all poor countries facing AIDS crises in exchange for that country's investment in AIDS education, prevention and treatment. (Resolution adopted February 2004.)

Foreign Aid (General)

The JCPA will continue to educate the Jewish community and the public in general about the importance of foreign aid and its moral, political and strategic value in sub-Saharan Africa, the former Soviet Union and throughout the world (JPP 1996-1997); take the lead in forming alliances with religious, ethnic, environmental, humanitarian and other groups concerned with U.S foreign assistance, with the goal of building wider support for an increase over time in the total funds appropriated for foreign aid (JPP 1994-1995); work for appropriate increases in the overall foreign aid budget that enable the U.S. to fully meet its responsibilities, particularly with regard to emerging democracies in Central and Eastern Europe and Central America, and humanitarian needs in sub-Saharan Africa (JPP 1990-1991).

Boycotts

The JCPA believes the use of politically motivated boycotts and other economic measures by the organized Jewish community may not be an effective long-term strategy and may be counter productive to Jewish interests, except in those circumstances where, upon careful consideration of all the facts and circumstances including the legal implications, there remains convincing evidence of inappropriate conduct, and where dialogue and other forms of response have failed and there remains a reasonable chance of reaching the desired result

The community relations field should encourage full investigation of claims of inappropriate conduct, quickly dispel those which are based on false premises, and utilize traditional community relations practices -- such as dialogue, coalition-building and advocacy – to achieve the desired results, develop an effective media relations strategy by engaging in a long term, on-going dialogue with newspapers, radio and television stations. Such a strategy, applied consistently, will yield better and more permanent results than would flow from a boycott. JCRCs must be diligent and honest critics, pointing out factual errors, flagging inflammatory language, noting inconsistencies, writing letters, and contacting the media outlet's ombudsman as often as necessary, and encourage the U.S. Administration to use its global leadership position to discourage boycotts of Israel by other countries, academic and scientific institutions in the U.S. and around the world. (Resolution adopted at the Plenum).

Iran

Since the Islamic Revolution in 1979, Iran's leaders have viewed the United States and Israel as enemies and have provided extensive financing, training and overall support to terrorist organizations, including Hezbollah, Hamas, Al Qaeda, and Islamic Jihad. For many years, Iran has been developing nuclear projects, raising the fear that these could be converted into weapons of mass destruction.

The JCPA believes that efforts to prevent Iran from becoming a nuclear power should be a high priority of the United States and the international community; Iran's efforts to develop nuclear weapons should be condemned; Iran must abide by its commitment to grant IAEA inspectors full, unrestricted access and cooperate fully with the investigation of Iranian nuclear activities.

The community relations field should encourage the Bush administration to continue to address the challenge posed by Iran's efforts to acquire nuclear weapons capability, and communicate concern about this issue to members of Congress as well as representatives of foreign nations (particularly Russia and the European Union) and to the United Nations; and, Work with Jewish and appropriate non-Jewish coalition partners to raise awareness about this issue, continue to monitor the situation and provide guidance as needed. (Resolution adopted by the 2005 Plenum)

In the last two years, the Iranian regime, under the leadership of President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, has manifested increasingly threatening behavior and rhetoric toward the United States, other Western powers, Israel and the Jewish people. President Ahmadinejad repeatedly has called for Israel to be wiped off the map.

A number of Arab states, including Saudi Arabia, Egypt, and Jordan, have also warned that Iran's development of nuclear weapons poses a threat to Middle East stability and could provoke nuclear arms proliferation throughout the region. Meanwhile, the Teheran regime has defied the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and the United Nations in their attempts to monitor Iran's nuclear program, and, as a result, the UN Security Council to date has imposed on Iran escalating sanctions under Chapter VII of the UN Charter.

The JCPA believes that the threat of Iran obtaining nuclear weapons is a matter of the gravest concern and utmost urgency to the world. Therefore, the Jewish community relations field is urged immediately to independently and together with political, civic and religious partners in the general community, advocate that the United States, the leadership of the United Nations, particularly the permanent members of the UN Security Council, as well as other relevant governmental and non-governmental institutions, utilize all diplomatic and economic measures necessary to deter Iran from continuing its quest for nuclear weapons, while respecting the humanitarian needs of the Iranian people. Economic measures after appropriate consideration should include, for example, sanctions, targeted divestment (particularly direct

divestment), and bank transfer restrictions aimed at the Teheran regime. (Resolution adopted by JCPA Board of Directors on March 27, 2007)

Dependence on Foreign Energy Sources

America's increasing dependence on foreign oil for transportation, electricity, industry and other uses poses great risks for our nation and the world, specifically threats to national security, economic stability, and the health of our environment. In particular, our dependence on foreign oil enriches some countries that are hostile to the United States and support terrorism. America's growing energy consumption and reliance on foreign oil and other fossil fuels requires prompt action and the Jewish Council of Public Affairs calls upon our government to make this issue a top national priority.

In order to achieve a substantial reduction in US dependence on imported energy sources, America must initiate a national campaign that employs creativity, collaboration, and commitment to develop a comprehensive energy plan that effectively addresses our dependence on foreign oil while taking into account the environmental, economic and other domestic needed changes.

The JCPA calls on Congress and the Administration to expeditiously address the urgent need to reduce the United States' dependence on foreign oil by developing and implementing a comprehensive, environmentally sound energy plan. The JCPA believes such a multifaceted approach should include: Supporting the modernization and expansion of America's energy infrastructure with sensitivity to our natural environment; Dramatically increasing energy efficiency and conservation; Rapidly developing, producing, and marketing renewable and alternative energy technologies; Developing and implementing environmentally responsible options to increase overall domestic energy production; Collaborate with international partners to develop global solutions; Diversifying foreign energy sources to reduce our reliance on hostile regimes; Expanding cost-efficient, energy-efficient alternatives to ensure that conservation is a viable option for all Americans; Improving mass transit options to reduce the consumption of oil by American vehicles; Supporting changes in urban and suburban communities that facilitate effective use of modes of transportation that do not consume external energy, such as cycling and walking; Offering economic and other incentives to purchase more fuel-efficient or alternatively-fueled vehicles and to rely upon public transportation; Mandating significant enhancements in fuel economy standards for all modes of transportation and improving mass transit options; Increasing public awareness through broad education campaigns; Exploring the use of nuclear energy with appropriate safeguards. (Resolution adopted by the 2007 Plenum)

INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS (GENERAL)

International Human Rights

The JCPA supports the vigorous protection of human rights as an integral part of U.S. foreign policy, and urges effective American involvement in this area, on a multilateral basis when possible and a unilateral basis when necessary. (Agenda 1999-2000; Agenda 2000-2001)

The JCPA believes that each human rights situation should be examined separately, with a view toward developing an approach that has the greatest chance of achieving the desired result. (Agenda 1998-1999)

Since 1950, China has engaged in the systematic persecution of the Tibetan people through imprisonment, torture, rape and the execution of supporters of the Dalai Lama. In East Timor, the Indonesian occupation forces have murdered a significant portion of the civilian population and tortured many others. Thousands of innocent civilians have been slaughtered during the recent unrest in Algeria. Genocidal

conflicts continue to take a terrible toll in Central Africa. The JCPA appeals to the Administration and to the UN to develop effective responses to these and other humanitarian crises. (Agenda 1998-1999)

International Criminal Court

The JCPA supports refinements in the International Criminal Court that may enable Israel and the U.S. to join the tribunal (Agenda 1999-2000; Agenda 2000-2001).

The JCPA supports the initiative to establish a permanent and effective International Criminal Court, and urges the U.S. to take the lead in this effort...It views the establishment of a permanent judicial forum with appropriate safeguards to avoid politicizing the process as an important step forward in securing international human rights. (Resolution adopted in 1998)

Kosovo

The JCPA welcomes the agreement approved by the United Nations Security Council, which calls for the removal of Serbian forces from Kosovo and the safe return of ethnic Albanian refugees to their homes; applauds the NATO alliance for standing up against the policy of "ethnic cleansing" perpetrated by Yugoslav leader Slobodan Milocevic; urges Russia to play a constructive role in the post-war period; appeals to the international community to undertake the massive effort that will be needed to reconstruct the communities and lives of the more than one million Kosovar refugees; and calls on NATO to pursue the arrest and prosecution of those Serb political and military leaders, particularly Slobodan Milocevic, who are indicted by the international war crimes tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (Resolution adopted in June 1999).

The JCPA supports the effort by NATO to stop "ethnic cleansing" in Kosovo (Agenda 1999-2000); and the arrest and prosecution of individuals indicted by the war crimes tribunals for the Former Yugoslavia (Agenda 2000-2001).

Bosnia

From the very beginning of the conflict ...the JCPA called for strong U.S. leadership in ending the tragedy in Bosnia. We continue to support U.S. efforts in the region. The JCPA calls for full cooperation by NATO forces and all parties to the conflict with the War Crimes Tribunal. Such cooperation should include at a minimum reasonable efforts to assure the effective gathering of evidence against, as well as the prosecution of, those alleged to be guilty of war crimes. (JPP 1996-1997)

In response to indiscriminate infliction of civilian casualties and "ethnic cleansing," the U.S. should not exclude the option of tactical and strategic bombing...The sanctions against Serbia should be maintained as long as aggression by Serbians in Bosnia continues...The U.S. should ensure that any new negotiations provide for a just peace and preservation of a democratic, viable, multi-ethnic Bosnia. (Resolution adopted in 1995)

Persecution of Religious Minorities

The 105th Congress enacted the International Religious Freedom Act, which promises to be an important tool in efforts to address human rights violations around the world. The law establishes a special unit within the State Department to deal with the persecution of religious minorities and sets forth a variety of sanctions the U.S. can employ against countries that engage in such activity. (Agenda 1999-2000)

Rwanda

The JCPA supports the arrest and prosecution of individuals indicted by the war crimes tribunals for Rwanda (Agenda 2000-2001).

Tibet

The JCPA insists that China desist in its efforts to smother Tibetan culture and restore the rights of that people to their distinct culture, religion, and way of life (JPP 1994-1995); encourages formation of coalitions whenever possible to request that the U.S. place the issue of Tibet and protection of religious freedom on the agenda of discussion between the U.S. and China; raise the Tibet issue at appropriate international fora; and encourage Americans to meet with the Dalai lama and other Tibetan leaders. (Resolution adopted in 1990)

Europe

Together with allies in Europe, develop programs to end the xenophobia and discrimination directed at guest workers and other. (JPP 1994-1995)

Somalia

In Somalia, civil war has exacerbated a natural disaster of famine that is threatening the entire population of the African nation. The JCPA encourages the Administration, working within the UN framework, to provide and ensure the effective delivery of food, medicine, and other humanitarian relief supplies to Somalia. (JPP 1993-1994)

Haitian Refugees

Another area on the international human rights agenda that is a priority concerns refugees seeking asylum in the U.S. Of particular importance is the plight of the Haitians who struggle to find refuge in the U.S. (JPP 1993-1994)

Kurds

American Jews have been profoundly concerned about the systematic repression of the Kurdish population in Iraq, a people who have been subjected to oppression by a number of countries for most of this century and welcome the Bush administration's humanitarian assistance for the Kurds (JPP 1991-1992).

Advancing Women's Rights

The Jewish Council for Public Affairs (JCPA) urges the United States to ratify the Convention for the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), a landmark Convention that has been ratified by 168 countries, including Israel. (Resolution Adopted at the 2002 Plenum).

International Family Planning

The imposition of the global gag rule compounds the rising threat to women and families. It forbids US family planning assistance to organizations that use funding from any other source to perform abortions in cases other than rape, incest, or a threat to the life of the woman; provide counseling and referral for abortion; or lobby their own governments to legalize abortion or make it safer and more accessible. When women's access to contraceptive services following abortion are limited, efforts to prevent repeat abortions are impeded. Additionally, some family planning groups have already shown reluctance to treat clients following life-threatening septic and spontaneous abortions, fearing that association with any abortion - even to save a woman's life - would jeopardize their US funding. Additionally, the global gag rule restricts open communication between women and their trusted health care providers. Prohibiting counseling and/or referrals on abortion makes it impossible for providers to offer the comprehensive health care needed or requested by their clients. Therefore, the JCPA believe that the US government should support comprehensive international family planning programs. The Administration should restore the \$34 million in funds to the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) approved by Congress; repeal the Global Gag Rule; appropriate \$5.4 billion to fight global AIDS, TB, and malaria in fiscal year 2005, but not at the expense of other critical development initiatives. The community relations field

should urge Congress and the Administration to fully fund comprehensive family planning programs; urge Congress to oppose efforts to restrict the services, information and education international family planning programs provide in developing countries; educate the public on the ways in which international family planning programs positively influence the health of women, their families, developing countries and the environment; educate the public on the negative effects of restricting funds for international family planning programs. (Resolution adopted at the 2004 Plenum.)

Stopping the Genocide in Sudan

JCPA and its member agencies should: Call upon all world leaders and the United Nations to condemn the Sudanese government's acts of violence and genocide against innocent civilians; Press the international community to demand that the Sudanese Government and rebel forces honor their existing agreements, particularly provisions to immediately cease all violence and attacks, refrain from forcible relocation of civilians, ensure that humanitarian relief reaches all those in need; and cooperate with human rights monitoring efforts; Press the international community to advocate for increased capacity of the African Union in Darfur and giving them a clear mandate under Chapter VII of the UN Charter to protect civilians and enforce the ceasefire; encourage countries to provide the Union with the required equipment, logistical, financial, material and other necessary resources, assume its responsibility to protect innocent civilians through the UN or other multi-national forces by any means including military intervention if necessary, impose an arms embargo with a mechanism for monitoring and enforcement on the Government of Sudan and rebel forces if they do not cease all violence, impose targeted sanctions on the Sudanese government and its business interests as a means of pressuring the government to end the genocide, support NATO enforcement of a no-fly zone over the Darfur region, pressure the Sudanese government to establish the conditions necessary to permit the voluntary, safe and dignified return of those displaced by the conflict, expand the mandate of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to coordinate services for internally displaced people in Darfur, and, hold accountable those responsible for these atrocities; Encourage worldwide governmental and non-governmental humanitarian assistance to meet the humanitarian need in that region; Help in relief efforts by supporting organizations giving aid, particularly noting the work of the Jewish community in such efforts; Call upon the Sudanese government and the international community to reconstruct homes and villages and return the refugees to their land after the region is secure; Demand that U.S. elected officials and decision makers stay vigilant on this issue and take a pro-active role; Educate our constituencies about the crisis in Darfur; Locally and nationally, organize with other faith and communal organizations activities to raise awareness about this crisis. (Resolution adopted by the 2005 Plenum)

The JCPA is deeply concerned and outraged by the ongoing tragedy in Darfur. A targeted approach to divestment along with intensive diplomatic efforts would deprive the Sudanese government of resources in needs to continue its genocide and exert significant pressure on the government of Sudan to change its behavior.

Targeted divestment is the removal of investments in companies that are directly or indirectly helping the Sudanese government to perpetuate genocide. Since the ultimate intent of Sudan divestment is to protect the victims of genocide, it is important to tailor divestment to have maximal impact on the government of Sudan's behavior and minimal harm to innocent Sudanese (and to the financial health of institutional portfolios in the US). Divestment should therefore be targeted to those companies that have a business relationship with the government or a government-created project, impart minimal benefit to the country's underprivileged, and have implemented no significant corporate governance policy regarding the Darfur situation. Such targeted divestment implicitly excludes companies involved in agriculture, production and distribution of consumer goods, or engaged solely in the provision of goods and services intended to relieve human suffering or to promote welfare, health, religious and spiritual activities, and education.

Withdrawal of business investments from Sudan would simultaneously create an economic penalty for genocide and reduce the Sudanese government's ability to fund the campaign. Therefore, the JCPA calls on communities to support the campaign calling for a targeted divestment in Sudan as led by the Sudan Divestment Task Force, which has identified the companies that will be targeted. (Resolution adopted by 2007 Plenum)

International Debt Cancellation

The Jewish Council of Public Affairs resolves to commend the United States government for its leadership in calling for 100% debt cancellation for poor countries; Call on the G8 to continue negotiations concerning debt cancellation until such an agreement is reached on 100% cancellation of debt owed by poor countries to lender nations, the IMF, World Bank and regional development banks; Support efforts to cancel 100% of the debts owed by countries with accountable and responsible governments, burdened with high levels of human need and environmental distress, which are unable to meet the basic needs of their people or achieve a level of sustainable development that ensures a decent quality of life; Oppose imposing conditions on countries in exchange for debt cancellation that have the effect of deepening poverty or degrading the environment, such as requiring user fees for health care or education, or the implementation of unsustainable farming practices; Support Debt cancellation that includes provisions to assure both transparency and accountability, so that resources reach the populations most in need, and that this program be used to promote human rights in the beneficiary countries. (Resolution adopted by the 2005 Plenum)

Opposition to Torture

The JCPA opposes the use of torture and affirms the continued validity and legal definitions present in the Geneva Conventions and the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman and Degrading Treatment or Punishment; Opposes the practice of 'extraordinary rendition', which is commonly defined as an extrajudicial procedure that sends criminal suspects to other countries, specifically to those that are suspected of using torture during interrogation; Supports allowing all people in U.S. custody subject to the Geneva Conventions the right to be visited by the International Committee of the Red Cross; Supports efforts to examine past practices and ensure that interrogations by military and intelligence agencies comport with international conventions; and, Urges the community relations field to work independently and in coalitions to advance the above. (Adopted at the 2006 Plenum)

Human Trafficking

The JCPA believes that the demand for and apparatus that facilitates the movement of modern-day slaves around the world must be eliminated; human trafficking is a crime that harms millions of victims worldwide; and that, the public should be alerted to the risks involved with it and work with the American government and United Nations to combat trafficking.

The JCPA and its member agencies should advocate for consistent and comprehensive state and federal anti-trafficking laws that provide for criminal penalties for traffickers as well as protection and rehabilitation for victims; support President Bush's decision to raise the issue of human trafficking in the United Nations and for leaders of the world to work together to end it; support the State Department's efforts to curtail the demand for human trafficking and to work extensively with governments on action plans for prevention of human trafficking; support the State Department's efforts with Tier 2 and Tier 3 countries, and any country that demonstrates immediate and obvious violations not recognized in the previous year's TIP report; encourage local and state law enforcement and prosecutorial agencies to prosecute the traffickers and protect the victims; and, join in coalition with other groups offering advocacy and assistance to the victims of trafficking. (Adopted at 2006 Plenum)

