

116TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. 567

Clarifying that it is United States policy to recognize Israel's sovereignty  
over the Golan Heights.

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## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 26, 2019

Mr. CRUZ (for himself, Mr. COTTON, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. CRAMER, and Mr. GRAHAM) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

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## A BILL

Clarifying that it is United States policy to recognize Israel's  
sovereignty over the Golan Heights.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*  
3 That it is the sense of the Senate that—

4 **SECTION 1. FINDINGS.**

5 Congress finds the following:

6 (1) On September 1, 1975, President Gerald  
7 Ford provided a diplomatic assurance to Israel that  
8 “the U.S. will support the position that an overall  
9 settlement with Syria in the framework of a peace  
10 agreement must assure Israel's security from attack

1 from the Golan Heights [and] it will give great  
 2 weight to Israel's position that any peace agreement  
 3 with Syria must be predicated on Israel remaining  
 4 on the Golan Heights''.

5 (2) In October 1991, Secretary of State James  
 6 Baker provided a diplomatic assurance to Israel that  
 7 "the United States continues to stand behind the as-  
 8 surance given by President Ford to Prime Minister  
 9 Rabin on September 1, 1975".

10 (3) Iran has used the war in Syria to establish  
 11 a long-term military presence in the Levant, to at-  
 12 tack Israel from across the Golan Heights, and to  
 13 create territorial corridors that allow it to provide  
 14 arms to its troops and terrorist proxies.

15 **SEC. 2. SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

16 It is the sense of Congress that—

17 (1) Israel's security from attacks from Syria  
 18 and Lebanon cannot be assured without Israeli sov-  
 19 ereignty over the Golan Heights; and

20 (2) in light of new realities on the ground, in-  
 21 cluding Iran's presence in Syria—

22 (A) it is unrealistic to expect that the out-  
 23 come of a peace agreement between Israel and  
 24 Syria will be an Israeli withdrawal from the  
 25 Golan Heights; and

1 (B) it is realistic to expect that any peace  
 2 agreement between Israel and Syria will only be  
 3 achieved on the basis of Israel remaining on the  
 4 Golan Heights; and

5 (3) it is in the United States national security  
 6 interest to ensure that—

7 (A) Israel retains control of the Golan  
 8 Heights; and

9 (B) the Syrian regime of Bashar al-Assad  
 10 faces diplomatic and geopolitical consequences  
 11 for its killing of civilians, the ethnic cleansing  
 12 of Arab Sunnis, and the use of weapons of  
 13 mass destruction.

14 **SEC. 3. STATEMENT OF UNITED STATES POLICY.**

15 It shall be the policy of the United States—

16 (1) to recognize Israel's sovereignty over the  
 17 Golan Heights; and

18 (2) to promote and conduct joint projects with  
 19 Israel on the Golan Heights, including projects—

20 (A) in basic and applied scientific fields;

21 (B) in industrial research and develop-  
 22 ment; and

23 (C) in strategic and applied research of ag-  
 24 ricultural problems.

1 **SEC. 4. RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.**

2       Any reference to “Israel” in any existing or future  
3 Act of Congress relating to appropriations or foreign com-  
4 merce, including customs and international trade, shall be  
5 interpreted to include the Golan Heights.

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