Reject Rejectionism
Nations need to turn away from anti-Israel policies

By RICHARD D. HEIDEMAN

The recent moves at the United Nations by the Palestinian Authority (PA) and the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), who sought the vote condemning U.S. recognition of Jerusalem as Israel’s capital, mark the latest in a series of rejectionism as a tool in the PA-PLO arsenal of diplomatic warfare against Israel—and now America.

Rather than engaging with Israel and the U.S., the PA and PLO continue to seek international diplomatic cover to circumvent direct negotiations. The PA’s policy of rejectionism and Mahmoud Abbas’s failure of leadership have been a significant factor in the current impasse. Moreover, the PA’s encouragement of violence and habitual “days of rage” again demonstrate its commitment not only to rejectionism but also to the threat, and use, of terrorism. Both are obstacles to the presumed goals of the Palestinian people: statehood, economic development and a better life for all.

Rejectionism is the refusal to accept the legitimacy and right of the Jewish people to a state in their ancestral homeland, and therefore it is not only to the benefit of the parties based on two states, one Jewish and one Arab. Rejectionism and terrorism are a serious and interconnected threat to peace, as it is refusing to engage in diplomacy. The connection of terrorism is wider and more deadly because rejectionism demands not pursuing peace with Israel under any circumstances and actively working to rein in Hamas terrorists seeking to leave Gaza, destroy Palestinian smuggling tunnels to the Sinai, and for the first time voting in favor of Israel joining a U.N. committee.

Egypt should be applauded for taking these bold steps. While other Arab countries are also beginning to work with Israel to achieve a peaceful and secure region, the pervasive threat of the rejectionists’ encouragement of terrorism jeopardizes these efforts.

The Palestinian leadership continues to rally global support for the statehood and claims to be seeking peace, but Abbas has neither appeared at the negotiating table, reduced the vitriolic language toward Israel, cleansed the PA’s textbooks of hate, nor used the billions of dollars the PA has received in aid to truly benefit the Palestinian people. The PA continues to maintain an attitude of rejectionism, using threats and terror as a substitute for diplomacy.

While terrorism is rightly condemned and fought around the world, Palestinian rejectionism, though equally damaging, is not. In fact, in far too many places, it is welcomed and emboldened.

Those who want peace, stability, economic development and security for all people of all religions must stand against and fight rejectionism as they do terrorism.

Richard D. Heideman is president of the American Zionist Movement.

Countries who reject rejectionism often become the targets of the terrorists.

1979 Camp David Accords, the peace agreement between Egypt and Israel. The Arab world was furious with Egypt for its détente with Israel, and feeling betrayed, Arab leaders at the time sought retribution against Cairo.

In November 1985, three Palestinian members of the Nidal Organization terrorist group hijacked EgyptAir Flight 648 on the flight from Athens to Cairo. The hijacking resulted in the deaths of 58 civilians, including one American and one Israeli, as well as the maiming of countless victims. As Libya and Syria were both recognized by the U.S. State Department as state sponsors of terror, our law firm, Heideman Nuddelman Kalik, P.C., sued both countries on behalf of the American victims of the heinous act of international terror.

In contrast to the PA-PLO policy of rejectionism and terrorism, Cairo has steadily improved cooperation with Israel in recent years, reopening embassies while actively working to rein in Hamas terrorists seeking to leave Gaza, destroy Palestinian smuggling tunnels to the Sinai, and for the first time voting in favor of Israel joining a U.N. committee.

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