

106TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. RES. 464

Expressing the sense of Congress on international recognition of Israel's Magen David Adom Society and its symbol the Red Shield of David.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 6, 2000

Mr. GILMAN (for himself, Mr. GEJDENSON, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. WEINER, Mr. ROHRABACHER, Mr. ACKERMAN, and Mr. LANTOS) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on International Relations

RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of Congress on international recognition of Israel's Magen David Adom Society and its symbol the Red Shield of David.

Whereas Israel's Magen David Adom Society has provided emergency relief to people in many countries in times of need, pain, and suffering since 1930, regardless of nationality or religious affiliation;

Whereas in the past year alone, the Magen David Adom Society has provided invaluable services in Kosovo, Indonesia, and Kenya following the bombing of the United States Embassy in Kenya, and in the wake of the earthquakes that devastated Greece and Turkey;

Whereas the American Red Cross has recognized the superb and invaluable work done by the Magen David Adom Society and considers the exclusion of the Magen David Adom Society from the International Committee of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement “an injustice of the highest order”;

Whereas the American Red Cross has repeatedly urged that the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement recognize the Magen David Adom Society as a full member;

Whereas the Magen David Adom Society utilizes the Red Shield of David as its emblem, in similar fashion to the utilization of the Red Cross and Red Crescent by other national societies;

Whereas the Red Cross and the Red Crescent have been recognized as protected symbols under the Statutes of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement;

Whereas the International Committee of the Red Cross has ignored previous requests from the United States Congress to recognize the Magen David Adom Society;

Whereas the Statutes of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement state that it “makes no discrimination as to nationality, race, religious beliefs, class or political opinions” and it “may not take sides in hostilities or engage at any time in controversies of a political, racial, religious or ideological nature”;

Whereas although similar national organizations of Iraq, North Korea, and Afghanistan are recognized as full members of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, the Magen David Adom Society has been denied membership since 1949; and

Whereas in fiscal year 1999 the United States Government provided \$119,400,000 to the International Committee of the Red Cross and \$7,300,000 to the Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That—

2 (1) the International Committee of the Red
3 Cross should immediately recognize the Magen
4 David Adom Society and the Magen David Adom
5 Society should be granted full membership in the
6 International Committee of the Red Cross and Red
7 Crescent Movement;

8 (2) the Federation of Red Cross and Red Cres-
9 cent Societies should grant full membership to the
10 Magen David Adom Society immediately following
11 recognition by the International Committee of the
12 Red Cross of the Magen David Adom Society as a
13 full member of the International Committee of the
14 Red Cross; and

15 (3) the Red Shield of David should be accorded
16 the same protections under international law as the
17 Red Cross and the Red Crescent.

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