Resolution To Invest In The Middle Eastern Peace Process

SJP HAS MUCH TO AGREE WITH, BUT A FEW IMPORTANT DISAGREEMENTS
Different Types of Conflict

- **Interpersonal**: hurt feelings, angst
  - Seeing pro-Palestine poster after coming back from vacation in Israel
- **Political**: can be intense; constructive, no matter how antagonistic
- **Hate**: anti-Semitism, Islamophobia
Different locations of conflict

- **Israel/Palestine:**
  - Political conflict over land, social power
  - Doesn’t fall neatly on national/ethnic lines: Mizrahi Jews share many interests with many Palestinians, some Palestinians share interests with Israeli Jews (“joint struggle”)

- **On campus:**
  - Mainly political conflict
  - Palestinians on campus worried participating in “dialogue” will subject them to tokenization
Concern #1

- Palestinians or SJP were not consulted to provide input for bill.
- Problem when bill doesn’t ask the communities it’s going to affect what their stance is.
Concern #2

- “WHEREAS, a peaceful solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict requires mutual respect and recognition of multiple narratives...”
- Political solutions don’t require interpersonal understanding. They require political compromise.
- Palestinians would strongly object to this language.
- **Recommend to strike from bill.**
• “WHEREAS, to maintain a safe and inclusive campus environment, tensions between students related to foreign conflicts including but not limited to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, should be resolved in a healthy and collaborative manner rather than be exacerbated...”
• Mistakes rich, vital political debate for interpersonal conflict.
• **Recommend to replace with:** “WHEREAS, to maintain a healthy and rich political climate on campus, students engaged in debates related to foreign conflicts, including but not limited to the topic of Israel/Palestine, should not confuse political debate with interpersonal strife...”
Concern #4

- “WHEREAS, strengthening the Palestinian economy, encouraging economic cooperation between Israelis and Palestinians...”
- Do Palestinians and Israelis actually want this? Evidence is no.
- Recommend changing to: “WHEREAS, strengthening the Palestinian economy, encouraging economic cooperation between Israelis and Palestinians as long as Israelis and Palestinians mutually agree to it”
Concern #5

- “WHEREAS, both Israelis and Palestinians deserve the right to self-determination, including the right to live in a secure, free and independent states of their own and to determine their own future...”
- Prejudices UCSC to 2 state solution without polling Palestinians, Israelis.
- Recommend to replace with: “WHEREAS, Israelis and Palestinians are already engaging in joint struggle against oppression...”
Concern #6

- The organizations listed all engage in activities defined by Palestinians as “normalization.”
- Normalization is “the participation in any project, initiative or activity, in Palestine or internationally, that aims (implicitly or explicitly) to bring together Palestinians (and/or Arabs) and Israelis (people or institutions) without placing as its goal resistance to and exposure of the Israeli occupation and all forms of discrimination and oppression against the Palestinian people.”
Normalization

- Anti-Normalization call endorsed by over 100 Palestinian organizations representing civil society:
  - Teacher’s unions; student unions (like SUA); workers in all sectors; churches; mosques; women’s associations; refugee associations; political parties; intellectuals; academics
• “In the activity of the Peres Center for Peace there is no evident effort being made to change the political and socioeconomic status quo in the occupied territories, but just the opposite: Efforts are being made to train the Palestinian population to accept its inferiority and prepare it to survive under the arbitrary constraints imposed by Israel, to guarantee the ethnic superiority of the Jews. With patronizing colonialism, the center presents an olive grower who is discovering the advantages of cooperative marketing; a pediatrician who is receiving professional training in Israeli hospitals; and a Palestinian importer who is learning the secrets of transporting merchandise via Israeli ports, which are famous for their efficiency; and of course soccer competitions and joint orchestras of Israelis and Palestinians, which paint a false picture of coexistence”
Bill writes that it is endorsed by current leaders Mahmoud Abbas and Prime Minister Salam Fayyad.

Fails to note that Palestinian Authority was elected out of office in 2006 and took power in a military coup supported by Israel and the US (with weapons and military training).

PA security forces trained by US General Dayton, which are vetted by Israeli security.

PA not representative of society.
Conclusion

- Everyone wants peace—political peace.
- Being polite ≠ peace
- Words like “dialogue,” “inclusiveness,” “respect,” should not be used as a cover to stifle political debate.
- We hope you will take our recommendations into serious consideration.