

Débat à l'Assemblée nationale – 28 novembre 2014

Proposition de résolution relative à la reconnaissance de l'Etat palestinien

Discours d'Elisabeth Guigou,

Présidente de la Commission des Affaires étrangères

Seul le prononcé fait foi

Debate at the French National Assembly – November 28, 2014

Motion for a resolution concerning the recognition of the State of Palestine

Speech by Elisabeth Guigou

Chair of the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs

The speech delivered shall be the official version

Minister,

Mr President of the National Assembly,

My dear colleagues,

I remember with emotion that one day in September 1993, Yasser Arafat, the Palestinian leader and Yitzhak Rabin, the Israeli Prime Minister, shook hands with each other. “We are”, said Yitzhak Rabin, “destined to live together on the same soil, in the same land”. Alas, 20 years on, these archive images are but a memory. The two protagonists have passed away and along with them has disappeared the enormous hope for peace which they had engendered.

Then came the assassination of the Israeli Prime Minister in 1995 which dealt the first blow to the peace process, the bloody attacks on Israeli towns, the failures of Camp David and of Taba, the second intifada, the construction of the separation wall, the pursuit of the settlement policy which each day compromises a little more the very idea of a sovereign Palestinian state, the numerous wars in Gaza

and finally the new cycle of violence which began again this summer and which carries on under our very eyes: the Oslo process continues to die and the main victims are the innocent civilians. This tragedy has repercussions in the entire region and also in Europe. The permanent nature of this conflict produces, here too, the worst forms of confusion and partisan interpretations, which I, for one, cannot accept in our land of tolerance and fraternity. This must come to an end. The terrifying cycle of violence and vengeance must stop.

I hear it said that this motion for a resolution would be untimely on account of its being premature. On the contrary, I believe that for those who weep for the victims of this conflict, it indeed comes too late. If we stand idly by, we leave the path wide open to the extremists who flourish through the continuation of the war. With the failure of the peace process, indifference is the guilty party and inaction is lethal. Yet, the solution is known: the mutual recognition by the two states, living side by side in peace and security, has been the object, since 1993, of an agreement between the two parties and the entire international community. How is it possible that such a general consensus does not reach a successful outcome? What do those who refuse our contribution actually propose, apart from a deadly *status quo*?

Our resolution is a message of peace and of friendship addressed to both the Israeli and Palestinian peoples. We wish to

contribute to the resumption of peace talks because, I truly believe, like Shimon Peres that the “management of the conflict”, which is supported by some, only leads to an escalation of the violence. As a European, I know that peace can only be obtained by following the long and difficult road of negotiation. This resolution is thus born of a collective desire, which I know is shared on all the benches of this Assembly, to contribute, in our own modest way, to the international effort for peace in the Near East.

Clearly only the peoples involved in the conflict can make peace. I know that such is their desire as this war has exhausted them and encouraged extremists. I know to what extent this is difficult and how much intelligence and courage is required. Our country has the duty to make its voice heard, i.e. the voice of steadfast refusal of the words of hatred. France, on account of its history, of its values, of its friendship with the peoples of the Near East but also on account of its status as a permanent member of the Security Council, is a guardian of peace and stability in the region. Our country was one of the first and most fervent defenders of the entry of Israel into the community of nations. France has done all in its power to ensure the universal acceptance of the right of Israel to exist and to do so in security. Mutual recognition between Israel and Palestine and recognition by the entire international community of the right to peace and security for both these states, is the best guarantee of a lasting peace. The aim

of our initiative is to contribute to a movement for peace and to support the efforts of French diplomacy in this direction. I throw my weight behind the plan for an international conference which was put forward by Minister Laurent Fabius and confirmed by the President of the Republic yesterday. I am convinced that such an international conference could accompany the negotiations between the two parties and I hope to convince the Arab states which have not yet done so, to recognize the state of Israel. Peace requires such vital reciprocal recognition.

It is thus in the name of these principles, defended by all the presidents of the Fifth Republic that today, we call on the French Government to take the initiative in the resumption of dialogue and to recognize the right of the Palestinian people to a viable and sovereign state.

This resolution is not an injunction: the Government remains free to make its own choice.

This resolution is an alarm signal so that tomorrow it will not be too late.

This resolution is a call so that the Israeli people and the Palestinian people, as President François Mitterrand wished in 1982 in the Knesset, “each find once more the irreducible right to live”.

Thank you very much.

