



Legislative History:

October 25, 1995: Drafted by Chair Linda Frank and Mordecai Lee, based partly on comparable position statement of Hadassah.

October 31, 1995: Amended and recommended by the Israel Task Force.

November 8, 1995: Amended and recommended by the Executive Committee.

November 15, 1995: Amended and approved by the Board of Directors.

ROLE OF THE MILWAUKEE JEWISH COUNCIL FOR COMMUNITY RELATIONS VIS A VIS ISRAEL

Specific positions and actions of the government of Israel can spark differences of opinion in Israel and in the United States. We support freedom of expression and the right of all individuals to express their opinions, including protest the actions of their government in a peaceful and civil fashion. This is the essence of democracy.

Milwaukee's Jewish citizens, as individuals or through organizational affiliations, have a right to express their own views about the policies of the government of Israel. In fact, a number of organizational members of the Milwaukee Jewish Council for Community Relations, as well as at-large board members, hold differing views on current developments. We uphold their right to have these opinions.

Nevertheless, as the Milwaukee Jewish community's umbrella group for interfaith relations and public affairs, the Milwaukee Jewish Council for Community Relations believes that its role is to support the democratically elected government and the people of Israel. Therefore, the Council is publicly supportive of the policies of the government of Israel -- irrespective of the party affiliations of the Prime Minister, the Cabinet or the majority affiliation of the Knesset. The only possible exception to the Council's general posture toward the government of Israel would arise if the government of Israel considers policies which directly impinge on the personal status of American Jews.

It is our Zionist and communal responsibility to express support for the policies of the government of Israel because they are the actions of a democratically elected government of the sovereign Jewish State.

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1360 North Prospect Avenue, 2nd Floor • Milwaukee, WI 53202-3091
Voice: (414) 390-5777 • Fax: (414) 390-5787 • Email: info@MJCCR.org • Web: www.mjccr.org

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