

Israeli Ambassador's full speech on UN settlement vote (UNSC Resolution 2334)

Published on Dec 23, 2016

Israel's Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Danny Danon addressing the UN Security Council referring United Nations Security Council Resolution 2334. The resolution urged an end to Israeli settlements (Hat tip: Assaf Chriqui)

Below is the full text of Ambassador Danon's speech:

Mr. President today is a bad day for this council. The resolutions just voted on, is a peak of hypocrisy. When thousands are being massacred in Syria, this council wasted valuable time and efforts condemning the democratic State of Israel for building homes in the historic homeland of the Jewish people.

We have presented the truth time and again to this council and implore you not to believe the lies presented in this resolution. By voting YES in favor of this resolution you have in fact voted NO. You voted NO to negotiations, you voted NO to progress and a chance for better lives for Israelis and Palestinians and you voted NO to the possibility of peace.

Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon addressing this very council one week ago said that the UN has, and I quote "A disproportionate volume of resolutions, reports and conferences criticizing Israel". This resolution today will be added to the long and shameful list of anti-Israel UN resolutions.

Instead of charting a course forward you are sending a message to the Palestinians that they should continue on the path of terrorism and incitement that they should continue to hold their own people hostage that they should continue to seek meaningless statements from the international community. The sad truth is that today's vote will be a victory for terror. It would be a victory for hatred and violence.

By continuing to provide excuses for the Palestinians to avoid recognizing our right to exist you are only maintaining the status quo. The world is undergoing great change and the new Secretary General will soon assume office. I call on this council to take this opportunity to turn a new page. Put an end to the bias and obsession with Israel, stop these endless attempts to blame all the problems of the Middle East on their one true democracy in the region and make clear to the Palestinians that the only way, the only way forward is to end the incitement and terror and to enter into direct and meaningful negotiations with Israel.

Just two months ago UNESCO approved an absurd resolution denying the connection between the Jewish people and Jerusalem. Today this council including many of the world's leading democracies, the beacons of Liberty, voted to condemn the State of Israel. You voted to

condemn the Jewish people for building homes in the Land of Israel. You voted to ban us from building in our historical capital of Jerusalem, the heart and soul of the Jewish people. Read the resolution.

Tomorrow night, Israel and the entire Jewish community around the world will celebrate the holiday of Hanukkah. Over 2,000 years ago King Antiochus banished the Jewish people from our temple in Jerusalem, and issued decrees trying to separate us from religion and our heritage, but we prevailed! The Jewish people fought back, we gained our independence and re-light the menorah candles in the temple.

I ask each and every member of this council who voted for this resolution: Who gave you the right to issue such a decree denying our eternal right Jerusalem? Would this council have had the nerve to condemn your country for building homes in your capital? Would you ban the French from building in Paris? Would you ban the Russians from building in Moscow? Would you ban the Chinese from building in Beijing? Would you ban the British from being in London? Would you ban the Americans from building in Washington?

We overcame those degrees during the time of the Maccabees and we will overcome this evil decree today. We have full confidence in the Justice of our cause in the end, in the righteousness of our past.

We will continue to be a democratic state based on the rule of law and full civil and human rights for all our citizens and will continue to be a Jewish state, proudly reclaiming the land of our forefathers, where the Maccabees fought their oppressors and King David ruled from Jerusalem.

This holy book - the Bible, contains 3,000 years of history of the Jewish people in the Land of Israel. No one, No one can change this history.