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Date: Sat, 17 Sep 2005 09:29:02 -0400

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From: plong@blazenet.net

To: leadadietz@epix.net

CC: plong@blazenet.net

Subject: STEP resolution

Hi Leada,

Here's my draft for publicity. I made it less than 300 words in case we send it as a letter to the editor. It would be nice to have it in the religious section as a press release, but it may be too political in nature. I took parts of the long resolution that I thought were most relevant and tried to make it readable. Feel free to add, change or redo it if you want.

Pat

*York Monthly Meeting
response to FCNI
request.*

Quakers have a rich and long history of believing in non-violence and working toward a more peaceful world. Following this tradition, York Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) has adopted a resolution supporting STEP (Sensible Transition to an Enduring Peace) introduced in Congress on June 30, 2005 as the Iraq Sovereignty Promotion Act, HR 3142. This resolution declares that "it is the policy of the United States not to maintain a long-term or permanent military presence in Iraq". The full text of the bill may be found at www.fcni.org. This bill sets no deadlines, timetables, or exit strategies; just a clear statement of U.S. intent in Iraq. We believe that a clear statement of U.S. intent to fully withdraw from Iraq will help lessen violence and will encourage more Iraqis to join in rebuilding their country. Such a resolution will send a strong signal to the people of Iraq and the international community that the United States does not have imperial intentions in Iraq and affirms that the Iraqi people will regain through their elected representatives the full exercise of national sovereignty, including control over security and public safety. We can best honor the lives and memories of all who have died in Iraq by expediting the end of the war, bringing U.S. troops home as quickly as possible, and supporting the Iraqi people in rebuilding their country. We hold in our prayers the people of Iraq, U.S. troops, international troops, humanitarian workers in Iraq, the leaders of Iraq and the United States, and all others affected by this war.

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