

AMENDMENT TO H.R. 2415
OFFERED BY MRS. CAPPS OF CALIFORNIA

Page 84, after line 16, insert the following new section:

1 **SEC. 703. SENSE OF CONGRESS COMMENDING THE PEOPLE**
2 **OF ISRAEL FOR REAFFIRMING THE DEMO-**
3 **CRATIC IDEALS OF ISRAEL IN ITS ELEC-**
4 **TIONS.**

5 (a) FINDINGS.—The Congress makes the following
6 findings:

7 (1) Since its creation in 1948, Israel has ful-
8 filled the dreams of its founders who envisioned a
9 vigorous, open, and stable democracy.

10 (2) The centerpiece of Israeli democracy is its
11 system of competitive and free elections.

12 (3) On May 17, 1999, the Israeli people—
13 Israeli Jews and Israeli Arabs— went to the polls in
14 large numbers in a remarkably peaceful election.

15 (4) This election is only the latest example of
16 Israel's commitment to the democratic ideals of free-
17 dom and pluralism, values that it shares with the
18 United States.

19 (b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—The Congress—

1 (1) commends the people of Israel for reaffirm-
2 ing, in the May 17, 1999, election, its dedication to
3 democratic ideals;

4 (2) congratulates Ehud Barak on his election as
5 Prime Minister of Israel; and

6 (3) pledges to work with the President of the
7 United States and the new Government of Israel to
8 strengthen the bonds between the United States and
9 Israel and to advance the cause of peace in the Mid-
10 dle East.