Clarifying that it is United States policy to recognize Israel’s sovereignty over the Golan Heights.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. Cruz introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on ____________________

A BILL

Clarifying that it is United States policy to recognize Israel’s sovereignty over the Golan Heights.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

That it is the sense of the Senate that—

SECTION 1. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) On September 1, 1975, President Gerald Ford provided a diplomatic assurance to Israel that “the U.S. will support the position that an overall settlement with Syria in the framework of a peace agreement must assure Israel’s security from attack
from the Golan Heights [and] it will give great
weight to Israel’s position that any peace agreement
with Syria must be predicated on Israel remaining
on the Golan Heights’’;

(2) In October 1991, Secretary of State James
Baker provided a diplomatic assurance to Israel that
“the United States continues to stand behind the as-
surance given by President Ford to Prime Minister
Rabin on September 1, 1975”.

(3) Iran has used the war in Syria to establish
a long-term military presence in the Levant, to at-
tack Israel from across the Golan Heights, and to
create territorial corridors that allow it to provide
arms to its troops and terrorist proxies.

SEC. 2. SENSE OF CONGRESS.

It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) Israel’s security from attacks from Syria
and Lebanon cannot be assured without Israeli sov-
ereignty over the Golan Heights; and

(2) in light of new realities on the ground, in-
cluding Iran’s presence in Syria—

(A) it is unrealistic to expect that the out-
come of a peace agreement between Israel and
Syria will be an Israeli withdrawal from the
Golan Heights; and
(B) it is realistic to expect that any peace agreement between Israel and Syria will only be achieved on the basis of Israel remaining on the Golan Heights; and

(3) it is in the United States national security interest to ensure that—

(A) Israel retains control of the Golan Heights; and

(B) the Syrian regime of Bashar al-Assad faces diplomatic and geopolitical consequences for its killing of civilians, the ethnic cleansing of Arab Sunnis, and the use of weapons of mass destruction.

SEC. 3. STATEMENT OF UNITED STATES POLICY.

It shall be the policy of the United States—

(1) to recognize Israel’s sovereignty over the Golan Heights; and

(2) to promote and conduct joint projects with Israel on the Golan Heights, including projects—

(A) in basic and applied scientific fields;

(B) in industrial research and development; and

(C) in strategic and applied research of agricultural problems.
SEC. 4. RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.

Any reference to “Israel” in any existing or future Act of Congress relating to appropriations or foreign commerce, including customs and international trade, shall be interpreted to include the Golan Heights.