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| ***Explanation of Vote by Robert S. Hagen, Deputy U.S. Representative to the Economic and Social Council, on the Right of Palestinian People to Self-Determination, in the Third Committee of the General Assembly, November 20, 2007*** |
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| Mr. Chairman,  The United States has worked continuously to support the social and economic development as well as the legitimate political aspirations of the Palestinian people. The level of U.S. assistance to address the needs of Palestinians compares favorably to our aid to any other country in the world. The United States has no quarrel with the "right of the Palestinian people to self determination." President Bush has articulated clearly that the U.S. objective is two sovereign, democratic states, Israel and Palestine, living side-by-side in peace and security. President Abbas remains committed to these principles and his platform of peace. The United States, however, cannot support the resolution under consideration. This resolution and others like it reflect an out-dated approach conceived when the Palestinian people believed that the solution to their problems lay solely in the United Nations. There is a role for the UN in this issue but that role is in supporting the two parties to the conflict to work with each other. The United Nations plays a key role as a member of the Quartet. Resolutions such as these undermine the credibility of the UN, which must be seen by both sides as an honest broker in the conflict.One-sided resolutions make no contribution toward resolving these issues.  Thank you, Mr. Chairman. |