

103^D CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. R. 4541

To authorize assistance to promote the peaceful resolution of conflicts in
Africa.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 8, 1994

Mr. JOHNSTON of Florida (for himself and Mr. PAYNE of New Jersey) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

A BILL

To authorize assistance to promote the peaceful resolution
of conflicts in Africa.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “African Conflict Reso-
5 lution Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND STATEMENT OF POLICY.**

7 (a) FINDINGS.—The Congress makes the following
8 findings:

9 (1) It is in the national interest of the United
10 States to help build African capability in conflict

1 resolution. A relatively small investment of assist-
2 ance in promoting African conflict resolution—

3 (A) would reduce the enormous human
4 suffering which is caused by wars in Africa;

5 (B) would help the United States avoid
6 huge future expenditures necessitated by Soma-
7 lia-like humanitarian disasters; and

8 (C) would reduce the need for United Na-
9 tions intervention as African institutions de-
10 velop the ability to resolve African conflicts.

11 (2) Africa, to a greater extent than any other
12 continent, is afflicted by war. Africa has been
13 marred by more than 20 major civil wars since
14 1960. Rwanda, Somalia, Angola, Sudan, Liberia,
15 and Burundi are among those countries that have
16 recently suffered serious armed conflict.

17 (3) In the last decade alone, between 2,000,000
18 and 4,000,000 Africans have died because of war.
19 There were 5,200,000 refugees and 13,100,000 dis-
20 placed people in Africa in 1993. In Angola, relief or-
21 ganizations estimated that 1,000 people were dying
22 each day at the end of 1993. In Rwanda, more than
23 200,000 people died in less than 5 weeks of fighting
24 during 1994, while 300,000 people fled to other
25 countries to escape war.

1 (4) Millions more Africans are currently at risk
2 of war-related death. Looming or ongoing conflicts
3 in Zaire, Angola, Sudan, Rwanda, and other coun-
4 tries threaten Africa's future.

5 (5) War has caused untold economic and social
6 damage to the countries of Africa. Food production
7 is impossible in conflict areas, and famine often re-
8 sults. Widespread conflict has condemned many of
9 Africa's children to lives of misery and, in certain
10 cases, has threatened the existence of traditional Af-
11 rican cultures.

12 (6) Conflict and instability in Africa, particu-
13 larly in large, potentially rich countries such as An-
14 gola, Sudan, and Zaire, deprive the global economy
15 of resources and opportunities for trade and invest-
16 ment. Peace in these countries could make a signifi-
17 cant contribution to global economic growth, while
18 creating new opportunities for United States busi-
19 nesses.

20 (7) Many African armies are far too large,
21 threatening political and economic stability while di-
22 verting scarce resources from development needs.
23 Military expenditures in Africa average over twice
24 the level in Latin America. Demobilization and other

1 measures to reduce military expenditures are thus a
2 critical need for many African countries.

3 (8) Conflict prevention, mediation, and demobi-
4 lization are prerequisites to the success of develop-
5 ment assistance programs. Nutrition and education
6 programs, for example, cannot succeed in a nation
7 at war. Billions of dollars of development assistance
8 have been virtually wasted in war-ravaged countries
9 such as Liberia, Somalia, and Sudan.

10 (9) Africans have a long tradition of informal
11 mediation. This tradition should be built upon to
12 create effective institutions through which Africans
13 can resolve African conflicts.

14 (10) The Organization of African Unity, under
15 the leadership of Secretary General Salim Salim, has
16 established a conflict resolution mechanism and has
17 been active in mediation and conflict resolution in
18 several African countries. Various subregional orga-
19 nizations have also become active in conflict resolu-
20 tion efforts. These are encouraging developments.

21 (b) UNITED STATES POLICY.—The Congress de-
22 clares, therefore, that a key goal for United States foreign
23 policy should be to help institutionalize conflict resolution
24 capability in Africa.

1 **SEC. 3. IMPROVING THE CONFLICT RESOLUTION CAPABILI-**
2 **TIES OF THE ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN**
3 **UNITY.**

4 (a) AUTHORIZATION OF ASSISTANCE.—The Presi-
5 dent is authorized to provide assistance to strengthen the
6 conflict resolution capability of the Organization of Afri-
7 can Unity, as follows:

8 (1) Funds may be provided to the Organization
9 of African Unity for use in supporting its conflict
10 resolution capability.

11 (2) Funds may be used for expenses of sending
12 individuals with expertise in conflict resolution to
13 work with the Organization of African Unity.

14 (b) FUNDING.—Of the foreign assistance funds that
15 are allocated for sub-Saharan Africa, not less than
16 \$1,500,000 for each of the fiscal years 1995 through 1998
17 should be used to carry out subsection (a).

18 **SEC. 4. IMPROVING CONFLICT RESOLUTION CAPABILITIES**
19 **OF MULTILATERAL SUBREGIONAL ORGANI-**
20 **ZATIONS IN AFRICA.**

21 (a) AUTHORIZATION OF ASSISTANCE.—The Presi-
22 dent is authorized to provide assistance to strengthen the
23 conflict resolution capabilities of subregional organizations
24 established by countries in sub-Saharan Africa, as follows:

1 (1) Funds may be provided to such an organi-
2 zation for use in supporting its conflict resolution
3 capability.

4 (2) Funds may be used for the expenses of
5 sending individuals with expertise in conflict resolu-
6 tion to work with such an organization.

7 (b) FUNDING.—Of the foreign assistance funds that
8 are allocated for sub-Saharan Africa, up to \$1,500,000 for
9 each of the fiscal years 1995 through 1998 may be used
10 to carry out subsection (a).

11 **SEC. 5. AFRICAN DEMOBILIZATION AND RETRAINING PRO-**
12 **GRAM.**

13 (a) AUTHORIZATION OF ASSISTANCE.—In order to
14 facilitate reductions in the size of the armed forces of
15 countries of sub-Saharan Africa, the President is author-
16 ized to provide assistance for—

17 (1) encampment and related activities associ-
18 ated with demobilization of such forces, and

19 (2) the retraining for civilian occupations of
20 military personnel who have been demobilized.

21 (b) FUNDING.—Of the foreign assistance funds that
22 are allocated for sub-Saharan Africa, \$25,000,000 for
23 each of the fiscal years 1995 and 1996 should be used
24 for the assistance described in subsection (a), if conditions
25 permit.

1 **SEC. 6. TRAINING FOR AFRICANS IN CONFLICT RESOLU-**
2 **TION AND PEACEKEEPING.**

3 (a) AUTHORIZATION OF ASSISTANCE.—The Presi-
4 dent is authorized to establish a program to provide edu-
5 cation and training in conflict resolution and peacekeeping
6 for civilian and military personnel of countries in sub-Sa-
7 haran Africa.

8 (b) FUNDING.—Foreign assistance funds made avail-
9 able for military education and training activities may be
10 used to carry out the program provided for in subsection
11 (a).

12 **SEC. 7. BUILDING MEDIATION CAPABILITY IN AFRICA.**

13 (a) AUTHORIZATION OF ASSISTANCE.—The Presi-
14 dent is authorized to provide assistance to nongovern-
15 mental organizations that are engaged in mediation and
16 reconciliation efforts in Africa.

17 (b) FUNDING.—Of the foreign assistance funds that
18 are allocated for sub-Saharan Africa, \$500,000 for each
19 of the fiscal years 1995 and 1996 should be used to carry
20 out subsection (a).

○