

104TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. CON. RES. 59

Expressing the sense of the Congress that the Government of the United States should encourage resumption of direct, bilateral talks between India and Pakistan at the earliest possible time.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 6, 1995

Mr. LANTOS submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on International Relations

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the Congress that the Government of the United States should encourage resumption of direct, bilateral talks between India and Pakistan at the earliest possible time.

Whereas the Shimla Agreement between India and Pakistan in 1972 stipulated that “the two countries (India and Pakistan) are resolved to settle their differences by peaceful means through bilateral negotiations”;

Whereas the Joint Statement signed by President Clinton and Prime Minister Rao in May 1994, also stressed the “need for bilateral relations between India and Pakistan to resolve outstanding issues, including Jammu and Kashmir, as envisaged in the Shimla Agreement”;

Whereas tensions between India and Pakistan have escalated and relations between those two nations have begun to deteriorate over the last year;

Whereas Pakistan's decision to ask the Government of India to close India's consulate in Karachi has greatly exacerbated the humanitarian problems faced by families divided by the partition of 1947, and has created another impediment to the resumption of dialogue between India and Pakistan;

Whereas the last round of substantive consultations between India and Pakistan was held when India's Foreign Secretary went to Islamabad for bilateral talks with his Pakistani counterpart in January 1994;

Whereas India's Foreign Secretary offered six separate proposals to Pakistan during that meeting, including recommendations for confidence building measures and other measures designed to improve the climate of relations between India and Pakistan;

Whereas since the last round of talks in January 1994, Pakistan has turned down each of the Indian proposals to resume a high-level dialogue, without preconditions, including an offer made by the Prime Minister of India in October 1994, as well as both oral and written invitations by the Indian Foreign Secretary on several occasions;

Whereas the absence of such a direct, bilateral dialogue between India and Pakistan has exacerbated differences between the two countries;

Whereas the rejection of proposals to renew such a direct, bilateral dialogue, without preconditions, is in contravention of the letter and spirit of the 1972 Shimla Agreement; and

Whereas Her Excellency, the Prime Minister of Pakistan, Benazir Bhutto, will make an official visit to the United States in April 1995: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate*
2 *concurring)*, That it is the sense of the Congress that—

3 (1) the President of the United States and the
4 Secretary of State should reiterate to her Excellency,
5 the Prime Minister of Pakistan, the urgent need to
6 resume a bilateral dialogue between the Government
7 of Pakistan and the Government of India;

8 (2) the Congress recognizes and appreciates the
9 importance of such direct, bilateral talks between the
10 two countries; and

11 (3) the Congress urges the Government of
12 Pakistan and the Government of India to set an
13 early date for the resumption of such direct bilateral
14 talks.

15 SEC. 2. The Clerk of the House of Representatives
16 shall transmit a copy of this concurrent resolution to the
17 President, to the Ambassador of Pakistan, and to the Am-
18 bassador of India.

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