

104TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 114

Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the United States should support peace and stability in the South China Sea.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 10, 1995

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

RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the United States should support peace and stability in the South China Sea.

Whereas the South China Sea is a critically important waterway through which 25 percent of the world's ocean freight and 70 percent of Japan's energy supplies transit;

Whereas the South China Sea serves as a crucial sea lane for United States Navy ships moving between the Pacific and Indian Oceans, particularly in time of emergency;

Whereas there are a number of competing claims to territory in the South China Sea;

Whereas the 1992 Manila Declaration adhered to by the Association of South East Asian Nations, the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, and the People's Republic of China

calls for all claimants to territory in the South China Sea to resolve questions of boundaries through peaceful negotiations;

Whereas the legislature of the People's Republic of China has declared the entire South China Sea to be Chinese territorial waters;

Whereas the armed forces of the People's Republic of China have asserted China's claim to the South China Sea through the kidnapping of citizens of the Republic of the Philippines and the construction of military bases on territory claimed by the Philippines; and

Whereas these acts of aggression committed by the armed forces of the People's Republic of China against citizens of the Philippines are contrary to both international law and to peace and stability in East Asia: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

2 (1) declares the right of free passage through
3 the South China Sea to be in the national security
4 interests of the United States, its friends, and allies;

5 (2) declares that any attempt by a
6 nondemocratic power to assert, through the use of
7 force or intimidation, its claims to territory in the
8 South China Sea to be a matter of grave concern to
9 the United States;

10 (3) calls upon the Government of the People's
11 Republic of China to adhere faithfully to its commit-
12 ment under the Manila Declaration of 1992; and

1 (4) calls upon the President of the United
2 States to review the defense needs of democratic
3 countries with claims to territory in the South China
4 Sea.

