

Calendar No. 382104TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION**S. CON. RES. 56**

Recognizing the tenth anniversary of the Chernobyl nuclear disaster, and supporting the closing of the Chernobyl nuclear power plant.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

APRIL 24, 1996

Mr. LAUTENBERG (for himself, Mr. DOLE, Mr. HELMS, Mr. PELL, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. D'AMATO, and Mr. GRAHAM) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

APRIL 25, 1996

Reported by Mr. HELMS, without amendment

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Recognizing the tenth anniversary of the Chernobyl nuclear disaster, and supporting the closing of the Chernobyl nuclear power plant.

Whereas April 26, 1996, marks the tenth anniversary of the Chernobyl nuclear disaster;

Whereas United Nations General Assembly resolution 50/134 declares April 26, 1996, as the International Day Commemorating the Tenth Anniversary of the Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant Accident and encourages member states to commemorate this tragic event;

Whereas serious radiological, health, and socioeconomic consequences for the populations of Ukraine, Belarus, and Russia, as well as for the populations of other affected areas, have been identified since the disaster;

Whereas over 3,500,000 inhabitants of the affected areas, including over 1,000,000 children, were exposed to dangerously high levels of radiation;

Whereas the populations of the affected areas, especially children, have experienced significant increases in thyroid cancer, immune deficiency diseases, birth defects, and other conditions, and these trends have accelerated over the 10 years since the disaster;

Whereas the lives and health of people in the affected areas continue to be heavily burdened by the ongoing effects of the Chernobyl accident;

Whereas numerous charitable, humanitarian, and environmental organizations from the United States and the international community have committed to overcome the extensive consequences of the Chernobyl disaster;

Whereas the United States has sought to help the people of Ukraine through various forms of assistance;

Whereas humanitarian assistance and public health research into Chernobyl's consequences will be needed in the coming decades when the greatest number of latent health effects is expected to emerge;

Whereas on December 20, 1995, the Ukrainian Government, the governments of the G-7 countries, and the Commission of the European Communities signed a memorandum of understanding to support the decision of Ukraine to close the Chernobyl nuclear power plant by the year

2000 with adequate support from the G–7 countries and international financial institutions;

Whereas the United States strongly supports the closing of the Chernobyl nuclear power plant and improving nuclear safety in Ukraine; and

Whereas representatives of Ukraine, the G–7 countries, and international financial institutions will meet at least annually to monitor implementation of the program to close Chernobyl: Now, therefore, be it

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

3 (1) recognizes April 26, 1996, as the tenth an-
4 niversary of the Chernobyl nuclear power plant dis-
5 aster;

6 (2) urges the Government of Ukraine to con-
7 tinue its negotiations with the G–7 countries to im-
8 plement the December 20, 1995, memorandum of
9 understanding which calls for all nuclear reactors at
10 Chernobyl to be shut down in a safe and expeditious
11 manner; and

12 (3) calls upon the President—

13 (A) to support continued and enhanced
14 United States assistance to provide medical re-
15 lief, humanitarian assistance, social impact
16 planning, and hospital development for
17 Ukraine, Belarus, Russia, and other nations
18 most heavily afflicted by Chernobyl’s aftermath;

1 (B) to encourage national and inter-
2 national health organizations to expand the
3 scope of research into the public health con-
4 sequences of Chernobyl, so that the global com-
5 munity can benefit from the findings of such re-
6 search;

7 (C) to support the process of closing the
8 Chernobyl nuclear power plant in an expedi-
9 tious manner as envisioned by the December
10 20, 1995, memorandum of understanding; and

11 (D) to support the broadening of Ukraine's
12 regional energy sources which will reduce its de-
13 pendence on any individual country.

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