

105TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 21

Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives with respect to withholding United States financial support from the United Nations unless that organization adopts certain reforms.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 7, 1997

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

RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives with respect to withholding United States financial support from the United Nations unless that organization adopts certain reforms.

Whereas the United Nations, for the most part, has ignored or evaded the clear purpose of section 143 of the Foreign Relations Authorization Act, Fiscal Years 1986 and 1987, as enacted in August of 1985, which required the United States to reduce its 25 percent share of the general United Nations budget to 20 percent unless a weighted system of voting on budget matters was adopted by the United Nations and its specialized agencies;

Whereas there is a total lack of accountability of United States tax dollars allocated to the United Nations, there

is no reliable way to determine whether the various and often competing specialized agencies within the United Nations are accomplishing their objectives, and many United Nations activities, even if they are of some value, can be carried out more effectively and efficiently by other groups;

Whereas the United Nations is overrun with mismanagement;

Whereas United States taxpayers pay 25 percent of the United Nations budget, plus 31 percent of the budgets of the specialized agencies of the United Nations, and additional billions of United States dollars go to the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank, and other United Nations-related lending agencies, where the funds have been used for dubious United Nations projects;

Whereas the United Nations headquarters in New York City provides foreign nationals with high-paying, tax-free jobs, which amount to little more than subsidized positions that are used at times for espionage activities;

Whereas these jobs are lucrative, the compensation for them is out of proportion with compensation for similar jobs, and the numerous perks that accompany the jobs, including monthly rent subsidies and tax free education grants, are costly;

Whereas the recommendations contained in the report issued in 1993 by the then Under Secretary General for Administration and Management of the United Nations, Richard Thornburgh—namely, the establishment of an inspector general with meaningful authority, a common standard for accounting, and a code of conduct for senior management—have been for the most part ignored; and

Whereas in all, 91 of 185 member countries, including the United States, are in arrears in their payments to the United Nations: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved,*

2 **SECTION 1. SENSE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.**

3 It is the sense of the House of Representatives that
4 unless the conditions set forth in section 2 are met, the
5 United States should withdraw all financial support from
6 the United Nations and its specialized agencies.

7 **SEC. 2. CONDITIONS.**

8 The conditions referred to in section 1 are the adop-
9 tion and implementation by the United Nations and its
10 specialized agencies of all of the following:

11 (1) A comprehensive, independent audit of the
12 United Nations and its specialized agencies that is
13 conducted by an adequately staffed, completely inde-
14 pendent inspector general who has unrestricted ac-
15 cess to all records of the United Nations and those
16 agencies.

17 (2) An audit of the functions of the United Na-
18 tions that examines whether some of these functions
19 can be carried out more efficiently by other organi-
20 zations or within the private sector.

21 (3) Prompt and complete implementation of the
22 recommendations of the audits conducted under
23 paragraphs (1) and (2).

1 (4)(A) The termination of New York City as
2 the permanent headquarters of the United Nations,
3 and, with that, the termination of the tax-free lucra-
4 tive permanent positions within the United Nations
5 and its specialized agencies.

6 (B) In lieu of the current headquarters system,
7 the implementation of a rotating system pursuant to
8 which member countries host the United Nations for
9 a limited period of time.

10 (5)(A) The prior approval by the primary donor
11 member countries of the peacekeeping operations of
12 the United Nations.

13 (B) The more careful definition and more effec-
14 tive execution of United Nations peacekeeping oper-
15 ations.

16 (6) A United Nations that under no cir-
17 cumstances is granted taxing power or the right to
18 raise revenues directly.

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