

105TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. RES. 362

Commending the visit of His Holiness Pope John Paul II to Cuba.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 12, 1998

Mr. GALLEGLY (for himself, Mr. HAMILTON, Mr. ACKERMAN, Mr. HOUGHTON, Mr. BALLENGER, and Mr. CAMPBELL) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on International Relations

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## RESOLUTION

Commending the visit of His Holiness Pope John Paul II  
to Cuba.

Whereas Pope John Paul II recently completed a five-day first ever Papal visit to Cuba to speak directly to the Cuban people;

Whereas the Pope led the Cuban people in celebration throughout the island, including leading the largest open-air mass since 1959 on the last day of his visit in the Plaza of the Revolution in Havana;

Whereas the Pope spoke directly with the Cuban people and the Cuban Government about the importance of fundamental human rights and the necessity for “each person enjoying freedom of expression, being free to undertake initiatives and make proposals within civil society, and enjoying appropriate freedom of association”;

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Whereas the Pope called for political freedom in Cuba, including a call to release “those who are isolated, persecuted, imprisoned for various offenses or for reasons of conscience, for ideas which though dissident are nonetheless peaceful”;

Whereas the Pope called for greater religious freedom in Cuba and a “harmonious social climate and a suitable legislation that enables every person and every religious confession to live their faith freely, to express that faith in the context of public life, and to count on adequate resources and opportunities to bring its spiritual, moral, and civil benefits to bear on the life of the nation”;

Whereas Cuban churches of all faiths supported the Papal visit and emerged from the visit with expectations of greater prominence and freedom to operate in Cuban society;

Whereas the Pope called for greater integration of the people of Cuba into the international community by saying, “imposed isolation strikes the people indiscriminately, making it ever more difficult for the weakest to enjoy the bare essentials of decent living”; and

Whereas the Pope challenged Cuba and the international community of nations by saying, “May Cuba with all its magnificent potential, open itself up to the world, and may the world open itself up to Cuba”: Now, therefore, be it

- 1        *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—
- 2                (1) commends Pope John Paul II for his visit
- 3                to Cuba, for his frank criticism of the Cuban Gov-

1       ernment, and his message of hope to the Cuban peo-  
2       ple; and

3               (2) urges the President to build upon the visit  
4       of Pope John Paul II and to support the Pope's  
5       message to the Cuban people.

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