

105TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. CON. RES. 5

Expressing the sense of Congress that the extension of membership in the North Atlantic Treaty of 1949 to certain democracies of Central and Eastern Europe is essential to the consolidation of enduring peace and stability in Europe.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 5, 1997

Mr. ROTH (for himself, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. LUGAR, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. HAGEL, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. ENZI, and Ms. MOSELEY-BRAUN) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of Congress that the extension of membership in the North Atlantic Treaty of 1949 to certain democracies of Central and Eastern Europe is essential to the consolidation of enduring peace and stability in Europe.

Whereas the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) is a community of democracies that continues to play a critical role in addressing the security challenges of the post-Cold War era and in creating an environment of enduring peace and stability in Europe;

Whereas NATO remains the only security alliance with both real defense capabilities and transatlantic membership;

Whereas the North Atlantic Council held a ministerial meeting on December 10, 1996, at NATO Headquarters in Brussels, Belgium, and—

(1) decided to hold a summit meeting on July 8 and 9, 1997, during which it will extend invitations to accession negotiations to one or more countries that have participated in the process of intensified dialogue with NATO;

(2) established for the North Atlantic Alliance the goal of welcoming one or more new members by the time of the Alliance's fiftieth anniversary in 1999;

(3) announced that the Council seeks to reach agreement with the Russian Federation on arrangements that would widen and deepen the current relationship between the Russian Federation and NATO in order to enhance security and stability in the Euro-Atlantic area; and

(4) announced its commitment to further developing and reinforcing a distinctive and effective relationship with Ukraine;

Whereas Congress has repeatedly endorsed, with bipartisan majorities, the enlargement of NATO through the enactment of legislation that includes the NATO Participation Act of 1994, the NATO Participation Act Amendments of 1995, and the NATO Enlargement Facilitation Act of 1996;

Whereas the North Atlantic Assembly, a multinational body composed of delegations from the 16 signatory nations of

the North Atlantic Treaty, has called for the Alliance to welcome new members through the adoption of resolutions, including Resolution 255 (1994) entitled “NATO Partnership for Peace and the Enlargement Process”, Resolution 268 (1996) entitled “On a Wider Alliance for Enhanced Stability and Freedom”, and Resolution 271 (1996) entitled “Toward the 1997 NATO Summit”;

Whereas the enlargement of NATO, a defensive alliance, threatens no nation and reinforces peace and stability in Europe, the enlargement of NATO would provide benefits to all nations;

Whereas NATO has extended its membership to additional nations on three different occasions since its founding in 1949; and

Whereas the new members of the North Atlantic Alliance must assume all the rights and obligations under the North Atlantic Treaty, signed at Washington on April 4, 1949: Now, therefore, be it

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

3 (1) regards the political independence and terri-
4 torial integrity of the emerging democracies in
5 Central and Eastern Europe as vital to European
6 peace and security and, thus, to the interests of the
7 United States;

8 (2) endorses the goal established by the North
9 Atlantic Council to welcome one or more new mem-
10 bers by the time of the fiftieth anniversary of the
11 North Atlantic Alliance in 1999;

1 (3) calls upon the Alliance to extend invitations
2 to accession negotiations to those nations who seek
3 membership in NATO and who are ready to make
4 a net contribution to the Alliance's security by 1999,
5 including Poland, the Czech Republic, Hungary and
6 Slovenia;

7 (4) endorses the commitment of the North At-
8 lantic Council further to develop and reinforce a dis-
9 tinctive and effective relationship between the Alli-
10 ance and Ukraine;

11 (5) endorses the pledge of the North Atlantic
12 Council that the Alliance will remain open to the ac-
13 cession of further members in accordance with Arti-
14 cle 10 of the Washington Treaty;

15 (6) endorses the Alliance's decision to seek a
16 charter with Russia that reflects the common inter-
17 est that Russia and the Alliance have in reinforcing
18 enduring peace and stability in Europe;

19 (7) calls upon the President to fully use his of-
20 fices to facilitate the objectives and commitments de-
21 scribed in paragraphs (2) through (6); and

22 (8) reserves the right of advice and consent to
23 the ratification of treaties and pledges seriously and

1 responsibly to review the results of accession nego-
2 tiations between the North Atlantic Council and pro-
3 spective NATO members.

4 SEC. 2. The Secretary of the Senate shall transmit
5 a copy of this concurrent resolution to the President.

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