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S. CON. RES. 2

Recommending the integration of Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia into the
North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO).

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JANUARY 20, 1999

Mr. DURBIN submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred
to the Committee on Foreign Relations

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Recommending the integration of Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia into the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO).

Whereas the Baltic states of Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia are undergoing an historic process of democratic and free market transformation after emerging from decades of brutal Soviet occupation;

Whereas each of the Baltic states has conducted peaceful transfers of political power—in Lithuania since 1990 and in Latvia and Estonia since 1991;

Whereas each of the Baltic states has been exemplary and consistent in its respect for human rights and civil liberties;

Whereas the governments of the Baltic states have made consistent progress toward establishing civilian control of their militaries through active participation in the Partnership for Peace program and North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) peace support operations;

Whereas Lithuania is participating in the NATO-led multinational military force in the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina (commonly referred to as “SFOR”) and is consistently increasing its defense budget allocations with the goal of allocating at least 2 percent of its GDP for defense by 2001;

Whereas each of the Baltic states has clearly demonstrated its ability to operate with the military forces of NATO nations and under NATO standards;

Whereas former Secretary of Defense Perry stipulated five generalized standards for entrance into NATO: support for democracy, including toleration of ethnic diversity and respect for human rights; building a free market economy; civilian control of the military; promotion of good neighborly relations; and development of military interoperability with NATO; and

Whereas each of the Baltic states has satisfied these standards for entrance into NATO: Now, therefore, be it

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

3 (1) Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia are to be
 4 commended for their progress toward political and
 5 economic liberty and meeting the guidelines for pro-
 6 spective members of the North Atlantic Treaty Or-

1 organization (NATO) set out in chapter 5 of the Sep-
2 tember 1995 Study on NATO Enlargement;

3 (2) Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia would make
4 an outstanding contribution toward furthering the
5 goals of NATO should they become members;

6 (3) extension of full NATO membership to the
7 Baltic states would contribute to stability, freedom,
8 and peace in the Baltic region and Europe as a
9 whole; and

10 (4) with complete satisfaction of NATO guide-
11 lines and criteria for membership, Lithuania, Latvia,
12 and Estonia should be invited to become full mem-
13 bers of NATO.

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