

106TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. RES. 272

Expressing the sense of the Senate that the United States should remain actively engaged in southeastern Europe to promote long-term peace, stability, and prosperity; continue to vigorously oppose the brutal regime of Slobodan Milosevic while supporting the efforts of the democratic opposition; and fully implement the Stability Pact.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 9, 2000

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

RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the Senate that the United States should remain actively engaged in southeastern Europe to promote long-term peace, stability, and prosperity; continue to vigorously oppose the brutal regime of Slobodan Milosevic while supporting the efforts of the democratic opposition; and fully implement the Stability Pact.

Whereas the North Atlantic Treaty Organization's (NATO's) March 24, 1999 through June 10, 1999 bombing of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia focused the attention of the international community on southeastern Europe;

Whereas the international community, in particular the United States and the European Union, made a commit-

ment at the conclusion of the bombing campaign to integrate southeastern Europe into the broader European community;

Whereas there is an historic opportunity for the international community to help the people of southeastern Europe break the cycle of violence, retribution, and revenge and move towards respect for minority rights, establishment of the rule of law, and the further development of democratic governments;

Whereas the Stability Pact was established in July 1999 with the goal of promoting cooperation among the countries of southeastern Europe, with a focus on long-term political stability and peace, security, democratization, and economic reconstruction and development;

Whereas the effective implementation of the Stability Pact is important to the long-term peace and stability in the region;

Whereas the people and Government of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia have a positive record of respect for minority rights, the rule of law, and democratic traditions since independence;

Whereas the people of Croatia have recently elected leaders that respect minority rights, the rule of law, and democratic traditions;

Whereas positive developments in the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and the Republic of Croatia will clearly indicate to the people of Serbia that economic progress and integration into the international community is only possible if Milosevic is removed from power; and

Whereas the Republic of Slovenia continues to serve as a model for the region as it moves closer to European Union and NATO membership: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the Senate—

2 (1) welcomes the tide of democratic change in
3 southeastern Europe, particularly the free and fair
4 elections in Croatia, and the regional cooperation
5 taking place under the umbrella of the Stability
6 Pact;

7 (2) recognizes that in this trend, the regime of
8 Slobodan Milosevic is ever more an anomaly, the
9 only government in the region not democratically
10 elected, and an obstacle to peace and neighborly re-
11 lations in the region;

12 (3) expresses its sense that the United States
13 cannot have normal relations with Belgrade as long
14 as the Milosevic regime is in power;

15 (4) views Slobodan Milosevic as a brutal in-
16 dicted war criminal, responsible for immeasurable
17 bloodshed, ethnic hatred, and human rights abuses
18 in southeastern Europe in recent years;

19 (5) considers international sanctions an essen-
20 tial tool to isolate the Milosevic regime and promote
21 democracy, and urges the Administration to inten-
22 sify, focus, and expand those sanctions that most ef-
23 fectively target the regime and its key supporters;

1 (6) supports strongly the efforts of the Serbian
2 people to establish a democratic government and en-
3 dorses their call for early, free, and fair elections;

4 (7) looks forward to establishing a normal rela-
5 tionship with a new democratic government in Ser-
6 bia, which will permit an end to Belgrade's isolation
7 and the opportunity to restore the historically
8 friendly relations between the Serbian and American
9 people;

10 (8) expresses the readiness of the Senate, once
11 there is a democratic government in Serbia, to re-
12 view conditions for Serbia's full reintegration into
13 the international community;

14 (9) expresses its readiness to assist a future
15 democratic government in Serbia to build a demo-
16 cratic, peaceful, and prosperous society, based on the
17 same principle of respect for international obliga-
18 tions, as set out by the Organization for Security
19 and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and the United
20 Nations, which guide the relations of the United
21 States with other countries in southeastern Europe;

22 (10) calls upon the United States and other
23 Western democracies to publicly announce and dem-
24 onstrate to the Serbian people the magnitude of as-
25 sistance they could expect after democratization; and

1 (11) recognizes the progress in democratic and
2 market reform made by Montenegro, which can
3 serve as a model for Serbia, and urges a peaceful
4 resolution of political differences over the abrogation
5 of Montenegro's rights under the federal constitu-
6 tion.

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