

107TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 137

Congratulating the Kalmyk community of the United States on the 50th anniversary of their emigration to the United States from displaced persons camps in Germany after World War II.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 8, 2001

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey (for himself, Mr. HOYER, Mr. PITTS, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. WAMP, and Mr. HASTINGS of Florida) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on International Relations

RESOLUTION

Congratulating the Kalmyk community of the United States on the 50th anniversary of their emigration to the United States from displaced persons camps in Germany after World War II.

Whereas the Kalmyk people have inhabited the Russia steppes—the vast arid lands in the southern region of Russia—for hundreds of years;

Whereas the Kalmyk people were one of the seven “punished peoples” exiled en masse to Siberia during World War II by Soviet leader Josef Stalin;

Whereas, while the Kalmyk people were in internal exile in the former Soviet Union, they lost their citizenship and

mention of their existence was eradicated from Soviet newspapers and books, including reference books;

Whereas, following World War II, a group of approximately 800 Kalmyk people were held in displaced persons camps in the Western zone of Germany until 1951;

Whereas on July 28, 1951, the Attorney General of the United States issued a ruling clearing the way for the Kalmyk people in the displaced persons camps in Germany to enter the United States;

Whereas in the fifty years that the Kalmyk emigres and their families have lived in the United States they have survived and prospered, contributing to American society;

Whereas the Kalmyk community, as the first community of Tibetan Buddhists to settle in the United States, has sought to preserve their unique culture, and many have continued to practice their Tibetan Buddhist religion;

Whereas in the 1975 Helsinki Final Act, the participating countries specifically consider the development of contacts to be “an important element in the strengthening of friendly relations and trust among people”; and

Whereas since the dissolution of the former Soviet Union, the Kalmyk community of the United States has actively re-established contact with the Kalmyk people in Russia and has developed a consistent exchange of students, professionals, and relatives, thereby contributing to mutual understanding between peoples and nations: Now, therefore, be it

- 1 *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—
- 2 (1) congratulates the Kalmyk community of the
- 3 United States on the fiftieth anniversary of the set-

1 tlement of the Kalmyk community in this country;
2 and

3 (2) encourages the continued exchange of men
4 and women of various ages and with breadth of
5 training and experience in the interest of the
6 Kalmyk people and the United States.

○