

107TH CONGRESS
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S. CON. RES. 60

Expressing the sense of Congress that the continued participation of the Russian Federation in meetings of the Group of Eight countries must be conditioned on the Russian Federation's voluntary acceptance of and adherence to the norms and standards of democracy.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JULY 17, 2001

Mr. HELMS (for himself, Mr. SMITH of Oregon, Mr. LOTT, and Mr. ALLEN) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of Congress that the continued participation of the Russian Federation in meetings of the Group of Eight countries must be conditioned on the Russian Federation's voluntary acceptance of and adherence to the norms and standards of democracy.

Whereas the Group of Seven (G-7) was established as a forum of the heads of state or heads of government of the world's largest, industrialized democracies to meet annually in a summit meeting;

Whereas those countries which are members of the Group of Seven are pluralistic societies, with democratic political institutions and practices committed to the promotion of

universally recognized standards of human rights, individual liberties, and rule of law;

Whereas, in 1991 and subsequent years, the G-7 invited the Russian Federation to a postsummit dialogue, and in 1998 the G-7 formally invited the Russian Federation to participate in an annual gathering that thereafter became known as the Group of Eight (G-8);

Whereas the invitation to then President Yeltsin of the Russian Federation to participate in these annual summits was to reinforce his commitment to democratization and economic liberalization, recognizing the fact that the Russian Federation's economy was not of the size and character of those of the G-7 economies and that its government's commitment to democratic principles was uncertain;

Whereas free news media are fundamental to the functioning of a democratic society and essential for the protection of individual liberties and such freedoms can exist only in an environment that is free of state control of the news media, that is free of any form of state censorship or official coercion of any kind, and that is protected and guaranteed by the rule of law;

Whereas the Government of the Russian Federation has undertaken a series of actions hostile and destructive toward independently operated media enterprises and journalists, particularly those news outlets and journalists that have been critical of government policies and government actions;

Whereas the Government of the Russian Federation continues its indiscriminate war against the people of Chechnya, a war in which Russian forces have caused the

deaths of countless thousands of innocent civilians, caused the displacement of well over 400,000 innocent individuals, forcibly relocated refugee populations, and have committed widespread atrocities, including summary executions, torture, and rape;

Whereas the Department of State's Annual Report on International Religious Freedom 2000 concluded that the Government of the Russian Federation "does not always respect [its Constitution's] provision for equality of religions, and some local authorities imposed restrictions on some religious minority groups";

Whereas the continued participation of the Government of the Russian Federation in the Group of Eight must be conditioned on the former's acceptance of and adherence to the norms and standards of democracy; and

Whereas the next summit meeting of the G-8 countries will take place from July 20 to July 23, 2002 in Genoa, Italy: 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) the President should use the Genoa summit
4 meeting of the G-8 to condition future G-8 meet-
5 ings upon a clear and unambiguous demonstration
6 of commitment by the Government of the Russian
7 Federation to adhere to the norms and standards of
8 democracy and fundamental human rights, and that
9 this must include—

10 (A) an immediate end to Russian military
11 operations in Chechnya and the initiation of

1 genuine negotiations for a just and peaceful
2 resolution of the conflict in that region with the
3 democratically elected Government of Chechnya
4 led by Aslan Maskhadov;

5 (B) granting international missions imme-
6 diate and full and unimpeded access into
7 Chechnya and surrounding regions so that they
8 can provide humanitarian assistance and inves-
9 tigate alleged atrocities and war crimes;

10 (C) respect for the existence of a free, un-
11 fettered, and independent media and the free
12 exchange of ideas and views, including the free-
13 dom of journalists to publish opinions and news
14 reports without fear of censorship or punish-
15 ment, the right of people to receive news with-
16 out government interference and harassment,
17 and opportunities for private ownership of
18 media enterprises;

19 (D) freedom of all religious groups to prac-
20 tice their faith in the Russian Federation, with-
21 out government interference on the rights and
22 the peaceful activities of such religious organi-
23 zations; and

1 (E) equal treatment and respect for the
2 human rights of all citizens of the Russian Fed-
3 eration;

4 (2) the President and the Secretary of State
5 should take all necessary steps to suspend the par-
6 ticipation of the Russian Federation in meetings of
7 the G-8 countries after the Genoa summit meeting
8 should the Government of the Russian Federation
9 fail to adhere to the norms and standards described
10 in paragraph (1); and

11 (3) the President and Secretary of State are re-
12 quested to convey to appropriate officials of the Gov-
13 ernment of the Russian Federation, including the
14 President, the Prime Minister, and the Minister of
15 Foreign Affairs, and appropriate officials of the G-
16 7 countries this expression of the views of Congress.

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