

108TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. CON. RES. 136

Providing that NATO should play a greater role in promoting security in Afghanistan, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 3, 2003

Mr. LANTOS (for himself, Mr. BEREUTER, Mr. ACKERMAN, and Mr. WEXLER) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on International Relations

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Providing that NATO should play a greater role in promoting security in Afghanistan, and for other purposes.

Whereas the United States has a vital interest in promoting Afghanistan's transition from chaos, civil war, and disorder to an increasingly prosperous democratic state, safe and secure with its neighbors, respecting human rights, particularly the rights of women, dedicated to the liberty, literacy, and enrichment of its citizens, and serving as a model for other countries;

Whereas basic security in the major cities and along key transportation routes is critical to the reconstruction and development of Afghanistan, including fostering a climate more friendly to political pluralism and international private investment;

Whereas Afghanistan remains under serious threat from terrorism, insurgency, widespread crime, banditry, intimidation, rape, and suppression of minorities and women;

Whereas lethal clashes continue between the private armies of warlords; attacks against Afghan civilians and officials and United States and international organization personnel are on the rise; mobile terrorist training camps are operating within Afghanistan, and significant basing and staging areas for insurgents have been recently discovered by United States forces; and threats against civilians and whole villages not to cooperate with Americans or the central government are now routine;

Whereas United Nations Special Representative for Afghanistan Lakhdar Brahimi reported to the United Nations Security Council on January 31, 2003, that support for the Taliban may be growing in some areas of the country;

Whereas the growth, production, and trafficking of Afghan opium and its derivatives pose a serious threat to international peace and security and efforts toward reconstruction in Afghanistan;

Whereas nongovernmental organizations that are providing assistance to Afghanistan, and even some donor states, are seriously hampered in helping the people of Afghanistan because of the insecurity in the countryside;

Whereas recruitment and training of the Afghan National Army is seriously behind schedule and will not be at full strength for several years, leaving the central government and Afghan citizens vulnerable to the depredations of terrorists, insurgents, and the private armies of warlords;

Whereas the new “Provincial Reconstruction Teams” of the United States to be deployed in Afghanistan are a promising step toward promoting better security beyond Kabul, but they may prove inadequate to provide a significant level of security to their regions, and will not secure the major transportation routes which are critical to the economic revival of Afghanistan;

Whereas the countries of Europe and North America have a deep interest in a peaceful and democratic Afghanistan that no longer serves as a sanctuary for international terrorists and a source of heroin and drug trafficking;

Whereas although the 4,500 soldiers of the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) have provided much-needed security for the citizens of Kabul, it is not within their mandate or power to promote security to other areas;

Whereas vastly disproportionate numbers of refugees returning from neighboring countries have gone to Kabul because of the security provided by ISAF and the insecurity of their home areas, overwhelming Kabul and far exceeding its capacity for shelter, food, and employment;

Whereas the United States has stated on numerous occasions that it does not oppose the expansion of ISAF, but that heretofore other countries have not expressed a willingness to participate in an expanded force;

Whereas the Secretary of State of the United States on February 20, 2003, declared that “NATO can play a more active role as an alliance and not just member nations of the alliance participating in ISAF;” and

Whereas NATO Secretary General Lord Robertson concurred with the Secretary of State and promised that the Alli-

ance would examine an enhanced role for NATO in fostering peace and security in Afghanistan: Now, therefore, be it

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

3 (1) the Congress reaffirms its dedication and
4 support for the Bonn Agreement of December 5,
5 2001, and the principles enshrined therein;

6 (2) greater efforts must be made to promote
7 peace and security throughout Afghanistan in order
8 to accelerate reconstruction and development efforts;

9 (3) the Congress welcomes the statements by
10 the Secretary of State and NATO Secretary General
11 Robertson concerning an enlarged role for NATO
12 forces in promoting greater security in Afghanistan;

13 (4) the Congress believes that NATO can and
14 should participate more fully in increasing the secu-
15 rity and stability in Afghanistan to ensure the suc-
16 cessful transition, as outlined in the Bonn Agree-
17 ment of December 5, 2001, to a peaceful and demo-
18 cratic national government, representative of all its
19 peoples, safe and secure with its neighbors, respect-
20 ful of human rights, particularly the rights of
21 women, and a model for other countries;

1 (5) the United States should at senior levels
2 support any proposal that NATO play a greater role
3 in fostering security throughout Afghanistan;

4 (6) the Congress should fully fund the author-
5 ization in the Afghanistan Freedom Support Act of
6 2002 for the expansion of the International Security
7 Assistance Force (ISAF) with the flexibility to uti-
8 lize those funds for an expanded ISAF or to support
9 a new NATO role in Afghanistan, or both; and

10 (7) the executive branch should keep the Con-
11 gress fully informed of the actions it is undertaking
12 to accomplish the goals set forth in this resolution.

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