

108TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. CON. RES. 245

Expressing the sense of Congress that it is in the national security interests of the United States to remain engaged in Iraq in order to ensure a peaceful, stable, unified Iraq with a representative government, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 16, 2003

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on International Relations

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of Congress that it is in the national security interests of the United States to remain engaged in Iraq in order to ensure a peaceful, stable, unified Iraq with a representative government, and for other purposes.

Whereas the United States, with the support of Great Britain and other countries, historically and courageously liberated Iraq in three weeks;

Whereas conditions on the ground in parts of Iraq continue to pose a grave threat to United States troops, thereby complicating efforts to restore law and order and essential public services for Iraqis, and these efforts are further complicated by the absence of effective communications with the Iraqi people;

Whereas ultimately, maintaining law and order in Iraq and preserving its territorial integrity will require the creation of a professionally-trained Iraqi police force and a reformed Iraqi military, but that will take a significant amount of time and in the meantime international armed forces and police must assume these responsibilities;

Whereas approximately 145,000 United States troops are currently deployed in Iraq, meaning that United States Armed Forces comprise approximately 90 percent of Coalition forces, and even if, as the Department of Defense has stated, an additional 10,000 international troops join the Coalition effort in Iraq by September 2003, United States Armed Forces will still comprise approximately 85 percent of Coalition forces;

Whereas maintaining the existing force level in Iraq currently requires at least \$3,900,000,000 each month;

Whereas the Department of Defense has stated that it will require one year to train a new Iraqi Army of 12,000 soldiers and three years to train 40,000 soldiers;

Whereas the Coalition Provisional Authority has stated that it will require at least one year to recruit and train a police force of 40,000 officers capable of assuming minimal police functions in Iraq, that it will require five years to recruit and train a full force of 75,000 officers, and that at least 5,500 additional international police are needed to train, assist, and jointly patrol with the existing Iraqi police force;

Whereas President Bush has noted that “[t]he rise of Iraq, as an example of moderation and democracy and prosperity, is a massive and long-term undertaking”, and it is clear that increasing the number of troops and police

from countries other than the United States will reduce risks to American soldiers and the financial cost to the United States;

Whereas Secretary of Defense Rumsfeld testified that “[w]e certainly want assistance from NATO and from NATO countries” and it is clear that involving the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, as is being done in Afghanistan and has been done in Kosovo and Bosnia, allows the Coalition to maintain a robust military presence while decreasing the exposure and risk to United States troops; and

Whereas rebuilding Iraq’s neglected infrastructure and economy and administering Iraq, including providing basic services and paying public sector salaries, is likely to require tens of billions of dollars over several years and projected Iraqi oil revenues will be insufficient to meet these costs: Now, therefore, be it

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

3 (1) it is in the national security interests of the
 4 United States to remain engaged in Iraq in order to
 5 ensure a peaceful, stable, unified Iraq with a rep-
 6 resentative government;

7 (2) the Organization for the Prohibition of
 8 Chemical Weapons and other appropriate inter-
 9 national and nongovernmental organizations should
 10 provide assistance to the Coalition in Iraq in order
 11 to contribute to international security and stability,

1 general and complete disarmament, and global eco-
2 nomic development;

3 (3) the President should consider requesting
4 formally and expeditiously that the North Atlantic
5 Treaty Organization (NATO) raise a force for de-
6 ployment in post-war Iraq similar to what it has
7 done in Afghanistan, Bosnia, and Kosovo and should
8 urge NATO allies and other countries to provide
9 troops and police to Coalition efforts in Iraq; and

10 (4) the President should consider calling on the
11 United Nations to urge its member states to provide
12 military forces and civilian police to promote sta-
13 bility and security in Iraq and resources to help re-
14 build and administer Iraq.

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