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S. CON. RES. 87

Welcoming the Prime Minister of Turkey to the United States.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JANUARY 28, 2004

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

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Welcoming the Prime Minister of Turkey to the United States.

Whereas for more than 50 years a strategic partnership has existed between the United States and Turkey that has been of enormous political, economic, cultural, and strategic benefit to both countries;

Whereas the United States and Turkey share common ideals and a clear vision for the 21st century, where freedom and democracy are the foundations for peace, prosperity, and progress;

Whereas the Government of Turkey has demonstrated its unequivocal support for the war against terrorism throughout the world, and has called for the international community to unite against this threat;

Whereas Turkey commanded the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) in Afghanistan from June 2002 to February 2003 and provided humanitarian and medical assistance in Afghanistan and in Iraq;

Whereas in October 2003 Turkey became the first predominantly Muslim state to authorize sending peacekeepers to Iraq when the Turkish Parliament voted to approve a deployment of 10,000 troops;

Whereas the people of Turkey also have been victims of international terrorist attacks on November 15, 2003, and November 20, 2003;

Whereas the Government of Turkey immediately condemned the terrorist attacks in the strongest possible terms, detained the perpetrators, and quickly brought them to justice;

Whereas the terrorist attacks in Turkey brought the United States and Turkey closer together, in spite of the terrorists' motive of driving the two countries apart;

Whereas the Government of Turkey has made its bases in Incirlik available as a transit point for United States troops returning to the United States from Iraq;

Whereas Prime Minister Erdoğan supports a renewed effort by the United Nations to reunify the divided country of Cyprus;

Whereas the United States supports Turkey's bid for membership in the European Union;

Whereas Turkey and Israel, the only democracies in the Middle East, established diplomatic relations in 1949, and have a multi-faceted and thriving relationship; and

Whereas Turkish Prime Minister Erdoğan brings a strong message from the Turkish people that Turkey will continue to support the United States campaign against international terrorism as well as United States efforts to rebuild and bring democracy and stability to Afghanistan and Iraq: Now, therefore, be it

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

3 (1) offers its warmest welcome to Prime Min-
4 ister Recep Tayyip Erdoğan upon his visit to the
5 United States from January 26 through 31, 2004;

6 (2) asks Prime Minister Erdoğan to commu-
7 nicate the continuing support of Congress and of the
8 people of the United States to the people of Turkey;

9 (3) recognizes that the visit of Prime Minister
10 Erdoğan to the United States is a significant step
11 toward broadening and deepening the strategic part-
12 nership, friendship and cooperation between the
13 United States and Turkey;

14 (4) acknowledges Prime Minister Erdoğan's
15 support for renewed negotiations in Cyprus; and

16 (5) thanks Prime Minister Erdoğan and the
17 people and government of Turkey for—

18 (A) assuming command of the Inter-
19 national Security Assistance Force in Kabul,
20 Afghanistan from June 2002 to February 2003;

1 (B) providing humanitarian and medical
2 assistance in Afghanistan and in Iraq; and

3 (C) their willingness to contribute to inter-
4 national peace, stability, and prosperity, espe-
5 cially in the greater Middle East region.

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