

109TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 171

Supporting the creation of the Office of the Coordinator for Reconstruction and Stabilization at the Department of State, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 17, 2005

Mr. DREIER submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on International Relations

RESOLUTION

Supporting the creation of the Office of the Coordinator for Reconstruction and Stabilization at the Department of State, and for other purposes.

Whereas the United States is engaged in a Global War on Terrorism, in which threats to the security of the United States often originate in weak or failing countries;

Whereas the National Security Strategy of the United States announced by the President in September 2002 states that “the United States and countries cooperating with us must not allow the terrorists to develop new home bases”;

Whereas weak or failing countries provide breeding grounds for terrorism, crime, trafficking, humanitarian catastrophes, and other threats to United States national security;

Whereas it is in the interests of the United States to develop a comprehensive framework to monitor weak or failing countries and prepare to deal effectively with these countries before they become imminent threats to the people of the United States;

Whereas the Department of State is uniquely equipped to communicate with other United States agencies and international organizations to plan for pre-conflict stabilization operations and post-conflict reconstruction operations in weak or failing countries, both as an alternative to military intervention and as a successor to military conflict, if such conflict becomes unavoidable;

Whereas the United States has, over the past 15 years, been involved in major post-conflict reconstruction and stabilization operations in Somalia, Haiti, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Liberia, Afghanistan, and Iraq;

Whereas the United States has contributed significant resources to post-conflict operations in El Salvador, Nicaragua, Guatemala, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Colombia, and East Timor;

Whereas the knowledge and experience of United States agencies, in cooperation with international organizations, was critical to successfully providing security and humanitarian relief and establishing the rule of law in these countries and their regions;

Whereas the ability of the Department of Defense, the Department of State, the National Security Council, other United States Government agencies, and various international organizations to coordinate and cooperate effectively to address emerging threats is essential to success in the war on terrorism;

Whereas on August 5, 2004, the Department of State created the Office of the Coordinator for Reconstruction and Stabilization to enhance the capacity of the United States to respond to crises involving failed, failing, and post-conflict countries and complex emergencies; and

Whereas the core mission of the Office of the Coordinator for Reconstruction and Stabilization is to lead and coordinate United States Government planning, and institutionalize United States capacity, to help stabilize and reconstruct societies in transition from conflict or civil strife so they can reach a sustainable path towards peace, democracy, and a market economy: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

2 (1) supports the creation of the Office of the
3 Coordinator for Reconstruction and Stabilization at
4 the Department of State;

5 (2) congratulates the President, the Cabinet,
6 and the National Security Council for addressing the
7 unique interagency challenges posed by stabilization
8 and post-conflict reconstruction operations by cre-
9 ating the Office of the Coordinator for Reconstruc-
10 tion and Stabilization;

11 (3) encourages other United States Government
12 departments and agencies, including the Department
13 of Defense and the Central Intelligence Agency, to
14 support the goals, mission, and operations of the Of-
15 fice of the Coordinator for Reconstruction and Sta-
16 bilization;

1 (4) encourages the Office of the Coordinator for
2 Reconstruction and Stabilization to work with the
3 international community to ensure that the burden
4 of addressing weak or failing countries is shared equ-
5 uitably among nations;

6 (5) recognizes that weak or failing countries
7 pose potential danger to United States national se-
8 curity; and

9 (6) urges the Office of the Coordinator for Re-
10 construction and Stabilization to be proactive in ad-
11 dressing potential weak or failing countries so that
12 crisis situations might be resolved peaceably prior to
13 conflict, thereby reducing the threat to the national
14 security of the United States and reducing the cost
15 to the United States and the international commu-
16 nity.

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