

109TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. RES. 139

Expressing support for the withdrawal of Russian troops from Georgia.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 12, 2005

Mr. REID (for himself, Mr. FRIST, and Mr. MCCAIN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to

RESOLUTION

Expressing support for the withdrawal of Russian troops
from Georgia.

Whereas, on April 9, 1991, the Republic of Georgia declared independence from the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics;

Whereas, during December 1991, the Republic of Georgia was internationally recognized as an independent and sovereign country following the formal dissolution of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics;

Whereas the disposition of former Soviet troops stationed in certain newly independent countries was resolved by 1994 with the complete withdrawal of Russian Federation military personnel from the Republics of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania;

Whereas in the years following the restoration of Georgian independence, successive governments of Georgia sought to negotiate the closure of Russian military bases located in, and the withdrawal of military personnel from, Georgia;

Whereas, during the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe summit at Istanbul, Turkey in 1999, Georgia and Russia concluded a bilateral agreement as part of the Adapted Conventional Forces in Europe Treaty;

Whereas as part of such bilateral agreement, which is known as the “Istanbul Commitments”, on November 17, 1999, Russia committed to close bases at Gudauta and Vaziani by July 1, 2001, and committed to conclude negotiations on bases at Batumi and Akhalkalaki, and all other Russian military facilities during 2000;

Whereas Russia has failed to fulfill its obligations under the Istanbul Commitments;

Whereas more than 3,000 Russian military personnel remain in Georgia at various bases and facilities throughout the country;

Whereas, during November 2003, the Georgian people, in the historic “Rose Revolution”, peacefully protested fraudulent elections resulting in the holding of new elections and the installation of a new government committed to democracy, the rule of law, observance of human rights, restoration of sovereignty, and economic development; and

Whereas on March 10, 2005, the democratically elected Parliament of the Republic of Georgia passed a measure ex-

pressing its dissatisfaction with Russia’s continued military presence in Georgia: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That—

2 (1) it is the sense of the Senate that—

3 (A) the Russian Federation should respect
4 the territorial integrity and sovereignty of the
5 Republic of Georgia;

6 (B) President Mikheil Saakashvili and the
7 Government and people of Georgia deserve con-
8 gratulations for the accomplishments and suc-
9 cessful reforms carried out in Georgia since
10 President Mikheil Saakashvili’s inauguration in
11 January 2004, and that the United States
12 should continue to support such reforms and
13 should encourage and assist Georgia with
14 strengthening its democratic institutions and
15 resolving its separatist conflicts peacefully; and

16 (C) the United States should continue to
17 support Georgia in its efforts to negotiate an
18 agreement for ending Russia’s military presence
19 in Georgia, in accordance with Russia’s obliga-
20 tions under the bilateral agreement made be-
21 tween Russia and Georgia as part of the Adapt-
22 ed Conventional Forces in Europe Treaty
23 known as the “Istanbul Commitments”; and

24 (2) the Senate—

1 (A) supports the efforts of President Bush
2 to encourage Russia and Georgia to expedi-
3 tiously reach agreement on the closure of Rus-
4 sian military bases in, and the withdrawal of
5 military personnel from, Georgia;

6 (B) commends President Bush for being
7 the first United States President to visit Geor-
8 gia since its recognition as an independent and
9 sovereign country; and

10 (C) will continue to monitor the situation
11 in Georgia closely.

○