

110TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. CON. RES. 288

Expressing the need for a more comprehensive diplomatic initiative led by the United States, Republic of Iraq, and international community.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 6, 2008

Mr. GILCHREST (for himself, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. JONES of North Carolina, Mr. MEEKS of New York, Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois, Mr. MURTHA, Mr. REYES, and Ms. KAPTUR) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on Armed Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Expressing the need for a more comprehensive diplomatic initiative led by the United States, Republic of Iraq, and international community.

Whereas it is in the foreign policy and National security interests of the United States to foster and strengthen peace and security in Iraq and the broader Middle East region, which will require a more comprehensive international support structure including Iraq's neighboring states, other pertinent and influential countries in and outside the region, international organizations, and non-governmental organizations;

Whereas the removal of Saddam Hussein has resulted in a fundamental change in the composition and structure of Iraq's government, provincial, and tribal leadership;

Whereas the removal of Saddam Hussein has resulted in violent multi-layered conflicts of varying insurgencies, counter-insurgencies, and other armed competitions that exist today along religious, cultural, and economic lines;

Whereas the removal of Saddam Hussein has fundamentally altered the relationship between Iraq and its neighboring states thereby affecting the balance of power in the region;

Whereas elements and actions from outside Iraq's borders, including neighboring states, terrorist groups, and rogue elements continue to impede progress towards a more stable and sovereign Iraq;

Whereas Iraqis, with the unrelenting military support from the United States, have found it difficult to achieve political reconciliation and independently govern;

Whereas the Iraq Study Group stated, "a regional peace conference among Arab nations is a critically important step in helping to end the civil war in Iraq, and bringing peace and stability in the Middle East";

Whereas General Petraeus recently stated in congressional testimony "any student of history recognizes there is no military solution to a problem like that in Iraq, to the insurgency in Iraq";

Whereas finding a responsible and strategic way forward in Iraq will require international support; and

Whereas a more comprehensive international support structure must be established to engage Iraq's political, religious, ethnic, and tribal leaders in an ongoing inclusive

political reconciliation and reconstruction process: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate*
2 *concurring)*, That the United States House of Representa-
3 tives—

4 (1) declares that the current drawdown and
5 eventual departure of the United States Armed
6 Forces in Iraq be performed in a strategic and re-
7 sponsible manner, and must be supported by a com-
8 prehensive international and regional diplomatic ini-
9 tiative;

10 (2) encourages the President and the adminis-
11 tration jointly with the Republic of Iraq to initiate,
12 develop, and implement a sustained comprehensive
13 regional and multilateral diplomatic plan of action,
14 in conjunction with the United Nations Security
15 Council, United Nations Secretary General, Iraq's
16 neighboring countries, regional organizations as the
17 Arab League, the Organization of the Islamic Con-
18 ference, and appropriate non-governmental organiza-
19 tions relating to issues and actions that impact the
20 situation in Iraq, including—

21 (A) promoting a National process of rec-
22 onciliation within Iraq;

1 (B) curtailing the ongoing civil strife in
2 Iraq that has created various insurgency
3 groups;

4 (C) preventing the spread of violence from
5 Iraq into neighboring countries;

6 (D) preventing genocide, ethnic cleansing,
7 and other crimes against humanity;

8 (E) preventing the establishment of safe
9 havens for Al Qaeda and other terrorist organi-
10 zations; and

11 (F) supporting the formation of an inter-
12 national consortium for relief and reconstruc-
13 tion in Iraq;

14 (3) urges the President and the administration
15 jointly with the Republic of Iraq, United Nations,
16 and regional organizations to expeditiously engage in
17 bilateral and multilateral talks and conferences with
18 Iraq's neighboring states, and specifically—

19 (A) recommends the implementation of the
20 International Compact for Iraq and Rec-
21 ommendations 9 and 13 of the Iraq Study
22 Group Report including—

23 (i) implementing Recommendation 9,
24 which states, “Under the aegis of the New
25 Diplomatic Offensive and the [Iraq Inter-

1 national] Support Group, the United
2 States should engage directly with Iran
3 and Syria in order to try to obtain their
4 commitment to constructive policies toward
5 Iraq and other regional issues. In engaging
6 with Syria and Iran, the United States
7 should consider incentives, as well as dis-
8 incentives, in seeking constructive results”;
9 and

10 (ii) implementing Recommendation
11 13, which states, “There must be a re-
12 newed and sustained commitment by the
13 United States to a comprehensive Arab-
14 Israeli peace on all fronts”;

15 (4) remains resolved that the interests of the
16 people of Iraq, United States allies, and greater
17 Middle East region should be paramount in estab-
18 lishing regional and international assistance and aid
19 to ensure the establishment of a cohesive govern-
20 ment in Iraq;

21 (5) encourages the international community and
22 regional organizations to assist the Republic of Iraq
23 in recruiting an armed multinational stabilization
24 force from countries acceptable to the Republic of
25 Iraq, to train Iraqi Security Forces, foster political

1 reconciliation, and to the extent feasible police
2 human rights violations;

3 (6) recognizes that as part of a diplomatic ini-
4 tiative in Iraq, the President shall submit to the
5 Congress, in classified and unclassified form, a com-
6 prehensive regional stability plan for Iraq, which
7 shall include diplomatic, political, and economic stra-
8 tegic measures;

9 (7) urges sustained commitment of the Republic
10 of Iraq, United States, nations in the Middle East,
11 and international community in consultation with
12 the United Nations and pertinent regional and non-
13 governmental organizations to develop and raise
14 funding for the reconstruction of Iraq and relief to
15 the Iraqi people, including for purposes of—

16 (A) assisting efforts to deal with the hu-
17 manitarian impact of the war in Iraq, particu-
18 larly civilian displacement and Iraqi refugees;

19 (B) developing an Iraq Corps of Engineers;

20 (C) encouraging the use of Iraqi engineers,
21 contractors, tradesmen, and construction work-
22 ers in the reconstruction process;

23 (D) surveying and performing proper res-
24 toration of Iraq's world cultural sites;

1 (E) ensuring the equitable distribution of
2 oil revenues to the people of Iraq; and

3 (F) encouraging initiatives to assist in re-
4 building Iraq's infrastructure, including public
5 health, transportation, physical plants, edu-
6 cational, and utilities systems;

7 (8) expresses its sincere condolences to the
8 number of Iraqis who have been killed, displaced, or
9 wounded; and

10 (9) recognizes that the government of the
11 United States owes a debt of gratitude to the
12 500,000 young men and women who have served in
13 Iraq and who now deserve comprehensive rehabilita-
14 tion, physical, mental, educational, and economic as-
15 sistance.

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