

110TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. RES. 31

Expressing support for democratic forces in Serbia and encouraging the people of Serbia to remain committed to a democratic path.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JANUARY 17, 2007

Mr. VOINOVICH (for himself, Mr. LUGAR, Mr. HAGEL, and Mr. LIEBERMAN)
submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to

RESOLUTION

Expressing support for democratic forces in Serbia and encouraging the people of Serbia to remain committed to a democratic path.

Whereas, in September 2000, the people of Serbia fought for democracy by going to the streets to hold protests and rallies until President Slobodan Milosevic was removed from power and the Government of Serbia was handed over to democratic forces;

Whereas, in the following years, the democratic leadership of Serbia worked to establish a democratic society, functional rule of law, a free market economy, and respect for human and minority rights;

Whereas the President of Serbia, Boris Tadic, has expressed publicly his commitment to the principles of democracy and the dream of leading Serbia forward on this path;

Whereas Serbia is a member of several international organizations and has voiced its desire to become a member of the European Union (EU);

Whereas Serbia has enacted several military and defense reforms to strengthen ties to its Western allies and the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) Alliance;

Whereas, on September 7, 2006, Serbia signed a Status of Forces Agreement with the United States Government to facilitate Serbia's participation in joint military exercises and training;

Whereas, on September 8, 2006, President Tadic commemorated the beginning of Serbia's participation in the National Guard State Partnership Program with the Ohio National Guard;

Whereas, on December 14, 2006, Serbia was granted accession to the NATO Partnership for Peace (PfP) program, along with its neighbors, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Montenegro, initiating formal cooperation between NATO and Serbia;

Whereas Serbia has transferred 36 individuals indicted for war crimes to the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY), including Milosevic and some of his top officials, and provided thousands of documents to the Office of the Prosecutor of the ICTY;

Whereas Serbia has taken some additional steps, under the supervision of the ICTY and the international community, to enact judicial reforms and establish special courts to try individuals indicted for war crimes in Kosovo, Bosnia, and Croatia;

Whereas Serbia has failed to arrest war criminal Ratko Mladic for the horrific crimes he committed at Srebrenica

in Bosnia and Herzegovina, which prevented Serbia's earlier participation in the PfP program and its progression in EU accession talks;

Whereas, on January 21, 2007, Serbia will hold democratic parliamentary elections to determine Serbia's future leadership at this critical juncture in Serbia's history;

Whereas Albanian parties in southern Serbia will participate in the parliamentary elections for the first time in over 15 years; and

Whereas a strong, stable, and democratic Serbia is critical to the future of the region: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That it is the sense of the Senate that—

2 (1) the United States should be committed to a
3 strong relationship with a democratic Serbia as Ser-
4 bia moves toward its goals of membership in the Eu-
5 ropean Union (EU) and cooperation with the North
6 Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO);

7 (2) the inclusion of Serbia in the NATO Part-
8 nership for Peace Program was a critical step in
9 bringing Serbia closer to the Euro-Atlantic Alliance;

10 (3) Serbia will now have the opportunity to
11 enact defense reforms and apply for a Membership
12 Action Plan for NATO;

13 (4) Serbia should continue its progress on re-
14 form, including defense and judiciary reforms and
15 reforms in the area of human and minority rights;

1 (5) Serbia should move quickly to fulfill its obli-
2 gations to the International Criminal Tribunal for
3 the former Yugoslavia, including by immediately ar-
4 resting Ratko Mladic and transferring him to the
5 Hague because this step is essential for Serbia to be
6 admitted into the EU and NATO;

7 (6) as Serbia continues to work toward integra-
8 tion in Euro-Atlantic institutions, the United States
9 should continue and increase its defense and security
10 cooperation with the Government of Serbia, includ-
11 ing through education, training, and technical co-
12 operation, to assist Serbia in the reform process and
13 in fulfilling the requirements for membership in
14 NATO; and

15 (7) the United States should remain a friend to
16 the people of Serbia as they continue on the path of
17 democracy.

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