

RECOGNIZING THE MEXICAN HOLIDAY OF CINCO DE MAYO;
HONORING SISTER DOROTHY STANG; RECOGNIZING THE
57TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE INDEPENDENCE OF THE STATE
OF ISRAEL; URGING ROMANIA TO PROVIDE FAIR RESTITU-
TION FOR CONFISCATED PROPERTY; RECOGNIZING THE
STEPS INDIA AND PAKISTAN HAVE TAKEN TOWARD BILAT-
ERAL PEACE; URGING THE WITHDRAWAL OF ALL SYRIAN
FORCES FROM LEBANON; EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE
HOUSE REGARDING ANTI-SEMITISM AT THE UN; AND WEL-
COMING THE PRESIDENT OF AFGHANISTAN ON THE OCCA-
SION OF HIS VISIT TO THE UNITED STATES

MARKUP

BEFORE THE

COMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

ONE HUNDRED NINTH CONGRESS

FIRST SESSION

ON

**H. Con. Res. 44, H. Con. Res. 89, H. Con. Res. 149,
H. Res. 191, H. Res. 272, H. Res. 273,
H. Res. 282 and H. Con. Res. 153**

MAY 18, 2005

Serial No. 109-105

Printed for the use of the Committee on International Relations



Available via the World Wide Web: http://www.house.gov/international_relations

U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE

21-306PDF

WASHINGTON : 2006

For sale by the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office
Internet: bookstore.gpo.gov Phone: toll free (866) 512-1800; DC area (202) 512-1800
Fax: (202) 512-2250 Mail: Stop SSOP, Washington, DC 20402-0001

COMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

HENRY J. HYDE, Illinois, *Chairman*

JAMES A. LEACH, Iowa
CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH, New Jersey,
Vice Chairman
DAN BURTON, Indiana
ELTON GALLEGLEY, California
ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN, Florida
DANA ROHRBACHER, California
EDWARD R. ROYCE, California
PETER T. KING, New York
STEVE CHABOT, Ohio
THOMAS G. TANCREDO, Colorado
RON PAUL, Texas
DARRELL ISSA, California
JEFF FLAKE, Arizona
JO ANN DAVIS, Virginia
MARK GREEN, Wisconsin
JERRY WELLER, Illinois
MIKE PENCE, Indiana
THADDEUS G. McCOTTER, Michigan
KATHERINE HARRIS, Florida
JOE WILSON, South Carolina
JOHN BOOZMAN, Arkansas
J. GRESHAM BARRETT, South Carolina
CONNIE MACK, Florida
JEFF FORTENBERRY, Nebraska
MICHAEL McCAUL, Texas
TED POE, Texas

TOM LANTOS, California
HOWARD L. BERMAN, California
GARY L. ACKERMAN, New York
ENI F.H. FALEOMAVAEGA, American
Samoa
DONALD M. PAYNE, New Jersey
ROBERT MENENDEZ, New Jersey
SHERROD BROWN, Ohio
BRAD SHERMAN, California
ROBERT WEXLER, Florida
ELIOT L. ENGEL, New York
WILLIAM D. DELAHUNT, Massachusetts
GREGORY W. MEEKS, New York
BARBARA LEE, California
JOSEPH CROWLEY, New York
EARL BLUMENAUER, Oregon
SHELLEY BERKLEY, Nevada
GRACE F. NAPOLITANO, California
ADAM B. SCHIFF, California
DIANE E. WATSON, California
ADAM SMITH, Washington
BETTY McCOLLUM, Minnesota
BEN CHANDLER, Kentucky
DENNIS A. CARDOZA, California

THOMAS E. MOONEY, SR., *Staff Director/General Counsel*
ROBERT R. KING, *Democratic Staff Director*
DANIEL FREEMAN, *Counsel/Parliamentarian*
JEAN CARROLL, *Full Committee Hearing Coordinator*

CONTENTS

	Page
MARKUP OF:	
H. Con. Res. 44, Recognizing the historical significance of the Mexican holiday of Cinco de Mayo	4
H. Con. Res. 89, Honoring the life of Sister Dorothy Stang	7
H. Con. Res. 149, Recognizing the 57th anniversary of the independence of the State of Israel	10
Amendment to H. Con. Res. 149	13
H. Res. 191, Urging the Government of Romania to recognize its responsibilities to provide equitable, prompt, and fair restitution to all religious communities for property confiscated by the former Communist government in Romania	14
H. Res. 272, Recognizing the historic steps India and Pakistan have taken toward achieving bilateral peace	20
H. Res. 273, Urging the withdrawal of all Syrian forces from Lebanon, support for free and fair democratic elections in Lebanon, and the development of democratic institutions and safeguards to foster sovereign democratic rule in Lebanon	24
Amendment in the Nature of a Substitute to H. Res. 273 offered by the Honorable Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, a Representative in Congress from the State of Florida	28
H. Res. 282, Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives regarding manifestations of anti-Semitism by United Nations member states and urging action against anti-Semitism by United Nations officials, United Nations member states, and the Government of the United States, and for other purposes	32
H. Con. Res. 153, Welcoming His Excellency Hamid Karzai, the President of Afghanistan, on the occasion of his visit to the United States in May 2005 and expressing support for a strong and enduring strategic partnership between the United States and Afghanistan	38

RECOGNIZING THE MEXICAN HOLIDAY OF CINCO DE MAYO; HONORING SISTER DOROTHY STANG; RECOGNIZING THE 57TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE INDEPENDENCE OF THE STATE OF ISRAEL; URGING ROMANIA TO PROVIDE FAIR RESTITUTION FOR CONFISCATED PROPERTY; RECOGNIZING THE STEPS INDIA AND PAKISTAN HAVE TAKEN TOWARD BILATERAL PEACE; URGING THE WITHDRAWAL OF ALL SYRIAN FORCES FROM LEBANON; EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE HOUSE REGARDING ANTI-SEMITISM AT THE UN; AND WELCOMING THE PRESIDENT OF AFGHANISTAN ON THE OCCASION OF HIS VISIT TO THE UNITED STATES

TUESDAY, MAY 18, 2005

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS,
Washington, DC.

The Committee met, pursuant to notice, at 10:34 a.m., in room 2172, Rayburn House Office Building, Hon. Henry J. Hyde [Chairman of the Committee] presiding.

Chairman HYDE. The Committee will come to order. The business meeting of the Committee will come to order. We have a series of noncontroversial bills on the agenda. It is the intention of the Chair to consider these measures en bloc and, by unanimous consent, authorize the Chair to seek consideration of the bills under suspension of the rules.

All Members are given leave to insert remarks on the measures into the record, should they choose to do so.

The Chair now recognizes Mr. Lantos, the Ranking Democrat.

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Chairman, thank you very much for giving me an opportunity to say a few words about the resolution relating to Lebanon. I support all of the resolutions, and I merely wish to make a statement indicating my future intention concerning this subject.

The resolution before the Committee expresses Congress' ongoing concern that the withdrawal of Syrian troops and the intelligence officials from Lebanon be verifiably complete, and that the Lebanese people be allowed to choose their own leaders freely and fairly.

I commend my colleague and friend, Ms. Ros-Lehtinen, for bringing these important issues before the Committee.

I join with all of my colleagues in admiration of Lebanese people power, which defied the odds and succeeded in expelling all, or at least nearly all, of Syria's uniformed forces. I welcome what we all hope will be a peaceful transition to sovereign democratic rule in Lebanon.

The Lebanese people are scheduled to vote for the new Parliament on four consecutive Sundays beginning May 29th. This is an important and welcome step. It is nevertheless regrettable that they apparently will conduct their elections according to a law passed on the full Syrian occupation in the year 2000, which could stack the deck in favor of the pro-Syrian elements, particularly Hezbollah. We hope that the wisdom of the Lebanese people, displayed in vast numbers, will override the structural deficiencies of the law.

I fully endorse this resolution's advocacy of United States assistance to help Lebanon restore democratic rule, including the separation of powers, the rule of law, and the respect for fundamental freedoms. It is firmly in our interest to support this process, as the flourishing of democracy in Lebanon will no doubt have a multiplier effect throughout the region.

Mr. Chairman, Syrian withdrawal and the restoration of democracy in Lebanon absorbs our attention at the moment, but we must not forget that it is also vital that the new government in Lebanon fulfill all of its own obligations under UN Security Council Resolution 1559, that especially includes the requirement that all militias, including Hezbollah, be disarmed and disbanded and that the Government of Lebanon assert its authority over all of Lebanon's territory. We will expect the Lebanese armed forces, as a first step, to put an immediate halt to the flow of arms across the Syrian border to Hezbollah.

Mr. Chairman, as you know, I sponsored legislation passed by Congress 4 years ago with your support, which made a portion of United States aid to Lebanon contingent upon Lebanon's taking control of all of its borders. I do not intend to introduce a similar resolution at this moment, as I am hopeful that the new Lebanese Government, once it gains its footing, will take the necessary actions to demonstrate its adherence to all aspects of UN Security Council Resolution 1559, the resolution that made possible Lebanon's rebirth as a nation.

But I will remain seized with these issues regarding Lebanon's borders and Hezbollah. In the near future, I will introduce a resolution that I hope will demonstrate that this Committee and this Congress share these concerns. The stability of the entire region depends on an end to militia rule in Lebanon and full implementation of Lebanese sovereignty throughout that country on all of its borders.

The resolution before us focuses on certain crucial ingredients of Lebanese sovereignty, the withdrawal of Syrian troops and the holding of free and fair elections. It is an important resolution. I support it, and I urge all of my colleagues to do likewise.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman HYDE. Thank you, Mr. Lantos.

Without objection, the Chairman is authorized to seek consideration that the following measures under suspension of the rules and the amendments, which the Members have before them, will be deemed adopted:

H. Con. Res. 44, Recognizing the historical significance of the Mexican holiday of Cinco de Mayo; H. Con. Res. 89, Honoring the life of Sister Dorothy Stang; H. Con. Res. 149, Recognizing the 57th

anniversary of the independence of the State of Israel, as amended; H. Res. 191, Urging the Government of Romania to recognize its responsibilities to provide equitable, prompt, and fair restitution to all religious communities for property confiscated by the former Communist government of Romania; H. Res. 272, Recognizing the historic steps India and Pakistan have taken toward achieving bilateral peace; H. Res. 273, Urging the withdrawal of all Syrian forces from Lebanon, support for free and fair democratic elections in Lebanon, and the development of democratic institutions and safeguards to foster sovereign democratic rule in Lebanon, as amended; H. Res. 282, Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives regarding anti-Semitism at the United Nations and for other purposes; and H. Con. Res. 153, Welcoming His Excellency Hamid Karzai, the President of Afghanistan, on the occasion of his visit to the United States in May 2005 and expressing support for a strong and enduring strategic partnership between the United States and Afghanistan.

[The information referred to follows:]

109TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. CON. RES. 44

Recognizing the historical significance of the Mexican holiday of Cinco de Mayo.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 2, 2005

Mr. BACA (for himself, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. DOGGETT, Mr. GONZALEZ, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. GUTIERREZ, Mr. HINOJOSA, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. LANTOS, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. ORTIZ, Mr. OWENS, Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, Ms. LEE, and Mr. PASTOR) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on International Relations

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Recognizing the historical significance of the Mexican holiday of Cinco de Mayo.

Whereas May 5, or Cinco de Mayo in Spanish, is celebrated each year as a date of great importance by the Mexican and Mexican-American communities;

Whereas the Cinco de Mayo holiday commemorates May 5, 1862, the date on which the Battle of Puebla was fought by Mexicans who were struggling for their independence and freedom;

Whereas Cinco de Mayo has become one of Mexico's most famous national holidays and is celebrated annually by

nearly all Mexicans and Mexican-Americans, north and south of the United States-Mexico border;

Whereas the Battle of Puebla was but one of the many battles that the courageous Mexican people won in their long and brave struggle for independence and freedom;

Whereas the French, confident that their battle-seasoned troops were far superior to the almost amateurish Mexican forces, expected little or no opposition from the Mexican army;

Whereas the French army, which had not experienced defeat against any of Europe's finest troops in over half a century, sustained a disastrous loss at the hands of an outnumbered, ill-equipped, and ragged, but highly spirited and courageous, Mexican force;

Whereas after three bloody assaults upon Puebla in which over a thousand gallant Frenchmen lost their lives, the French troops were finally defeated and driven back by the outnumbered Mexican troops;

Whereas the courageous and heroic spirit that Mexican General Zaragoza and his men displayed during this historic battle can never be forgotten;

Whereas many brave Mexicans willingly gave their lives for the causes of justice and freedom in the Battle of Puebla on Cinco de Mayo;

Whereas the sacrifice of the Mexican fighters was instrumental in keeping Mexico from falling under European domination;

Whereas the Cinco de Mayo holiday is not only the commemoration of the rout of the French troops at the town of Puebla in Mexico, but is also a celebration of the virtues of individual courage and patriotism of all Mexicans

and Mexican-Americans who have fought for freedom and independence against foreign aggressors;

Whereas Cinco de Mayo serves as a reminder that the foundation of the United States is built by people from many nations and diverse cultures who are willing to fight and die for freedom;

Whereas Cinco de Mayo also serves as a reminder of the close spiritual and economic ties between the people of Mexico and the people of the United States, and is especially important for the people of the southwestern States where millions of Mexicans and Mexican-Americans make their homes;

Whereas in a larger sense Cinco de Mayo symbolizes the right of a free people to self-determination, just as Benito Juarez once said, “El respeto al derecho ajeno es la paz” (“The respect of other people’s rights is peace”); and

Whereas many people celebrate during the entire week in which Cinco de Mayo falls: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate*
 2 *concurring)*, That Congress recognizes the historical strug-
 3 ggle for independence and freedom of the Mexican people
 4 and requests the President to issue a proclamation recog-
 5 nizing that struggle and calling upon the people of the
 6 United States to observe Cinco de Mayo with appropriate
 7 ceremonies and activities.

○

109TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. CON. RES. 89

Honoring the life of Sister Dorothy Stang.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 9, 2005

Mr. RYAN of Ohio (for himself, Mr. TURNER, Mr. INSLEE, Mr. FORD, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota, Mr. CONYERS, Ms. KILPATRICK of Michigan, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. OBERSTAR, Mr. TOWNS, Mr. KUCINICH, Mr. WAXMAN, Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island, Mr. TIBERI, Mr. LANTOS, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Mr. GILLMOR, Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania, Mr. EVANS, Mrs. JONES of Ohio, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. BROWN of Ohio, Ms. KAPTUR, and Mr. STRICKLAND) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on International Relations

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Honoring the life of Sister Dorothy Stang.

Whereas Sister of Notre Dame de Namur Dorothy Stang, moved to the Amazon 22 years ago to help poor farmers build independent futures for their families, and was murdered on Saturday, February 12, 2005, at the age of 73, in Anapu, Para, a section of Brazil's Amazon rain forest;

Whereas, a citizen of Brazil and the United States, Sister Dorothy worked with the Pastoral Land Commission, an organization of the Catholic Church that fights for the

rights of rural workers and peasants, and defends land reforms in Brazil;

Whereas her death came less than a week after meeting with the human rights officials of Brazil about threats to local farmers from some loggers and landowners;

Whereas, after receiving several death threats, Sister Dorothy recently commented, “I don’t want to flee, nor do I want to abandon the battle of these farmers who live without any protection in the forest. They have the sacrosanct right to aspire to a better life on land where they can live and work with dignity while respecting the environment.”;

Whereas Sister Dorothy was born in Dayton, Ohio, entered the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur community in 1948, and professed final vows in 1956;

Whereas, from 1951 to 1966, Sister Dorothy taught elementary classes at St. Victor School in Calumet City, Illinois, St. Alexander School in Villa Park, Illinois, and Most Holy Trinity School in Phoenix, Arizona, and began her ministry in Brazil in 1966, in Coroata in the state of Maranhao;

Whereas, last June, Sister Dorothy was named “Woman of the Year” by the state of Para for her work in the Amazon region, in December 2004, she received the Humanitarian of the Year award from the Brazilian Bar Association for her work helping the local rural workers, and earlier this year, she received an “Honorary Citizenship of the State” award from the state of Para; and

Whereas Sister Dorothy lived her life according to the mission of the Sisters of Notre Dame: making known God’s goodness and love of the poor through a Gospel way of

life, community, and prayer, while continuing a strong educational tradition and taking a stand with the poor people especially women and children, in the most abandoned places, and committing her one and only life to work with others to create justice and peace for all: Now, therefore, be it

- 1 *Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate*
- 2 *concurring)*, That the Congress hereby honors the life and
- 3 work of Sister Dorothy Stang.

○

109TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. CON. RES. 149

Recognizing the 57th anniversary of the independence of the State of Israel.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 11, 2005

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina (for himself, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Mr. CANTOR, Mr. PENCE, Mr. ACKERMAN, Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, and Mr. LANTOS) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on International Relations

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Recognizing the 57th anniversary of the independence of the State of Israel.

Whereas on May 14, 1948, the State of Israel was established as a sovereign and independent nation;

Whereas the United States was one of the first nations to recognize Israel, only 11 minutes after its creation;

Whereas Israel has provided the opportunity for Jews from all over the world to reestablish their ancient homeland;

Whereas Israel is home to many religious sites which are sacred to Judaism, Christianity, and Islam;

Whereas Israel provided a refuge to Jews who survived the horrors of the Holocaust and the evils committed by the Nazis which were unprecedented in human history;

Whereas the people of Israel have established a unique, pluralistic democracy which includes the freedoms cherished by the people of the United States, including freedom of speech, freedom of religion, freedom of association, freedom of the press, and government by the consent of the governed;

Whereas Israel continues to serve as a shining model of democratic values by regularly holding free and fair elections, promoting the free exchange of ideas, and vigorously exercising in its Parliament, the Knesset, a democratic government that is fully representative of its citizens;

Whereas Israel has bravely defended itself from attacks repeatedly since independence;

Whereas the Government of Israel has successfully worked with the neighboring Governments of Egypt and Jordan to establish peaceful, bilateral relations;

Whereas, despite the deaths of over one thousand innocent Israelis at the hands of murderous, suicide bombers and other terrorists during the past 4 years, the people of Israel continue to seek peace with their Palestinian neighbors;

Whereas the United States and Israel enjoy a strategic partnership based on shared mutual democratic values, friendship, and respect;

Whereas the people of the United States share affinity with the people of Israel and view Israel as a strong and trusted ally;

Whereas Israel has made significant global contributions in the fields of science, medicine, and technology; and

Whereas Israel's Independence Day on the Jewish calendar coincides this year with May 12, 2005: Now, therefore, be it

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

3 (1) recognizes the independence of the State of
4 Israel as a significant event in providing refuge and
5 a national homeland for the Jewish people;

6 (2) praises the efforts of President George W.
7 Bush and Prime Minister Ariel Sharon to create the
8 conditions for peace in the Middle East;

9 (3) commends the bipartisan commitment of all
10 United States administrations and United States
11 Congresses since 1948 to stand by Israel and work
12 for its security and well-being; and

13 (4) extends warm congratulations and best
14 wishes to the people of Israel as they celebrate the
15 57th anniversary of Israel's independence.

○

AMENDMENT TO H. CON. RES. 149**OFFERED BY M** __. _____

In the first clause of the preamble, strike “on May 14, 1948,” and insert “in May 1948”.

In the 12th clause of the preamble, add “and” at the end after the semicolon.

In the 13th clause of the preamble, strike “; and” and insert “: Now, therefore, be it”.

Strike the 14th clause of the preamble.

109TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 191

Urging the Government of Romania to recognize its responsibilities to provide equitable, prompt, and fair restitution to all religious communities for property confiscated by the former Communist government in Romania.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 6, 2005

Mr. LANTOS (for himself and Mr. TANCREDO) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on International Relations

RESOLUTION

Urging the Government of Romania to recognize its responsibilities to provide equitable, prompt, and fair restitution to all religious communities for property confiscated by the former Communist government in Romania.

Whereas the establishment of a Communist government in Romania after World War II proved disastrous for established religious institutions;

Whereas a central element of persecution by the Communist government in Romania was the uncompensated confiscation of real and personal property from religious communities and from leaders of religious communities, and the arrest and persecution of religious leaders;

Whereas 2,140 schools, hospitals, orphanages, and other charitable and civic institutions were illegally confiscated

under communism from the four historic Hungarian churches (Roman Catholic, Hungarian Reformed, Evangelical Lutheran, and Unitarian) and actual possession and use of such properties has been denied in all but 30 cases;

Whereas Romania's wartime Fascist government began the process of confiscating Jewish property in September 1940 and its postwar Communist government reaffirmed most of these confiscations;

Whereas only a handful of Jewish communal properties have been restituted, often with government agencies still using the facilities and paying no rent, and over 1,000 communal properties remain in the possession of the Government of Romania;

Whereas some Jewish claims have been willfully ignored for years, such as in the case of agricultural land in Iasi, where municipal authorities continue to sell parcels of this land;

Whereas on January 2, 1990, under terms of Decree-Law 126/1990, the 1948 decree which dissolved the Romanian Greek Catholic Church was abrogated, permitting Greek Catholics again to worship openly, and legal provisions and procedures were established for the return of confiscated properties that before 1948 belonged to the Greek Catholic Church;

Whereas the commission established under Decree-Law 126/1990 composed of representatives of the Romanian Government and Greek Catholic Church has proven ineffective in resolving disputed claims;

Whereas Romanian Law No. 501/2002, providing for the restitution of religious properties, was adopted in June 2002

without consultation with the affected religious communities, does not effectively meet the needs of those communities, contains numerous legal deficiencies, and is delayed in its implementation;

Whereas all of the religious communities have demanded the return of property seized by the Romanian Communist government;

Whereas since 1990, post-Communist countries in Central and Eastern Europe have grappled with the question of how to redress these wrongful confiscations of religious property, but Romania has lagged significantly behind other post-Communist countries;

Whereas since the early 1990s, the United States Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe has monitored the property restitution and compensation efforts being made by the governments of post-Communist countries in Central and Eastern Europe;

Whereas with respect to the role of the Romanian courts in the restitution process, the Chairman of the United States Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe observed: “In the mid-1990s . . . hundreds of court decisions in favor of property claimants were reversed by the Supreme Court after they had become final and irrevocable judgments. The European Court of Human Rights has recently ruled that these actions violated the European Convention on Human Rights.”; and

Whereas Article 18 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights provides that “[e]veryone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion; this right includes freedom to change his religion or belief, and freedom, either alone or in community with others and in public or

private, to manifest his religion or belief in teaching, practice, worship and observance.”: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

2 (1) notes with concern the unwillingness of past
3 governments of Romania to recognize the responsi-
4 bility to provide equitable, prompt, and fair restitu-
5 tion of religious property that was confiscated by the
6 former Communist government of Romania;

7 (2) calls on the Government of Romania—

8 (A) to respect the constitutional rights of
9 existence and practice of all religious commu-
10 nities to celebrate and practice their own reli-
11 gion in respectable locations, the right to propa-
12 gate the given beliefs, and the right to openly
13 communicate the beliefs and laws of the reli-
14 gion;

15 (B) to provide fair, prompt, and equitable
16 restitution to all religious communities under
17 Romanian law and in accordance with the Con-
18 stitution of Romania and all applicable inter-
19 national agreements to which Romania is a
20 party; and

21 (C) to provide restitution for the property
22 rights of all agricultural and forestry lands be-
23 longing to religious communities;

1 (3) calls upon the Government of Romania to
2 amend Decree-Law 126/1990 to require that claims
3 involving Romanian Greek Catholic properties be
4 heard by an independent, disinterested, nonreligious
5 commission, and calls upon the Government of Ro-
6 mania to prevent the demolition of Greek Catholic
7 churches and to provide immediately for the security
8 of all Greek Catholic churches and other religious
9 buildings dating from the 18th and 19th centuries;
10 and

11 (4) with respect to Romanian Law No. 501/
12 2002, calls upon the Government of Romania—

13 (A) to amend the law to reflect the prin-
14 ciple of “restitution in integrum” as urged by
15 Resolution 1123/1997 of the Parliamentary As-
16 sembly of the Council of Europe and to restore
17 full ownership of all property and all rights
18 emanating from such ownership;

19 (B) to amend the law to reduce the five-
20 year period to one year during which public in-
21 stitutions can continue to occupy confiscated re-
22 ligious properties;

23 (C) to amend the law to include compensa-
24 tion, according to an equitable formula, for de-
25 molished religious properties;

1 (D) to increase to fair market value the
2 amount of rent paid to religious communities
3 for properties of which they cannot immediately
4 regain use under law;

5 (E) to eliminate the practice of requiring
6 monetary compensation from religious commu-
7 nities to cover state costs for maintenance and
8 “improvement” of the buildings since their con-
9 fiscation in the 1940s; and

10 (F) to obligate local government officials,
11 bodies, and agencies to provide all necessary
12 documentation and cooperation to facilitate the
13 implementation of decisions issued by the cen-
14 tral government’s Special Restitution Com-
15 mittee and to cease posing court challenges and
16 other obstacles against such implementation.

○

109TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 272

Recognizing the historic steps India and Pakistan have taken toward achieving bilateral peace.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 11, 2005

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas (for herself, Mr. BURTON of Indiana, Mr. LANTOS, Ms. BERKLEY, Mrs. JONES of Ohio, Mr. CLYBURN, Mr. SHIMKUS, Mr. WELDON of Florida, Mr. BARTON of Texas, Ms. NORTON, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Ms. LEE, Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, Mr. WYNN, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. MEEKS of New York, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. STUPAK, Ms. WOOLSEY, Mr. JEFFERSON, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. SERRANO, and Mr. PAYNE) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on International Relations

RESOLUTION

Recognizing the historic steps India and Pakistan have taken toward achieving bilateral peace.

Whereas the Republic of India achieved its independence from the British Empire on August 15, 1947, is home to some of the most ancient civilizations, and has given birth to four major world religions;

Whereas on August 14, 1947, the Islamic Republic of Pakistan was created and is home to many of the significant sites of the 4,500-year old Indus Valley Civilization;

Whereas in April 2003 former Indian Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee offered the “hand of friendship” to Pakistan in a landmark address made in the State of Jammu and Kashmir;

Whereas in February 2004 India and Pakistan began their first formal talks in nearly three years, the talks held in Islamabad, Pakistan, paved the way for full peace talks;

Whereas in June 2004 India and Pakistan reaffirmed their unilateral moratorium on nuclear weapons tests and set up a hotline to alert each other to potential nuclear risks;

Whereas in September 2004 Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and Pakistan’s President Pervez Musharraf met for talks in New York on the occasion of the United Nations General Assembly and at the conclusion of these talks they issued a joint statement in which they agreed that on the issue of Jammu and Kashmir “possible options for a peaceful, negotiated settlement of the issue should be explored”;

Whereas in April 2005 India and Pakistan launched a landmark bus service across the Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir, the “peace bus” allowing families divided by the Line of Control to be reunited for the first time in nearly 60 years;

Whereas on April 18, 2005, India and Pakistan concluded a historic three day summit in India in which Prime Minister Singh and President Musharraf held meaningful talks on all issues, including the issue of Jammu and Kashmir, and came to a series of agreements to boost trade and cross-border travel;

Whereas “in this spirit the two leaders addressed the issue of Jammu and Kashmir and agreed to continue these dis-

cussions in a sincere and purposeful and forward looking manner for a final settlement” and “they were satisfied with the discussions and expressed their determination to work together to carry forward the process and to bring the benefit of peace to their people” as stated by the joint statement signed by Prime Minister Singh and President Musharraf;

Whereas both leaders “condemned attempts to disrupt the Srinagar-Muzaffarabad bus service and welcomed its successful operationalisation” and “pledged that they would not allow terrorism to impede the peace process”;

Whereas both leaders “decided to increase the frequency of the bus service and also decided that trucks would be allowed to use this route to promote trade” and “also agreed to operationalise additional routes including that between Poonch and Rawalakot” and “look forward to early start of the bus service between Amritsar and Lahore and to religious places such as Nankana Sahib” and “agreed to re-establish the Khokhrapar-Munnabao route by 1st January 2006”; and

Whereas at the conclusion of the most recent talks Prime Minister Singh and President Musharraf declared in their joint statement that they were “conscious of the historic opportunity created by the improved environment in relations and the overwhelming desire of the peoples of the two countries for durable peace and recognizing their responsibility to continue to move forward towards that objective, the two leaders had substantive talks on all issues” and “they determined that the peace process was now irreversible”: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This resolution may be cited as the “India-Pakistan
3 Peace Resolution”.

4 **SEC. 2. RECOGNIZING INDIA AND PAKISTAN.**

5 The House of Representatives—

6 (1) congratulates India and Pakistan on taking
7 monumental steps toward achieving a comprehensive
8 peace agreement;

9 (2) applauds Prime Minister Singh and Presi-
10 dent Musharraf for their leadership in bringing their
11 two nations together; and

12 (3) calls upon both India and Pakistan to con-
13 tinue down this path of peace so that their children
14 may realize a harmonious future.

○

109TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 273

Urging the withdrawal of all Syrian forces from Lebanon, support for free and fair democratic elections in Lebanon, and the development of democratic institutions and safeguards to foster sovereign democratic rule in Lebanon.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 11, 2005

Mr. McCOTTER (for himself, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. COX, Mr. BURTON of Indiana, and Mr. SCHWARZ of Michigan) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on International Relations

RESOLUTION

Urging the withdrawal of all Syrian forces from Lebanon, support for free and fair democratic elections in Lebanon, and the development of democratic institutions and safeguards to foster sovereign democratic rule in Lebanon.

Whereas the people of the Lebanese Republic have a rich, proud, and honorable history dating from ancient times to the present, and Lebanon has been a free and democratic nation for much of its modern history;

Whereas Lebanon and the United States have enjoyed a history of friendship and cooperation which has been witnessed by the immigration of millions of Lebanese to the

United States where they and their descendants have contributed greatly to the fabric of American life;

Whereas Syria has dominated Lebanese politics and political leaders, resulting in a deterioration of Lebanon's human rights situation, the engineering of Lebanese election results to Syria's liking, and the imposition of curbs on Lebanon's media, once the freest in the Arab world;

Whereas Syria has publicly withdrawn its military forces from Lebanon, leaving behind a pro-Syrian intelligence structure within the Lebanese intelligence agencies;

Whereas Congress conditioned the lifting of sanctions on Damascus in the Syria Accountability and Lebanese Sovereignty Restoration Act of 2003 (Public Law 108-175) upon the Government of Syria ending its occupation of Lebanon, including the complete withdrawal of intelligence and all other security-related personnel in Lebanon, and upon other factors;

Whereas the international community has reaffirmed its call for the strict respect of Lebanon's sovereignty, territorial integrity, unity, and political independence under the sole and exclusive authority of the Government of Lebanon through the passage of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1559 (2004);

Whereas there remains unresolved and as a matter of national and world concern the assassination of Rafiq al-Hariri, former Lebanese prime minister, which has justly been condemned as a terrorist act;

Whereas the international community has begun investigations into the assassination of Rafiq al-Hariri and it is the policy of the United States to urge full compliance with the investigations;

Whereas the international community is considering further action to promote Lebanese sovereignty;

Whereas the emancipation of political prisoners and detainees held in Syrian and Lebanese prisons is a requirement to a national reconciliation and rebuilding of Lebanon's democratic institutions; and

Whereas general elections in Lebanon are scheduled to begin on May 29, 2005: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That it is the sense of the House of Rep-
2 resentatives that—

3 (1) Syria should complete its withdrawal of all
4 remaining intelligence and security forces from the
5 Lebanese Republic in accordance with United Na-
6 tions Security Council Resolution 1559 (2004);

7 (2) Lebanon should allow unfettered access to
8 international monitors verifying compliance with
9 United Nations Security Council Resolution 1559
10 (2004);

11 (3) Lebanon should hold free, fair, and trans-
12 parent elections to begin on May 29, 2005, in ac-
13 cordance with all international standards and agree-
14 ments;

15 (4) the United States should aid the people of
16 Lebanon in their efforts to restore the separation of
17 powers, the rule of law, and the proper respect for
18 fundamental freedoms of every citizen; and

1 (5) it should be the policy of the United States
2 Government to—

3 (A) support free and fair elections in Leb-
4 anon by encouraging international election as-
5 sistance and observers;

6 (B) urge the development of democratic in-
7 stitutions and safeguards to foster sovereign
8 democratic rule in Lebanon; and

9 (C) call for the immediate release of all po-
10 litical prisoners and detainees held in Lebanese
11 and Syrian prisons.

○

**AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE
TO H. RES. 273
OFFERED BY MS. ROS-LEHTINEN**

Strike the preamble and insert the following:

Whereas the people of the Lebanese Republic have a rich, proud, and honorable history dating from ancient times to the present;

Whereas Lebanon and the United States have enjoyed a history of friendship and cooperation which has been marked by the immigration of many Lebanese to the United States where they and their descendants have contributed greatly to the fabric of American life;

Whereas Syria has dominated the Lebanese political scene, resulting in a deterioration of Lebanon's human rights situation, the manipulation of Lebanese election results to meet Syria's requirements, and the imposition of curbs on Lebanon's media, once the freest in the Arab world;

Whereas Syria has publicly withdrawn its military forces from Lebanon, leaving behind, however, an intelligence structure;

Whereas Congress conditioned the lifting of sanctions on Damascus in the Syria Accountability and Lebanese Sovereignty Restoration Act of 2003 (Public Law 108-175) upon the Government of Syria ending its occupation of Lebanon (including the complete withdrawal of intelligence and all other security-related personnel in Lebanon) and upon other factors;

Whereas the international community has, through the passage of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1559

(2004), reaffirmed its call for the strict respect of Lebanon's sovereignty, territorial integrity, unity, and political independence under the sole and exclusive authority of the Government of Lebanon;

Whereas there remains unresolved and as a matter of national and world concern the assassination of Rafiq al-Hariri, former Lebanese prime minister, which has justly been condemned as a terrorist act;

Whereas the international community has begun investigations into the assassination of Rafiq al-Hariri and it is the policy of the United States to urge full cooperation with the investigations;

Whereas the international community is considering further action to promote Lebanese sovereignty;

Whereas the emancipation of political prisoners and detainees held in Syrian and Lebanese prisons is a precondition for national reconciliation and a rebuilding of Lebanon's democratic institutions; and

Whereas general elections in Lebanon are scheduled to begin on May 29, 2005: Now, therefore, be it

Strike all after the resolving clause and insert the following:

- 1 That it is the sense of the House of Representatives
- 2 that—
- 3 (1) Syria should complete its withdrawal of all
- 4 remaining intelligence and security forces from the
- 5 Lebanese Republic in accordance with United Na-
- 6 tions Security Council Resolution 1559 (2004);

1 (2) Lebanon should allow unfettered access to
2 international monitors present for the purpose of
3 verifying compliance with United Nations Security
4 Council Resolution 1559 (2004);

5 (3) Lebanon should hold free, fair, and trans-
6 parent elections to begin on May 29, 2005, in ac-
7 cordance with all international standards and agree-
8 ments;

9 (4) the United States should aid the people of
10 Lebanon in their efforts to restore the separation of
11 powers, the rule of law, and a proper respect for
12 fundamental freedoms of every citizen; and

13 (5) it should be the policy of the United States
14 Government to—

15 (A) support free and fair elections in Leb-
16 anon by encouraging international election as-
17 sistance and observers;

18 (B) support a national dialogue that tran-
19 scends sectarian divisions and urge the develop-
20 ment of democratic institutions and safeguards
21 to foster sovereign democratic rule in Lebanon;
22 and

23 (C) call for the immediate release of all po-
24 litical prisoners and detainees held in Lebanese
25 and Syrian prisons.

Amend the title so as to read: “Resolution recognizing the courageous efforts of the people of Lebanon to restore their independence and urging the withdrawal of all Syrian forces from Lebanon, the support for free and fair democratic elections in Lebanon, and the development of democratic institutions and safeguards to foster sovereign democratic rule in Lebanon.”.

.....
(Original Signature of Member)

109TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 282

Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives regarding manifestations of anti-Semitism by United Nations member states and urging action against anti-Semitism by United Nations officials, United Nations member states, and the Government of the United States, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on _____

RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives regarding manifestations of anti-Semitism by United Nations member states and urging action against anti-Semitism by United Nations officials, United Nations member states, and the Government of the United States, and for other purposes.

Whereas the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights recognizes that "the inherent dignity and equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human fam-

ily is the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world”;

Whereas United Nations General Assembly Resolution 3379 (1975) concluded that “Zionism is a form of racism and racial discrimination” and the General Assembly, by a vote of 111 to 25, only revoked Resolution 3379 in 1991 “in response to strong leadership by the United States and after Israel made its participation in the Madrid Peace Conference conditional upon repeal of the resolution”;

Whereas during the 1991 session of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights, the Syrian Ambassador to the United Nations repeated the outrageous “blood libel” that Jews allegedly have killed non-Jewish children to make unleavened bread for Passover and, despite repeated interventions by the Governments of Israel and the United States, this outrageous lie was not corrected in the record of the Commission for many months;

Whereas in March 1997, the Palestinian observer at the United Nations Commission on Human Rights made the contemptible charge that the Government of Israel had injected 300 Palestinian children with HIV (the human immunodeficiency virus, the pathogen that causes AIDS) despite the fact that an Egyptian newspaper had printed a full retraction to its earlier report of the same charges, and the President of the Commission failed to challenge this baseless and false accusation despite the request of the Government of Israel that he do so;

Whereas Israel was denied membership in any regional grouping of the United Nations until the year 2000, which prevented it from being a candidate for any elected positions within the United Nations system until that

time, and Israel continues to be denied the opportunity to hold a rotating seat on the Security Council and it is the only member of the United Nations never to have served on the Security Council although it has been a member of the organization for 56 years;

Whereas Israel continues to be denied the opportunity to serve as a member of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights because it has never been included in a slate of candidates submitted by a regional grouping, and Israel is currently the only member of the Western and Others Group in a conditional status limiting its ability to caucus with its fellow members of this regional grouping;

Whereas the United Nations has permitted itself to be used as a battleground for political warfare against Israel led by Arab states and others, and 6 of the 10 emergency sessions of the United Nations General Assembly have been devoted to criticisms of and attacks against Israel;

Whereas the goals of the 2001 United Nations World Conference Against Racism were undermined by hateful anti-Jewish rhetoric and anti-Israel political agendas, prompting both Israel and the United States to withdraw their delegations from the Conference;

Whereas in 2004, the United Nations Secretary General acknowledged at the first United Nations-sponsored conference on anti-Semitism, that: “It is clear that we are witnessing an alarming resurgence of this phenomenon in new forms and manifestations. This time, the world must not—cannot—be silent.”;

Whereas in 2004, the United Nations General Assembly’s Third Committee for the first time adopted a resolution

on religious tolerance that includes condemnation of anti-Semitism and “recognized with deep concern the overall rise in instances of intolerance and violence directed against members of many religious communities . . . including . . . anti-Semitism . . .”;

Whereas in 2005, the United Nations held an unprecedented session to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the liberation of the Auschwitz concentration camp;

Whereas democratic Israel is annually the object of nearly two dozen redundantly critical resolutions in the United Nations General Assembly, which rarely adopts resolutions relating to specific countries; and

Whereas the viciousness with which Israel is attacked and discriminated against at the United Nations should not be allowed to continue unchallenged: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That—

2 (1) the House of Representatives—

3 (A) welcomes recent attempts by the
4 United Nations Secretary General to address
5 the issue of anti-Semitism;

6 (B) calls on the United Nations to offi-
7 cially and publicly condemn anti-Semitic state-
8 ments made at all United Nations meetings and
9 hold accountable United Nations member states
10 that make such statements; and

11 (C) strongly urges the United Nations
12 Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organiza-

1 tion (UNESCO) to develop and implement edu-
2 cation awareness programs about the Holocaust
3 throughout the world as part of an effort to
4 combat the rise in anti-Semitism and racial, re-
5 ligious, and ethnic intolerance; and

6 (2) it is the sense of the House of Representa-
7 tives that—

8 (A) the President should direct the United
9 States Permanent Representative to the United
10 Nations to continue working toward further re-
11 duction of anti-Semitic language and anti-Israel
12 resolutions;

13 (B) the President should direct the Sec-
14 retary of State to include in the Department of
15 State's annual Country Reports on Human
16 Rights Practices and annual Report on Inter-
17 national Religious Freedom information on ac-
18 tivities at the United Nations and its con-
19 stituent bodies relating to anti-Semitism by
20 each of the countries included in these reports;
21 and

22 (C) the President should direct the Sec-
23 retary of State to use projects funded through
24 the Middle East Partnership Initiative and
25 United States overseas broadcasts to educate

- 1 Arab and Muslim countries about anti-Semitism,
- 2 religious intolerance, and incitement to violence.
- 3

109TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. CON. RES. 153

Welcoming His Excellency Hamid Karzai, the President of Afghanistan, on the occasion of his visit to the United States in May 2005 and expressing support for a strong and enduring strategic partnership between the United States and Afghanistan.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 16, 2005

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN (for herself, Mr. ACKERMAN, Mr. LANTOS, Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA, Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. BURTON of Indiana, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. PENCE, Mr. MCCOTTER, and Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on International Relations

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Welcoming His Excellency Hamid Karzai, the President of Afghanistan, on the occasion of his visit to the United States in May 2005 and expressing support for a strong and enduring strategic partnership between the United States and Afghanistan.

Whereas Afghanistan, a great nation located at the crossroads of many civilizations, has suffered the ravages of war, foreign intervention, occupation, and oppression;

Whereas the Afghan people courageously resisted the decade-long occupation of their country by the former Soviet

Union, forcing a Soviet withdrawal in 1989 and thereby contributing to the end of the Cold War;

Whereas following the Soviet withdrawal, Afghanistan went through a period of chaos and conflict, exacerbated by insufficient attention from the international community, during which time the Taliban militia seized control of much of the country and provided a base of operations to Al Qaeda and other terrorist elements;

Whereas following the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, the United States launched Operation Enduring Freedom, liberating the Afghan people from tyranny, transforming Afghanistan from a haven for terrorists into a strategic partner in the struggle against international terrorism, and helping Afghans build a democratic government;

Whereas the Afghan Constitution, drafted by a broadly representative Loya Jirga, or Grand Council, and enacted on January 4, 2004, provides for equal rights for and full participation of women, mandates full compliance with international norms for human and civil rights, establishes procedures for free and fair elections, creates a system of checks and balances between the executive, legislative and judicial branches, encourages a free market economy and private enterprise, and obligates the state to prevent all types of terrorist activity and the production and trafficking of narcotics;

Whereas more than 10.5 million Afghan men and women voted in national presidential elections in October 2004, demonstrating commitment to democracy, courage in the face of threats of violence, and a deep sense of civic responsibility;

Whereas Hamid Karzai, formerly the interim President, was elected to a five-year term as Afghanistan's first democratically-elected President in the country's history;

Whereas nationwide parliamentary elections are planned for September 18, 2005, and further demonstrate the Afghan Government's commitment to adhere to democratic norms;

Whereas the Government of Afghanistan has demonstrated a firm commitment to halting the cultivation and trafficking of narcotics and has cooperated fully with the United States and its allies on a wide range of counter-narcotics initiatives;

Whereas in addition to military and law enforcement operations, President Karzai welcomes the United States and the international community to assist Afghanistan's counter-narcotics campaign by supporting programs to provide alternative livelihoods for farmers, sustained economic development, and governmental and security capacity building;

Whereas recognizing that long-term political stability requires sustained economic security, Afghanistan is striving to create an economic base to provide meaningful livelihoods for all of its people, and the United States has a cooperative interest in helping Afghanistan achieve this goal;

Whereas section 101(1) of the Afghanistan Freedom Support Act of 2002 (22 U.S.C. 7511(1)) declares that the "United States and the international community should support efforts that advance the development of democratic civil authorities and institutions in Afghanistan and the establishment of a new broad-based, multi-ethnic,

gender-sensitive, and fully representative government in Afghanistan”;

Whereas on June 15, 2004, during President Karzai’s visit to the United States, President George W. Bush stated: “Afghanistan’s journey to democracy and peace deserves the support and respect of every nation. . . . The world and the United States stand with [the people of Afghanistan] as partners in their quest for peace and prosperity and stability and democracy.”;

Whereas on June 15, 2004, in his address to a joint meeting of Congress, President Karzai stated: “We must build a partnership that will consolidate our achievements and enhance stability, prosperity and democracy in Afghanistan and in the region. This requires sustaining and accelerating the reconstruction of Afghanistan, through long-term commitment. . . . We must enhance our strategic partnership. The security of our two nations are intertwined.”;

Whereas on April 13, 2005, while receiving the visiting United States Secretary of Defense, Donald Rumsfeld, President Karzai, in expressing the desire of the Afghan people for a long-term strategic partnership with the United States, stated: “They want this relationship to be a wholesome one, including a sustained economic relationship, a political relationship, and most important of all, a strategic security relationship that would enable Afghanistan to defend itself, to continue to prosper, to stop interferences, the possibility of interferences in Afghanistan.”; and

Whereas the people of the United States, and their elected representatives, are honored to welcome President Karzai back to the United States in May 2005 on a visit that

will further advance the close partnership between the United States and Afghanistan: Now, therefore, be it

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

3 (1) Congress welcomes the first democratically-
4 elected President of Afghanistan, His Excellency
5 Hamid Karzai, as an honored guest and valued
6 friend upon his visit to the United States in May
7 2005; and

8 (2) it is the sense of Congress that—

9 (A) a democratic, stable, and prosperous
10 Afghanistan is a vital security interest of the
11 United States; and

12 (B) a strong and enduring strategic part-
13 nership between the United States and Afghani-
14 stan should continue to be a primary objective
15 of both countries to advance a shared vision of
16 peace, freedom, security, and broad-based eco-
17 nomic development between the two countries
18 and throughout the world.

○

Chairman HYDE. The Committee business meeting stands adjourned.

I urge all Members to stay for the important hearing which will begin immediately.

[Whereupon, at 10:40 a.m., the Committee proceeded to other business.]

