

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 57

Urging the Secretary of State that in 2015, a year of significant anniversaries for the Jewish people, United States embassies in appropriate countries should commemorate this anniversary year with significant public events including the message that the opportunities for remembrance and reflection contained in these anniversaries are applicable to all peoples.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 27, 2015

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey (for himself, Mr. COHEN, Mr. ADERHOLT, Mr. LIPINSKI, Mr. MEADOWS, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. RANGEL, and Ms. MENG) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

RESOLUTION

Urging the Secretary of State that in 2015, a year of significant anniversaries for the Jewish people, United States embassies in appropriate countries should commemorate this anniversary year with significant public events including the message that the opportunities for remembrance and reflection contained in these anniversaries are applicable to all peoples.

Whereas 2015 will be the 80th anniversary of the promulgation of the Nuremberg laws, which on September 15, 1935, deprived Jews and other “non-Aryans” of German citizenship and discriminated against them in other ways;

Whereas the Nuremberg laws are remembered as infamous exercises of anti-Semitism and racism as official state policy;

Whereas 2015 will be the 70th anniversary of the end of the Holocaust, and more specifically the liberation of Auschwitz, which on January 27, 1945, was liberated by Soviet troops who encountered approximately 7,500 living prisoners;

Whereas the liberation of Auschwitz has come to symbolize the end of the Holocaust, as this was the place where at least 1,100,000 people, approximately 90 percent of whom were Jewish, were murdered as a matter of official state policy of Nazi Germany;

Whereas 2015 will mark the 50th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the State of Israel and the Federal Republic of Germany, which occurred on May 12, 1965;

Whereas in establishing diplomatic relations Israel and Germany, in a spirit of goodwill and shared democracy and common values, overcame the painful memories of the Holocaust and deepened their reconciliation;

Whereas 2015 will be the 50th anniversary of the proclamation of *Nostra Aetate* (“In Our Time”), the Declaration on the Relationship of the Church to Non-Christian Religions, in which on October 28, 1965, Pope Paul VI made an authoritative declaration on Catholic-Jewish relations and also on Catholic-interfaith relations;

Whereas *Nostra Aetate* condemned anti-Semitism, opened the doors for Catholic-Jewish dialogue and cooperation, has been widely credited as contributing greatly to reversing centuries of misunderstanding between Christians and

Jews, and has been a touchstone statement on mutual respect for all religions;

Whereas these anniversaries will be widely observed and occasions for reflection by many people in 2015; and

Whereas the lessons contained in the anniversaries are applicable beyond those nations and faiths involved in the events they mark: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

2 (1) urges the Administration to continue efforts
3 to combat anti-Semitism globally and issue public
4 statements and hold appropriate public events that
5 reflect on the significant anniversaries of 2015,
6 which are important to the Jewish people and are
7 applicable to all peoples everywhere;

8 (2) urges the Secretary of State that in 2015,
9 a year of significant anniversaries for the Jewish
10 people, United States embassies in appropriate coun-
11 tries should observe these anniversaries with signifi-
12 cant public events and statements;

13 (3) further urges the Secretary of State that in
14 2015 the United States Mission to the United Na-
15 tions and the United States Mission to the Organi-
16 zation for Security and Cooperation in Europe
17 should observe these anniversaries with similar pub-
18 lic events and statements;

1 (4) calls on the Broadcasting Board of Gov-
2 ernors (BBG) to observe these anniversaries with
3 significant programming including the message that
4 the opportunities for remembrance and reflection
5 contained in these anniversaries are applicable to all
6 peoples, such as by making every effort possible to
7 ensure that this programming is not censored on the
8 Internet or through electronic interference of radio
9 and TV broadcasting;

10 (5) expresses sympathy to the families of all
11 those who suffered due to the Nuremberg laws and
12 during the Holocaust;

13 (6) expresses appreciation to governments,
14 groups, and individuals that will appropriately mark
15 these anniversaries, and work to perpetuate the re-
16 membrance of Nazi anti-Semitism and the Holo-
17 caust, and to promote inter-ethnic and interreligious
18 reconciliation;

19 (7) appreciates the role of the Holy See in com-
20 bating religious intolerance and religious discrimina-
21 tion and acknowledges the role of Nostra Aetate in
22 fostering interreligious dialogue; and

23 (8) condemns all forms of anti-Semitic abuses
24 that are ongoing throughout the world, whether
25 committed by governments or by other persons or

- 1 groups, particularly in the forms of denying or mini-
- 2 mizing the Holocaust and other crimes of Nazi Ger-
- 3 many.

