

**COMMENDING THE UNITED KINGDOM FOR ITS
EFFORTS IN THE WAR ON TERROR,
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

MARKUP

BEFORE THE

SUBCOMMITTEE ON EUROPE AND
EMERGING THREATS

OF THE

COMMITTEE ON
INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

ONE HUNDRED NINTH CONGRESS

SECOND SESSION

ON

H. Res. 989

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**COMMENDING THE UNITED KINGDOM FOR
ITS EFFORTS IN THE WAR ON TERROR, AND
FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2006

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
SUBCOMMITTEE ON EUROPE AND EMERGING THREATS,
COMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS,
Washington, DC.

The Subcommittee met, pursuant to notice, at 1:24 p.m. in room 2200, Rayburn House Office Building, Hon. Ethan Gallegly (Chairman of the Subcommittee) presiding.

Mr. GALLEGLY. I call to order the Subcommittee on Europe and Emerging Threats, and pursuant to notice I would call up House Resolution 989 for purposes of markup and move its immediate recommendation to the Full Committee. Without objection, the resolution will be considered as read and open for an amendment at any point.

Today, the Subcommittee on Europe and Emerging Threats is marking up one item, House Resolution 989. Immediately following the markup we will proceed with the Subcommittee's hearing on developments in Serbia.

House Resolution 989, which commends the United Kingdom for its efforts in the War on Terror, was introduced by Congressman Poe. I commend my colleague and friend, Mr. Poe, for his work on this timely legislation and strongly support its passage.

[H. Res. 989 follows:]

109TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. RES. 989

Commending the United Kingdom for its efforts in the War on Terror,
and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 7, 2006

Mr. POE submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the
Committee on International Relations

RESOLUTION

Commending the United Kingdom for its efforts in the War
on Terror, and for other purposes.

Whereas on August 10, 2006, British police arrested 24 people for plotting to commit acts of terror on trans-Atlantic flights;

Whereas as of August 31, 2006, 12 citizens have been charged for their roles in the terror plot, including eight citizens charge with conspiracy to murder;

Whereas United Kingdom authorities acted swiftly and decisively to prevent a horrific attack on scores of innocent people;

Whereas the United Kingdom and the United States have been close allies in not only two World Wars and Operation Desert Storm, but also the Global War on Terror;

Whereas the intelligence and military communities of the United Kingdom and the United States continue to work together to win the Global War on Terror;

Whereas the threat of terrorism is a grave concern for all nations, regardless of geographical or other boundaries;

Whereas acts of terror have profoundly affected citizens across the globe, including those in Bali, Turkey, India, the United Kingdom, and the United States; and

Whereas victory in the Global War on Terror is a necessity to ensure the liberty and safety of all people: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

2 (1) commends the law enforcement authorities
3 of the United Kingdom on their action to prevent a
4 terrible attack from occurring;

5 (2) commends the intelligence community of the
6 United Kingdom for its outstanding work in identi-
7 fying the citizens seeking to carry out this plot;

8 (3) condemns those that would use acts of vio-
9 lence against innocent civilians to spread a message
10 of hate and intolerance; and

11 (4) urges the allies of the United States in the
12 Global War on Terror to remain steadfast in the
13 execution of this important mission.

○

Mr. GALLEGLY. As the Chairman of this Subcommittee and as a Member of the Intelligence Committee, I know firsthand the great work being undertaken by Britain to destroy terrorist networks and foil terrorist plots. I am also aware, as is mentioned in this resolution, of the excellent cooperation between the American and British intelligence communities.

The resolution focuses on the outstanding work of the law enforcement authorities in the United Kingdom in preventing the planned terrorist attack that would have blown up in midair multiple trans-Atlantic flights from London to the United States. This plot was thwarted by British police and intelligence officials on August 10 of this year with the arrest of 24 people.

In addition, House Resolution 989 cites terrorism as a grave concern for all nations, regardless of boundaries, as terrorist attacks have killed innocent people in countries such as Indonesia, Turkey, India and, of course, the United Kingdom and, here, in the United States.

Britain has been a close, long-time friend of the United States, and now they are standing with us in the War on Terrorism. It is entirely appropriate for this Committee and the House to recognize their friendship and their contribution to this war.

Again, I would like to commend my good friend, Ted Poe, for introducing this measure, and I urge its passage.

At this point I would recognize my friend from Florida, the Ranking Member, Mr. Wexler, for purposes of a statement.

Mr. WEXLER. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Gallegly, I want to most especially associate myself with your comments and join you in strong support of House Resolution 989, commending the United Kingdom for its efforts in the War on Terror.

It goes without saying that the U.K. has been America's staunchest ally in the War on Terror and continues to play a critical role in both Iraq and Afghanistan. I especially want to point out Great Britain's critical role in Afghanistan as part of the NATO forces and along with the British forces throughout battling the Taliban and the al-Qaeda terrorists.

While many of our NATO allies have not participated at an appropriate level and is causing great strain in the NATO relationship, it is very important and timely to point out that London, under the leadership of Tony Blair, has always been ready to answer the calls of NATO commanders and meet its commitments to the people of Afghanistan, in particular, who are trying to rebuild their nation.

I think this resolution comes at a particularly important time in that Great Britain has experienced heavy casualties over the past month, including the loss of 14 of its very best after a Royal Air Force aircraft crashed in southern Afghanistan earlier this month. This incident, I believe, is the single biggest loss of British troops in either Iraq or Afghanistan, and of course we would all be remiss if we do not express our deepest sympathies to the families of these soldiers.

Once again, Mr. Chairman, I join you in strongly supporting this important resolution and urge everyone to support it.

Mr. GALLEGLY. Thank you, Rob.

I would recognize the sponsor of this legislation, our good friend from Texas, Mr. Poe.

Mr. POE. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It has been 5 years since Americans and the world watched in shock and anger as the Twin Towers fell and the Pentagon burned. Since that day there have been constant reminders that a world war is waiting to determine whether life and liberty can overcome hatred and tyranny.

The war is being fought on the battlefields of Iraq and Afghanistan, but battles are also taking place in other less-publicized locations. As American soldiers and British soldiers dodge IEDs, intelligence and law enforcement communities around the world work to prevent another 9/11 occurrence somewhere in the world.

As we know all too well, failures of intelligence result in very public and devastating results. We have seen bombings in England and Spain and India. However, we have also seen significant victories as these plots have been thwarted.

Last month, United Kingdom authorities foiled a terrorist plot to detonate explosives on several trans-Atlantic flights coming to the United States. This plan, had it been carried out, would have resulted in the death of at least 700 people from all countries.

Because of the professionalism and competence of the British law enforcement and intelligence officials, many fathers, mothers, sisters and brothers are able to return to their families.

It is vital that we remain vigilant in the Global War on Terror, and it is also important we honor the success of those who fight alongside the United States in this effort. The United Kingdom, who is with us in Iraq and Afghanistan and around the world, deserves praise from our Congress for their actions. They have and continue to be our greatest ally, and we must commend them for their longstanding allegiance to freedom.

Winston Churchill said that the United States and the British are two countries separated by a common language, but we are united on this War on Terror.

I yield back.

Mr. GALLEGLY. Thank you very much. Are there any amendments to the resolution?

[No response.]

Mr. GALLEGLY. Hearing no requests, the question occurs on the motion to report the resolution, H. Res. 989, favorably.

All in favor will say aye.

[Chorus of ayes.]

Mr. GALLEGLY. All opposed will say no.

[No response.]

Mr. GALLEGLY. The motion is approved, and the resolution is reported favorably.

The staff is directed to make any technical and conforming amendments.

[Whereupon, at 1:30 p.m. the Subcommittee was adjourned.]