Public Law 100-16
100th Congress

Joint Resolution

Mar. 27, 1987
[S.J. Res. 63]

To designate March 21, 1987, as Afghanistan Day.

Whereas more than seven years have passed since the unprovoked Soviet invasion of the nonaligned country of Afghanistan;

Whereas close to one hundred and fifteen thousand Soviet troops are continuing a brutal attempt to crush the nationwide Afghan resistance to the Soviets and the Marxist regime they installed;

Whereas indiscriminate air and artillery bombardments, deliberate attempts to generate refugees, and the destruction of livestock, crops, and property remain a key instrument of Soviet and Kabul regime policy;

Whereas Soviet and Kabul regime actions in Afghanistan violate the following international covenants: the 1949 Geneva Conventions and Customary International Law; article 7 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights; and the 1954 Hague Convention;

6 UST 3114, 3217, 3316, 3516. 15 UST 2228.

Whereas the military operations of the Soviets and their Afghan surrogates have driven almost three million refugees into Pakistan, placing an almost intolerable burden on its economy, social service system, and ecology;

Whereas the United Nations General Assembly has in eight resolutions called for the "immediate withdrawal of foreign troops from Afghanistan", and a recent United Nations Human Rights Commission report concludes that the continuation of a military solution in Afghanistan will "lead inevitably to a situation approaching genocide";

Whereas, the twentieth semiannual report of the United States Department of State on the implementation of the Helsinki Final Act observes that Soviet policies in Afghanistan are: "in direct and willful violation of the general principles set forth in the Helsinki Final Act, including respect of the inviolability of frontiers, territorial integrity of states, and self-determination of peoples";

Whereas, in June 1986, the European Parliament overwhelmingly adopted a resolution on the situation in Afghanistan which condemns: "The deaths of some one and a half million Afghans since the beginning of the Soviet intervention, out of the total population of fifteen million, while four and a half million refugees have had to flee to Pakistan and Iran and a million Afghans are surviving in extremely difficult conditions within the country itself";

Whereas Soviet and Kabul regime aircraft have violated Pakistan's airspace seven hundred and fifty-seven times during 1986, killing forty-six innocent people and wounding seventy-seven;

Whereas over two hundred and thirty-three Soviet and Kabul-inspired terrorist incidents took place in Pakistan during 1986, often in circumstances calculated to cause the deaths of innocent civilians;

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Whereas recent developments such as the deceptive withdrawal of six Soviet regiments, a "national reconciliation" scheme which leaves a regime opposed by an overwhelming majority of the Afghan people, and a ceasefire proposal with no provision for the withdrawal of Soviet forces suggest no change in the Soviet goal in Afghanistan;

Whereas the only credible indicator of Soviet commitment to negotiated political settlement in Afghanistan will be their agreement at the Geneva negotiations to a prompt and complete withdrawal of all their troops and full self-determination for the Afghan people;

Whereas, since the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan, the Congress has in numerous resolutions declared the solidarity of the American people with the struggle of the Afghan people against the Soviet invaders; and

Whereas the people of Afghanistan observe March 21 as the traditional start of their new year and as a symbol of their nation's rebirth: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the President is authorized and requested to issue a proclamation designating March 21, 1987, as Afghanistan Day, and calling upon the people of the United States to observe such day with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

Approved March 27, 1987.

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY—S.J. Res. 63:

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, Vol. 133 (1987):
Mar. 17, considered and passed Senate.
Mar. 19, considered and passed House.