

Public Law 98-351
98th Congress

Joint Resolution

To designate July 9, 1984, as "African Refugees Relief Day".

July 9, 1984

[H.J. Res. 604]

Whereas Africa is a continent in crisis torn by conflict, drought, and starvation, the causes of which urgently need to be addressed; Whereas these conditions have produced four million refugees seeking relief in twenty-four countries across the continent; Whereas these refugees are receiving some immediate assistance, but need long-term solutions to their plight so they may attain self-sufficiency and thereby regain their dignity; Whereas Africa does not wish to lose its refugee sons and daughters to foreign communities, but requires support to help its impoverished nations whose development and fragile infrastructures have been burdened enormously by the continued presence of massive refugee populations; and Whereas the Secretary General of the United Nations, in cooperation with the Organization of African Unity and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, will convene an international conference, ICARA II, in Geneva, July 9 through 11, 1984, to launch a coordinated endeavor that will attempt to reach durable solutions to refugee problems, and to obtain a renewed focus on refugee-related developmental assistance: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That July 9, 1984, is designated as "African Refugees Relief Day". The President is requested to issue a proclamation calling upon the people of the United States to observe such day (1) by recognizing that the

resolution of African refugee problems is not only an act of simple humanity, but, because it will enhance Africa's stability and progress, is in the national interest, and (2) by increasing their contributions to private voluntary agencies that provide emergency assistance to African refugees.

Approved July 9, 1984.

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY—H.J. Res. 604:

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, Vol. 130 (1984):

June 26, considered and passed House.

June 29, considered and passed Senate.