

105TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. CON. RES. 166

Expressing the sense of the Congress that every effort should be made to assure the complete implementation of, and compliance with, the December 1996 Guatemalan peace accords.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OCTOBER 2, 1997

Mrs. MORELLA (for herself and Mr. LANTOS) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on International Relations

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the Congress that every effort should be made to assure the complete implementation of, and compliance with, the December 1996 Guatemalan peace accords.

Whereas the peace accords signed by the Government of Guatemala and the Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity (URNG) on December 29, 1996, represent a great achievement for the Guatemalan people and for the signatory parties, and lay the foundation for achieving fundamental political and economic reforms and national reconciliation;

Whereas specific provisions of the peace accords address critical issues that were root causes of the armed conflict or were consequences of the war in Guatemala, including ac-

cess to land and credit, racial discrimination, grave human rights violations, the lack of effective law enforcement, military impunity, and the absence of democratic government;

Whereas the parties to the peace accords agreed to implement the December 1996 accords over a four-year period, with compliance to be monitored and supported by the Guatemalan Commission for Accompaniment and verified internationally by the United Nations Mission in Guatemala (MINUGUA);

Whereas international donors have pledged financial support to implement the accords, especially those commitments made to strengthen democratic institutions and the rule of law, to improve the efficiency and availability of public services, to promote more equitable economic growth, and to raise living standards, focusing on the very poor, indigenous peoples, and women; and

Whereas the Clarification Commission created under the peace accords to establish responsibility for human rights violations committed during the armed conflict has a maximum of one year to find the truth about many thousands of abuses committed over 36 years: Now, therefore, be it

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

3 (1) commends the Government of Guatemala
4 and the Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity
5 (URNG) for their actions in carrying out the first
6 phase of implementation of the peace accords;

1 (2) commends the Government of Guatemala
2 and President Alvaro Arzu for the steps they have
3 taken to tackle corruption and to strengthen civilian
4 control over the armed forces, and for putting in
5 place the joint action commissions that will play a
6 critical role in the implementation of the peace ac-
7 cords;

8 (3) commends the United Nations for its work
9 in facilitating the peace agreement and for its role
10 in verifying the accords, and the Group of Friends—
11 Colombia, Mexico, Norway, Spain, the United
12 States, and Venezuela—for their support of the
13 peace process in Guatemala;

14 (4) notes the need for the greatest possible
15 democratic participation in implementing the ac-
16 cords, and calls on the Government of Guatemala,
17 the URNG, and the United Nations Mission in Gua-
18 temala (MINUGUA) to promote dialogue and con-
19 sensus-building with the political parties, the private
20 sector and civil society groups;

21 (5) notes with concern the continued involve-
22 ment of military intelligence in operational police
23 matters revealed in the “Mincho” case and calls
24 upon the Government of Guatemala, with the co-
25 operation of the URNG and MINUGUA, to conduct

1 a full investigation into this case and to ensure strict
2 compliance with the provisions of the peace accords
3 regarding the role of intelligence structures;

4 (6) calls on the Government of Guatemala to
5 provide the fullest possible financial, logistical, and
6 other support to the Clarification Commission to
7 carry out its work, and to act upon the findings of
8 the Commission's final report;

9 (7) calls on the Government of Guatemala to
10 continue strengthening the climate of respect for
11 human rights and interpreting the Law of National
12 Reconciliation in such a manner that those who com-
13 mitted human rights violations during the armed
14 conflict do not escape justice;

15 (8) calls on the Government of Guatemala to
16 continue to facilitate the return as quickly as pos-
17 sible of all Guatemalan refugees currently living in
18 Mexico who desire to return, as established by the
19 October 8, 1992, agreement between the Govern-
20 ment of Guatemala and the Guatemalan refugee
21 groups;

22 (9) calls on the Government of Guatemala to
23 take prompt measures, as required by the accords
24 and recommended by the International Monetary
25 Fund and other financial institutions, to increase its

1 revenues, in an equitable manner, in order to imple-
2 ment the socioeconomic commitments of the peace
3 accords and to resolve peacefully and expeditiously
4 the many land disputes that have raised tensions in
5 the countryside;

6 (10) calls on the Clinton Administration to
7 monitor closely the peace process in Guatemala, to
8 support full implementation of the peace accords,
9 and to provide adequate funds for reconstruction
10 and development, with particular emphasis on
11 strengthening the justice system, building a new ci-
12 vilian police force, alleviating extreme poverty, and
13 ensuring the full integration of indigenous people
14 and women into the political and economic system;

15 (11) calls on the Clinton Administration to en-
16 sure that any United States assistance to the Guate-
17 malan military be limited exclusively to aid that car-
18 ries out the objectives of the peace accords of in-
19 creasing civilian control over the military, limiting
20 the role of the Guatemalan armed forces to defense
21 of sovereignty and national security, and fostering
22 greater respect for human rights; and

23 (12) calls on the Clinton Administration to sup-
24 port the work of the Guatemalan Clarification Com-
25 mission by speedily declassifying documents of Unit-

1 ed States agencies that may shed light on human
2 rights violations committed during the Guatemalan
3 conflict and making those documents available to the
4 Commission and to the public.

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