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H. CON. RES. 218

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

APRIL 29, 1998

Received and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Concerning the urgent need to establish a cease fire in Afghanistan and begin the transition toward a broad-based multiethnic government that observes international norms of behavior.

Whereas peace and stability has not returned to Afghanistan despite the February 1989 Soviet withdrawal from Afghanistan;

Whereas the Department of State's Country Reports on Human Rights for 1997 states: "The overall human rights situation [in Afghanistan] is poor * * * political killings, torture, rape, arbitrary detention, looting, abduc-

tions and kidnappings for ransom were committed by armed units, local commanders, and rogue individuals”; Whereas the continuing civil conflict in Afghanistan has had a grievous impact upon the Afghan people, where within its borders occurs the highest rate of infant, child, and maternal mortality in the region;

Whereas neighboring countries have provided support in the form of financial assistance and arms to the different groups warring in Afghanistan, thereby extending the length and expanding the destruction of this internal conflict;

Whereas another byproduct of this conflict is the harboring of Islamic militants and terrorist leaders in Afghanistan;

Whereas due to the tyranny and destruction caused by Taliban rule, Afghanistan is now one of the world’s leading producers of opium, and over the past year alone, the production of opiates in Afghanistan has increased and resulted in a growth in the drug trade not only in the Central and South Asian regions but in Russia and the West as well;

Whereas continuing instability serves as an obstacle to international investment and the establishment of developmental projects inside Afghanistan, so necessary to Afghanistan’s rejuvenation from years of conflict, and central to promoting political cooperation among Afghan factions;

Whereas the continuing conflict in Afghanistan serves as an impediment to economic prosperity and political development throughout all of South Asia and the newly independent Central Asian nations as well; and

Whereas despite repeated efforts by the United Nations to broker an end to continuing warfare among the country's warring factions, the absence of peace has prevented Afghanistan from addressing the numerous problems facing its citizenry: Now, therefore, be it

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

3 (1) acknowledges that, through determination,
4 tenacity, and courage, the Afghan people success-
5 fully waged a war against Soviet expansionism and
6 greatly assisted in bringing an end to the cold war;

7 (2) calls upon all warring factions and national
8 powers to participate in intra-Afghan dialogue (the
9 “Frankfurt Process”) and in the peace process and
10 to actively cooperate in the acceleration of endeavors
11 for peace;

12 (3)(A) deplores continuing human rights viola-
13 tions occurring within Afghanistan, especially
14 against women and female children, who have suf-
15 fered condoned discrimination and harassment, and
16 the reported widespread execution of prisoners of
17 war and civilians evidenced by the discovery of mass
18 graves which contained an estimated 2,000 corpses;
19 and

20 (B) supports the intention of the United Na-
21 tions and the International Committee of the Red

1 Cross to continue their investigation into these re-
2 ported killings;

3 (4)(A) welcomes the appointment of Amba-
4 sador Lakhbar Brahimi as special envoy of the
5 United Nations Secretary General for Afghanistan
6 and supports his efforts toward attaining a peaceful
7 negotiated settlement with the assistance of the six
8 nations bordering Afghanistan as well as representa-
9 tives from the United States and Russia; and

10 (B) encourages a role for Afghan leaders of all
11 factions and ethnic groups in the United Nations ne-
12 gotiation efforts, based on the fact that peace and
13 national reconciliation cannot be imposed on the Af-
14 ghan people by their neighbors;

15 (5) urges the nations of the region to cooperate
16 in the peace process and to end immediately the sup-
17 ply of arms, ammunition, military equipment, train-
18 ing or any other military support to all parties to
19 the conflict;

20 (6) urges appropriate parties in the United Na-
21 tions, Afghanistan, and its neighbors to work toward
22 the eradication of the production of opium, especially
23 in southern Afghanistan, and to link such efforts
24 wherever possible to realistic income alternatives;

1 (7) calls upon all parties within Afghanistan to
2 prevent the reoccurrence of actions which impede the
3 ability of humanitarian and international organiza-
4 tions to move food shipments and other forms of hu-
5 manitarian assistance into Afghanistan;

6 (8) acknowledges that due to the death and de-
7 struction wrought by the February 4, 1998, earth-
8 quake in northeastern Afghanistan, where approxi-
9 mately 5,000 people have died and an estimated
10 30,000 have been left homeless, there is a continuing
11 need for international emergency aid of food, cloth-
12 ing, and shelter;

13 (9) recognizes the continuing requirement to
14 address the needs of more than 2,500,000 Afghan
15 refugees in neighboring countries, three-quarters of
16 whom are women and children;

17 (10) acknowledges the necessity of international
18 efforts to clear the estimated 10,000,000 land mines
19 buried in the Afghan countryside; and

20 (11) calls for the expulsion of all known terror-
21 ist leaders from Afghanistan and the closing down of
22 all terrorist training camps operating in the country.
Passed the House of Representatives April 28, 1998.

Attest:

ROBIN H. CARLE,

Clerk.