

Calendar No. 174

105TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. CON. RES. 99

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JULY 23, 1997

Received and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

SEPTEMBER 24, 1997

Reported by Mr. HELMS, without amendment

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Expressing concern over recent events in the Republic of Sierra Leone in the wake of the recent military coup d'etat of that country's first democratically elected president.

Whereas for the first time in almost 30 years, the Republic of Sierra Leone held their first truly democratic multiparty elections to elect a president and parliament and put an end to military rule;

Whereas the elections held on February 26, 1996, and the subsequent runoff election held on March 15, 1996, were deemed by international and domestic observers to be free and fair and legitimate expressions of the will of the people of the Republic of Sierra Leone;

Whereas on May 25, 1997, a military coup d'état against the democratically elected Government of the Republic of Sierra Leone, including President Ahmed Tejan Kabbah, took place;

Whereas the coup d'état, led by Major Johnny Paul Koroma and the Armed Forces Ruling Council (AFRC) on May 25, 1997, signifies a giant step backward for freedom and democracy in the Republic of Sierra Leone;

Whereas there has been fighting, killing, looting and a disruption of relief supplies in the Republic of Sierra Leone since the coup d'état; and

Whereas the best solution to this crisis would be a peaceful solution: Now, therefore, be it

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

3 (1) condemns the leaders and members of the
4 rebellious Armed Forces Ruling Council (AFRC) for
5 ousting the democratically elected Government of the
6 Republic of Sierra Leone, including President
7 Ahmed Tejan Kabbah;

8 (2) urges an immediate end to all violence in
9 the Republic of Sierra Leone;

10 (3) encourages the members of the AFRC to
11 negotiate a hand-over of power back to the demo-
12 cratically elected Government of the Republic of Si-
13 erra Leone in order to restore order and democracy
14 in the country;

1 (4) encourages all citizens of the Republic of Si-
2 erra Leone to work together to bring about a peace-
3 ful solution to the current conflict;

4 (5) reaffirms the United States support of the
5 democratically elected Government of the Republic
6 of Sierra Leone led by President Ahmed Tejan
7 Kabbah;

8 (6) urges the members of the AFRC and all
9 armed elements involved in the conflict to ensure the
10 protection and safety of international aid agencies
11 and personnel serving in the country, and allow
12 them unobstructed access to affected areas to deliver
13 emergency humanitarian relief to people in need;
14 and

15 (7) commends the Organization of African
16 Unity for calling on all African countries, and the
17 international community at large, to refrain from
18 recognizing the new regime or lending support in
19 any form whatsoever to the perpetrators of the coup
20 d'etat, the AFRC.

Passed the House of Representatives July 22, 1997.

Attest:

ROBIN H. CARLE,

Clerk.

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