

105TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 483

To authorize appropriations for the payment of United States arrearages  
to the United Nations.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 21, 1997

Mr. LEACH introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee  
on International Relations

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## A BILL

To authorize appropriations for the payment of United States  
arrearages to the United Nations.

1       *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2       *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3       **SECTION 1. FINDINGS.**

4       The Congress makes the following findings:

5               (1) The United States played a leading role in  
6       the founding of the United Nations in 1945.

7               (2) The United Nations, which by charter is  
8       dedicated to saving “succeeding generations from  
9       the scourge of war”, continues to promote important  
10      interests of the United States in the protection of

1 human rights, the control of weapons of mass de-  
2 struction, advancing the ideal of democracy, open  
3 international trade and investment, the promotion of  
4 sustainable development, refugee protection and hu-  
5 manitarian relief, the prevention of global conflict,  
6 eradicating disease, and environmental protection.

7 (3) The United States remains committed to  
8 working to achieve reform and instill greater budget  
9 discipline in the United Nations, and to continue the  
10 trend toward restructuring and revitalizing that or-  
11 ganization.

12 (4) Ongoing reform efforts in the United Na-  
13 tions are jeopardized by a serious financial crisis,  
14 caused in part by arrearages on payments by mem-  
15 ber states.

16 (5) The United States is the leading debtor to  
17 the United Nations, owing more than  
18 \$1,300,000,000 at the end of 1996 for the regular  
19 and peacekeeping operations of the United Nations.

20 (6) The assessed share of the United States for  
21 the regular budget of the United Nations is just over  
22 \$320,000,000 for 1996, or slightly more than \$1 for  
23 each citizen of the United States.

24 (7) Article 17 of the United Nations Charter  
25 states that “[t]he expenses of the Organization shall

1 be borne by the members as apportioned by the Gen-  
2 eral Assembly”, of which the United States is a  
3 member.

4 (8) Payment by the United States of its assess-  
5 ment for the regular budget and the peacekeeping  
6 operations of the United Nations is a solemn treaty  
7 obligation under international law, voluntarily under-  
8 taken through the ratification by the United States  
9 of the United Nations Charter.

10 (9) Efforts to reform and revitalize the United  
11 Nations cannot succeed without the political, moral,  
12 financial, and material support of the United States.

13 (10) United States leadership in an effective  
14 United Nations will be seriously jeopardized if the  
15 Congress fails to fulfill the financial obligations of  
16 the United States to the United Nations in a full  
17 and timely manner, consistent with international law  
18 and the role of the United States as a founder and  
19 leading member of the United Nations.

20 **SEC. 2. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS FOR AR-**  
21 **REARAGES IN ASSESSED CONTRIBUTIONS TO**  
22 **THE UNITED NATIONS FOR PRIOR YEARS.**

23 (a) AUTHORIZATION.—Notwithstanding any other  
24 provision of law, there are authorized to be appropriated  
25 \$376,775,000 for the payment of arrearages in assessed

1 contributions of the United States to the United Nations  
2 (other than contributions for international peacekeeping  
3 activities) for fiscal years prior to fiscal year 1998.

4 (b) AVAILABILITY.—Amounts appropriated pursuant  
5 to subsection (a) are authorized to remain available until  
6 expended.

7 **SEC. 3. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS FOR CON-**  
8 **TRIBUTIONS FOR INTERNATIONAL PEACE-**  
9 **KEEPING ACTIVITIES.**

10 (a) AUTHORIZATION.—Notwithstanding any other  
11 provision of law, there are authorized to be appropriated  
12 \$926,154,000 for the payment of arrearages in assessed  
13 contributions of the United States for international peace-  
14 keeping activities of the United Nations for fiscal years  
15 prior to fiscal year 1998.

16 (b) AVAILABILITY.—Amounts appropriated pursuant  
17 to subsection (a) are authorized to remain available until  
18 expended.

19 **SEC. 4. SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

20 It is the sense of the Congress that—

21 (1) the United States should maintain its lead-  
22 ership role within a more effective United Nations,  
23 and continue to seek to lower the long-term costs as-  
24 sociated with the participation of the United States  
25 in the United Nations;

1           (2) the United States should continue its efforts  
2           to persuade other members of the United Nations to  
3           support a broad agenda for reform, budgetary dis-  
4           cipline, and equitable financial burdensharing at the  
5           United Nations; and

6           (3) the United States should promptly negotiate  
7           a reduction in its assessed contribution for any Unit-  
8           ed Nations peacekeeping operation to an amount not  
9           greater than 25 percent of the total amount of all  
10          assessed contributions for that operation.

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