

## **H. Res. 115**

### ***In the House of Representatives, U.S.,***

*April 17, 1997.*

Whereas Zairian President Mobutu Sese Seko's 31-year rule has turned his potentially prosperous country into one of the world's poorest, where human suffering long has been widespread;

Whereas the Mobutu Government has systematically violated the human rights and undermined the security of Zaire's 46,000,000 people;

Whereas the Mobutu Government has proven itself unwilling to allow a genuine transition to multi-party democracy and continues to cling to power against the best interests of Zaire's people;

Whereas the Mobutu Government permitted the circulation of extremist propaganda in the refugee camps that undermined voluntary repatriation efforts of the United Nations High Commission on Refugees;

Whereas the international community is concerned about the humanitarian needs of the hundreds of thousands of refugees and displaced Zairians;

Whereas many thousands of Rwandans seeking to return home are now too ill to walk and scores succumb each day to cholera, malnutrition, malaria, dehydration, and other diseases while awaiting final agreements among

parties to the conflict, the Government of Rwanda, and international humanitarian organizations, to permit the organization and implementation of a speedy air evacuation and the regular supply of urgently needed relief supplies and medical care;

Whereas in Zaire there have been numerous attempts to obstruct humanitarian relief to these populations at risk and to hinder relocation of civilians and the repatriation of refugees wishing to return home;

Whereas there are continuing reports of human rights violations by all parties that stem from the continued fighting in Zaire;

Whereas representatives of the Zairian Government and the Alliance of Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Congo-Zaire (ADFL) negotiated in South Africa, under the supervision of the United Nations and the Organization of African Unity, with no cease-fire agreement; and

Whereas the objectives of the United States Government, achieving the cessation of hostilities and achieving political reforms in Zaire, continue to be stymied: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That—

(1) it is the sense of the House of Representatives that—

(A) President Mobutu Sese Seko of Zaire should immediately resign from the office of the Presidency of Zaire, leave Zaire, and withdraw from all political activity;

(B) the United States Government should unequivocally call on Mobutu Sese Seko to immediately leave Zaire and withdraw from all political activity;

(C) the United States should continue to distance itself and its foreign policy from President Mobutu and his government in order to hasten his departure from Zaire's government and political life;

(D) the United States should work with all interested African and European nations to oppose the presence in Zaire of foreign government and mercenary forces, halt the flow of arms into the country, and encourage the warring parties to negotiate a cease-fire leading to a lasting peace;

(E) the United States Government should play a leading role in the international effort in supporting the creation of a broad-based transitional government of national unity composed of all democratic forces in Zaire; and

(F) the United States should actively pursue an immediate agreement among the various parties to permit the immediate and unhindered provision of humanitarian relief and the presence of inter-

national humanitarian workers to aid refugees and displaced persons in the Zaire; and

(2) the House of Representatives supports the creation in Zaire of the enabling environment necessary to conduct democratic, multi-party elections at the earliest feasible time, as well as the necessary conditions to establish the rule of law, respect for human rights, and the effective provision of humanitarian assistance.

Attest:

*Clerk.*