

H. Res. 282

In the House of Representatives, U.S.,

November 13, 1997.

Whereas 1997 marks the 30th anniversary of the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN);

Whereas the emphasis of ASEAN on cooperation and the nonviolent settlement of disputes has helped to bring peace between the nations of the region which for decades had been characterized by instability and conflict;

Whereas the economies of the member nations of ASEAN have experienced significant economic growth benefiting the lives of many of their people;

Whereas ASEAN as a group is the 4th largest trading partner of the United States and constitutes a larger market for United States exports than the People's Republic of China, Taiwan, and Hong Kong combined;

Whereas ASEAN has successfully fostered a sense of community among its member nations despite differing interests, including the establishment of the region's only security forum, the Association of South East Asian Nations Regional Forum (ARF), and the Association of South East Asian Nations Free Trade Area (AFTA);

Whereas ASEAN has played a pivotal role in international efforts of global and regional concern, including securing the withdrawal of Vietnamese forces from Cambodia and

diplomatic efforts to foster a political settlement to the civil war in Cambodia;

Whereas the United States relies on ASEAN as a partner in fostering regional stability, enhancing prosperity, and promoting peace; and

Whereas the 30th anniversary of the formation of ASEAN offers an opportunity for the United States and the nations of ASEAN to renew their commitment to international cooperation on issues of mutual interest and concern: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) congratulates the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) and its member nations on the occasion of its 30th anniversary;

(2) looks forward to a broadening and deepening of friendship and cooperation with ASEAN in the years ahead for the benefit of the people of the United States and the nations of ASEAN;

(3) encourages progress by ASEAN members toward the further development of democracy, respect for human rights, enhancement of the rule of law, and the expansion of market economies; and

(4) recognizes the past achievements of ASEAN and pledges its support to work closely with ASEAN as

both the United States and the nations of ASEAN face current and future regional and global challenges.

Attest:

Clerk.