

106TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. CON. RES. 170

Expressing United States policy toward the Republic of Bulgaria.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

AUGUST 2, 1999

Mr. GILMAN (for himself and Mr. MICA) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on International Relations

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## CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Expressing United States policy toward the Republic of  
Bulgaria.

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

3       **SECTION 1. FINDINGS.**

4       The Congress finds the following:

5               (1) Elections held in April 1997 in the Republic  
6       of Bulgaria brought to office a government com-  
7       mitted to full economic reforms, discipline in govern-  
8       ment budgetary and currency policies, increased for-  
9       eign, direct investment in Bulgaria, and energetic ef-  
10      forts to combat corrupt and criminal activities that  
11      had undermined previous economic reforms.

1           (2) The Government of the Republic of Bul-  
2           garia has worked to ensure the proper treatment of  
3           its citizens, regardless of ethnic background, includ-  
4           ing those of ethnic Turkish background, many of  
5           whom were subjected to forced assimilation cam-  
6           paigns and deportation under the former communist  
7           regime in Bulgaria.

8           (3) The Government of the Republic of Bul-  
9           garia has made Bulgaria's integration into pan-Eu-  
10          ropean and trans-Atlantic institutions, including the  
11          European Union and the North Atlantic Treaty Or-  
12          ganization (NATO), the highest priority of its for-  
13          eign policy, and has undertaken efforts to promote  
14          stability in southeastern Europe and the Black Sea  
15          region.

16          (4) The economy of the Republic of Bulgaria  
17          has suffered considerable decline due to the disrup-  
18          tion of important markets caused by the break-up of  
19          the former, Soviet-dominated "COMECON" eco-  
20          nomic and trade organization, the application of  
21          international sanctions on Iraq, and the failure of  
22          the Government of the Republic of Bulgaria to con-  
23          front widespread corrupt activities prior to the elec-  
24          tions of April 1997 that resulted in the theft of large

1        sums from both government and industry and that  
2        bankrupted many Bulgarian banks.

3            (5) The economy of the Republic of Bulgaria  
4        has suffered as well from the imposition of inter-  
5        national sanctions on neighboring Serbia and con-  
6        tinues to suffer from the conflict in that country,  
7        which has disrupted commerce throughout the re-  
8        gion of southeastern Europe.

9            (6) The Government of the Republic of Bul-  
10        garia has recently taken steps to finalize bilateral  
11        agreements with the neighboring Republic of Mac-  
12        edonia, recognized by the United States as the  
13        “Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia”, over-  
14        coming a long-standing dispute over the language to  
15        be used in those agreements.

16           (7) The Government of the Republic of Bul-  
17        garia has undertaken to reform Bulgaria’s armed  
18        forces, adopting a military doctrine to that effect in  
19        March 1999.

20           (8) The Government of the Republic of Bul-  
21        garia has stated its continuing support for the mis-  
22        sion of NATO in supporting democratization and  
23        stability across Europe.

24           (9) As a result of the conflict in Serbia with re-  
25        gard to the region of Kosovo, the Republic of Bul-

1        garia has accepted several thousand refugees from  
2        the conflict.

3    **SEC. 2. POLICY TOWARD THE REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA.**

4        It is the policy of the United States—

5            (1) to promote the development in the Republic  
6        of Bulgaria of a market-based economy and a demo-  
7        cratic government that respects the rights of all of  
8        its citizens, regardless of ethnic background;

9            (2) to support the territorial integrity of the  
10       Republic of Bulgaria;

11           (3) to insist that the territorial integrity of the  
12       Republic of Bulgaria be respected by neighboring  
13       countries and by all political movements within and  
14       outside Bulgaria; and

15           (4) to support the integration of the Republic  
16       of Bulgaria into pan-European and trans-Atlantic  
17       economic and security institutions.

18    **SEC. 3. SENSE OF THE CONGRESS.**

19        It is the sense of Congress that—

20           (1) the Government of the Republic of Bulgaria  
21       is to be commended for its efforts to ensure proper  
22       treatment of all of its citizens, regardless of ethnic  
23       background, particularly those of ethnic Turkish  
24       background;

1           (2) the Government of the Republic of Bulgaria  
2       is to be commended—

3           (A) for its efforts to accelerate the privat-  
4       ization of state-owned enterprises in a fair and  
5       transparent process;

6           (B) for its establishment of a currency  
7       board to ensure the value of the Bulgarian cur-  
8       rency; and

9           (C) for its efforts to combat corrupt and  
10      criminal activities that undermine reforms and  
11      the viability of Bulgaria's government and in-  
12      dustry;

13          (3) the Government of the Republic of Bulgaria  
14      should continue to implement programs that may  
15      qualify Bulgaria for entrance into the European  
16      Union and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization  
17      (NATO) and is to be commended for its continuing  
18      support of the NATO effort to ensure stability and  
19      democratization across Europe;

20          (4) the Republic of Bulgaria is suffering the ad-  
21      verse economic impact of the disruption of commerce  
22      in southeastern Europe and an influx of refugees  
23      caused by the conflict in neighboring Serbia;

24          (5) the Government of the Republic of Bulgaria  
25      should ensure the expeditious ratification of all bilat-

1       eral treaties that have been negotiated with the  
2       neighboring Government of the Former Yugoslav  
3       Republic of Macedonia;

4           (6) the Government of the Republic of Bulgaria  
5       should undertake steps to immediately halt any illicit  
6       transfer of arms and military equipment that may  
7       occur in Bulgaria or may cross Bulgarian territory;

8           (7) the Republic of Bulgaria should play a cen-  
9       tral role in any effort by NATO to create a joint  
10      peacekeeping military unit involving personnel from  
11      throughout the countries of southeastern Europe or  
12      in the creation of facilities in support of such a  
13      peacekeeping unit; and

14          (8) the United States should join other official  
15      creditors of the Republic of Bulgaria in providing  
16      Bulgaria with relief from such official debt through  
17      rescheduling and, where appropriate, forgiveness.

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