

106TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. CON. RES. 200

Expressing the strong opposition of Congress to the military coup in Pakistan and calling for a civilian, democratically-elected government to be returned to power in Pakistan.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OCTOBER 19, 1999

Mr. GEJDENSON (for himself, Mr. LANTOS, Mr. ACKERMAN, and Mr. PALLONE) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on International Relations

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Expressing the strong opposition of Congress to the military coup in Pakistan and calling for a civilian, democratically-elected government to be returned to power in Pakistan.

Whereas the United States has a vital interest in promoting stability in South Asia, reducing tensions between India and Pakistan, and promoting United States political, economic, strategic, and humanitarian interests in both of those nations;

Whereas on October 12, 1999, the armed forces of Pakistan, led by Army Chief of Staff General Pervez Musharraf, overthrew the democratically-elected Government of Pakistan in violation of the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan;

Whereas on October 15, 1999, General Musharraf declared a state of emergency, suspended Pakistan's Constitution, dismissed the national government and the legislature, and declared himself Pakistan's supreme leader;

Whereas Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, his brother Shabaz Sharif who was the chief minister of Punjab, and several cabinet members have been placed under house arrest;

Whereas the United States has a vital interest in the promotion of democracy abroad and is strongly opposed to military takeovers of democratically-elected governments;

Whereas the United States has invoked section 508 of the Foreign Operations, Export Financing, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 1999, as enacted by division A of the Omnibus Consolidated and Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act, 1999 (Public Law 105–277), which provides that none of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available under that Act may be obligated or expended to finance directly any assistance to any country whose duly elected head of government is deposed by military coup or decree;

Whereas Pakistan's military rulers must understand that the United States will not carry on a business-as-usual relationship until a civilian, democratically-elected government is returned to power;

Whereas the Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2000 (presented by Congress on October 14, 1999, for the President's approval), would grant the President the ability to waive sanctions against India and Pakistan otherwise required under section 102(b) of the Arms Export Control Act (22 U.S.C. 2799aa–1) and section 620E(e)

of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2375), and would also grant the President, for the first time since the invocation of section 620E(e) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2375), the ability to approve commercial and government-to-government military sales to Pakistan;

Whereas Congress believes that the United States should not consider the sale of any military equipment or services, or reinstatement of Pakistan's eligibility for international military education and training, until a civilian, democratically-elected government is returned to power in Pakistan; and

Whereas the military has been in control of Pakistan for 25 of Pakistan's 52-year history, and no democratically-elected head of state there has completed an elected term of office: Now, therefore, be it

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

3 (1) condemns the overthrow of the democrat-
4 ically-elected Government of Pakistan by the armed
5 forces of Pakistan on October 12, 1999, in violation
6 of the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Paki-
7 stan;

8 (2) further condemns the subsequent declara-
9 tion by General Musharraf of a state of emergency,
10 the suspension of Pakistan's Constitution, the dis-
11 missal of the national government and the legisla-

1 ture, and the declaration of himself as Pakistan's
2 supreme leader;

3 (3) expresses grave concern about the implica-
4 tions for security and stability in the South Asia re-
5 gion, in light of the history of tensions between
6 India and Pakistan and the fact that both nations
7 have recently tested nuclear devices, and urges both
8 of those countries to exercise restraint in the current
9 environment;

10 (4) calls for the immediate restoration of a ci-
11 vilian, democratically-elected government in Paki-
12 stan, including the legislature, and the restoration of
13 democracy and the rule of law;

14 (5) urges the armed forces of Pakistan to re-
15 spect the human rights of all Pakistani citizens, in-
16 cluding those members of the national government
17 who are currently being illegally detained in violation
18 of their constitutional and human rights; and

19 (6) calls on the President not to consider exer-
20 cising the waiver authority which would be granted
21 to him by the Department of Defense Appropria-
22 tions Act, 2000 (presented by Congress on October
23 14, 1999, for the President's approval), to allow the
24 sale of any military equipment or services to Paki-
25 stan, or reinstatement of Pakistan's eligibility for

1 international military education and training, until a
2 civilian, democratically-elected government is re-
3 turned to power in Pakistan.

