

106TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. CON. RES. 43

Condemning the irregular interruption of the democratic political institutional process in Haiti.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 8, 1999

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

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Condemning the irregular interruption of the democratic political institutional process in Haiti.

Whereas in 1991 at Santiago, Chile, the Organization of American States (OAS) approved Resolution 1080 to deter irregular interruptions of the democratic political institutional process within countries having democratically elected governments;

Whereas the OAS invoked Resolution 1080 (1991) and called for a meeting of the foreign ministers in 1991 to determine appropriate actions in response to the coup d'etat against Haiti's elected President, Jean-Bertrand Aristide;

Whereas the legacy of fiat and abuse of the Duvalier dictatorship led the framers of the 1987 Haitian Constitution to provide for clear separation of powers;

Whereas the 1987 Haitian Constitution permanently vests all legislative authority in the National Assembly and does not provide for rule by decree by the President;

Whereas on January 11, 1999, President Preval seized dictatorial powers by effectively dissolving Haiti's parliament and announcing he will rule by decree; and

Whereas this irregular interruption of the democratic political institutional process requires immediate international attention and action to bring about a return to democracy in that country: Now, therefore, be it

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

3 **SECTION 1. RESOLUTION.**

4 The Congress—

5 (1) condemns the irregular interruption of the
6 democratic political institutional process and consid-
7 ers that interruption to be a serious blow to democ-
8 racy in Haiti and a serious threat to democracy in
9 the Caribbean region and the hemisphere;

10 (2) calls on the Government of Haiti forthwith
11 to fully restore the legitimate exercise of power by
12 a democratically elected National Assembly and to
13 ensure full respect for internationally recognized
14 human rights;

15 (3) urges the Organization of American States
16 (OAS) to send a fact-finding mission headed by the
17 Secretary General to Haiti and, under Resolution

1 1080, to call a meeting of the foreign ministers of
2 the OAS member countries in order to consider joint
3 actions to bring about a return to democracy in that
4 country.

5 **SEC. 2. TRANSMISSION OF COPIES.**

6 The Clerk of the House shall transmit a copy of this
7 concurrent resolution to the President of the United
8 States with the request that the President further trans-
9 mit such copy to the Secretary General of the Organiza-
10 tion of American States.

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