

106TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. CON. RES. 54

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

APRIL 21, 1999

Received and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Recognizing the historic significance of the first anniversary
of the Good Friday Peace Agreement.

Whereas Ireland has a long and tragic history of civil conflict
that has left a deep and profound legacy of suffering;

Whereas since 1969 more than 3,200 people have died and
thousands more have been injured as a result of political
violence in Northern Ireland;

Whereas a series of efforts by the Governments of the Repub-
lic of Ireland and the United Kingdom to facilitate peace

and an announced cessation of hostilities created an historic opportunity for a negotiated peace;

Whereas in June 1996, for the first time since the partition of Ireland in 1922, representatives elected from political parties in Northern Ireland pledged to adhere to the principles of nonviolence and commenced talks regarding the future of Northern Ireland;

Whereas the talks greatly intensified in the spring of 1998 under the chairmanship of former United States Senator George Mitchell;

Whereas the active participation of British Prime Minister Tony Blair and Irish Taoiseach Bertie Ahern was critical to the success of the talks;

Whereas on Good Friday, April 10, 1998, the parties to the negotiations each made honorable compromises to conclude a peace agreement for Northern Ireland, which has become known as the Good Friday Peace Agreement;

Whereas on Friday, May 22, 1998, an overwhelming majority of voters in both Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland approved by referendum the Good Friday Peace Agreement;

Whereas the United States must remain involved politically and economically to ensure the long-term success of the peace agreement; and

Whereas on Good Friday, April 2, 1999, a one-year deadline passed without agreement among all major parties, putting the entire peace process in jeopardy: Now, therefore, be it

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

1 (1) recognizes the historic significance of the
2 first anniversary of the Good Friday Peace Agree-
3 ment;

4 (2) salutes British Prime Minister Tony Blair
5 and Irish Taoiseach Bertie Ahern and the elected
6 representatives of the political parties in Northern
7 Ireland for creating the opportunity for a negotiated
8 peace;

9 (3) commends Senator George Mitchell for his
10 leadership on behalf of the United States in guiding
11 the parties toward peace;

12 (4) congratulates the people of the Republic of
13 Ireland and of Northern Ireland for their courageous
14 commitment to work together in peace;

15 (5) encourages the Governments of the United
16 Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland with the active
17 involvement of the United States to continue to work
18 together to ensure the forward movement of the
19 peace process; and

20 (6) reaffirms the bonds of friendship and co-
21 operation that exist between the United States and
22 the Governments of the Republic of Ireland and the
23 United Kingdom, which ensure that the United

1 States and those Governments will continue as part-
2 ners in peace.

Passed the House of Representatives April 20, 1999.

Attest: JEFF TRANDAHL,
Clerk.