

106TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. J. RES. 61

Calling upon the Government of Mexico to undertake greater and more effective counterdrug measures, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 1, 1999

Mr. MICA (for himself, Mr. TRAFICANT, Mr. GILMAN, Mr. MCCOLLUM, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. SOUDER, Mr. BARR of Georgia, Mr. PITTS, Mr. STEARNS, Mr. KINGSTON, and Mr. OSE) introduced the following joint resolution; which was referred to the Committee on International Relations

JOINT RESOLUTION

Calling upon the Government of Mexico to undertake greater and more effective counterdrug measures, and for other purposes.

Whereas illicit drug abuse, traffic, and production are serious threats to the national sovereignty and to the health and well-being of the people of the United States and Mexico;

Whereas the drug problem must be addressed both on the national front and on the international front;

Whereas the fight against drug trafficking is a significant bilateral topic between the United States Government and the Government of Mexico;

Whereas neither the United States nor Mexico can unilaterally win the fight against drug trafficking;

Whereas the Government of Mexico passed the Federal Law Against Organized Crime which gives the Government of Mexico the capability to effectively fight criminal organizations linked to drug trafficking;

Whereas the Government of Mexico has made considerable efforts to comprehensively modernize its legal framework to combat money laundering;

Whereas the Government of Mexico has instituted significant regulations used to combat the illicit production and trafficking of precursor chemicals;

Whereas the Attorney General's Office (PGR) and its units that are used to combat drug trafficking have been restructured and reinforced with anti-corruption methods;

Whereas the Government of Mexico has been a world leader in the percentage of eradication of illicit crops since 1994;

Whereas the Government of Mexico has increased its efforts and capabilities to intercept illicit drug shipments;

Whereas the Government of Mexico has publicly committed to spending \$500,000,000 (in United States dollars) in fiscal year 1999 through fiscal year 2001 to purchase additional counterdrug technology and equipment such as surveillance aircraft, x-ray machines, helicopters, patrol vessels, and go-fast boats and, therefore, the Government of Mexico should be strongly encouraged by the United States Government to purchase counterdrug technology and equipment manufactured in the United States;

Whereas significant amounts of black tar heroin are being produced on Mexican territory and exported for consump-

tion in the United States, and the United States Government, therefore, should furnish all appropriate assistance to the Government of Mexico for the development of a comprehensive and effective opium eradication program in Mexico;

Whereas the United States House of Representatives during the 105th Congress passed House Joint Resolution 58 on March 13, 1997, by a vote of 251 to 175, which gave the President of the United States the responsibility for reviewing the progress made by the Government of Mexico in combating drug trafficking;

Whereas House Joint Resolution 58 conditioned certification of Mexico under section 490 of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 on assurances that the Government of Mexico make substantial progress in and commitment toward taking concrete measures to find and eliminate law enforcement corruption in Mexico, insofar as Mexico has exhibited the lack of will to cooperate fully with United States law enforcement personnel on narcotics control matters;

Whereas House Joint Resolution 58 also conditioned such certification on assurances that the Government of Mexico make substantial progress in and commitment toward (1) extraditing Mexican nationals, particularly drug kingpins, wanted by the United States Government for drug trafficking and other drug-related offenses, (2) securing aircraft overflight and refueling rights, (3) installing adequate aircraft radar coverage to monitor and detect all aircraft entering and transiting through Mexico that are suspected of involvement in drug trafficking, and (4) a long-term maritime agreement with the United States to allow vessels of the United States Coast Guard and other

appropriate vessels to halt and hold drug traffickers pursued into Mexican waters;

Whereas the Government of Mexico has not made substantial progress to find and eliminate law enforcement corruption in Mexico in order that it may cooperate fully with United States law enforcement personnel on narcotics control matters;

Whereas the Government of Mexico, during 1996 through 1998, has fulfilled United States nondrug-related extradition requests at a rate of 65 percent, but has not extradited any Mexican nationals wanted by the United States Government for major drug trafficking and other drug-related offenses;

Whereas the Government of Mexico has not made substantial progress in securing aircraft overflight and refueling rights;

Whereas the Government of Mexico has not made substantial progress toward installing adequate aircraft radar coverage to monitor and detect all aircraft entering and transiting through Mexico that are suspected of involvement in drug trafficking;

Whereas the Government of Mexico has not made substantial progress toward a long-term maritime agreement with the United States to allow vessels of the United States Coast Guard and other appropriate vessels to halt and hold drug traffickers pursued into Mexican waters; and

Whereas the Government of Mexico has received 73 Huey helicopters from the United States Government for counterdrug purposes since 1995, yet only 40 of these aircraft can fly, no support and maintenance agreement for the helicopters was agreed upon by the 2 govern-

ments, and there is no adequate end-use monitoring agreement to verify the deployment of these aircraft, and the Government of Mexico claims that they are not useful in fighting illegal narcotics: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives*
 2 *of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*
 3 That Congress—

4 (1) calls upon the Office of National Drug Con-
 5 trol Policy to report to the Congress by January 30,
 6 2000, on the progress made by the Government of
 7 Mexico on those matters set forth in the preamble
 8 of this joint resolution;

9 (2) considers these matters to be of paramount
 10 importance to the bilateral relationship between the
 11 United States and the United Mexican States;

12 (3) calls upon the Government of Mexico to im-
 13 mediately return the excess Huey helicopters to the
 14 United States Government if in fact it no longer
 15 wants custody of this drug fighting equipment, in
 16 order that the helicopters might be used elsewhere
 17 by countries that need such equipment;

18 (4) will consider these matters at the beginning
 19 of the 2d session of the 106th Congress and review
 20 whether the Government of Mexico has made sub-
 21 stantial progress in these matters;

1 (5) calls upon the Office of National Drug Con-
2 trol Policy to submit to Congress a plan to promptly
3 redistribute the Huey helicopters returned to the
4 United States by the Government of Mexico to other
5 drug fighting countries cooperating with the United
6 States on counternarcotics efforts; and

7 (6) calls upon the Government of the United
8 States to intensify efforts to secure a maritime
9 agreement with the Government of Mexico and
10 promptly provide the terms of such agreement to the
11 Government of Mexico in order to facilitate greater
12 counternarcotics cooperation.

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