

106TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1894

To provide that a plaque be placed at the diplomatic entrance of the
Department of State.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 20, 1999

Mr. LEACH introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee
on International Relations

A BILL

To provide that a plaque be placed at the diplomatic entrance
of the Department of State.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. PLACEMENT OF PLAQUE AT THE DEPARTMENT**
4 **OF STATE.**

5 The Secretary of State shall cause to be placed at
6 the diplomatic entrance of the Department of State a
7 plaque containing the following text:

1 “PRINCIPLES FOR PRUDENT DIPLOMACY

2 “(1) Good intentions are a necessary but insufficient
3 grounds for action; consequences and costs must be taken
4 into consideration before policies are put into effect.

5 “(2) Intervention in civil wars seldom works.

6 “(3) Hubris is a hallmark of all politics; it is always
7 dangerous.

8 “(4) Moralizing is no substitute for acting morally;
9 while nothing is more compelling than a good example,
10 little is more resented than gratuitous lecturing.

11 “(5) Trade embargoes tend to be counter-productive.

12 “(6) Great powers don’t need to threaten; the greater
13 the power, the more cautious should be its application.

14 “(7) Power can be illusory; many conflicts do not
15 yield to its application.

16 “(8) Beware of domino decisionmaking processes
17 which prevent changes in strategy when initial judgments
18 prove frail.

19 “(9) Never fail to put yourself in an adversary’s
20 shoes; leaving an opponent without an exit reduces options
21 for both sides.

22 “(10) Nationalism is a force which policy makers ha-
23 bitually underestimate.

24 “(11) There are more similarities than differences in
25 religions of the world, but dissimilarities become accen-

1 tuated in the way religion mixes with politics in various
2 cultures.

3 “(12) Policies which lack support of the American
4 people are unsustainable.

5 “(13) Great causes may necessitate great sacrifice,
6 but force should be the last resort; peace is preferable to
7 war.”.

