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Directing the President to develop a strategy to bring the United States back into full and active participation in the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 27, 1999

Mr. LANTOS (for himself, Mr. LEACH, Mr. GEJDENSON, Mr. BERMAN, Mr. ABERCROMBIE, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. MCKINNEY, and Mr. SERRANO) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on International Relations

A BILL

Directing the President to develop a strategy to bring the United States back into full and active participation in the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization.

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. CONGRESSIONAL FINDINGS.**

4 The Congress finds that—

5 (1) the United Nations Educational, Scientific,
6 and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) was created
7 in 1946 as an integral part of the United Nations

1 system, designed to promote international coopera-
2 tion and exchanges in the fields of education,
3 science, culture, and communication with the larger
4 purpose of constructing “the defenses of peace”
5 against intolerance and incitements to war;

6 (2) in 1984 the United States withdrew from
7 membership in UNESCO over serious questions of
8 internal management and political polarization;

9 (3) since the United States withdrew from the
10 organization, UNESCO has elected new leadership,
11 instituted tightened financial controls and strategic
12 planning, cut budget and staff, restored recognition
13 of intellectual property rights, and returned to sup-
14 port for the principle of an unfettered, independent
15 international press, thus addressing the criticisms
16 which formed the basis for the United States’ with-
17 drawal from membership in the organization;

18 (4) in 1993 the General Accounting Office,
19 after conducting an extensive review of UNESCO’s
20 progress in implementing changes directed at solving
21 the problems that were cited by the United States
22 in its decision to withdraw from the organization in
23 1984, concluded that the organization’s member
24 states, the Director General of UNESCO, managers,
25 and employee associations have demonstrated a com-

1 mitment to management reform through their ac-
2 tions;

3 (5) United States participation in UNESCO
4 programs in education, science, culture, and commu-
5 nication offers a man for advancing the foreign pol-
6 icy interests of the United States through the pro-
7 motion of democracy and the development of civil so-
8 cieties, sustainable development, and the peaceful
9 resolution of conflict;

10 (6) the UNESCO charter states that “since
11 wars begin in the minds of men, it is in the minds
12 of men that the defenses of peace must be con-
13 structed.” If there is any hope of diminishing intol-
14 erance and hostility among nations it must come
15 through a greater international commitment to edu-
16 cation and mutual understanding which UNESCO
17 nurtures;

18 (7) security in the twenty-first century will be
19 more dependent upon education and cultural ad-
20 vancement than upon the acquisition of increasingly
21 costly and sophisticated arsenals of war; hence, it is
22 imperative to build up international organizations
23 such as UNESCO which advance international un-
24 derstanding and techniques of conflict resolution.

1 **SEC. 2. ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN BY THE PRESIDENT.**

2 The President shall—

3 (1) develop a strategy to bring the United
4 States back into active and full membership in the
5 United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural
6 Organization (UNESCO) as soon as practicable;

7 (2) direct the Secretary of State to consult with
8 government agencies, nongovernmental organiza-
9 tions, and other interested parties that had substan-
10 tial involvement with the work of UNESCO before
11 the withdrawal of the United States in order to for-
12 mulate goals the United States should pursue
13 through its participation in UNESCO and to reex-
14 amine the framework established in law for the par-
15 ticipation of the American nongovernmental sector
16 in UNESCO activities;

17 (3) direct the Secretary of State to reconstitute
18 the United States National Commission for
19 UNESCO; and

20 (4) consult with other governments on prospects
21 for further reform of UNESCO's policy bodies and
22 governance, particularly with an eye to strength-
23 ening in all member states the role of independent,
24 nongovernmental, intellectual sectors in agency pro-
25 grams and governance.

1 **SEC. 3. REPORT BY THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE.**

2 (a) Six months after the enactment of this legislation,
3 the Department of State shall deliver a report in writing
4 to the Congress detailing the actions taken by the Presi-
5 dent pursuant to section 2 of this act. This report shall
6 be made to the Committee on International Relations of
7 the House of Representatives and to the Committee on
8 Foreign Relations of the Senate.

9 (b) After the initial report, the Department of State
10 shall deliver a report in writing annually to the Congress
11 until the United States again becomes a fully participating
12 member of UNESCO.

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