

106TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 24

Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives congratulating President Pastrana and the people of Colombia for moving the peace process forward and calling on the government and all other parties to the current conflict in Colombia to end the guerrilla and paramilitary violence which continues to pose a serious threat to democracy as well as economic and social stability in Colombia.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 19, 1999

Mr. GALLEGLY submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on International Relations

RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives congratulating President Pastrana and the people of Colombia for moving the peace process forward and calling on the government and all other parties to the current conflict in Colombia to end the guerrilla and paramilitary violence which continues to pose a serious threat to democracy as well as economic and social stability in Colombia.

Whereas on June 21, 1998, close to eleven million Colombians went to the polls in a clear affirmation of the democratic process and cast their vote not only for a new President to lead that nation into the next century but

for a mandate for peace and for the government to resolve the conflict;

Whereas an estimated 70,000 people have died as a direct result of the internal fighting over the last decade which has resulted in the deaths associated with the guerrilla and paramilitary violence as being the leading cause of death in Colombia;

Whereas the guerrilla and paramilitary violence has created more than 300,000 refugees over the last three years and an estimated total of over 1,000,000 Colombians displaced by the violence over the past decade;

Whereas the operations of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC), the National Liberation Army (ELN) and the various paramilitary units have become increasingly dependent on and interconnected with the illicit narcotics trade; and

Whereas the continued insurgency of the guerrillas and the extreme violence of the paramilitaries ultimately poses a major threat to the very democracy of Colombia and stability of the region: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

2 (1) congratulates the people of Colombia for
3 their continued demonstration of support for the
4 democratic process as well as for an end to the in-
5 ternal conflict plaguing that nation;

6 (2) congratulates President Andres Pastrana
7 for his strong commitment to seek an end to the
8 guerrilla and paramilitary violence in Colombia and
9 for his initiatives to begin a peace process;

1 (3) urges the guerrilla leaders of the FARC and
2 the ELN, and the leaders of the paramilitary
3 groups, to end the violence, sever their relationships
4 with the narcotics trade, and negotiate a peace ac-
5 cord with the Government of Colombia which would
6 provide lasting peace, a reaffirmation of the demo-
7 cratic principles of government, economic and social
8 justice for all Colombians, and an end to the cultiva-
9 tion, production, and trade of narcotics;

10 (4) calls upon the international community to
11 play a more proactive role in trying to resolve the in-
12 ternal conflict by encouraging all sides to participate
13 in the peace process; and

14 (5) reaffirms the support of the United States
15 for the peace process in Colombia, commits the
16 United States to assist the Government of Colombia
17 in finding a peaceful resolution to the internal con-
18 flict, and to continue United States assistance to
19 help strengthen political stability, foster economic
20 growth and combat the drug trade within Colombia,
21 taking into account the threat the guerrilla move-
22 ment and the drug trade poses to the democracy of
23 Colombia.

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