

106TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. RES. 404

Congratulating the people and Governments of Argentina, Chile, Guatemala, and Uruguay for completing their recent and successful democratic national elections.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 27, 2000

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

RESOLUTION

Congratulating the people and Governments of Argentina, Chile, Guatemala, and Uruguay for completing their recent and successful democratic national elections.

Whereas on October 24, 1999, approximately 20 million Argentines, representing 80 percent of all registered voters went to the polls, and elected a new President for the first time in 10 years;

Whereas this election, the fourth successive free Presidential election in Argentina since democracy was restored in 1983, was celebrated as a true consolidation of democracy by both major political parties;

Whereas on November 23, 1999, with close to 95 percent of the 2.2 million registered voters going to the polls, the people of Uruguay elected their first President since the

implementation of new constitutional reforms enacted in 1996;

Whereas this election, the fourth consecutive free, democratic, Presidential election held in Uruguay since the end of military rule, reflects the deepening of democracy in that country;

Whereas on November 7, 1999, the people of Guatemala went to the polls to elect national leaders for the first time since the signing of the 1996 peace accords which ended over 30 years of internal conflict;

Whereas on December 26, 1999, 41 percent of the registered voters of Guatemala completed the second round of what has been called the most important election in Guatemala's modern history by electing a new President;

Whereas on January 16, 2000, with close to 7 million of the 8 million registered voters going to the polls, the people of Chile completed their second round of voting for a new executive and elected the first Chilean President representing the center-left coalition since 1973;

Whereas the January election represents rising expectations that a strong economic and cultural consolidation may take place in the southern portion of Latin America;

Whereas all of these elections demonstrate the strength and diversity of each nation's democracy and signal a growing confidence that all political parties, however diverse, can work cooperatively to strengthen the consolidation of democracy in the hemisphere; and

Whereas these open, fair, and democratic elections should be broadly commended: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

1 (1) congratulates the people and Governments
2 of Argentina, Chile, Guatemala, and Uruguay for
3 the successful completion of democratic multiparty
4 elections for President;

5 (2) congratulates Presidents Fernando de La
6 Rúa of Argentina, Jorge Batlle of Uruguay, Alfonso
7 Portillo of Guatemala, and Ricardo Lagos of Chile
8 on their recent election victories and their strong
9 commitment to democracy and free-market oriented
10 economies;

11 (3) commends all the citizens and political par-
12 ties of Argentina, Chile, Guatemala, and Uruguay
13 for their participation in the democratic process and
14 their strong support for the strengthening of their
15 democracies; and

16 (4) reaffirms United States friendship with
17 each nation and our unequivocal commitment to en-
18 couraging democracy and peaceful development
19 throughout Latin America.

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