

106TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. RES. 417

Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives concerning the participation of the extremist FPO in the Government of Austria.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 8, 2000

Mr. LANTOS (for himself, Mr. HORN, Mr. GEJDENSON, Mr. CROWLEY, Mrs. MORELLA, Mr. WEINER, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. WEXLER, Mr. ACKERMAN, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. GUTIERREZ, and Ms. SCHAKOWSKY) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on International Relations

RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives concerning the participation of the extremist FPO in the Government of Austria.

Whereas the extremist, racist, and xenophobic FPO has entered into a coalition agreement and is participating in the new Government of Austria;

Whereas the leader of the FPO, Joerg Haider, praised Adolf Hitler's "sound employment policy" and called Waffen SS veterans "decent people with character who stuck to their belief through the strongest headwinds";

Whereas Joerg Haider and his party in the recent election campaign decried the "over-foreignization" of Austria,

which was an expression that was coined and used by Nazi leaders;

Whereas at a time when the European Union, the United States, and other nations are working actively to discourage ethnic hatred in the republics of the former Yugoslavia and elsewhere, Joerg Haider shamelessly appealed to racist sentiment and based his political campaign on racism and xenophobia;

Whereas in the past Joerg Haider and his party have expressed fundamental disagreement with the principles of freedom, democracy, and respect for human rights, which are the foundation of a modern, democratic, open and tolerant Europe and which Austria, as a member of the European Union, is committed by treaty to uphold; and

Whereas the inclusion of the FPÖ in the Austrian governing coalition serves to legitimize and encourage the extreme right in other countries of Europe: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

2 (1) recognizes the right of the Austrian people
3 to express their political views through a democratic
4 election, but also reaffirms the right and the obligation
5 of the United States House of Representatives
6 to express its opposition to the anti-democratic, racist,
7 and xenophobic views that have been expressed
8 by Joerg Haider and other leaders of the FPÖ, and,
9 because of these publicly expressed views, to state its
10 opposition to the party's participation in the Austrian
11 Government;

1 (2) condemns the insulting, racist, and
2 xenophobic statements which have been made over
3 many years by Joerg Haider, the leader of the FPO,
4 and by other leaders of the party;

5 (3) expresses profound regret and dismay that
6 the FPO under the leadership of Joerg Haider will
7 play a major role in the new Government of Austria;

8 (4) commends the leaders of the European
9 Union, the fourteen other member states of the Eu-
10 ropean Union, Canada, Norway, and other countries
11 which have expressed their serious concerns regard-
12 ing the participation of the FPO in the Government
13 of Austria;

14 (5) calls upon the President, the Secretary of
15 State, and other officials and agencies of the United
16 States Government to emphasize to Austrian Gov-
17 ernment officials our dissatisfaction with the inclu-
18 sion of the FPO in the Government by, among other
19 things, (a) not promoting or accepting any official
20 contacts at a political level with officials of the Aus-
21 trian Government which includes the FPO, (b) giv-
22 ing no support to Austrian candidates seeking posi-
23 tions in international organizations, and (c) receiv-
24 ing ambassadors of Austria only at a technical level;

1 (6) urges Members of Congress to refuse to
2 meet with ministers and other political leaders of the
3 Government of Austria and to refuse to meet with
4 members of the Austrian Parliament who are mem-
5 bers of the parties participating in the governing co-
6 alition;

7 (7) calls upon the American people and others
8 to show their strong disapproval of the participation
9 of the FPÖ in the Austrian governing coalition by
10 refusing to travel to Austria, to use Austrian prod-
11 ucts and services, including Austrian airlines, and to
12 invest in Austrian businesses; and

13 (8) directs the Clerk of the House to send a
14 copy of this resolution to the Secretary of State with
15 the request that it be forwarded to the President of
16 Austria.

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