

106TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. RES. 64

Recognizing the historic significance of the first anniversary of the Good Friday Peace Agreement.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 17, 1999

Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. BIDEN, Mr. MOYNIHAN, Mr. DODD, Mr. FITZGERALD, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mr. REID, Mr. STEVENS, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. WELLSTONE, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Mr. CLELAND, Mr. TORRICELLI, Mr. GRAMS, Mr. SANTORUM, Mr. DASCHLE, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. KERREY, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. DORGAN, Mr. THURMOND, Ms. LANDRIEU, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. BURNS, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. LOTT, Mr. BAYH, Mr. VOINOVICH, Mrs. LINCOLN, Mr. BINGAMAN, and Mr. WYDEN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to

RESOLUTION

Recognizing the historic significance of the first anniversary of the Good Friday Peace Agreement.

Whereas Ireland has a long and tragic history of civil conflict that has left a deep and profound legacy of suffering;

Whereas since 1969 more than 3,200 people have died and thousands more have been injured as a result of political violence in Northern Ireland;

Whereas a series of efforts by the Governments of the Republic of Ireland and the United Kingdom to facilitate peace

and an announced cessation of hostilities created an historic opportunity for a negotiated peace;

Whereas in June 1996, for the first time since the partition of Ireland in 1922, representatives elected from political parties in Northern Ireland pledged to adhere to the principles of nonviolence and commenced talks regarding the future of Northern Ireland;

Whereas the talks greatly intensified in the spring of 1998 under the chairmanship of former United States Senator George Mitchell;

Whereas the active participation of British Prime Minister Tony Blair and Irish Taoiseach Bertie Ahern was critical to the success of the talks;

Whereas on Good Friday, April 10, 1998, the parties to the negotiations each made honorable compromises to conclude a peace agreement for Northern Ireland, which has become known as the Good Friday Peace Agreement;

Whereas on Friday, May 22, 1998, an overwhelming majority of voters in both Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland approved by referendum the Good Friday Peace Agreement;

Whereas the United States must remain involved politically and economically to ensure the long-term success of the Good Friday Peace Agreement; and

Whereas April 10, 1999, marks the first anniversary of the Good Friday Peace Agreement: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the Senate—

2 (1) recognizes the historic significance of the
3 first anniversary of the Good Friday Peace Agree-
4 ment;

1 (2) salutes British Prime Minister Tony Blair
2 and Irish Taoiseach Bertie Ahern and the elected
3 representatives of the political parties in Northern
4 Ireland for creating the opportunity for a negotiated
5 peace;

6 (3) commends former Senator George Mitchell
7 for his leadership on behalf of the United States in
8 guiding the parties toward peace;

9 (4) congratulates the people of the Republic of
10 Ireland and Northern Ireland for their courageous
11 commitment to work together in peace;

12 (5) reaffirms the bonds of friendship and co-
13 operation that exist between the United States and
14 the Governments of the Republic of Ireland and the
15 United Kingdom, which ensure that the United
16 States and those Governments will continue as part-
17 ners in peace; and

18 (6) encourages all parties to move forward to
19 implement the Good Friday Peace Agreement.

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