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H. CON. RES. 133

Expressing the concern of Congress over Russian and Syrian actions in support of Iraq.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 1, 2003

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

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Expressing the concern of Congress over Russian and Syrian actions in support of Iraq.

Whereas there have been numerous reports that foreign entities have assisted and continue to assist Iraq in acquiring military equipment that can be used against the coalition forces currently fighting to liberate the Iraqi people from the terrorist regime of Saddam Hussein;

Whereas the United States and Russia have in the last several years developed a new relationship based on cooperation and shared interests, rather than competition and self-defeating searching for unilateral advantages;

Whereas the interactions of the President of the United States and the President of the Russian Federation have heretofore been distinguished by warmth and trust;

Whereas Russian private entities reportedly have recently provided night-vision goggles and anti-tank missiles to Iraq, which have placed coalition forces in greater jeopardy and could cause the injury and death of members of United States and other coalition forces;

Whereas Russian private entities reportedly have recently provided Global Positioning System satellite jamming devices to prevent precision weapons of the United States from hitting their targets, thereby increasing the likelihood of civilian casualties;

Whereas the Government of the Russia Federation has not acted forcefully to stop these transfers and has essentially dismissed the criticism by the United States;

Whereas the Government of Syria, which has for a long period of time been designated by the United States as a state sponsor of terrorism, has been assisting Iraq, another state sponsor of terrorism, against the coalition forces;

Whereas Syria reportedly has been shipping military equipment to Iraq during a time of war with coalition forces;

Whereas Syria reportedly has also been assisting terrorists to cross the border into Iraq to fight against coalition forces;

Whereas to the extent that Syria's efforts prop up the terrorist regime of Saddam Hussein, the Government of Syria shares responsibility for prolonging the suffering of the Iraqi people and for the injuries and deaths of members of United States and other coalition forces;

Whereas the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of State have both warned Syria to stop shipping military supplies and equipment to Iraq; and

Whereas these actions by Syria and the Russian Federation directly threaten American lives and amount to the defense of a terrorism-supporting dictatorship against the forces of freedom: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate*
2 *concurring)*, That the Congress—

3 (1) condemns in the strongest possible terms
4 the actions by the Government of Syria, a state
5 sponsor of terrorism under United States law, in
6 transferring military equipment to the terrorist gov-
7 ernment of Iraq, at a time when coalition forces are
8 fighting to liberate the people of Iraq, and demands
9 that these transfers cease immediately;

10 (2) further condemns Syria's policy of allowing
11 terrorists to cross its border to fight for the regime
12 of Saddam Hussein;

13 (3) demands that Syria and all other states bor-
14 dering Iraq—

15 (A) prevent any crossing into Iraq of indi-
16 viduals or groups, Iraqi or non-Iraqi, who in-
17 tend to fight in support of the regime of Sad-
18 dam Hussein; and

19 (B) prevent any emigration from Iraq of
20 Iraqi soldiers or officials affiliated with the re-
21 gime of Saddam Hussein;

1 (4) condemns the failure of the Russian Fed-
2 eration to intercede and prevent Russian private en-
3 tities from engaging in the sale of lethal military
4 weapons and other military goods to the terrorist
5 government of Iraq;

6 (5) declares that—

7 (A) any state that continues to assist the
8 regime of Saddam Hussein will be seen by the
9 people of the United States as directly opposing
10 the vital interests of the United States; and

11 (B) there should be the most severe con-
12 sequences for the future relations between the
13 United States and any such state;

14 (6) underscores its full agreement with Sec-
15 retary of State Colin Powell’s statement of March
16 30, 2003 that Syria faces “a critical choice” between
17 “direct support for terrorist groups and the dying
18 regime of Saddam Hussein, or . . . embark[ing] on
19 a different and more hopeful course” and that Syria
20 will bear full responsibility for its choice;

21 (7) awaits with keen interest any information
22 about foreign suppliers of military and dual-use
23 equipment that may be uncovered by coalition forces
24 in the coming weeks and months; and

1 (8) urges the President to keep the Congress
2 fully and currently informed concerning the matters
3 addressed in this resolution.

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