

108TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. CON. RES. 255

Expressing the sense of the Congress that the United States military should not become involved in the Liberian civil war, either alone or as part of a United Nations peacekeeping force.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 24, 2003

Mr. PAUL (for himself, Mr. DUNCAN, Mr. GOODE, and Mr. TANCREDI) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on International Relations

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the Congress that the United States military should not become involved in the Liberian civil war, either alone or as part of a United Nations peacekeeping force.

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

3 **SECTION 1. SENSE OF THE CONGRESS REGARDING UNITED**
4 **STATES INVOLVEMENT IN THE LIBERIAN**
5 **CIVIL WAR.**

6 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

1 (1) Liberia was founded in 1821 by the Amer-
2 ican Colonization Society to repatriate former slaves
3 from the United States back to Africa;

4 (2) from the founding of Liberia, that country
5 has been steeped in conflict, ruled by dictators, and
6 plagued by wars, and the United States and other
7 countries have intervened in Liberia numerous times
8 in the course of the troubled history of that country;

9 (3) the current Liberian civil war has lasted 14
10 years, has claimed hundreds of thousands of victims,
11 has left more than a million inhabitants of the coun-
12 try homeless, and has been characterized by un-
13 speakable atrocities, including mutilations and mass
14 rapes, and by the forced participation of children in
15 the fighting and killing;

16 (4) the tragedy of the current Liberian civil war
17 is immense and it is clear that something should be
18 done to relieve the suffering in that country, how-
19 ever, the civil war is an internal and a regional con-
20 flict of Liberia and the neighboring countries, which
21 affects almost exclusively the West African area
22 alone;

23 (5) Liberia has sent fighters into Ivory Coast,
24 Sierra Leone, and Guinea, and fighting has spread
25 to Burkino Faso;

1 (6) although the International Crisis Group
2 called Liberia “the eye of the regional storm”, the
3 civil war in that country is not a conflict that affects
4 the United States, in general, or the national secu-
5 rity interests of the United States, in particular;

6 (7) the internationalization of the Liberian civil
7 war could have serious negative unintended con-
8 sequences, with, given the history of neo-colonialism
9 in Africa, Liberian citizens and those of the affected
10 region likely growing suspicious of and possibly hos-
11 tile to the presence of European and North Amer-
12 ican troops;

13 (8) United States involvement in the Liberian
14 civil war and in the related regional conflict is slowly
15 escalating, as demonstrated in early July, 2003 by
16 the arrival in Liberia of a 32-member group of
17 United States military advisors to assess the secu-
18 rity situation on the ground and the possibility of
19 sending United States troops into that region;

20 (9) as recently demonstrated in places such as
21 Somalia, steadily escalating United States involve-
22 ment in foreign conflicts of no national interest to
23 the United States is ill-advised, expensive, and dan-
24 gerous to those troops and advisors involved; and

1 (10) of the 33 brigades that make up the en-
2 tirety of the active duty combat forces of the United
3 States Army, all but just three brigades, according
4 to recent press reporting, are either currently en-
5 gaged in Iraq, Afghanistan, South Korea, are com-
6 mitted to other missions, or are reconstituting, sug-
7 gesting that the United States military is in serious
8 danger of becoming over-extended.

9 (b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-
10 gress that—

11 (1) the United States military should not be-
12 come involved in the Liberian civil war, either alone
13 or as part of a United Nations peacekeeping force;
14 and

15 (2) a regional effort, especially including the
16 countries neighboring Liberia, would be the most ef-
17 fective way to end the tragic conflict in Liberia and
18 such effort should be encouraged.

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