

108TH CONGRESS
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H. CON. RES. 329

Congratulating the people and Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan on the twelfth anniversary of the independence of Kazakhstan and praising longstanding and growing friendship between the United States and Kazakhstan.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NOVEMBER 19, 2003

Mr. TOWNS (for himself and Mr. FALCONE) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on International Relations, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Congratulating the people and Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan on the twelfth anniversary of the independence of Kazakhstan and praising longstanding and growing friendship between the United States and Kazakhstan.

Whereas on December 16, 2003, the people of the Republic of Kazakhstan will celebrate 12 years of independence and on December 25, 2003, the United States and Kazakhstan will mark the 12th anniversary of diplomatic relations between the two countries;

Whereas Kazakhstan in a short period of time has managed to shed totalitarian shackles and become a dynamically developing civil society in which public and private institutions are strong, effective democratic mechanisms and the rule of law are established, and basic human rights are respected;

Whereas Kazakhstan, being an open country where citizens of more than 100 ethnic groups enjoy equal rights and opportunities, in September 2003 hosted the Congress of the World and Traditional Religions which brought together leaders of world religions seeking to bridge religious differences, thus making a significant contribution to promoting global peace and harmony;

Whereas the Government of Kazakhstan toughened legislation and took concrete steps to prevent human trafficking and in so doing has established strong barriers to end this cruel form of human mistreatment;

Whereas Kazakhstan is confidently moving toward integration with the world economic system by establishing all conditions for developing a true market economy;

Whereas the United States Government, recognizing the economic progress of Kazakhstan, granted to Kazakhstan “market economy status”, the first such designation of any country in the Commonwealth of Independent States;

Whereas United States business actively participates in the development of one of the world’s largest energy resources in Kazakhstan and considers this country to be an alternative and reliable source of energy;

Whereas the application of chapter 1 of title IV of the Trade Act of 1974 (commonly referred to as the “Jackson-Vanik amendment”) to Kazakhstan prevents Kazakhstan

from achieving permanent normal trade relations status with the United States;

Whereas an independent and democratic Kazakhstan is the cornerstone of peace, stability, and prosperity in the vitally important region of Central Asia;

Whereas Kazakhstan voluntarily disarmed the world's fourth largest nuclear arsenal and joined the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START), and thus became an example of a responsible national approach to nonproliferation;

Whereas the people of Kazakhstan under the leadership of Nursultan Nazarbayev are providing unconditional and firm support in the ongoing allied campaign in Afghanistan by allowing coalition forces to use the air space of Kazakhstan and the largest airport in Almaty, Kazakhstan;

Whereas Kazakhstan is taking an active part in rehabilitating Iraq and is the only country in the region of Central Asia to send a military contingent of combat engineers who in a few months have neutralized more than 300,000 explosive devices in Iraq, thereby saving thousands of lives;

Whereas within the framework of growing military cooperation the United States and Kazakhstan signed an Article 98 Agreement relating to the International Criminal Court;

Whereas the increasing significance of Kazakhstan to United States foreign policy has resulted in the creation of the United States-Kazakhstan Interparliamentary Friendship Group designed to strengthen relations of strategic partnership between the two countries; and

Whereas Kazakhstan is an important friend and strategic ally of the United States: Now, therefore, be it

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

3 (1) congratulates the people and Government of
4 the Republic of Kazakhstan on the 12th anniversary
5 of the independence of Kazakhstan and the estab-
6 lishment of diplomatic relations with the United
7 States;

8 (2) welcomes and supports political and eco-
9 nomic transformations achieved by Kazakhstan dur-
10 ing its years of independence;

11 (3) expresses gratitude for the leadership of
12 Kazakhstan in establishing inter religious dialogue
13 to promote peace and harmony in the world;

14 (4) commends Kazakhstan on toughening meas-
15 ures to stop human trafficking;

16 (5) recognizes the need to terminate the appli-
17 cation of chapter 1 of title IV of the Trade Act of
18 1974 (the “Jackson-Vanik amendment”) and pro-
19 vide permanent normal trade relations status to
20 Kazakhstan;

21 (6) expresses gratitude for the support and as-
22 sistance of the people of Kazakhstan in the
23 antiterrorist campaign of the United States and coa-
24 lition countries as well as support for the reconstruc-
25 tion of Iraq;

1 (7) applauds the wise decision of Kazakhstan's
2 leadership to renounce the deployment of its inher-
3 ited nuclear weapons and make the world a safer
4 place;

5 (8) calls upon the President to actively popu-
6 larize Kazakhstan's example to renounce the deploy-
7 ment of its nuclear weapons with respect to negotia-
8 tions with other countries that are trying to acquire,
9 develop, or deploy nuclear weapons; and

10 (9) urges further strengthening of strategically
11 important relations between Kazakhstan and the
12 United States on all other issues of importance be-
13 tween the two countries.

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