

108TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. CON. RES. 372

Expressing the sense of Congress with respect to the urgency of cessation of hostilities in the Republic of Haiti.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 26, 2004

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

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of Congress with respect to the urgency of cessation of hostilities in the Republic of Haiti.

Whereas, as the Western Hemisphere's second-oldest democracy, wrestled from the clutches of European colonialism in 1804 by African slaves, the current hostilities in the Republic of Haiti are of great concern;

Whereas a peaceful and democratic solution is needed to restore stability in Haiti;

Whereas the people of the United States eagerly support a peaceful transition to a representative government in Haiti;

Whereas ongoing political crisis in Haiti has devastated the country's economy, social fabric, and the livelihoods of its people, leaving Haitians with a ruined economy and bare-

ly functioning physical infrastructure, few resources or the basic necessities to maintain life, and an insolvent government;

Whereas immediate emergency food assistance for Haiti is urgently needed to meet the basic nutritional sustenance of the people of Haiti, especially mothers and children, and to relieve the extreme physical suffering of the people of Haiti, including their susceptibility to diseases, such as HIV/AIDS; and

Whereas concerted international efforts will be required to develop the economic and political institutions necessary to permit Haiti to sustain its population and restore economic, social, and political progress: Now, therefore, be it

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

3 That Congress—

4 (1) supports the long quest for peace, justice,
5 and prosperity of the people of the Republic of
6 Haiti;

7 (2) implores all sides involved in Haiti's current
8 political crisis to rely on dialogue and negotiations to
9 affect political change;

10 (3) calls on Haitian President Aristide to an-
11 nounce early elections that will serve democracy, the
12 Haitian Constitution, and give a voice to all the peo-
13 ple;

1 (4) commends the Haitian communities in exile
2 for continuing to strive for peace and democracy in
3 Haiti, sustaining families in Haiti that are unable to
4 survive economically with financial remittances, and
5 for providing steadfast advocacy for Haiti;

6 (5) calls on the United States Government to—

7 (A) assume a leadership role in the inter-
8 national community to end the violence in Haiti
9 and assist with a subsequent peace agreement,
10 to provide for political transition and establish-
11 ment of a sustainable democracy with good gov-
12 ernance in Haiti, and establish an economic re-
13 construction processes for Haiti; and

14 (B) play a strong and proactive role in de-
15 veloping peace and reconciliation initiatives in
16 furtherance of an enduring solution to the on-
17 going crisis in Haiti;

18 (6) calls on the Secretary of State to—

19 (A) request a special session of the United
20 Nations General Assembly to consider whether
21 the United Nations should organize a peace-
22 building mission to Haiti;

23 (B) provide leadership and participate in
24 negotiations; and

1 (C) seek, through diplomacy and negotia-
2 tions, an accord that ends the conflict in Haiti,
3 bringing peace to its people, and establishing an
4 environment conducive to the maintenance of
5 regional security, political stability, democracy
6 and governance, the observation of human
7 rights, and the pursuit of economic growth, de-
8 velopment and trade;

9 (7) calls on the Secretary of Defense to play a
10 lead role in establishing and, if necessary, deploying
11 an international stabilization force to Haiti;

12 (8) requests the Administrator of the United
13 States Agency for International Development
14 (USAID) to—

15 (A) commit to providing humanitarian as-
16 sistance to the people of Haiti to save lives, al-
17 leviate suffering, and mitigate the impact of the
18 emergency situations emerging from the crisis,
19 including providing emergency food, supplies,
20 and commodities; and

21 (B) coordinate relief efforts with national
22 and international nongovernmental organiza-
23 tions and other donors;

24 (9) urges the international community to—

1 (A) provide support for peacekeeping oper-
2 ations in Haiti to end the violence, achieve
3 peace, and restore stability; and

4 (B) support humanitarian efforts to meet
5 the urgent and dire needs of the Haitian people
6 and to consult and cooperate closely with the
7 appropriate Haitian leaders and civil society
8 representatives as well as other governments
9 and international organizations; and

10 (10) urges the United Nations to—

11 (A) to adopt a resolution to establish a
12 United Nations mission for Haiti that will work
13 to establish and ensure a long-term peace in
14 Haiti; and

15 (B) to deploy a peacekeeping and human
16 rights presence in Haiti in order to develop and
17 implement a plan that measurably builds the
18 capacity of the Government of Haiti to respond
19 to and meet the rights of its citizens, including,
20 the right to health, water, education, life, secu-
21 rity of person, and due process.

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