

108TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 483

Pledging continued United States support for the sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity, and democratic and economic reforms of the Republic of Georgia.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

DECEMBER 8, 2003

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

RESOLUTION

Pledging continued United States support for the sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity, and democratic and economic reforms of the Republic of Georgia.

Whereas on November 23, 2003, Eduard Shevardnadze stepped down as President of the Republic of Georgia after nearly three weeks of peaceful and bloodless protests following parliamentary elections the opposition contended were rigged;

Whereas the observer mission of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe reported that recent electoral processes in the Republic of Georgia did not meet the standards of a free and fair election;

Whereas the Department of State issued statements on November 20–21, 2003, expressing deep disappointment

that “massive vote fraud” had taken place during the November 2, 2003, parliamentary elections in the Republic of Georgia;

Whereas the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Georgia ruled that the November 2 election was fraudulent;

Whereas the political opposition of the Republic of Georgia, lead by Nino Budzhanadze, Mikhail Saakashvili, and Zurab Zhvaniva, successfully drove from office President Eduard Shevardnadze through a bloodless revolution;

Whereas Eduard Shevardnadze, as foreign minister of the Soviet Union under Mikhail Gorbachev, made an enormous contribution to the transformation of world politics, and later, as the President of the Republic of Georgia, Eduard Shevardnadze exhibited wisdom, courage, and nationalism in stepping down from the presidency rather than using force to maintain his leadership;

Whereas in accordance with the Constitution of the Republic of Georgia the Parliamentary Speaker Nino Budzhanadze has become interim president;

Whereas on November 23, 2003, the United States recognized Nino Burdzhanadze as the interim president of the Republic of Georgia, offered its support, and urged that new elections be free and fair;

Whereas on November 24, 2003, the European Union expressed support for the interim government and called for democratic elections;

Whereas interim president Nino Burdzhanadze called for order to be re-established and for presidential elections to be held within a constitutionally-mandated 45 days;

Whereas a representative democracy is an indispensable condition for the stability, peace, and development of the Republic of Georgia;

Whereas the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe has pledged up to \$6,000,000 to help administer presidential and legislative elections in the Republic of Georgia;

Whereas Congress has earmarked or allocated \$1,100,000,000 in aid to the Republic of Georgia, among the highest for the Eurasian region in per capita terms, over the decade spanning 1992–2002;

Whereas the Members of the House of Representatives have pledged to provide further support and assistance to the people of the Republic of Georgia to help them consolidate the democratic process in their country;

Whereas the United States supports a free, democratic, strong, and successful Republic of Georgia; and

Whereas the current political situation in the Republic of Georgia requires urgent attention: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

2 (1) congratulates Eduard Shevardnadze and the
3 leaders of the political opposition of the Republic of
4 Georgia—Nino Budzhanadze, Mikhail Saakashvili,
5 and Zurab Zhvaniva—for their courage and patriot-
6 ism in dealing with the recent political crisis in the
7 Republic of Georgia peacefully and bloodlessly;

8 (2) urges all political segments, as well as social
9 sectors and institutions in the Republic of Georgia,

1 to strive, through dialogue, to achieve the national
2 reconciliation for which both the people of the Re-
3 public of Georgia and the international community
4 yearn;

5 (3) calls on the interim government to act expe-
6 ditiously to conduct free, fair, and open elections;
7 and

8 (4) calls on the President to urge the people in
9 all sectors of society of the Republic of Georgia to
10 respect and preserve the free exercise of the essen-
11 tial elements of democracy.

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