

108TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 484

Commending the Governments of India and Pakistan for improved diplomatic relations between the two countries, and for other purposes.

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

Commending the Governments of India and Pakistan for improved diplomatic relations between the two countries, and for other purposes.

Whereas India and Pakistan have been the victims of horrible terrorist attacks aimed at fostering regional instability and religious strife;

Whereas disputes between India and Pakistan, such as the territorial conflict regarding Kashmir and ethnic and religious discord, have resulted in the deaths of thousands of innocent civilians;

Whereas an attack on the Indian Parliament in December 2001 led India and Pakistan to the brink of war;

Whereas diplomatic relations between India and Pakistan have greatly improved since April 2003;

Whereas efforts by India and Pakistan to improve relations despite their many disputes is laudable;

Whereas in April 2003 Indian Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee called for a continuation of dialogue with Pakistan to improve relations between both countries;

Whereas Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf responded to Prime Minister Vajpayee's extended hand with diplomacy;

Whereas India and Pakistan have established new ambassadors to further diplomatic ties between the two countries;

Whereas in July 2003 a bus link was restored between India and Pakistan to further transportation, communication, and the economy;

Whereas on November 25, 2003, India and Pakistan announced a cease-fire along their respective borders in Kashmir, reducing tensions and offering hope for a just resolution to this territorial dispute;

Whereas on December 1, 2003, India and Pakistan announced the resumption of over flight and landing rights for airlines of the two countries by January 1, 2004, a critical step in the efforts to restore full diplomatic relations and to improve the daily lives of the citizens of the two countries;

Whereas Indian Prime Minister Vajpayee has declared his intent to attend a South Asian economic summit to be held in Pakistan in early January 2004;

Whereas India is the world's largest democracy and has striven to combat poverty and environmental degradation, uphold human rights, and has achieved major gains in economic development and production; and

Whereas India and Pakistan have demonstrated goodwill toward the United States by actively assisting in the war on terrorism: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

2 (1) commends the Governments of India and
3 Pakistan for improved diplomatic relations between
4 the two countries, which has increased stability in
5 the volatile South Asian region;

6 (2) applauds the specific measures adopted by
7 the Governments of India and Pakistan to improve
8 such relations and reduce tensions, such as estab-
9 lishing new ambassadorships, bus links, air links,
10 and a much-needed ceasefire between the two coun-
11 tries; and

12 (3) calls on India and Pakistan to continue
13 working together to solve mutual problems and to
14 view each other as regional partners rather than a
15 threat to each other.

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