

108TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. CON. RES. 109

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 7, 2004

Referred to the Committee on International Relations

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Commending the United States Institute of Peace on the occasion of its 20th anniversary and recognizing the Institute for its contribution to international conflict resolution.

Whereas the United States Institute of Peace (the Institute) was established by Congress in 1984 as an independent, nonpartisan Federal institution dedicated to the prevention, management, and peaceful resolution of international conflict;

Whereas the Institute fulfills its mandate from Congress through programs and projects that support peacemaking and the peaceful resolution of conflict abroad;

Whereas the Institute's broad congressional mandate has allowed the Institute to become a valued source of innovative ideas and practical policy analysis on peacemaking in zones of conflict around the world, thereby enhancing United States foreign policy;

Whereas the Institute is the result of long-term public interest and dedication from Senator Spark Matsunaga of Hawaii, Senator Jennings Randolph of West Virginia, Senator Mark Hatfield of Oregon, Senator Nancy Kassebaum of Kansas, Senator Claiborne Pell of Rhode Island, Representative Pat Williams of Montana, Representative Dante Fascell of Florida, Representative Dan Glickman of Kansas, Representative John Porter of Illinois, as well as Members of Congress today;

Whereas the Institute trains thousands of government officials, military and law enforcement personnel, humanitarian workers, and civic activists from the United States and abroad in the skills of professional peacemaking;

Whereas the Institute works to alleviate religious and ethnic strife through mediation, training programs, research, and opening of dialogue between and among religious factions;

Whereas the Institute promotes the development of the rule of law in post-conflict and transitional societies and provides assistance on constitution-drafting, judicial and police reform, law revision, and war crimes accountability;

Whereas the Institute examines the role of the media in international conflict including incitement and freedom of the press;

Whereas the Institute attracts new generations to the practice of peacemaking and has funded more than 150 graduate students as Peace Scholars specializing in the resolution and management of international conflict;

Whereas the Institute brings together practitioners and scholars from around the world as fellows in the distinguished Jennings Randolph Fellows Program to advance knowl-

edge and to publish reports and books on topics related to the peaceful resolution of international conflict;

Whereas the Institute has trained hundreds of teachers and enhanced curricular materials related to international conflict, and has conducted educational seminars for thousands of educators at schools and universities around the country;

Whereas the Institute is strengthening curricula and instruction, from high school through graduate school, on the changing character of international conflict and non-violent approaches to managing international disputes and has inspired the creation of dozens of courses and programs dedicated to these topics;

Whereas the Institute has made more than 1,500 grants totaling nearly \$50,000,000 to individuals and nonprofit organizations in 48 States in support of educational, training, and research projects that have helped define and build the field of conflict prevention and conflict management in more than 64 foreign countries;

Whereas the Institute contributes to the advancement of conflict resolution education by awarding college scholarships to high school students through the annual National Peace Essay Contest, training and developing teaching guides for high school teachers, awarding grants to university students pursuing doctoral degrees in international conflict resolution, and awarding grants to universities and professors in the United States researching international conflict resolution;

Whereas the Institute works to bridge the divide with the Muslim world and facilitate cross cultural dialogue around the world, including in Russia and China;

Whereas the Institute's Balkans Initiative has made positive contributions to peacebuilding in that region including the facilitation of the Roundtable on Justice and Reconciliation in Bosnia and Herzegovina wherein key officials of the 3 ethnic groups—Croats, Serbs, and Muslims—came together to discuss war crimes;

Whereas the Institute has provided assistance to the Afghan judicial system by helping to locate, reproduce, translate, and distribute copies of Afghanistan's legal code, which was destroyed by the Taliban and facilitated discussions among the key institutions in the administration of criminal law and justice in Afghanistan;

Whereas the Institute assisted President Nelson Mandela with the development of South Africa's Truth and Reconciliation Commission that was instrumental in preventing post-apartheid bloodshed;

Whereas the Institute developed a detailed plan to handle accountability in the wake of the 1994 genocide in Rwanda, which became the basis for Rwandan Genocide Law, and assisted the Government of Rwanda in the implementation of the Law;

Whereas the Institute continues to work on the formation of a formal Israeli-Palestinian Joint Legal Committee to address legal issues and develop common approaches between the 2 different legal systems;

Whereas the Institute is committed to supporting religious coexistence and understanding in the Middle East, and elsewhere in the world;

Whereas the Institute has served as advisor and principal financial supporter of the Alexandria process, a group of prominent Muslim, Jewish, and Christian leaders from

Israel, the Palestinian Authority, and Egypt, who in January 2002 produced the “Alexandria Declaration”, a 7-point statement that calls, in the name of the 3 Abrahamic faiths, for the end to bloodshed in the Holy Land;

Whereas the Institute uses its convening power to bring together policymakers and experts on North Korea to discuss issues of security and proliferation on the Korean peninsula and develop policy recommendations;

Whereas the Institute is facilitating peace negotiations between the Government of the Philippines and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front—a Muslim insurgent group operating in the southern island of Mindanao;

Whereas the Institute is organizing programs in Iraq to strengthen the pillars of civil society and to contribute to stabilization and post-conflict peacebuilding, including training in conflict resolution for Iraqi security officials, orientation training for personnel from the United States, grantmaking to Iraqi organizations, collaboration with Iraqi universities, support for interethnic and interreligious dialogue, and assistance with rule of law issues; and

Whereas the Institute endeavors with the support of Congress in a public-private partnership to build a permanent headquarters on the National Mall as a working center on peace, education, training in conflict management skills, and the promotion of applied programs dedicated to resolution of international conflict: Now, therefore, be it

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

1 (1) recognizes the importance of the founding
2 of the United States Institute of Peace (the Insti-
3 tute) as a national and international resource for
4 peaceful conflict management and looks forward to
5 continuing to gain from its knowledge, teaching, and
6 practical applications of conflict management as a
7 way to promote United States security and peace in
8 the world;

9 (2) recognizes that the Institute has become an
10 important national resource for educational, train-
11 ing, and applied programs in the prevention, man-
12 agement, and resolution of international conflict;

13 (3) acknowledges the Institute's contribution to
14 building the Nation's capabilities for the prevention,
15 management, and resolution of international conflict
16 and the advancement of peace and conflict resolution
17 education;

18 (4) expresses appreciation to the founding men
19 and women of the Institute and the support from
20 the people of the United States;

21 (5) congratulates the Institute on its 20th anni-
22 versary and on its achievements in fulfilling its man-
23 date from Congress; and

