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S. CON. RES. 85

Expressing the sense of Congress that the continued participation of the Russian Federation in the Group of 8 nations should be conditioned on the Russian Government voluntarily accepting and adhering to the norms and standards of democracy.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

NOVEMBER 21, 2003

Mr. MCCAIN (for himself and Mr. LIEBERMAN) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of Congress that the continued participation of the Russian Federation in the Group of 8 nations should be conditioned on the Russian Government voluntarily accepting and adhering to the norms and standards of democracy.

Whereas the countries that comprise the Group of 7 nations are pluralistic societies with democratic political institutions and practices, committed to the observance of universally recognized standards of human rights, respect for individual liberties, and democratic principles;

Whereas in 1991 and subsequent years, the leaders of the Group of 7 nations, heads of the governments of the major free market economies of the world who meet an-

nually in a summit meeting, invited then-Russian President Boris Yeltsin to a post-summit dialogue;

Whereas in 1998, the leaders of the Group of 7 nations formally invited President Boris Yeltsin of Russia to participate in an annual gathering that subsequently was known as the Group of 8 nations, although the Group of 7 nations have continued to hold informal summit meetings and ministerial meetings that do not include the Russian Federation;

Whereas the invitation to President Yeltsin to participate in the annual summits was in recognition of his commitment to democratization and economic liberalization, despite the fact that the Russian economy remained weak and the commitment of the Russian Government to democratic principles was uncertain;

Whereas under the leadership of President Vladimir Putin, the Russian Government has attempted to control the activities of independent media enterprises, nongovernmental organizations, religious organizations, and other pluralistic elements of Russian society in an attempt to mute criticism of the government;

Whereas the suppression by the Russian Government of independent media enterprises has resulted in widespread government control and influence over the media in Russia, stifling freedom of expression and individual liberties that are essential to any functioning democracy;

Whereas the arrest and prosecution of prominent Russian business leaders who had supported the political opposition to President Putin are examples of selective application of the rule of law for political purposes;

Whereas the courts of Great Britain, Spain, and Greece have consistently ruled against extradition warrants issued by the Russian Government after finding that the cases presented by the Prosecutor General of the Russian Federation have been inherently political in nature;

Whereas Russian military forces continue to commit brutal atrocities against the civilian population in Chechnya;

Whereas the rise to influence within the Russian Government of unelected security officials from the KGB of the former Soviet Union is increasingly undermining the commitment of the Russian Government to democratic principles, accountability, and transparency;

Whereas a wide range of observers at think tanks and non-governmental organizations have expressed deep concern that the Russian Federation is moving away from the political and legal underpinnings of a market economy; and

Whereas the continued participation of the Russian Federation in the Group of 8 nations, including the opportunity for the Russian Government to host the Group of 8 nations in 2006 as planned, is a privilege that is premised on the Russian Government voluntarily accepting and adhering to the norms and standards of democracy: Now, therefore, be it

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

3 (1) the selective prosecution of political oppo-
 4 nents and the suppression of free media by the Rus-
 5 sian Federation, and the continued commission of
 6 widespread atrocities in the conduct of the brutal
 7 war in Chechnya, do not reflect the minimum stand-

ards of democratic governance and rule of law that
characterize every other member state in the Group
of 8 nations;

(2) the continued participation of the Russian
Federation in the Group of 8 nations, including the
opportunity for the Russian Government to host the
Group of 8 nations summit in 2006 as planned,
should be conditioned on the Russian Government
accepting and adhering to the norms and standards
of free, democratic societies as generally practiced by
every other member nation of the Group of 8 na-
tions, including—

(A) the rule of law, including protection
from selective prosecution and protection from
arbitrary state-directed violence;

(B) a court system free of political influ-
ence and manipulation;

(C) a free and independent media;

(D) a political system open to participation
by all citizens and which protects freedom of ex-
pression and association; and

(E) the protection of universally recognized
human rights; and

(3) the President of the United States and the
Secretary of State should work with the other mem-

1 bers of the Group of 7 nations to take all necessary
2 steps to suspend the participation of the Russian
3 Federation in the Group of 8 nations until the Presi-
4 dent, after consultation with the other members of
5 the Group of 7 nations, determines and reports to
6 Congress that the Russian Government is committed
7 to respecting and upholding the democratic prin-
8 ciples described in paragraph (2).

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