

108TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. RES. 164

Reaffirming support of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide and anticipating the commemoration of the 15th anniversary of the enactment of the Genocide Convention Implementation Act of 1987 (the Proxmire Act) on November 4, 2003.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 10, 2003

Mr. ENSIGN (for himself, Mr. CORZINE, Mr. EDWARDS, Mr. BAYH, Mr. SARBANES, Mr. CONRAD, Mr. REED, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. JEFFORDS, Mr. KOHL, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. BIDEN, Mr. SANTORUM, Mrs. DOLE, Mrs. BOXER, and Mr. DURBIN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

RESOLUTION

Reaffirming support of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide and anticipating the commemoration of the 15th anniversary of the enactment of the Genocide Convention Implementation Act of 1987 (the Proxmire Act) on November 4, 2003.

Whereas in 1948, in the shadow of the Holocaust, the international community responded to Nazi Germany's methodically orchestrated acts of genocide by approving the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, done at Paris on December 9, 1948;

Whereas the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide confirms that genocide is a crime under international law, defines genocide as certain acts committed with intent to destroy a national, ethnical, racial, or religious group, and provides that parties to the Convention undertake to enact domestic legislation providing effective penalties for persons who are guilty of genocide;

Whereas the United States, under President Harry Truman, was the first nation to sign the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide;

Whereas the United States Senate approved the resolution of advice and consent to the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide on February 19, 1986;

Whereas the Genocide Convention Implementation Act of 1987 (the Proxmire Act) (Public Law 100–606), signed into law by President Ronald Reagan on November 4, 1988, enacted chapter 50A of title 18, United States Code, to criminalize genocide;

Whereas the enactment of the Genocide Convention Implementation Act marked a principled stand by the United States against the crime of genocide and an important step toward ensuring that the lessons of the Holocaust, the Armenian Genocide, and genocides in Cambodia, Rwanda and elsewhere will be used to help prevent future genocides;

Whereas a clear consensus exists within the international community against genocide, as evidenced by the fact that 133 nations are party to the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide;

Whereas, despite this consensus, many thousands of innocent people continue to fall victim to genocide, and the denials of past instances of genocide continue; and

Whereas November 4, 2003, is the 15th anniversary of the enactment of the Genocide Convention Implementation Act of 1987 (the Proxmire Act); Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the Senate—

2 (1) reaffirms its support for the Convention on
3 the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of
4 Genocide;

5 (2) anticipates the commemoration of the 15th
6 anniversary of the enactment of the Genocide Con-
7 vention Implementation Act of 1987 (the Proxmire
8 Act) on November 4, 2003; and

9 (3) encourages the people and the Government
10 of the United States to rededicate themselves to the
11 cause of ending the crime of genocide.

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