

H. Res. 529

In the House of Representatives, U.S.,

December 14, 2005.

Whereas the United States recognized the Republic of Croatia on April 7, 1992, acknowledging the decision of the people of Croatia to live in an independent, democratic, and sovereign country;

Whereas since achieving their independence, the people of Croatia have built a democratic society, based on the rule of law, respect for human rights, and a free market economy;

Whereas Croatia is a functioning democracy, with stable institutions guaranteeing the rule of law, human rights, and market economy;

Whereas Croatia has previously cooperated with the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) by allowing NATO free access to its air space during NATO's 1999 military action against Serbia;

Whereas the United States has shown support for Croatia in many ways since its independence, including by providing Croatia with economic and military assistance that has contributed significantly to the continued success;

Whereas Croatia is a reliable partner of the United States, actively contributing to the stabilization of South Central Europe;

Whereas NATO's Membership Action Plan, which was launched in April 1999, is a program of assistance that provides both goals and a roadmap for countries aspiring to NATO membership;

Whereas Croatia was invited into the Membership Action Plan in May 2002 and has made substantial progress in attaining the necessary level of reforms required for receiving an invitation to start accession talks with NATO;

Whereas the United States, Croatia, Albania, and Macedonia are signatories to the United States-Adriatic Charter, which promotes Euro-Atlantic integration and commits the signatory nations to the values and principles of NATO and to joining the Alliance at the earliest possible time;

Whereas Croatia significantly improved its cooperation with the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY);

Whereas on October 3, 2005, the European Union decided to open accession negotiations with Croatia based on the assessment of its Council of Ministers that Croatia met the political and economic criteria for candidacy in the European Union, including that Croatia was fully cooperating with the ICTY;

Whereas Croatia has sent troops to Afghanistan as part of the NATO-led International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) in support of the war against terrorism and has endorsed and is participating in the Proliferation Security Initiative with like-minded nations across the world to prevent the flow of weapons of mass destruction, missile systems, and related material; and

Whereas Croatia shares the common interests and values of the free and democratic world: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the House of Representatives that—

(1) the Republic of Croatia has made significant progress since its independence in strengthening its democratic institutions and respect for human rights and the rule of law;

(2) Croatia should be commended for its progress in meeting the political, economic, military, and other requirements of NATO's Membership Action Plan, its contribution to the global war on terrorism, and for its constructive participation in the United States-Adriatic Charter;

(3) the Government of Croatia should be commended for its ongoing cooperation with the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia;

(4) Croatia would make a significant contribution to NATO; and

(5) with complete satisfaction of NATO guidelines and criteria for membership, Croatia should be invited to

be a full member of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization at the earliest possible date.

Attest:

Clerk.