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H. RES. 309

Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the United States should support independence for Kosovo.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 17, 2007

Mr. ENGEL (for himself and Mr. KIRK) submitted the following resolution;
which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the United States should support independence for Kosovo.

Whereas the United States has enduring national interests in the peace and security of southeastern Europe, and in the greater integration of the region into the Euro-Atlantic community of democratic, well-governed states;

Whereas, in March 1999, the United States, along with other members of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), commenced military action aimed at ending Slobodan Milosevic's brutal campaign of ethnic cleansing against the people of Kosovo;

Whereas that military action resulted in the defeat of Serb forces and the creation of the United Nations Mission in Kosovo, an interim United Nations administration that governs Kosovo, and which ended, de facto, the sov-

ereignty that was previously exercised by the Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia over Kosovo;

Whereas the men and women of the Armed Forces of the United States have served bravely in Kosovo since 1999, and their presence and participation in the NATO-led Kosovo Force has been indispensable in protecting the people of Kosovo and stabilizing the region;

Whereas United Nations administration was never intended nor understood as a permanent solution to the political status of Kosovo;

Whereas, in light of NATO's military intervention in Kosovo and the United Nations trusteeship established in Kosovo pursuant to United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244 (1999), the international community has recognized the political circumstances in Kosovo as unique, and the settlement of Kosovo's status therefore does not establish a precedent for the resolution of other conflicts;

Whereas continuing uncertainty about the status of Kosovo is unacceptable to the overwhelming majority of the inhabitants of Kosovo, inhibits economic and political development in Kosovo, and contributes to instability and radicalism in both Kosovo and Serbia;

Whereas, in 2005, the United Nations Secretary General appointed the former President of Finland, Martti Ahtisaari, as United Nations Special Envoy for Kosovo to develop a comprehensive settlement proposal to resolve the political status of Kosovo;

Whereas, in March 2007, after 14 months of intensive diplomacy, Special Envoy Ahtisaari submitted to the Security Council a comprehensive settlement proposal that would

result in supervised independence for Kosovo, with robust protections for the rights of minorities; and

Whereas Special Envoy Ahtisaari has explored every reasonable avenue for compromise in the course of his diplomacy and has stated that further negotiations would be counterproductive: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That it is the sense of the House of Rep-
2 representatives that—

3 (1) the United States should support the inde-
4 pendence of Kosovo in accordance with its currently
5 constituted borders, a resolution that represents the
6 only just, sustainable solution for an economically
7 viable and politically stable Kosovo;

8 (2) the United States should, in consultation
9 and cooperation with its allies, vigorously and
10 promptly pursue a United Nations Security Council
11 resolution that endorses the recommendations of
12 United Nations Special Envoy for Kosovo Martti
13 Ahtisaari;

14 (3) in the absence of timely action by the
15 United Nations Security Council, the United States
16 should be prepared to act in conjunction with like-
17 minded democracies to confer diplomatic recognition
18 on, and establish full diplomatic relations with,
19 Kosovo as an independent state, much as the United

1 States worked in cooperation with like-minded de-
2 mocracies to protect the people of Kosovo in 1999;

3 (4) the United States should oppose any delay
4 in the resolution of the political status of Kosovo as
5 counterproductive, potentially dangerous, and likely
6 to make the achievement of a lasting settlement
7 more difficult;

8 (5) the United States should work together with
9 the European Union as a full partner in supporting
10 the political and economic development of an inde-
11 pendent Kosovo;

12 (6) the United States should support the inte-
13 gration of Kosovo into international and Euro-Atlan-
14 tic institutions, including its timely admission to the
15 Partnership for Peace program of the North Atlan-
16 tic Treaty Organization (NATO), with the ultimate
17 goal of full membership in NATO;

18 (7) the United States should reaffirm its com-
19 mitment to southeastern Europe, including the con-
20 tinuation of the military mission in Kosovo to deter
21 and disrupt any efforts by any party to destabilize
22 the region through violence;

23 (8) the Government of Kosovo should exercise
24 responsible leadership under supervised independ-
25 ence and thereby accelerate the transition to full

1 independence, taking particular care to reassure,
2 protect, and ensure the full political and economic
3 rights of Serb and other minority communities in
4 Kosovo;

5 (9) the Government of Kosovo should make
6 every reasonable effort to develop a cooperative rela-
7 tionship with the Government of Serbia, in recogni-
8 tion of its legitimate interests in the safety of the
9 Serb population in Kosovo and in the protection and
10 preservation of the patrimonial sites of the Serbian
11 Orthodox Church in Kosovo; and

12 (10) the Government of Serbia should exercise
13 responsible leadership and seize the opportunity and
14 the imperative presented by the independence of
15 Kosovo to end the dark chapter of the 1990s and
16 focus its energies toward achieving a prosperous and
17 peaceful future through regional cooperation and in-
18 tegration into Euro-Atlantic institutions, including
19 NATO and the European Union, and toward the es-
20 tablishment of open, constructive relations with the
21 government of Kosovo.

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