

110TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. RES. 187

Condemning violence in Estonia and attacks on Estonia's embassies in 2007,
and expressing solidarity with the Government and the people of Estonia.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 3, 2007

Mr. VOINOVICH (for himself, Mr. BIDEN, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. SMITH, and
Ms. MIKULSKI) submitted the following resolution; which was considered
and agreed to

RESOLUTION

Condemning violence in Estonia and attacks on Estonia's
embassies in 2007, and expressing solidarity with the
Government and the people of Estonia.

Whereas, on April 27, 2007, the Bronze Soldier Soviet monu-
ment in central Tallinn was moved to a prominent loca-
tion in the Garrison Military Cemetery as a result of a
decision by the Government of Estonia;

Whereas the Government of Estonia communicated its rea-
sons for this decision to the Government of the Russian
Federation and offered to work with Russian officials
during the process, which the Russian officials declined
to do;

Whereas, on April 27, 2007, a crowd of more than 1,000 demonstrators gathered at the site of the memorial and riots broke out across Tallinn;

Whereas more than 153 people were injured as a result of the riots, and one died as a result of stabbing by another rioter;

Whereas several stores in Tallinn and surrounding villages were looted as a result of the riots, and a statue of an Estonian general was set on fire;

Whereas, since April 27, 2007, the Government of Estonia has reported several cyber-attacks on its official lines of communication, including those of the Office of the President;

Whereas, on April 28, 2007, and in days following, the Embassy of Estonia in Moscow was surrounded by angry protesters who demanded the resignation of the Government of Estonia, tore down the flag of Estonia from the Embassy building, and subjected Embassy officials inside the building to violence and vandalism;

Whereas, on April 30, 2007, a delegation of the State Duma of the Russian Federation visited Estonia and issued an official statement at the Embassy of the Russian Federation in Estonia that “the government of Estonia must step down”;

Whereas, on May 2, 2007, the Ambassador of Estonia to the Russian Federation was physically attacked by protesters and members of youth groups during an official press conference;

Whereas, on May 2, 2007, the Swedish Ambassador to the Russian Federation was attacked as he left the Embassy of Estonia in Moscow, and his car was damaged by a

crowd, resulting in a formal protest to the Russian Federation by the Swedish Foreign Ministry;

Whereas the Government of Estonia has reported other coordinated attacks against Estonian embassies in Helsinki, Oslo, Copenhagen, Stockholm, Riga, Prague, Kiev, and Minsk, and the Estonian Consulate in St. Petersburg;

Whereas, on May 2, 2007, Prime Minister of Estonia Andrus Ansip stated that a “sovereign state is under a heavy attack” and that the events constitute “a well-coordinated and flagrant intervention with the internal affairs of Estonia”;

Whereas, on May 2, 2007, the public prosecutor’s office of Estonia initiated an investigation into the cyber-attacks against Internet servers in Estonia and requested cooperation from the Russian Federation to identify the source of the attacks;

Whereas, on May 2, 2007, the European Commission expressed its solidarity with Estonia and urged Russia to respect its obligations to the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations, done at Vienna April 18, 1961, and end the blockade of the Embassy of Estonia in Moscow; and

Whereas the Embassy of Estonia in Russia has been closed since April 27, 2007, and Estonia has suspended consular services to Moscow because conditions remain unsafe for Embassy officials: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That—

2 (a) it is the sense of the Senate that the Soviet
3 Union’s brutal, decades-long occupation of Estonia was il-
4 legal, illegitimate, and a patent violation of Estonia’s sov-
5 ereignty and right to self-determination; and

1 (b) the Senate—

2 (1) expresses its strong support for Estonia as
3 a sovereign state and a member of the North Atlan-
4 tic Treaty Organization (NATO) and the Organiza-
5 tion of Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE)
6 as it deals with matters internal to its country;

7 (2) condemns recent acts of violence, vandalism,
8 and looting that have taken place in Estonia;

9 (3) condemns the attacks and threats against
10 Estonia’s embassies and officials in Russia and
11 other countries;

12 (4) urges all activists involved to express their
13 views peacefully and reject violence;

14 (5) honors the sacrifice of all those, including
15 soldiers of the Red Army, that gave their lives in the
16 fight to defeat Nazism;

17 (6) condemns any and all efforts to callously ex-
18 ploit the memory of the victims of the Second World
19 War for political gain;

20 (7) supports the efforts of the Government of
21 Estonia to initiate a dialogue with appropriate levels
22 of the Government of the Russian Federation to re-
23 solve the crisis peacefully and to sustain cooperation
24 between their two sovereign, independent states; and

25 (8) urges the governments of all countries—

1 (A) to condemn the violence that has oc-
2 curred in Estonia, Moscow, and elsewhere in
3 2007 and to urge all parties to express their
4 views peacefully;

5 (B) to assist the Government of Estonia in
6 its investigation into the source of cyber-at-
7 tacks; and

8 (C) to fulfill their obligations under the Vi-
9 enna Convention on Diplomatic Relations, done
10 at Vienna April 18, 1961.

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