

May 1997 negotiations between the Government of Nicaragua and the largest rearméd group;

Whereas the OAS-CIAV has resolved hostage crises successfully, including the 1993 abductions of UNO party Congressmen, the Vice President and the French military attache, and the 1996 kidnappings of an Agency for International Development contractor and 28 Supreme Electoral Council employees;

Whereas the OAS-CIAV created 86 peace commissions and has provided assistance and extensive training in human rights and alternative dispute resolution for their members, who are currently mediating conflicts, including kidnappings and demobilization of rearméd groups, in every municipality of the zones of conflict;

Whereas the OAS-CIAV assistance and training by the OAS-CIAV of rural Nicaraguans has led to a decrease in violence in the zones of conflict since 1994, in some areas as much as 85 percent;

Whereas the OAS-CIAV has assisted children wounded by land mines;

Whereas the OAS-CIAV has provided assistance to disabled war veterans and widows of combatants;

Whereas the OAS-CIAV provided and distributed 44,010 birth certificates to rural Nicaraguans in early 1996, allowing them to participate in the 1996 presidential and parliamentary elections; and

Whereas the OAS-CIAV provided transportation to and communication with remote areas or areas of conflict, assuring a secure climate for voter registration and the elections: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That the Senate—

(1) commends and congratulates Santiago Murray and Sergio Caramagna, the first and current directors, respectively, of the OAS-CIAV and all members of the OAS-CIAV team for their tireless defense of human rights, promotion of peaceful conflict resolution, and contribution to the development of freedom and democracy in Nicaragua; and

(2) expresses its support for the continuation of the role of the Organization of American States (OAS) in Nicaragua described in the resolution passed by the OAS General Assembly in Lima, Peru, on June 4, 1997.

SEC. 2. The Secretary of the Senate shall transmit a copy of this concurrent resolution to the President with the request that he further transmit such resolution to the Secretary General of the Organization of American States.

RELATIVE TO THE SITUATION ON CYPRUS

Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 115, Senate Concurrent Resolution 41.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 41) calling for a United States initiative seeking a just and peaceful resolution of the situation on Cyprus.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to the immediate consideration of the concurrent resolution?

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the concurrent resolution.

Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the concurrent resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statements relating to the resolution appear at this point in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 41) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The concurrent resolution, with its preamble, is as follows:

S. CON. RES. 41

Whereas the Republic of Cyprus has been divided and occupied by foreign forces since 1974 in violation of United Nations resolutions;

Whereas the international community, Congress, and successive United States administrations have called for an end to the status quo on Cyprus, considering that it perpetuates an unacceptable violation of international law and fundamental human rights affecting all the people of Cyprus, and undermines significant United States interests in the Eastern Mediterranean region;

Whereas the international community and the United States Government have repeatedly called for the speedy withdrawal of all foreign forces from the territory of Cyprus;

Whereas there are internationally acceptable means to resolve the situation in Cyprus, including the demilitarization of Cyprus and the establishment of a multinational force to ensure the security of both communities in Cyprus;

Whereas during the past year tensions in Cyprus have dramatically increased, with violent incidents occurring along cease-fire lines at a level not reached since 1974;

Whereas recent events in Cyprus have heightened the potential for armed conflict in the region involving two North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) allies, Greece and Turkey, which would threaten vital United States interests in the already volatile Eastern Mediterranean area and beyond;

Whereas a peaceful, just, and lasting solution to the Cyprus problem would greatly benefit the security, and the political, economic, and social well-being of all Cypriots, as well as contribute to improved relations between Greece and Turkey;

Whereas a lasting solution to the Cyprus problem would also strengthen peace and stability in the Eastern Mediterranean and serve important interests of the United States;

Whereas the United Nations has repeatedly stated the parameters for such a solution, most recently in United Nations Security Council Resolution 1092, adopted on December 23, 1996, with United States support;

Whereas the prospect of the accession by Cyprus to the European Union, which the United States has actively supported, could serve as a catalyst for a solution to the Cyprus problem;

Whereas President Bill Clinton has pledged that in 1997 the United States will "play a heightened role in promoting a resolution in Cyprus"; and

Whereas United States leadership will be a crucial factor in achieving a solution to the Cyprus problem, and increased United States involvement in the search for this solution will contribute to a reduction of tension on Cyprus: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That Congress—

(1) reaffirms its view that the status quo on Cyprus is unacceptable and detrimental

to the interests of the United States in the Eastern Mediterranean and beyond;

(2) considers that lasting peace and stability on Cyprus could be best secured by—

(A) a process of complete demilitarization leading to the withdrawal of all foreign occupation forces;

(B) the cessation of foreign arms transfers to Cyprus; and

(C) the provision of alternative internationally acceptable and effective security arrangements with guaranteed rights for both communities as negotiated by the parties;

(3) welcomes and supports the commitment by President Clinton to give increased attention to Cyprus and to make the search for a solution a priority of United States foreign policy, as witnessed by the appointment of Ambassador Richard Holbrooke as Special Presidential Emissary for Cyprus; and

(4) calls upon the parties to lend their full support and cooperation to United States, United Nations, and other international efforts to promote an equitable and speedy resolution of the Cyprus problem—

(A) on the basis of international law, the provisions of relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions, and democratic principles, including respect for human rights; and

(B) in accordance with the norms and requirements for accession to the European Union.

Mr. BIDEN. I rise to congratulate the Senate on having adopted Senate Concurrent Resolution 41, which calls for a United States initiative seeking a just and peaceful resolution on the situation on Cyprus.

Senator SMITH of Oregon and I submitted this resolution last week in the Committee on Foreign Relations, where it received speedy and favorable action. I applaud my colleagues for having adopted the resolution today.

For 23 years Cyprus has been divided, with the northern part occupied by Turkish troops, and the southern part home to the Greek Cypriot community. Tensions remain high, and since Cyprus has become one of the most heavily armed places in the world, the possibility for serious hostilities is high. So, Mr. President, it is clear that the status quo on Cyprus is detrimental to U.S. interests in the volatile Eastern Mediterranean region.

The resolution declares that lasting peace and stability on Cyprus could best be served by complete demilitarization leading to the withdrawal of all foreign occupation forces, the cessation of foreign arms transfers to Cyprus, and the provision of alternative internationally acceptable and effective security arrangements with guaranteed rights for both communities as negotiated by the parties.

The resolution also welcomes and supports President Clinton's commitment to give increased attention to Cyprus as witnessed by Ambassador Holbrooke's appointment as Special Presidential Emissary for Cyprus.

Finally, the resolution calls upon the parties to lend their full support and cooperation to United States, United Nations, and other international efforts to promote an equitable and speedy resolution of the Cyprus problem on the basis of international law,

relevant U.N. Security Council resolutions, and democratic principles, including respect for human rights, and in accordance with the norms and requirements for accession to the European Union.

This last item is important, Mr. President, giving the naming earlier this month of Cyprus to the first group of candidate countries for final membership negotiations with the European Union, along with Poland, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Slovenia, and Estonia.

Mr. President, the intolerable situation on Cyprus must be changed. Face to face negotiations between the two parties have resumed, and there are some grounds for optimism. I hope that this resolution will serve to energize the parties to come to a just and lasting agreement.

I thank the Chair and yield the floor.

ORDERS FOR THURSDAY, JULY 24, 1997

Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand in adjournment until the hour of

9:45 a.m. on Thursday, July 24. I further ask that on Thursday, immediately following the prayer, the routine requests through the morning hour be granted and the Senate immediately resume consideration of S. 1033, the Agriculture appropriations bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PROGRAM

Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, for the information of all Senators, tomorrow, the Senate will resume consideration of S. 1033, the Agriculture appropriations bill. By previous consent, there will be 10 minutes of debate, equally divided, between Senator COCHRAN and Senator WELLSTONE on the Wellstone amendment regarding school breakfast. Also by consent, at 10 a.m., the Senate will proceed to a series of rollcall votes on the remaining amendments to the agriculture appropriations bill, including final passage. Following disposition of the agriculture appropriations bill, it is the intention of the majority leader that the Senate proceed to the consideration of the transportation appropriations bill.

Therefore, Members can anticipate rollcall votes throughout Thursday's session of the Senate.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 9:45 A.M. TOMORROW

Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I now ask that the Senate stand in adjournment under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 8:26 p.m., adjourned until Thursday, July 24, 1997, at 9:45 a.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate July 23, 1997:

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

WILLIAM F. WELD, OF MASSACHUSETTS, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO MEXICO.

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

RITA D. HAYES, OF SOUTH CAROLINA, TO BE DEPUTY UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE, WITH THE RANK OF AMBASSADOR, VICE WILLIAM BOOTH GARDNER, RESIGNED.