

SENATE RESOLUTION 269—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE WITH RESPECT TO UNITED STATES RELATIONS WITH THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION, GIVEN THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION'S CONDUCT IN CHECHNYA, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Mr. HELMS submitted the following resolution, which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 269

Whereas the Senate of the United States unanimously passed Senate Resolution 262 on February 24th, 2000, to condemn the indiscriminate use of force by the Government of the Russian Federation against the people of Chechnya, to prompt peace negotiations between the Government of the Russian Federation and the Government of Chechnya led by elected President Aslan Maskhadov, and to prompt the Government of the Russian Federation to immediately grant international organizations full and unimpeded access in Chechnya and the surrounding regions so that they can provide much needed humanitarian assistance and investigate alleged atrocities and war crimes;

Whereas the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate received credible evidence and testimony reporting that Russian forces in Chechnya caused the deaths of countless thousands of innocent civilians; caused the displacement of well over 250,000 innocents; forcibly relocated refugee populations; and have committed widespread atrocities, including summary executions, torture, and rape;

Whereas the Government of the Russian Federation has repeatedly violated the principles of the freedom of the press by subjecting journalists, such as Radio Free Liberty/Radio Europe correspondent Andrei Babitsky, who oppose or question its policies to censorship, intimidation, harassment, incarceration, and violence;

Whereas the Government of the Russian Federation continues its military campaign in Chechnya, including the use of indiscriminate force, causing further dislocation of people from their homes, the deaths of non-combatants and widespread suffering;

Whereas this war contributes to ethnic hatred and religious intolerance within the Russian Federation, jeopardizes prospects for the establishment of democracy in the Russian Federation, undercuts the ability of the international community to trust the Russian Federation as a signatory to international agreements, generates political instability within the Russian Federation, and is a threat to the peace in the region; and

Whereas the Senate expresses its concern over the war and humanitarian tragedy in Chechnya, and its desire for a peaceful and durable settlement to the conflict: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the Senate that—

(1) the indifference of most Western governments, including that of the United States, toward this conflict has encouraged the Government of the Russian Federation to intensify and expand its military campaign in Chechnya, further contributing to the suffering of the Chechen people;

(2) the Acting President of the Russian Federation, Vladimir Putin, is directly responsible for the conduct of Russian troops in and around Chechnya and accountable for war crimes and atrocities committed by them against the Chechen people;

(3) the Acting President of the Russian Federation should—

(A) immediately cease the military operations in Chechnya and initiate negotiations toward a just peace with the leadership of the Chechen government, including President Aslan Maskhadov;

(B) grant international missions immediate full and unimpeded access into Chechnya and surrounding regions so that they can monitor and report on the situation there and investigate alleged atrocities and war crimes;

(C) allow international humanitarian agencies immediate full and unimpeded access to Chechen civilians, including those in refugee, detention and so-called "filtration camps" or any other facility where citizens of Chechnya are detained; and

(D) investigate fully the atrocities committed in Chechnya, including those alleged in Alkhan-Yurt and Grozny, and initiate prosecutions against officers and soldiers accused of those atrocities;

(4) the President of the United States should—

(A) affirm respect for human rights, democratic rule of law, and international accountability as a foundation of United States foreign policy;

(B) affirm respect for human rights, democratic rule of law, and international accountability as a precondition to United States-Russian cooperation;

(C) reevaluate United States foreign policy toward the Russian Federation given its conduct in Chechnya, remilitarization, and questionable commitment to democracy;

(D) support societal forces in the Russian Federation fighting to preserve democracy there, including empowering human rights activists and promoting programs designed to strengthen the independent media, trade unions, political parties, civil society, and the democratic rule of law;

(E) promote peace negotiations between the Government of the Russian Federation and the leadership of the Chechen government, including President Aslan Maskhadov, through third-party mediation by the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), the United Nations, or other appropriate parties;

(F) endorse the call of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights for an investigation of alleged war crimes committed by the Russian military in Chechnya; and

(G) take tangible steps to demonstrate to the Government of the Russian Federation that the United States strongly condemns its conduct in Chechnya and its unwillingness to find a just political solution to the conflict in Chechnya, including—

(i) a refusal to participate in bilateral summit meetings with the Government of the Russian Federation;

(ii) a call for the suspension of the Russian Federation from the forum of G-7 plus 1 state; and

(iii) a suspension of financial assistance to the Russian Federation provided through the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank, the Export-Import Bank of the United States, and the Overseas Private Investment Corporation; and

(5) the President of the United States should not reverse the actions taken under paragraph (4)(G) until the Government of the Russian Federation has—

(A) ceased its military operations in Chechnya and initiated negotiations toward a just peace with the leadership of the Chechen government led by President Aslan Maskhadov;

(B) provided full and unimpeded access into and around Chechnya to international missions to monitor and report on the situation there and to investigate alleged atrocities and war crimes;

(C) granted international humanitarian agencies immediate full and unimpeded access to Chechen civilians, including those in refugee, detention, and so-called "filtration camps" or any other facility where citizens of Chechnya are detained; and

(D) investigated fully the atrocities committed in Chechnya including those alleged in Alkhan-Yurt and Grozny, and initiated prosecutions against officers and soldiers accused of those atrocities.

SENATE RESOLUTION 270—DESIGNATING THE WEEK BEGINNING MARCH 11, 2000, AS "NATIONAL GIRL SCOUT WEEK"

Mr. HATCH, from the Committee on the Judiciary, reported the following original resolution; which was placed on the calendar:

S. RES. 270

Whereas March 12, 2000, is the 88th anniversary of the founding of the Girl Scouts of the United States of America;

Whereas on March 16, 1950, the Girl Scouts of the United States of America became the first national organization for girls to be granted a Federal charter by Congress;

Whereas through annual reports required to be submitted to Congress by its charter, the Girl Scouts of the United States of America regularly informs Congress of its progress and program initiatives;

Whereas the Girl Scouts of the United States of America is dedicated to inspiring girls and young women with the highest ideals of character, conduct, and service to others so that they may become model citizens in their communities;

Whereas the Girl Scouts of the United States of America offers girls aged 5 through 17 a variety of opportunities to develop strong values and life skills and provides a wide range of activities to meet girls' interests and needs;

Whereas the Girl Scouts of the United States of America has a membership of nearly 3,000,000 girls and over 900,000 adult volunteers, and is one of the preeminent organizations in the United States committed to girls growing strong in mind, body, and spirit; and

Whereas by fostering in girls and young women the qualities on which the strength of the United States depends, the Girl Scouts of the United States of America, for 88 years, has significantly contributed to the advancement of the United States: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates the week beginning March 11, 2000, as "National Girl Scout Week"; and

(2) requests the President to issue a proclamation designating the week beginning March 11, 2000, as "National Girl Scout Week" and calling on the people of the United States to observe the day with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

SENATE RESOLUTION 271—REGARDING THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

By Mr. WELLSTONE (for himself, Mr. TORRICELLI, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. FEINGOLD, and Mr. BROWNBACK) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 271

Whereas the annual meeting of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights in Geneva, Switzerland, provides a forum for discussing human rights and expressing international support for improved human rights performance;

Whereas in 1999, the Senate passed Senate Resolution 45 urging the United States to introduce and make all necessary efforts to pass a resolution condemning human rights practices of the Government of the People's Republic of China at the annual meeting of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights in Geneva, Switzerland;

Whereas the United States thereafter introduced a resolution condemning human rights practices of the Government of the People's Republic of China at the annual meeting of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights in Geneva, Switzerland;

Whereas this resolution was kept off the agenda of the full Commission by a "no-action" motion of the Government of the People's Republic of China, had no cosponsors, and received little support from European and other industrialized nations and did not pass;

Whereas, according to the Department of State and international human rights organizations, the human rights record of the Government of the People's Republic of China has deteriorated sharply over the past year and authorities of the People's Republic of China continue to commit widespread and well-documented human rights abuses in China;

Whereas such abuses stem from an intolerance of dissent and fear of civil unrest on the part of authorities in the People's Republic of China and from a failure to adequately enforce laws in the People's Republic of China that protect basic freedoms;

Whereas such abuses violate internationally accepted norms of conduct enshrined by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights;

Whereas the People's Republic of China has signed the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, but has yet to take the necessary steps to make it legally binding;

Whereas authorities in the People's Republic of China have recently escalated efforts to extinguish expressions of protest or criticism and have detained scores of citizens associated with attempts to organize a legal democratic opposition, as well as religious leaders, academics, and members of minority groups;

Whereas these efforts underscore that the Government of the People's Republic of China continues to commit serious human rights abuses that must be condemned; and

Whereas the United States will again introduce a resolution condemning human rights practices of the Government of the People's Republic of China at the annual meeting of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights in Geneva, Switzerland, on March 20, 2000: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That (a) the Senate supports the decision of the Administration to introduce a resolution at the 56th Session of the United Nations Human Rights Commission in Geneva, Switzerland, calling upon the People's Republic of China to end its human rights abuses.

(b) It is the sense of the Senate that the United States should make every effort necessary to pass such a resolution, including through initiating high level contact between the Administration and representatives of the European Union and other governments, and ensuring that the resolution be placed on the full United Nations Human Rights Commission's agenda by aggressively enlisting support for the resolution and soliciting cosponsorship of it by other governments.

Mr. WELLSTONE. Mr. President, today I am offering a resolution in support of the President's decision to introduce a China resolution at the annual meeting of the UN Human Rights Commission in Geneva on March 20th and urging the President to make every effort necessary to pass it. This important resolution calls on China to end its human rights abuses.

The President must ensure that this resolution be placed on the agenda of the full Human Rights Commission. He must enlist support for this resolution by other governments, especially by the European Union, and get them to cosponsor it. Year after year China has used a parliamentary tactic known as a "no-action" motion so that resolutions condemning its human rights abuses are struck down before they are even placed on the agenda of the full Commission. We must not allow this to happen this year.

Last year the Senate passed a resolution urging the United States to introduce a resolution condemning China's human rights practices at the 1999 Geneva meeting. Although the administration introduced a resolution, it was kept off the agenda of the full Commission by a "no-action" motion of China. It had no co-sponsors and received little support from European and other industrialized nations. The resolution did not pass because it didn't even come up.

This year the President announced in January his decision to again introduce a resolution in Geneva condemning China's human rights practices. According to the Administration the goal of the resolution is to "shine an international spotlight directly on China's human rights practices" through "international action." But, as of today, there has been little international action. The resolution still has no co-sponsors.

When President Clinton formally delinked trade and human rights in 1994, he pledged, on the record, that the US would "step up its efforts, in cooperation with other states, to insist that the United Nations Human Rights Commission pass a resolution dealing with the serious human rights abuses in China." While the U.S. has claimed an intention at least to speak out on human rights, the substance of US-China relations—trade, military contacts, high level summits—go forward while Chinese leaders continue to crack down on dissidents throughout the country of over one billion.

The Chinese government continues to commit widespread abuses and has taken actions that flagrantly violate the commitment it has made to respect internationally-recognized human rights. Just this week Mary Richardson, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, announced that she is deeply concerned about the deterioration in China's human rights practices. Mr. Shen Guofang, China's Deputy Representative at the United Nations said, "China now has the best human

rights situation in its history." This is unbelievable. Is the current system the best China has to offer its own citizens? If this is so, this issue will remain a point of contention between China and the international community.

In January, China convicted two of the last leaders of the Chinese Democracy Party. These disgraceful arrests were part of a further crackdown by the government on efforts to form the country's first opposition party. The arrests worked—they effectively obliterated the Party. But those fighting for democracy in China have not forgotten those they have lost, and they continue to fight.

Chinese authorities blocked the delivery of foreign donations to help the families of people killed in the crackdown on the Tiananmen student democracy movement. Mr. Lu Wenhe, a Chinese citizen who has lived in the US for twenty years, was detained in Beijing on his way to meet a woman whose 17-year-old son was shot dead by soldiers in 1989. Mr. Lu was forced to sign over his check to an officer of the Shanghai State Security Bureau. Donors stopped payment on the check but Chinese authorities continued to harass Mr. Lu's parents in Shanghai to come up with the money or risk losing their apartment and car.

And China continues to limit freedom of information. In January Chinese authorities arrested a scholar from Pennsylvania. Mr. Song, a librarian at Dickinson College and a scholar of China's cultural revolution, was formally charged with "the purchase and illegal provision of intelligence to foreigners." He was held for over four months. The "intelligence" that he is charged with possessing were documents that were already published as part of a collection of historical materials relating to the Cultural Revolution. Nothing could better illustrate the Chinese authorities' determination to suppress history or thought than the arrest of a scholar engaged in historical research.

Since September, Beijing has arrested thousands of practitioners of Falun Gong and Zhong Gong, both popular spiritual movements, whose threats to the regime are that they are not under the Party's control. President Zemin announced in January that crushing the Falun Gong movement was one of the "three major political struggles" of 1999.

The Department of State's 1999 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices details an extraordinary amount of human rights violations. In October a Falun Gong practitioner in Shandong died from being beaten while in police custody. The official media reported she had died from a heart attack. According to Chinese authorities, two others who died in police custody jumped from a moving train. In March the Western press reported a 1997 case in which police executed four farmers in rural China over a monetary dispute.

The arrested dissidents and their courageous supporters deserve our full backing, and the administration's, in their historic struggle to bring democracy to China. In light of China's still deteriorating human rights record, I urge the administration to make all efforts necessary to pass its resolution in Geneva. Past experience has demonstrated that, when the United States has applied sustained pressure, the Chinese authorities have responded in ways that signal their willingness to engage on the issue of human rights. This pressure needs to be exercised now.

By ensuring that this resolution be placed on the agenda of the full Human Rights Commission, and enlisting support of the resolution and soliciting co-sponsors of it by other governments, the United States can truly "shine an international spotlight directly on China's human rights practices" through "international action," and not just pay it lip service. The US must demonstrate its true commitment to securing China's adherence to human rights standards.

It is time for the United States to provide the leadership on which the people of China depend. We must take action to get this important resolution passed. The UN Human Rights Commission is the major international body which oversees the human rights conditions of all states. Getting this resolution placed on the agenda of the full Human Rights Commission will foster substantive debate on human rights in China and Tibet.

As Americans, we must take action and lead the international effort to condemn the human rights situation in China and Tibet. I hope my colleagues will join me in passing this resolution.

SENATE RESOLUTION 272—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE THAT THE UNITED STATES SHOULD REMAIN ACTIVELY ENGAGED IN SOUTHEASTERN EUROPE TO PROMOTE LONG-TERM PEACE, STABILITY, AND PROSPERITY; CONTINUE TO VIGOROUSLY OPPOSE THE BRUTAL REGIME OF SLOBODAN MILOSEVIC WHILE SUPPORTING THE EFFORTS OF THE DEMOCRATIC OPPOSITION; AND FULLY IMPLEMENT THE STABILITY PACT

Mr. VOINOVICH submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 272

Whereas the North Atlantic Treaty Organization's (NATO's) March 24, 1999 through June 10, 1999 bombing of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia focused the attention of the international community on southeastern Europe;

Whereas the international community, in particular the United States and the Euro-

pean Union, made a commitment at the conclusion of the bombing campaign to integrate southeastern Europe into the broader European community;

Whereas there is an historic opportunity for the international community to help the people of southeastern Europe break the cycle of violence, retribution, and revenge and move towards respect for minority rights, establishment of the rule of law, and the further development of democratic governments;

Whereas the Stability Pact was established in July 1999 with the goal of promoting cooperation among the countries of southeastern Europe, with a focus on long-term political stability and peace, security, democratization, and economic reconstruction and development;

Whereas the effective implementation of the Stability Pact is important to the long-term peace and stability in the region;

Whereas the people and Government of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia have a positive record of respect for minority rights, the rule of law, and democratic traditions since independence;

Whereas the people of Croatia have recently elected leaders that respect minority rights, the rule of law, and democratic traditions;

Whereas positive developments in the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and the Republic of Croatia will clearly indicate to the people of Serbia that economic progress and integration into the international community is only possible if Milosevic is removed from power; and

Whereas the Republic of Slovenia continues to serve as a model for the region as it moves closer to European Union and NATO membership: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) welcomes the tide of democratic change in southeastern Europe, particularly the free and fair elections in Croatia, and the regional cooperation taking place under the umbrella of the Stability Pact;

(2) recognizes that in this trend, the regime of Slobodan Milosevic is ever more an anomaly, the only government in the region not democratically elected, and an obstacle to peace and neighborly relations in the region;

(3) expresses its sense that the United States cannot have normal relations with Belgrade as long as the Milosevic regime is in power;

(4) views Slobodan Milosevic as a brutal indicted war criminal, responsible for immeasurable bloodshed, ethnic hatred, and human rights abuses in southeastern Europe in recent years;

(5) considers international sanctions an essential tool to isolate the Milosevic regime and promote democracy, and urges the Administration to intensify, focus, and expand those sanctions that most effectively target the regime and its key supporters;

(6) supports strongly the efforts of the Serbian people to establish a democratic government and endorses their call for early, free, and fair elections;

(7) looks forward to establishing a normal relationship with a new democratic government in Serbia, which will permit an end to Belgrade's isolation and the opportunity to restore the historically friendly relations between the Serbian and American people;

(8) expresses the readiness of the Senate, once there is a democratic government in Serbia, to review conditions for Serbia's full reintegration into the international community;

(9) expresses its readiness to assist a future democratic government in Serbia to build a democratic, peaceful, and prosperous soci-

ety, based on the same principle of respect for international obligations, as set out by the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and the United Nations, which guide the relations of the United States with other countries in southeastern Europe;

(10) calls upon the United States and other Western democracies to publicly announce and demonstrate to the Serbian people the magnitude of assistance they could expect after democratization; and

(11) recognizes the progress in democratic and market reform made by Montenegro, which can serve as a model for Serbia, and urges a peaceful resolution of political differences over the abrogation of Montenegro's rights under the federal constitution.

SENATE RESOLUTION 273—DESIGNATING THE WEEK BEGINNING MARCH 11, 2000, AS "NATIONAL GIRL SCOUT WEEK"

Mrs. HUTCHISON (for herself, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. HATCH, Ms. SNOWE, Mr. WARNER, Mr. BUNNING, Mr. BOND, Mr. ASHCROFT, Mr. SMITH of Oregon, Mr. HELMS, Mr. MURKOWSKI, Mr. CRAIG, Mr. DOMENICI, and Ms. COLLINS) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 273

Whereas March 12, 2000, is the 88th anniversary of the founding of the Girl Scouts of the United States of America;

Whereas on March 16, 1950, the Girl Scouts of the United States of America became the first national organization for girls to be granted a Federal charter by Congress;

Whereas through annual reports required to be submitted to Congress by its charter, the Girl Scouts of the United States of America regularly informs Congress of its progress and program initiatives;

Whereas the Girl Scouts of the United States of America is dedicated to inspiring girls and young women with the highest ideals of character, conduct, and service to others so that they may become model citizens in their communities;

Whereas the Girl Scouts of the United States of America offers girls aged 5 through 17 a variety of opportunities to develop strong values and life skills and provides a wide range of activities to meet girls' interests and needs;

Whereas the Girl Scouts of the United States of America has a membership of nearly 3,000,000 girls and over 900,000 adult volunteers, and is one of the preeminent organizations in the United States committed to girls growing strong in mind, body, and spirit; and

Whereas by fostering in girls and young women the qualities on which the strength of the United States depends, the Girl Scouts of the United States of America, for 88 years, has significantly contributed to the advancement of the United States: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates the week beginning March 11, 2000, as "National Girl Scout Week"; and

(2) requests the President to issue a proclamation designating the week beginning March 11, 2000, as "National Girl Scout Week" and calling on the people of the United States to observe the day with appropriate ceremonies and activities.