

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 31—EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR DEMOCRATIC FORCES IN SERBIA AND ENCOURAGING THE PEOPLE OF SERBIA TO REMAIN COMMITTED TO A DEMOCRATIC PATH

Mr. VOINOVICH (for himself, Mr. LUGAR, Mr. HAGEL, and Mr. LIEBERMAN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 31

Whereas, in September 2000, the people of Serbia fought for democracy by going to the streets to hold protests and rallies until President Slobodan Milosevic was removed from power and the Government of Serbia was handed over to democratic forces;

Whereas, in the following years, the democratic leadership of Serbia worked to establish a democratic society, functional rule of law, a free market economy, and respect for human and minority rights;

Whereas the President of Serbia, Boris Tadic, has expressed publicly his commitment to the principles of democracy and the dream of leading Serbia forward on this path;

Whereas Serbia is a member of several international organizations and has voiced its desire to become a member of the European Union (EU);

Whereas Serbia has enacted several military and defense reforms to strengthen ties to its Western allies and the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) Alliance;

Whereas, on September 7, 2006, Serbia signed a Status of Forces Agreement with the United States Government to facilitate Serbia's participation in joint military exercises and training;

Whereas, on September 8, 2006, President Tadic commemorated the beginning of Serbia's participation in the National Guard State Partnership Program with the Ohio National Guard;

Whereas, on December 14, 2006, Serbia was granted accession to the NATO Partnership for Peace (PfP) program, along with its neighbors, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Montenegro, initiating formal cooperation between NATO and Serbia;

Whereas Serbia has transferred 36 individuals indicted for war crimes to the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY), including Milosevic and some of his top officials, and provided thousands of documents to the Office of the Prosecutor of the ICTY;

Whereas Serbia has taken some additional steps, under the supervision of the ICTY and the international community, to enact judicial reforms and establish special courts to try individuals indicted for war crimes in Kosovo, Bosnia, and Croatia;

Whereas Serbia has failed to arrest war criminal Ratko Mladic for the horrific crimes he committed at Srebrenica in Bosnia and Herzegovina, which prevented Serbia's earlier participation in the PfP program and its progression in EU accession talks;

Whereas, on January 21, 2007, Serbia will hold democratic parliamentary elections to determine Serbia's future leadership at this critical juncture in Serbia's history;

Whereas Albanian parties in southern Serbia will participate in the parliamentary elections for the first time in over 15 years; and

Whereas a strong, stable, and democratic Serbia is critical to the future of the region: Now, therefore, be it

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

(1) the United States should be committed to a strong relationship with a democratic Serbia as Serbia moves toward its goals of membership in the European Union (EU) and cooperation with the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO);

(2) the inclusion of Serbia in the NATO Partnership for Peace Program was a critical step in bringing Serbia closer to the Euro-Atlantic Alliance;

(3) Serbia will now have the opportunity to enact defense reforms and apply for a Membership Action Plan for NATO;

(4) Serbia should continue its progress on reform, including defense and judiciary reforms and reforms in the area of human and minority rights;

(5) Serbia should move quickly to fulfill its obligations to the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, including by immediately arresting Ratko Mladic and transferring him to the Hague because this step is essential for Serbia to be admitted into the EU and NATO;

(6) as Serbia continues to work toward integration in Euro-Atlantic institutions, the United States should continue and increase its defense and security cooperation with the Government of Serbia, including through education, training, and technical cooperation, to assist Serbia in the reform process and in fulfilling the requirements for membership in NATO; and

(7) the United States should remain a friend to the people of Serbia as they continue on the path of democracy.

SENATE RESOLUTION 32—AUTHORIZING EXPENDITURES BY THE COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Mr. KERRY (for himself and Ms. SNOWE) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Rules and Administration:

S. RES. 32

Resolved, That, in carrying out its powers, duties, and functions under the Standing Rules of the Senate, in accordance with jurisdiction under rule XXV of such rules, including holding hearings, reporting such hearings, and making investigations as authorized by paragraphs 1 and 8 of rule XXVI of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship is authorized from March 1, 2007, through September 30, 2007, and October 1, 2007, through September 30, 2008, and October 1, 2008, through February 28, 2009, in its discretion—

(1) to make expenditures from the contingent fund of the Senate;

(2) to employ personnel; and

(3) with the prior consent of the Government department or agency concerned and the Committee on Rules and Administration, to use on a reimbursable or non-reimbursable basis the services of personnel of any such department or agency.

SEC. 2.

(a) The expense of the committee for the period March 1, 2007, through September 30, 2007, under this resolution shall not exceed \$1,373,063, of which amount—

(1) not to exceed \$25,000 may be expended for the procurement of the services of individual consultants, or organizations thereof (as authorized by section 202(i) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946); and

(2) not to exceed \$10,000 may be expended for the training of the professional staff of such committee (under procedures specified by section 202(j) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946).

(b) For the period of October 1, 2007, through September 30, 2008, expenses of the committee under this resolution shall not exceed \$2,405,349, of which amount—

(1) not to exceed \$25,000 may be expended for the procurement of the services of individual consultants, organizations thereof (as authorized by section 292(i) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946); and

(2) not to exceed \$10,000 may be expended for the training of the professional staff of such committee (under procedures specified by section 202(j) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946).

(c) For the period of October 1, 2008, through February 28, 2009, expenses of the committee under this resolution shall not exceed \$1,021,186, of which amount—

(1) not to exceed \$25,000 may be expended for the procurement of the services of individual consultants, or organizations thereof (as authorized by section 202(i) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946); and

(2) not to exceed \$10,000 may be expended for the training of the professional staff of such committee (under procedures specified by section 202(j) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946).

SEC. 3.

The committee may report its findings, together with such recommendations for legislation as it deems advisable, to the Senate at the earliest practicable date, but not later than February 28, 2007.

SEC. 4.

Expenses of the committee under this resolution shall be paid from the contingent fund of the Senate upon vouchers approved by the chairman of the committee, except that vouchers shall not be required—

(1) for the disbursement of salaries of employees paid at an annual rate;

(2) for the payment of telecommunications provided by the Office of the Sergeant at Arms and Doorkeeper, United States Senate;

(3) for the payment of stationery supplies purchased through the Keeper of the Stationery, United States Senate;

(4) for payments to the Postmaster, United States Senate;

(5) for the payment of metered charges on copying equipment provided by the Office of the Sergeant at Arms and Doorkeeper, United States Senate;

(6) for the payment of Senate Recording and Photographic Services; or

(7) for payment of franked mail costs by the Sergeant at Arms and Doorkeeper, United States Senate.

SEC. 5.

There are authorized such sums as may be necessary for agency contributions related to the compensation of employees of the committee from March 1, 2007, through September 30, 2007, October 1, 2007, through September 30, 2008, and October 1, 2008, through February 28, 2009, to be paid from the Appropriations account for "Expenses of Inquiries and Investigations".

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 2—EXPRESSING THE BIPARTISAN RESOLUTION ON IRAQ

Mr. BIDEN (for himself, Mr. HAGEL, Mr. LEVIN, and Ms. SNOWE) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. CON. RES. 2

Whereas the United States strategy and presence on the ground in Iraq can only be sustained with the support of the American people and bipartisan support from Congress;

Whereas maximizing chances of success in Iraq should be our goal, and the best chance

of success requires a change in current strategy;

Whereas the situation in Iraq is damaging the standing, influence, and interests of the United States in Iraq, the Middle East, and around the world;

Whereas more than 137,000 United States military personnel are bravely and honorably serving in Iraq and deserve the support of all Americans;

Whereas more than 3,000 United States military personnel have already lost their lives in Iraq, and more than 22,500 have been wounded in Iraq;

Whereas on January 10, 2007, President George W. Bush announced his plan to deepen the United States military involvement in Iraq by deploying approximately 21,000 additional United States combat forces to Iraq;

Whereas Iraq is witnessing widening sectarian and intra-sectarian violence;

Whereas Iraqis must reach a political settlement if there is going to be a reconciliation in Iraq, and the failure of the Iraqis to achieve such a settlement has led to the increase in violence in Iraq;

Whereas Iraq Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki stated on November 27, 2006, that "[t]he crisis is political, and the ones who can stop the cycle of aggravation and blood-letting of innocents are the politicians.";

Whereas an open-ended commitment of United States forces in Iraq is unsustainable and a deterrent to the Iraqis making the political compromises and providing the personnel and resources that are needed for violence to end and for stability and security to be achieved in Iraq;

Whereas the responsibility for internal security and halting sectarian violence in Iraq must rest primarily with the Government of Iraq and Iraqi security forces;

Whereas there have been repeated promises by the Government of Iraq to assume a greater share of security responsibilities, disband militias, consider amendments to the Iraq constitution, enact laws to reconcile sectarian differences, and improve the quality of life for the Iraqi people, but those promises have not been kept;

Whereas a successful strategy in Iraq is dependent upon the Iraqi leaders fulfilling their promises;

Whereas the commander of the United States Central Command, General John Abizaid, testified to Congress on November 15, 2006, that "[i]t's easy for the Iraqis to rely upon us to do this work. I believe that more American forces prevent the Iraqis from taking more responsibility for their own future";

Whereas the Iraq Study Group suggested a comprehensive strategy to "enable the United States to begin to move its combat forces out of Iraq responsibly" based on "new and enhanced diplomatic and political efforts in Iraq and the region";

Whereas the United States Army and Marine Corps, including their Reserves and the Army National Guard, their personnel, and their families, are under enormous strain from multiple, extended deployments to Iraq and Afghanistan;

Whereas the majority of nondeployed Army and Marine Corps units are no longer combat ready due to a lack of equipment and insufficient time to train; and

Whereas the United States strategy in Iraq must not compromise the ability of the United States to address other vital national security priorities, in particular global terror networks, proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, regional stability in the Middle East, the nuclear program of Iran, the nuclear weapons of North Korea, and stability and security in Afghanistan: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That it is the sense of Congress that—

(1) it is not in the national interest of the United States to deepen its military involvement in Iraq, particularly by escalating the United States military force presence in Iraq;

(2) the primary objective of United States strategy in Iraq should be to have the Iraqi political leaders make the political compromises necessary to end the violence in Iraq;

(3) greater concerted regional, and international support would assist the Iraqis in achieving a political solution and national reconciliation;

(4) main elements of the mission of United States forces in Iraq should transition to helping ensure the territorial integrity of Iraq, conduct counterterrorism activities, reduce regional interference in the internal affairs of Iraq, and accelerate training of Iraqi troops;

(5) the United States should transfer, under an appropriately expedited timeline, responsibility for internal security and halting sectarian violence in Iraq to the Government of Iraq and Iraqi security forces; and

(6) the United States should engage nations in the Middle East to develop a regional, internationally-sponsored peace and reconciliation process for Iraq.

Mr. BIDEN. Mr. President, today, Senator HAGEL, Senator LEVIN, and I are submitting a bipartisan resolution that opposes the President's plan to escalate the war in Iraq.

This resolution says what we and many of our colleagues, Democrats and Republicans, are against: deepening America's military involvement in Iraq by escalating our troop presence.

Just as important, it says what we and many of our colleagues are for: a strategy that can produce a political settlement in Iraq.

That's the only way to stop Shiites and Sunnis from killing each other and allow our troops to leave Iraq without leaving chaos behind.

Last week, when Secretary of State Rice presented the President's plan to escalate our troop presence in Iraq to the Foreign Relations Committee, the reaction from Democrats and Republicans alike ranged from profound skepticism to outright opposition.

This resolution will give every Senator a chance to say where he or she stands on the President's plan.

I believe that when a President goes way off course on something as important as Iraq, the single most effective way to get him to change course is to demonstrate that his policy has waning or no support—from both parties.

The more we make Iraq a partisan issue, the more the President is likely to dig in. The more we show that Americans across the board don't want to go down the path of escalation, the better our chance to stop it.

Iraq is not a partisan issue. It's a challenge we must meet as Americans.

The very first sentence of our resolution says something the three of us believe profoundly: "U.S. strategy and presence on the ground in Iraq can only be sustained with the support of the American people and the bipartisan support of Congress."

This resolution will demonstrate that, right now, the support is not there for the President's policy in Iraq. The sooner he recognizes that reality and acts on it, the better off all of us will be.

Mr. HAGEL. Mr. President, we have before us one of the most important issues that has ever faced our country, certainly in modern times. The future of Iraq will affect the United States, the Middle East, and the world for decades to come.

No one in Congress and no one in the United States wants to see America humiliated, defeated, or in any way lose its purpose. The issue of Iraq involves all of us. The Congress of the United States must have a role to play.

Our responsibility is to join together in a bipartisan effort to work to develop a consensus to deal with the great challenges of our time. I know of no challenge that is greater today, before this country, than Iraq. When a Nation commits its men and women to war, it is the greatest challenge that any of us will ever deal with in our time in the Congress.

We owe it to the American people to help find a bipartisan consensus of purpose, to help develop a policy worthy of our men and women in uniform. The American people not only deserve but they expect a consensus. This resolution is not about trying to assign blame on the Administration. It is not about replaying past mistakes. This resolution is about moving forward. It is difficult but it is our responsibility.

Some of us believe that the course that the President announced Wednesday was not the appropriate course. I do not believe that the United States should be sending more American troops into the middle of the tribal, sectarian civil war that is occurring in Iraq.

Senators BIDEN, LEVIN, and I have focused personally on writing this resolution because we felt it must reflect a responsible, forward-looking, and constructive approach. We must remain focused on a strategy which seeks to advance America's national interests and allow America to leave Iraq honorably.

The American people look to its government for responsible policy. A policy that can be sustained. A policy that reflects a clear consensus of purpose regarding our objectives, our strategy and our policies. This is what our resolution seeks to achieve.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, the primary objective of the bipartisan resolution my colleagues and I are introducing today is to convince a bipartisan majority of Senators to oppose deeper military involvement in Iraq by the United States and to get the Iraqis to reach a political settlement among themselves as the only way to end the violence in Iraq.

The resolution would send a clear message that Congress does not support the plan to increase the number of U.S. troops in Iraq because it is based on the false premise that there is a

military solution to the violence and instability in Iraq, when what is needed is a political solution among the Iraqi leaders and factions.

Iraq's own Prime Minister Maliki acknowledged recently that "The crisis is political, and the ones who can stop the cycle of aggravation and blood-letting of innocents are the politicians."

The resolution states that it is not in the national security interests of the United States to deepen our military involvement in Iraq by increasing the number of U.S. troops.

The resolution calls for the transition of our military mission in Iraq to a more limited one of training, counterterrorism, and protecting the territorial integrity of Iraq. It also calls for greater engagement of other countries in the region in the stabilization and reconstruction of Iraq.

Last week the President said that he had made clear to Iraq's leaders that America's commitment is not open-ended. I welcome these words. But the reality behind the President's new rhetoric is that the open-ended commitment continues—more American military men and women would be sent into the chaos of Iraq's sectarian violence without condition or limitation.

President Bush also indicated that the Iraqi government needs "breathing space" to make political progress. The opposite is true. The Iraqi leaders don't need breathing space—they must feel real pressure to reach a political settlement. Increasing our military presence in Iraq takes more pressure off. The Iraq Study Group put it this way last month: "An open-ended commitment of American forces would not provide the Iraqi government the incentive it needs to take the political actions that give Iraq its best chance of quelling sectarian violence."

President Bush also said that the Iraqis have set benchmarks for themselves. But look at the track record of the Iraqi government in meeting some of its past benchmarks and promises: Iraqi President Talibani said in August 2006 that Iraqi forces would "take over security in all Iraqi provinces by the end of 2006." That pledge has not been kept. Prime Minister Maliki said last June that he would disband the militias and illegal armed groups as part of his national reconciliation plan, and in October he set the timetable for disbanding the militias as the end of 2006. That commitment has not been kept. The Iraqi Constitutional Review Commission was to present its recommendations for changes in the Constitution to the Council of Representatives within four months of the formation of the Government last May. The Commission has yet to formulate any recommendations. Prime Minister Maliki put forward a series of reconciliation milestones to be completed by the end of 2006 or early 2007, including approval of the Provincial Election Law, the Petroleum Law, a new De-Baathification Law, and the Militia

Law. Not one of these laws has been enacted. The Iraqi army pledged six battalions in support of American and Coalition efforts during Operation Forward Together last summer. In fact, Iraqis provided only two battalions.

This is not a track record that inspires confidence in Iraqi pledges and commitments.

The President said that "America will hold the Iraqi government to the benchmarks it has announced." How did the President say we are going to do that? What will the consequences be if the Iraqis continue to fail to meet these benchmarks, particularly since some of them have been established and missed in the past? The President said "If the Iraqi government does not follow through on its promises, it will lose the support of the American people . . ." That is an empty threat given the fact that the Iraqi Government has already lost the support of the American people, and it hasn't affected their behavior. The President's most recent plan, like previous ones, includes no mechanism to hold the Iraqis to their commitments.

Just two months ago General Abizaid testified before our Committee against increasing the number of U.S. troops in Iraq. He told us: "I met with every divisional commander, General Casey, the corps commander, General Dempsey. We all talked together. And I said, in your professional opinion, if we were to bring in more American troops now, does it add considerably to our ability to achieve success in Iraq? And they all said no. And the reason is, because we want the Iraqis to do more. It's easy for the Iraqis to rely upon us to do this work. I believe that more American forces prevent the Iraqis from doing more, from taking more responsibility for their own future."

Deepening our involvement in Iraq would be a mistake. Deepening our involvement in Iraq on the assumption that the Iraqis will meet future benchmarks and commitments given their track record would compound the mistake.

For America to supply more troops while the Iraqi leaders simply supply more promises is not a recipe for success in Iraq. Telling the Iraqis that we will increase our troops to give them yet more breathing space will only postpone the day when Iraqis take their future into their own hands and decide whether they want to continue to fight a civil war or make peace among themselves.

This resolution does not limit any future course of action that Congress may decide to take. What it would do is send a powerful message to the President and the Iraqis that Congress does not support an escalation of our military presence in Iraq.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 3—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF CONGRESS THAT IT IS THE GOAL OF THE UNITED STATES THAT, NOT LATER THAN JANUARY 1, 2025, THE AGRICULTURAL, FORESTRY, AND WORKING LAND OF THE UNITED STATES SHOULD PROVIDE FROM RENEWABLE RESOURCES NOT LESS THAN 25 PERCENT OF THE TOTAL ENERGY CONSUMED IN THE UNITED STATES AND CONTINUE TO PRODUCE SAFE, ABUNDANT, AND AFFORDABLE FOOD, FEED, AND FIBER

Mr. SALAZAR (for himself, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. LUGAR, Mr. OBAMA, Mr. HAGEL, Mr. DORGAN, Mr. COLEMAN, Mr. KERRY, Mr. THUNE, Mr. NELSON of Nebraska, Mr. BROWNBACK, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. ALLARD, Mr. KOHL, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. TESTER, Mrs. CLINTON, Mr. BROWN, Mr. BAUCUS, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. FEINGOLD, and Mr. COCHRAN) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry:

S. CON. RES. 3

Whereas the United States has a quantity of renewable energy resources that is sufficient to supply a significant portion of the energy needs of the United States;

Whereas the agricultural, forestry, and working land of the United States can help ensure a sustainable domestic energy system;

Whereas accelerated development and use of renewable energy technologies provide numerous benefits to the United States, including improved national security, improved balance of payments, healthier rural economies, improved environmental quality, and abundant, reliable, and affordable energy for all citizens of the United States;

Whereas the production of transportation fuels from renewable energy would help the United States meet rapidly growing domestic and global energy demands, reduce the dependence of the United States on energy imported from volatile regions of the world that are politically unstable, stabilize the cost and availability of energy, and safeguard the economy and security of the United States;

Whereas increased energy production from domestic renewable resources would attract substantial new investments in energy infrastructure, create economic growth, develop new jobs for the citizens of the United States, and increase the income for farm, ranch, and forestry jobs in the rural regions of the United States;

Whereas increased use of renewable energy is practical and can be cost effective with the implementation of supportive policies and proper incentives to stimulate markets and infrastructure; and

Whereas public policies aimed at enhancing renewable energy production and accelerating technological improvements will further reduce energy costs over time and increase market demand: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That it is the sense of Congress that it is the goal of the United States that, not later than January 1, 2025, the agricultural, forestry, and working land of the United States should provide from renewable resources not less than 25 percent of the total energy consumed in the United States and continue to produce safe, abundant, and affordable food, feed, and fiber.