

Public Law 99-85
99th Congress

Joint Resolution

Aug. 8, 1985
[S.J. Res. 108]

Authorizing the Secretary of Defense to provide to the Soviet Union, on a reimbursable basis, equipment and services necessary for an improved United States/Soviet Direct Communication Link for crisis control.

96 Stat. 756.

Whereas section 1123(a) of the Department of Defense Authorization Act, 1983 (Public Law 97-252), directed the Secretary of Defense "to conduct a full and complete study and evaluation of possible initiatives for improving the containment and control of the use of nuclear weapons, particularly during crises";

Whereas the Congress directed that the same study should address several specific measures for building confidence between the United States and the Soviet Union, including an improved Direct Communications Link for crisis control;

Whereas the Secretary of Defense responded to that congressional mandate with a report entitled "Report to the Congress on Direct Communications Links and Other Measures to Enhance Stability" in which the Secretary proposed several improvements to existing United States-Soviet mechanisms for the prevention and resolution of crises, including the addition of a facsimile capability to the United States/Soviet Union Direct Communications Link;

Whereas the President of the United States presented the recommendations of the Secretary of Defense to the Government of the Soviet Union in May 1983;

Whereas the United States and the Soviet Union commenced negotiations on bilateral communications improvements in August 1983, and on July 17, 1984, concluded the Exchange of Notes Between the United States of America and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics Concerning the Direct Communications Link Upgrade in which the two governments agreed to add a facsimile capability to the Direct Communications Link;

Whereas the Congress endorses that agreement and remains committed to all possible measures to facilitate the resolution of international crises and to limit the danger of conflict;

Whereas the Secretary of Defense is responsible for the installation, maintenance, and operation of the Direct Communications Link equipment for the United States; and

Whereas the Exchange of Notes Between the United States of America and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics Concerning the Direct Communications Link Upgrade provides that the United States Government will provide to the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, at cost, the equipment and services necessary for the Soviet Union part of the improved Direct Communications Link: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the Secretary of Defense may provide to the Soviet Union, as provided in the Exchange of Notes Between the United States of America and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics Concerning the Direct Commu-

nications Link Upgrade, concluded on July 17, 1984, such equipment and services as may be necessary to upgrade or maintain the Soviet Union part of the Direct Communications Link agreed to in the Memorandum of Understanding between the United States and the Soviet Union signed June 20, 1963. The Secretary shall provide such equipment and services to the Soviet Union at the cost thereof to the United States.

14 UST 825.

SEC. 2. (a) The Secretary of Defense may use any funds available to the Department of Defense for the procurement of the equipment and providing the services referred to in the first section.

10 USC 133
note.

(b) Funds received from the Soviet Union as payment for such equipment and services shall be credited to the appropriate account of Department of Defense.

Approved August 8, 1985.

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY—S.J. Res. 108:

HOUSE REPORT No. 99-156 (Comm. on Armed Services).

SENATE REPORT No. 99-49 (Comm. on Armed Services).

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, Vol. 131 (1985):

May 16, considered and passed Senate.

July 29, considered and passed House.