

110TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. CON. RES. 321

Expressing the need for a more comprehensive diplomatic initiative led by the United States, Iraq, and the international community.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 2, 2008

Mr. GILCHREST (for himself, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. JONES of North Carolina, Mr. MEEKS of New York, Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois, Mr. MURTHA, Mr. REYES, Mr. SHAYS, Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania, Ms. KAPTUR, and Ms. BALDWIN) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on Armed Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Expressing the need for a more comprehensive diplomatic initiative led by the United States, Iraq, and the international community.

Whereas it is in the foreign policy and national security interests of the United States to foster and strengthen peace and security in Iraq and the broader Middle East region, which will require a more comprehensive international support structure involving Iraq's neighboring countries, other pertinent and influential countries in and outside the region, international organizations, and nongovernmental organizations;

Whereas the removal of Saddam Hussein has resulted in a fundamental change in the composition and structure of Iraq's Government, and of provincial and tribal leadership;

Whereas the removal of Saddam Hussein has resulted in violent multi-layered conflicts of varying insurgencies, counter-insurgencies, and other armed competitions that exist today along religious, cultural, and economic lines;

Whereas the removal of Saddam Hussein has fundamentally altered the relationship between Iraq and neighboring countries, thereby affecting the balance of power in the region;

Whereas the removal of Saddam Hussein has resulted in the democratic election of the Government of Iraq where nearly 7,000,000 Iraqis participated in the voting process;

Whereas elements and actions from outside Iraq's borders, including neighboring countries, terrorist groups, and rogue elements continue to impede progress towards a more stable and sovereign Iraq;

Whereas Iraqis, with the unrelenting military support from the United States, are facing difficulties to achieve political reconciliation and to independently govern;

Whereas the Iraq Study Group stated that "a regional peace conference among Arab nations is a critically important step in helping to end the civil war in Iraq, and bringing peace and stability in the Middle East";

Whereas General Petraeus recently stated in congressional testimony that "any student of history recognizes there is no military solution to a problem like that in Iraq, to the insurgency in Iraq"; and

Whereas finding a responsible and strategic way forward in Iraq will require international support: Now, therefore, be it

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

3 (1) declares that a more comprehensive inter-
4 national support structure must be established to
5 engage Iraq’s political, religious, ethnic, and tribal
6 leaders in an ongoing inclusive political reconcili-
7 ation and reconstruction process;

8 (2) declares that the current drawdown and
9 eventual departure of the United States Armed
10 Forces in Iraq be performed in a strategic and re-
11 sponsible manner, in consultation with the Govern-
12 ment of Iraq, and must be supported by a com-
13 prehensive international and regional diplomatic ini-
14 tiative;

15 (3) encourages the President and the adminis-
16 tration, jointly with Iraq, to initiate, develop, and
17 implement a sustained comprehensive regional and
18 multilateral diplomatic plan of action, in conjunction
19 with the United Nations Security Council, the
20 United Nations Secretary General, Iraq’s neigh-
21 boring countries, regional organizations as the Arab
22 League, the Organization of the Islamic Conference,
23 and appropriate nongovernmental organizations, re-

1 lating to issues and actions that impact the situation
2 in Iraq, including—

3 (A) promoting a national process of rec-
4 onciliation within Iraq;

5 (B) curtailing the ongoing civil strife in
6 Iraq that has created insurgency groups
7 amongst civilian militias and related civil orga-
8 nizations;

9 (C) preventing the spread of violence from
10 Iraq into neighboring countries and fostering a
11 collective security arrangement between Iraq
12 with neighboring countries to secure Iraq's sov-
13 ereign integrity and border security;

14 (D) preventing genocide, ethnic cleansing,
15 and other crimes against humanity;

16 (E) preventing the establishment of safe
17 havens for al Qaeda and other terrorist organi-
18 zations;

19 (F) continuing to provide assistance to the
20 Iraqi Security Forces, including military train-
21 ing, education, equipment and technical sup-
22 port, and to encourage the United Nations and
23 regional allies to support this coordinated effort
24 if the Iraqi Government supports this strategic
25 arrangement; and

1 (G) supporting the formation of an inter-
2 national consortium for relief and reconstruc-
3 tion in Iraq;

4 (4) urges the President and the administration,
5 jointly with Iraq, the United Nations, and regional
6 organizations, to expeditiously engage in bilateral
7 and multilateral talks and conferences with Iraq's
8 neighboring countries, and specifically—

9 (A) recommends the implementation of the
10 International Compact for Iraq and rec-
11 ommendations 9 and 13 of the Iraq Study
12 Group Report, including—

13 (i) implementing recommendation 9,
14 which states, “Under the aegis of the New
15 Diplomatic Offensive and the Support
16 Group, the United States should engage
17 directly with Iran and Syria in order to try
18 to obtain their commitment to constructive
19 policies toward Iraq and other regional
20 issues. In engaging with Syria and Iran,
21 the United States should consider incen-
22 tives, as well as disincentives, in seeking
23 constructive results”; and

24 (ii) implementing recommendation 13,
25 which states, “There must be a renewed

1 and sustained commitment by the United
2 States to a comprehensive Arab-Israeli
3 peace on all fronts”;

4 (5) remains resolved that the interests of the
5 people of Iraq, United States allies, and the greater
6 Middle East region should be paramount in estab-
7 lishing regional and international assistance and aid
8 to ensure the unity and integrity of Iraq so as to
9 safeguard the establishment of a cohesive govern-
10 ment in Iraq;

11 (6) encourages the international community, re-
12 gional organizations, and the United States, in con-
13 sultation with the Government of Iraq, to continue
14 efforts to strengthen the Iraqi Security Forces and,
15 to the extent practicable, to police human rights vio-
16 lations;

17 (7) recognizes that as part of a diplomatic ini-
18 tiative in Iraq, the President should transmit to the
19 Congress, in classified and unclassified form, a com-
20 prehensive regional stability plan for Iraq, which
21 shall include diplomatic, political, and economic stra-
22 tegic measures;

23 (8) urges sustained commitment of Iraq, the
24 United States, countries in the Middle East, and the
25 international community, in consultation with the

1 United Nations and pertinent regional and non-gov-
2 ernmental organizations, to develop and raise fund-
3 ing for the reconstruction of Iraq and to provide re-
4 lief to the Iraqi people, including for purposes of—

5 (A) assisting efforts to deal with the hu-
6 manitarian impact of the war in Iraq, particu-
7 larly civilian displacement and Iraqi refugees;

8 (B) developing an Iraq corps of engineers;

9 (C) encouraging the use of Iraqi engineers,
10 contractors, tradesmen, and construction work-
11 ers in the reconstruction process;

12 (D) surveying and performing proper res-
13 toration of Iraq’s world cultural sites;

14 (E) supporting efforts by the Iraqi Govern-
15 ment for an equitable distribution of oil reve-
16 nues to the Iraqi people; and

17 (F) encouraging initiatives to assist in re-
18 building Iraq’s infrastructure, including public
19 health, transportation, physical plants, edu-
20 cational, and utilities systems;

21 (9) expresses its deep and sincere gratitude to
22 the coalition forces and other international sup-
23 porters for their contribution and sacrifice in the
24 collective efforts to bring peace and stability to Iraq;

1 (10) expresses its sincere condolences to the
2 families of the many Iraqis who have died, and to
3 the many Iraqis who have been displaced or wound-
4 ed in their struggle to gain a measure of freedom;
5 and

6 (11) recognizes that the United States Govern-
7 ment and the American people owe a debt of grati-
8 tude to the young men and women who have honor-
9 ably served in Iraq and now deserve comprehensive
10 rehabilitation, physical, mental, educational, and
11 economic assistance.

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