

109TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. CON. RES. 400

Expressing the sense of Congress that the Government of Venezuela should actively support strategies for ensuring secure airport facilities that meet international certifications to prevent trafficking of controlled substances, narcotics, and laundered money.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 11, 2006

Mr. BURTON of Indiana (for himself, Mr. CALVERT, Mr. CHABOT, Mr. COBLE, Mr. DAVIS of Florida, Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia, Mr. GALLEGLY, Ms. GRANGER, Ms. HARRIS, Mr. ISSA, Mr. KIRK, Mr. MACK, Mr. MICA, Mr. McCAUL of Texas, Mr. McCOTTER, Mrs. MYRICK, Mr. PENCE, Mr. ROGERS of Michigan, Mr. ROHRABACHER, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. SOUDER, Mr. WELLER, and Mr. WILSON of South Carolina) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on International Relations

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of Congress that the Government of Venezuela should actively support strategies for ensuring secure airport facilities that meet international certifications to prevent trafficking of controlled substances, narcotics, and laundered money.

Whereas the United States is strongly committed to countries in Latin America that have a shared interest in promoting stability;

Whereas the United States is strongly committed to countries in Latin America that are combating the scourge of

drugs and the violence and social degradation caused by narcotics trafficking;

Whereas the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela is a party to the 1988 United Nations Drug Convention;

Whereas Venezuela is a key transit point for drugs leaving Colombia—the world’s primary source of cocaine and South America’s top producer of heroin;

Whereas drug trafficking through Venezuela significantly increased in 2005;

Whereas weak law enforcement, corruption, and a weak judicial system in Venezuela allow criminal organizations to act with impunity;

Whereas the Department of State’s International Narcotics Control Strategy Report of 2006 describes an increased level of exploitation of the remote and poorly secured 2,200-kilometer border separating Venezuela and Colombia;

Whereas the Department of State’s International Narcotics Control Strategy Report of 2006 reports that Colombian cartels and Venezuelan criminal organizations (among other smugglers) routinely exploit a variety of routes and methods to move hundreds of tons of illegal drugs into Venezuela every year, and organized crime in Venezuela has begun to set up operations in foreign countries to receive and distribute drugs in addition to providing transportation services;

Whereas in September 2005, the Government of the United States determined that Venezuela had failed demonstrably to meet its counternarcotics obligations and that Venezuela could no longer be certified as an ally in the war on drugs;

Whereas on April 11, 2006, a commercial plane originating in Venezuela was seized in Mexico at the airport of Ciudad del Carmen, carrying 5.6 tons of cocaine with an estimated street value of \$100 million;

Whereas seizure statistics at the Simon Bolivar International Airport in Caracas are not available because the Government of Venezuela does not publicize such statistics;

Whereas estimates indicate that as much as 90 percent of the cocaine and heroin trafficked through the Simon Bolivar International Airport over the last 12 months was not intercepted;

Whereas the Government of Venezuela continues to fail to effectively utilize several airport security systems provided by the United States specifically aimed at increasing the Simon Bolivar International Airport counternarcotics capabilities;

Whereas the Government of Venezuela has not taken any steps unilaterally to prosecute any corrupt airport officials relating to cases of money laundering or drug trafficking at the airport despite credible intelligence estimates that there is potentially millions of dollars in narcotics proceeds passing through Simon Bolivar International Airport and Venezuela; and

Whereas the Government of Venezuela and the Venezuela National Anti-Drug Office (ONA) have officially reported only two seizures of currency in 2006, one for \$13,865 in United States currency and the other for 7,000 euros: Now, therefore, be it

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

3 (1) Congress—

1 (A) strongly condemns the actions and in-
2 actions of the Government of the Bolivarian Re-
3 public of Venezuela which have created fertile
4 ground for criminal drug trafficking organiza-
5 tions;

6 (B) strongly condemns the failures on the
7 part of the Government of Venezuela to stem
8 the flow of narcotics through its territory; and

9 (C) strongly condemns the complicity of
10 senior Venezuelan Government law enforcement
11 officials and transportation officials who are ef-
12 fectively enabling large scale shipments of both
13 cocaine and heroine at the Simon Bolivar Inter-
14 national Airport and other transit points; and

15 (2) it is the sense of Congress that—

16 (A) it should continue to be the policy of
17 the United States to support cooperation be-
18 tween Venezuela and partners in the Andean
19 region to combat trafficking in narcotics and
20 other controlled substances;

21 (B) steps should continue to be taken to
22 restore cooperation between Venezuela and the
23 United States Drug Enforcement Administra-
24 tion;

1 (C) it should continue to be the policy of
2 the United States to work with the inter-
3 national community, including the Organization
4 of American States (OAS), to assist with a
5 thorough review of the measures in place at the
6 Simon Bolivar International Airport in Caracas;

7 (D) it should continue to be the policy of
8 the United States to work with other member
9 states of OAS to bring Venezuela into compli-
10 ance and fully adhere to OAS conventions and
11 comprehensive treaties to prevent, punish, and
12 eliminate narco-terrorism, which constitutes “a
13 serious threat to democratic values and to inter-
14 national peace and security”;

15 (E) the Secretary of Transportation should
16 provide to Congress not later than 180 days
17 after the date of the adoption of this resolution,
18 on behalf of the Department of State, Depart-
19 ment of Homeland Security, Department of
20 Justice, and the Department of Transportation,
21 a report with an assessment of the process un-
22 dertaken by the Government of Venezuela to-
23 ward restoring airport security measures and
24 controls that meet international standards of
25 safety; and

1 (F) the Secretary of State should provide
2 to Congress not later than 180 days after the
3 date of the adoption of this resolution a report
4 on Venezuela's compliance with its responsibil-
5 ities under international counternarcotics trea-
6 ties.

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