

109TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. RES. 949

Commending the people and Government of Romania, on the occasion of the visit of Romanian President Traian Basescu to the United States, for the strong relationship between Romania and the United States.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 26, 2006

Mr. HYDE submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on International Relations

RESOLUTION

Commending the people and Government of Romania, on the occasion of the visit of Romanian President Traian Basescu to the United States, for the strong relationship between Romania and the United States.

Whereas, following the terrorist attacks upon the United States in September 2001, the Government of Romania immediately expressed its sympathy for Americans and others killed in the attacks and pledged its full support in fighting the war on terror;

Whereas, on September 19, 2001, the Romanian Parliament voted to open Romanian territory and airspace to United States Armed Forces involved in Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan;

Whereas, beginning in June 2002, Romanian aircraft flew Romanian soldiers to serve in Afghanistan as part of the forces involved in Operation Enduring Freedom and the International Security Assistance Force, and over 700 elite Romanian soldiers are currently stationed in Afghanistan;

Whereas Romania stood with the United States as a vital member of the international coalition in Operation Iraqi Freedom by offering diplomatic, political, and military support;

Whereas, on February 12, 2003, the Romanian Parliament voted to open Romanian territory and airspace to United States Armed Forces carrying out Operation Iraqi Freedom;

Whereas hundreds of American aircraft flew through Romanian airspace and landed at Romanian airfields during the combat phase of Operation Iraqi Freedom from May to July 2003;

Whereas thousands of United States soldiers were stationed and transported into the Iraq theatre of operations from Mihail Kogalniceanu Air Base, and the neighboring Black Sea port of Constantza was also used in the fall of 2002 and spring of 2003 for rotating United States Armed Forces and equipment in and out of the Balkans;

Whereas, beginning on March 12, 2003, Romania began deploying military forces to Iraq to assist in building security, peace, and democracy, and over 890 Romanian soldiers are currently stationed in Iraq;

Whereas recently President Basescu reaffirmed Romania's intention to continue to deploy Romanian armed forces in Iraq;

Whereas in recognition of the close U.S.-Romanian security and political relationship, in December 2005 Romania signed a bilateral agreement with the United States to allow U.S. forces to use Romania military bases;

Whereas, together with Bulgaria, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Slovakia, and Slovenia, Romania successfully achieved the military, economic, and political reforms necessary to be invited, at the November 2002 summit meeting in Prague of the North Atlantic Council, to join the NATO alliance;

Whereas Romania became a member of the NATO alliance on March 29, 2004;

Whereas Romania has made important progress with respect to economic reform and democratic development;

Whereas in recognition of these and other developments Romania is slated to accede to the European Union during 2007;

Whereas, however, necessary progress has not been made with respect to rule of law issues including judicial reform and ongoing cases such as Romania's actions against Rompetrol Group NV underscores Romania's lack of a truly independent, professional, and non-political justice system;

Whereas, on June 21, 2004, the Parliament of Romania enacted Law 273/2004 on adoption, which prohibits inter-country adoption except by a child's biological grandparent or grandparents; and

Whereas in his historic address at Piata Revolutiei on November 23, 2002, President Bush told the Romanian people that "Romania has made a historic journey. Instead of hatred, you have chosen tolerance. Instead of destruc-

tive rivalry with your neighbors, you have chosen reconciliation. Instead of state control, you have chosen free markets and the rule of law. And instead of dictatorship, you have built a proud and working democracy.”: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

2 (1) commends the strong and vibrant relations
3 between the United States and Romania;

4 (2) recognizes the steps the Government of Ro-
5 mania has taken and continues to take in economic,
6 political, and social reforms, and urges the Govern-
7 ment to take additional steps to establish an inde-
8 pendent, professional, and non-political justice sys-
9 tem, in part by taking action to end all politically in-
10 spired legal cases;

11 (3) values the participation of a significant
12 number of Romanian troops and civilian experts in
13 Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi
14 Freedom, the permission granted by the Government
15 of Romania for the United States to use Romanian
16 airspace and territory, and the deployment of Roma-
17 nian military forces in support of Operation Endur-
18 ing Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom, all of
19 which have been important contributions to the glob-
20 al war on terror and serve as a tangible and ongoing

1 demonstration of Romania's commitment as an ally
2 of the United States;

3 (4) urges the Government of Romania to com-
4 plete the processing of intercountry adoption cases
5 which were pending when Law 273/2004 was en-
6 acted and to amend its child welfare and adoption
7 laws to decrease barriers to adoption, both domestic
8 and intercountry, including by allowing intercountry
9 adoption by persons other than biological grand-
10 parents; and

11 (5) welcomes Romanian President Traian
12 Basescu to the United States and looks forward to
13 expanded political, diplomatic, economic, and mili-
14 tary cooperation between Romania and the United
15 States.

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