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2^D SESSION

H. CON. RES. 234

Expressing the sense of the Congress regarding the role of the United States at the International Conference on Population and Development.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 24, 1994

Mrs. MORELLA (for herself, Mr. BEILENSON, and Mr. PORTER) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the Congress regarding the role of the United States at the International Conference on Population and Development.

Whereas slowing rapid global population growth, and the promotion of sustainable economic development and safe, accessible family planning programs, are high priority concerns of the United States;

Whereas such urgent global population and development challenges will require strengthened international institutions and increased international cooperation;

Whereas the International Conference on Population and Development, to be held in Cairo, Egypt, in September 1994, represents an important opportunity to reach agreements on such international cooperation;

Whereas the International Conference on Population and Development presents a unique opportunity for the community of nations to address the interdependent issues of population, economic prosperity, and environmentally sustainable development;

Whereas the International Conference on Population and Development will be a milestone in a continuing process of improving the international response to the issues within the purview of the Conference;

Whereas, during the 1980's, nearly 800,000,000 people, a number three times greater than the population of the United States, were added to the world's population;

Whereas, according to the United Nations, if further actions are not taken immediately to slow population growth, global population could more than double from the current number of 5,600,000,000 to 12,500,000,000 by the year 2050, and could more than triple by the year 2100;

Whereas more than 500,000,000 women lack access to safe and effective voluntary family planning and reproductive health care, and half of the estimated 910,000 daily conceptions are unplanned;

Whereas over 500,000 women worldwide die annually from complications related to pregnancy and childbirth, and another 10,000,000 women annually suffer long-term illness or permanent physical impairment from a lack of adequate reproductive health care;

Whereas women's low status, and lack of access to basic education, training, credit, jobs, and resources such as land, bear a direct relationship to high fertility rates and limit women's ability to exercise control over their fertility;

Whereas the inability of women throughout much of the world to exercise voluntary family planning undermines women's struggle for self-determination, contributes to death and suffering among women and their children, and frustrates the efforts of families to lift themselves out of poverty, in which over 1,000,000,000 of the world's more than 5,000,000,000 people live;

Whereas rapid population growth aggravates poor health, perpetuates poverty, and inhibits saving and investment by Nations, particularly investment in people in the form of basic health and education services;

Whereas the impact of human population growth, wasteful consumption of natural resources, and widespread poverty is evident in mounting signs of stress on the world's environment, particularly in deforestation, erosion of arable land and watersheds, extinction of plant and animal species, global climate change, waste management, and air and water pollution;

Whereas rapid population growth, in addition to overconsumption, undermines efforts for sustainable development and is directly tied to degradation of the natural resource base and the environment;

Whereas rapid population growth can contribute to economic stagnation and political instability;

Whereas, in 1989, experts from 79 countries, including the United States, convened at the International Forum on Population in the 21st Century in Amsterdam and determined that worldwide expenditures for population assistance must double by the year 2000 in order to achieve a 75 percent contraceptive use rate, which would result in a world population meeting the United Nations' me-

dian variant projection of 11,200,000,000 people by the year 2050;

Whereas actions taken before the turn of the century will determine whether world population doubles or triples in the 21st century;

Whereas it is a fundamental human right to freely and responsibly decide the number and spacing of one's children, and to have the information, education, and means to do so;

Whereas the International Conference on Population and Development provides the United States with the opportunity to reestablish itself as a leader of international efforts to ensure that individuals and couples around the world are able to exercise this fundamental human right, and of efforts to promote economic prosperity, sustainable development, and environmental protection;

Whereas the role of the United States in negotiations on the International Conference on Population and Development is crucial to the success of the Conference; and

Whereas the 3d preparatory committee meeting to plan the International Conference on Population and Development will be held in New York in April 1994: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate*
 2 *concurring)*, That it is the sense of the Congress that, at
 3 the International Conference on Population and Develop-
 4 ment, the United States should—

5 (1) place the highest priority on the success of
 6 the Conference by participating actively in the Con-

1 ference, particularly through the personal participa-
2 tion of the President of the United States;

3 (2) propose or support an initiative concerning
4 the financing of global cooperation on efforts to slow
5 rapid population growth, that—

6 (A) takes into account the costs of slowing
7 rapid international population growth and the
8 basic development goals of developing countries;
9 and

10 (B) increases accountability for the use of
11 funds provided for family planning purposes;

12 (3) seek to initiate a process of regular high-
13 level intergovernmental consultations on the issues
14 under consideration at the Conference;

15 (4) seek to establish improved organizational
16 and procedural means to implement the objectives of
17 the Conference;

18 (5) support the effective implementation of a
19 global action plan to raise the economic, educational,
20 and leadership status of women;

21 (6) promote public participation, especially par-
22 ticipation by women, at all levels of formulation and
23 implementation of family planning and sustainable
24 development policy and programs; and

- 1 (7) support programs that provide maternal
- 2 and child health care, education and training for
- 3 women, and voluntary family planning.

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