

103^D CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. CON. RES. 272

Calling upon the Secretary of State to instruct the American Embassy and Consular officials throughout the world to convey the concern of the American people over the desecration of the dead and to assist groups and individuals who seek to protect the integrity of cemeteries and the repose of the dead.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 25, 1994

Mr. TOWNS (for himself, Mr. NADLER, and Mr. GILMAN) introduced the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Calling upon the Secretary of State to instruct the American Embassy and Consular officials throughout the world to convey the concern of the American people over the desecration of the dead and to assist groups and individuals who seek to protect the integrity of cemeteries and the repose of the dead.

Whereas the Nazi slaughter of millions of Jews and the deaths of millions of others in World War II left thousands of communities bereft of their inhabitants;

Whereas the decades since the end of World War II have seen many population shifts throughout the world;

Whereas millions of American citizens no longer live within reach of cemeteries in which their ancestors are buried;

Whereas the populations surrounding such cemeteries have no emotional or religious identification with the people buried therein;

Whereas Communist countries instituted legislation declaring unused cemeteries to be available for municipal use;

Whereas postwar refugees have improperly represented themselves as controlling the rights to cemeteries and have sold them for commercial use;

Whereas public works have been planned with no concern for the integrity of existing cemeteries;

Whereas archaeologists have declared the study of the past to transcend the right of the dead to lie undisturbed;

Whereas graves have been pillaged by robbers and others seeking riches and artifacts of the past;

Whereas vandals, hooligans, and antisemites have smashed tombstones and removed bodies from graves in sending their message of hate;

Whereas the desecration of the dead causes great pain to the people of the United States and does violence to this Nation's traditional respect for the dead;

Whereas the dignity of the individual extends to, and is inherent in the dignity of the dead; and

Whereas the nations of the world look to the people of the United States for the leadership in the quest for human rights and the dignity of the individual: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate*
2 *concurring)*, That the Congress calls upon the Secretary
3 of State to instruct American Embassy and Consular offi-
4 cials throughout the world to convey the concern of the
5 American people over the desecration of the dead and to
6 assist groups and individuals who seek to protect the in-
7 tegrity of cemeteries and the repose of the dead.

○