

103^D CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. CON. RES. 278

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Whereas the President has lifted the 30-year-old trade embargo against Vietnam in the belief that doing so is the “best way” to ensure progress in resolving the fate of Americans missing since the conflict in Vietnam;

Whereas the period of the Vietnam conflict and its aftermath was one of the most distressing and painful periods in our Nation’s history;

Whereas questions remain about the fate of several hundred Americans missing in action;

Whereas, on July 2, 1993, President Clinton stated that further steps in United States-Vietnam relations would be based on “tangible progress” towards the fullest possible accounting of those missing in action;

Whereas such “tangible progress” depends on further efforts by the Government of Vietnam in the 4 key areas outlined by the President, including the recovery and repatriation of American remains, continued resolution of discrepancy cases, further assistance in implementing tri-lateral investigations with Laos, and accelerated efforts to provide all POW/MIA-related documents;

Whereas the Congress deeply empathizes with the families and friends of the missing American servicemen;

Whereas we owe nothing less than the “fullest possible accounting” to these men and their families;

Whereas Vietnam’s criminal law is used to punish nonviolent advocates of political pluralism, through charges such as “attempting to overthrow the people’s government” or “antisocialist propaganda”;

Whereas the end of the Cold War provides an unprecedented opportunity for democratic reform and improvements in human rights throughout the world;

Whereas recent economic reforms and initiatives undertaken by the Government of Vietnam can best be encouraged and built upon through political liberalization;

Whereas the interests of the United States and the people of Vietnam, and the international community would best be served by having a friendly and democratic government in Vietnam; and

Whereas greater respect for internationally recognized human rights and a peaceful transition to democracy in Vietnam would greatly reduce the threat of instability in Southeast Asia and enable the creation of a free-market economy in Vietnam: Now, therefore, be it

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

3 (1) progress towards the “fullest possible ac-
4 counting” for the Americans missing and unac-
5 counted for remains central to our Nation’s foreign
6 policy toward Vietnam;

7 (2) the “fullest possible accounting” of our
8 missing must remain the index by which further
9 progress in relations must be judged;

10 (3) the primary functions of the United States
11 Government liaison office in Vietnam should be—

12 (A) to facilitate efforts to achieve the “full-
13 est possible accounting”, and

14 (B) to establish a section within that office
15 to assist families and friends of those missing
16 American servicemen in their efforts to ascer-
17 tain the status of their loved ones;

18 (4) the United States should support the proc-
19 ess of nonviolent democratic reform in Vietnam in-
20 cluding the goal of free and fair elections; and

1 (5) the United States should increase its sup-
2 port for Voice of America programming in Vietnam.
 Passed the House of Representatives October 5,
1994.

Attest:

Clerk.

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Expressing the sense of the Congress regarding
United States policy towards Vietnam.