

103^D CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. CON. RES. 279

Condemning the July 13, 1994, sinking of the “13th of March”, a tugboat carrying 72 unarmed Cuban citizens, by vessels of the Cuban Government.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

AUGUST 5, 1994

Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Mr. DIAZ-BALART, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Mr. TORRICELLI, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. GILMAN, Mrs. MEEK, Mr. GUTIERREZ, Mr. OBERSTAR, Mr. HASTINGS, and Mr. DEUTSCH) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Condemning the July 13, 1994, sinking of the “13th of March”, a tugboat carrying 72 unarmed Cuban citizens, by vessels of the Cuban Government.

Whereas there are credible reports that on July 13, 1994, vessels of the Cuban Government fired high-pressure water hoses, repeatedly rammed, and deliberately sank the “13th of March”, a tugboat carrying 72 unarmed Cuban citizens;

Whereas approximately 40 of the men, women, and children passengers on the “13th of March” drowned as a result of the actions of the Cuban Government, including over 20 children aboard;

Whereas President Clinton deplored the sinking of the “13th of March” as “another example of the brutal nature of the Cuban regime”;

Whereas all of the male survivors of the “13th of March” have been imprisoned by the Cuban Government;

Whereas the freedom to emigrate is an internationally recognized human right and freedom’s fundamental guarantor of last resort; and

Whereas the Cuban Government, by prohibiting the existence of a free press and by jamming TV and Radio Marti, denies the Cuban people the right of free access to information, including information about this tragedy: Now, therefore, be it

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

3 (1) condemns the Cuban Government for delib-
4 erately sinking on July 18, 1994, the “13th of
5 March”, a tugboat carrying 72 unarmed Cuban citi-
6 zens, causing the death of approximately 40 Cuban
7 citizens, including over 20 children;

8 (2) urges the President to direct the United
9 States Representative to the United Nations to urge
10 the United Nations Security Council to adopt a reso-
11 lution that—

12 (A) condemns the sinking of the “13th of
13 March”; and

14 (B) provides for a full internationally su-
15 pervised investigation of the incident; and

1 (3) urges the Cuban Government—

2 (A) to release from prison and cease in-
3 timidation measures against all survivors of the
4 sinking of the “13th of March”;

5 (B) to identify all individuals missing from
6 such sinking;

7 (C) to recover the bodies of the dead from
8 such sinking; and

9 (D) to return such bodies to their families
10 so that these men, women, and children may
11 have appropriate burial services.

○