

103^D CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. CON. RES. 80

Expressing the sense of the Congress that an important factor in relations between the United States and Romania, including whether to restore most favored nation treatment to the products of Romania, should be actions by the Government of Romania to improve conditions for children institutionalized in Romania.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 7, 1993

Mr. GORDON (for himself, Mr. FROST, Ms. NORTON, Mr. GALLEGLY, Mr. SYNAR, Mr. HALL of Ohio, Mr. NEAL of North Carolina, Mr. TOWNS, and Mr. LAZIO) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred jointly to the Committees on Foreign Affairs and Ways and Means

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the Congress that an important factor in relations between the United States and Romania, including whether to restore most favored nation treatment to the products of Romania, should be actions by the Government of Romania to improve conditions for children institutionalized in Romania.

Whereas the Romanian people endured 43 years of suffering under a repressive Communist dictatorship installed by the Soviet Union that routinely sanctioned severe violations of human rights;

Whereas this Communist regime, led by the late President Nicolae Ceausescu, had a policy of placing orphans and children not wanted by their parents in prison-like orphanages under unhealthy and degrading conditions;

Whereas the Romanian people have overthrown the Ceausescu regime and created a new government under a constitution that guarantees human rights, including protection of children and the young without regard to handicap or to ethnic origin;

Whereas the new Government of Romania held local and national elections in February and September 1992 that, while not perfect, were said by international observers to be free and fair;

Whereas considerable progress has reportedly been made by the Government of Romania in reducing human rights abuses;

Whereas the situation of orphans and the handicapped has improved with international assistance in the three years since the Romanian revolution brought to light the appalling conditions that existed for children institutionalized in Romania, too many children remain housed in institutions who, with appropriate medical care, could be adopted or reintegrated into society;

Whereas some of these institutions continue to fail to provide adequate and healthy conditions and do not meet European or United States norms for facilities or therapy;

Whereas the Romanian Parliament is currently considering legislation to remove certain impediments to legal adoption; and

Whereas Congress has considered restoring most favored nation treatment to the products of Romania: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate*
2 *concurring)*, That it is the sense of the Congress that an
3 important factor in improving relations, including trade
4 relations, with Romania, should be actions by the Govern-
5 ment of Romania to—

6 (1) improve the welfare of institutionalized chil-
7 dren, including those with handicaps and those who
8 are members of ethnic minorities; and

9 (2) ease bureaucratic impediments to adoption
10 not required by consideration of the welfare of the
11 children concerned.

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