

H. Res. 181

In the House of Representatives, U.S.,

September 18, 1995.

Whereas the United States has enjoyed a long and cordial friendship with Sri Lanka;

Whereas as one manifestation of the warm ties between the United States and Sri Lanka, the First Lady of the United States visited Sri Lanka in April 1995;

Whereas Sri Lanka is a vibrant democracy whose government is committed to political pluralism, free market economics, and a respect for human rights;

Whereas the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (“LTTE”) have waged a protracted secessionist struggle in Sri Lanka for nearly 12 years;

Whereas an estimated 30,000 people have died in Sri Lanka as a result of these hostilities;

Whereas the Department of State’s report on global terrorism names the LTTE as a major terrorist organization;

Whereas the LTTE is widely believed to have engaged in political assassinations, including the murder in 1994 of a leading candidate for the Sri Lankan presidency, and the killing in 1993 of President Ranasinghe Premadasa;

Whereas the government of President Kumaratunga initiated a dialogue with the LTTE in 1994, and took a number

of other steps to ease tensions and set the stage for negotiations between the government and the LTTE, including lifting the ban on the transit of many commodities to Jaffna;

Whereas a cessation of hostilities in Sri Lanka went into effect on January 8, 1995;

Whereas 4 rounds of peace talks between the government and the LTTE took place; and

Whereas in April 1995, the LTTE withdrew from these negotiations and resumed military operations against the Government of Sri Lanka that have resulted in hundreds of casualties, including many innocent civilians: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) notes with great satisfaction the warm and friendly relations that exist between the United States and Sri Lanka;

(2) applauds the commitment to democracy demonstrated by the Sri Lankan people, in defiance of brutal acts of wanton terrorism;

(3) commends the Sri Lankan people and the Government of Sri Lanka for the significant improvements in Sri Lanka in the area of human rights;

(4) applauds the cessation of hostilities in early 1995 between the Government of Sri Lanka and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (“LTTE”) and deplores the resumption of fighting;

(5) calls on the LTTE to desist in its resort to arms, and to return to the negotiating table;

(6) calls on all parties to negotiate in good faith with a view to ending the current armed strife in Sri Lanka and to finding a just and lasting political settlement to Sri Lanka's ethnic conflict while assuring the territorial integrity of Sri Lanka;

(7) believes that a political solution, including appropriate constitutional structures and adequate protection of minority rights, is the path to a comprehensive and lasting peace in Sri Lanka;

(8) denounces all political violence and acts of terrorism in Sri Lanka, and calls upon those who espouse such methods to reject these methods and to embrace dialogue, democratic norms, and the peaceful resolution of disputes;

(9) calls on all parties to respect the human rights of the Sri Lankan people; and

(10) states its willingness in principle to see the United States lend its good offices to help resolve the

ethnic conflict in Sri Lanka, if so desired by all parties to the conflict.

Attest:

Clerk.