

105TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. CON. RES. 81

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Calling for a United States initiative seeking a just and peaceful resolution of the situation on Cyprus.

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Whereas the Republic of Cyprus has been divided and occupied by foreign forces since 1974 in violation of United Nations resolutions;

Whereas the international community, the Congress, and United States administrations have called for an end to the status quo on Cyprus, considering that it perpetuates an unacceptable violation of international law and fun-

damental human rights affecting all the people of Cyprus, and undermines significant United States interests in the Eastern Mediterranean region;

Whereas the international community and the United States Government have repeatedly called for the speedy withdrawal of all foreign forces from the territory of Cyprus;

Whereas there are internationally acceptable means, including the demilitarization of Cyprus and the establishment of a multinational force, to ensure the security of both communities in Cyprus;

Whereas the House of Representatives has endorsed the objective of the total demilitarization of Cyprus;

Whereas during the past year tensions on Cyprus have dramatically increased, with violent incidents occurring along ceasefire lines at a level not reached since 1974;

Whereas recent events in Cyprus have heightened the potential for armed conflict in the region involving two North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) allies, Greece and Turkey, which would threaten vital United States interests in the already volatile Eastern Mediterranean area and beyond;

Whereas a peaceful, just, and lasting solution to the Cyprus problem would greatly benefit the security, and the political, economic, and social well-being of all Cypriots, as well as contribute to improved relations between Greece and Turkey;

Whereas a lasting solution to the Cyprus problem would also strengthen peace and stability in the Eastern Mediterranean and serve important interests of the United States;

Whereas the United Nations has repeatedly stated the parameters for such a solution, most recently in United Na-

tions Security Council Resolution 1092, adopted on December 23, 1996, with United States support;

Whereas the prospect of the accession by Cyprus to the European Union, which the United States has actively supported, could serve as a catalyst for a solution to the Cyprus problem:

Whereas President Bill Clinton has pledged that in 1997 the United States will “play a heightened role in promoting a resolution in Cyprus”; and

Whereas United States leadership will be a crucial factor in achieving a solution to the Cyprus problem, and increased United States involvement in the search for this solution will contribute to a reduction of tensions on Cyprus: Now, therefore, be it

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

3 (1) reaffirms its view that the status quo on
4 Cyprus is unacceptable and detrimental to the inter-
5 ests of the United States in the Eastern Mediterra-
6 nean and beyond;

7 (2) considers lasting peace and stability on Cy-
8 prus could be best secured by a process of complete
9 demilitarization leading to the withdrawal of all for-
10 eign occupation forces, the cessation of foreign arms
11 transfers to Cyprus, and providing for alternative
12 internationally acceptable and effective security ar-
13 rangements as negotiated by the parties;

1 (3) welcomes and supports the commitment by
2 President Clinton to give increased attention to Cy-
3 prus and make the search for a solution a priority
4 of United States foreign policy;

5 (4) encourages the President to launch an early
6 substantive initiative, in close coordination with the
7 United Nations, the European Union, and interested
8 governments to promote a speedy resolution of the
9 Cyprus problem on the basis of international law,
10 the provisions of relevant United Nations Security
11 Council resolutions, democratic principles, including
12 respect for human rights, and in accordance with
13 the norms and requirements for accession to the Eu-
14 ropean Union;

15 (5) calls upon the parties to lend their full sup-
16 port and cooperation to such an initiative; and

17 (6) requests the President to report actions
18 taken to give effect to the objectives set forth in
19 paragraph (4) in the bimonthly report on Cyprus
20 transmitted to the Congress.

Passed the House of Representatives July 22, 1997.

Attest:

Clerk.