

105TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. CON. RES. 99

Expressing concern over recent events in the Republic of Sierra Leone in the wake of the recent military coup d'etat of that country's first democratically elected president.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 16, 1997

Mr. HOUGHTON (for himself, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. HALL of Ohio, Mr. ROYCE, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. CHABOT, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. SANFORD, Mr. CAMPBELL, Mr. DAVIS of Florida, Mr. MCHUGH, Mr. BEREUTER, and Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on International Relations

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Expressing concern over recent events in the Republic of Sierra Leone in the wake of the recent military coup d'etat of that country's first democratically elected president.

Whereas for the first time in almost 30 years, the Republic of Sierra Leone held their first truly democratic multiparty elections to elect a president and parliament and put an end to military rule;

Whereas the elections held on February 26, 1996, and the subsequent runoff election held on March 15, 1996, were deemed by international and domestic observers to be

free and fair and legitimate expressions of the will of the people of the Republic of Sierra Leone;

Whereas on May 25, 1997, a military coup d'état against the democratically elected Government of the Republic of Sierra Leone, including President Ahmed Tejan Kabbah, took place;

Whereas the coup d'état, led by Major Johnny Paul Koroma and the Armed Forces Ruling Council (AFRC) on May 25, 1997, signifies a giant step backward for freedom and democracy in the Republic of Sierra Leone;

Whereas there has been fighting, killing, looting and a disruption of relief supplies in the Republic of Sierra Leone since the coup d'état; and

Whereas the best solution to this crisis would be a peaceful solution: Now, therefore, be it

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

3 (1) condemns the leaders and members of the
4 rebellious Armed Forces Ruling Council (AFRC) for
5 ousting the democratically elected Government of the
6 Republic of Sierra Leone, including President
7 Ahmed Tejan Kabbah;

8 (2) urges an immediate end to all violence in
9 the Republic of Sierra Leone;

10 (3) encourages the members of the AFRC to
11 negotiate a hand-over of power back to the demo-
12 cratically elected Government of the Republic of Si-

1 erra Leone in order to restore order and democracy
2 in the country;

3 (4) encourages all citizens of the Republic of Si-
4 erra Leone to work together to bring about a peace-
5 ful solution to the current conflict;

6 (5) reaffirms the United States support of the
7 democratically elected Government of the Republic
8 of Sierra Leone led by President Ahmed Tejan
9 Kabbah;

10 (6) urges the members of the AFRC and all
11 armed elements involved in the conflict to ensure the
12 protection and safety of international aid agencies
13 and personnel serving in the country, and allow
14 them unobstructed access to affected areas to deliver
15 emergency humanitarian relief to people in need;
16 and

17 (7) commends the Organization of African
18 Unity for calling on all African countries, and the
19 international community at large, to refrain from
20 recognizing the new regime or lending support in
21 any form whatsoever to the perpetrators of the coup
22 d'etat, the AFRC.

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