

105TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. RES. 603

Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the seat in the United Nations that is reserved to Burma should be occupied by a representative of the National League for Democracy.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OCTOBER 15, 1998

Mr. ROHRABACHER submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on International Relations

RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the seat in the United Nations that is reserved to Burma should be occupied by a representative of the National League for Democracy.

Whereas in 1988 the ruling military junta in Burma massacred thousands of demonstrators who were demanding human rights and a democratic form of government;

Whereas in each year since 1988 the Department of State of the United States has included Burma, renamed Myanmar by its military regime, on its list of countries that provide support for international terrorism, which also includes the “outlaw” states of Libya, North Korea, and Iraq;

Whereas in 1990 the National League for Democracy, led by Nobel laureate Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, won over 80 percent of the seats in the Burmese parliament in the first democratic elections held in Burma in decades;

Whereas despite assurances from leaders of the military regime that governmental power in Burma would be ceded to the newly elected parliament, a crackdown ensued and the military regime did not permit the newly elected parliament to be seated;

Whereas the military regime arrested hundreds of members of the newly elected parliament to prevent them from convening a government;

Whereas there is clear and convincing evidence that many leaders of the military regime in Burma are involved in the growth, production, and transportation of opium and its deadly derivative, heroin;

Whereas the military regime in Burma has given, and continues to give, safe haven to international drug kingpins, such as the infamous Khun Sa (also known as Chang Qifu), who are under indictment in the United States for heroin trafficking;

Whereas the United States and international organizations, including the United Nations, have demonstrated that the military regime in Burma is among the worst offenders of human rights in the world;

Whereas the United Nations has continually sought visas from the military regime in Burma to enable United Nations representatives to meet with political prisoners, democracy activists, and refugees in Burma, but the military regime has refused and continues to refuse to issue the visas;

Whereas in 1997 the United States imposed economic sanctions against the military regime in Burma as a demonstration of support for the National League for Democracy;

Whereas on September 16, 1998, the National League for Democracy formed a committee to represent the members of parliament who were duly elected in 1990;

Whereas the military regime in Burma has demonstrated a clear intent to disregard the fundamental rights that countries that are members of the United Nations should ensure for their citizens; and

Whereas the seat in the United Nations that is reserved to Burma should be occupied not by a representative of the military regime of Burma but by a representative of the duly elected parliament: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That it is the sense of the House of Rep-
2 resentatives that the Secretary of State should instruct the
3 United States Ambassador to the United Nations to use
4 appropriate procedures in the United Nations—

5 (1) to obtain the removal of the representative
6 of the Burmese military regime from the seat in the
7 United Nations that is reserved to Burma;

8 (2) to enable the seat to be occupied by a rep-
9 resentative of the duly elected parliament of Burma;
10 and

11 (3) to hold the seat vacant until such time as
12 it can be so occupied.

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