

107TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 160

To prohibit the rescheduling or forgiveness of any outstanding bilateral debt owed to the United States by the Government of the Russian Federation until the President certifies to the Congress that the Government of the Russian Federation has ceased all its operations at, removed all personnel from, and permanently closed the intelligence facility at Lourdes, Cuba.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 3, 2001

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN (for himself, Mr. GOSS, Mr. GILMAN, Mr. DELAY, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, and Mr. DIAZ-BALART) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on International Relations

A BILL

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1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Russian-American
3 Trust and Cooperation Act of 2001”.

4 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

5 The Congress makes the following findings:

6 (1) The Government of the Russian Federation
7 maintains an agreement with the Government of
8 Cuba which allows Russia to operate an intelligence
9 facility at Lourdes, Cuba.

10 (2) The Secretary of Defense has formally ex-
11 pressed concerns to the Congress regarding the espi-
12 onage complex at Lourdes, Cuba, and its use as a
13 base for intelligence activities directed against the
14 United States.

15 (3) The Secretary of Defense, referring to a
16 1998 Defense Intelligence Agency assessment, has
17 reported that the Russian Federation leases the
18 Lourdes facility for an estimated \$100,000,000 to
19 \$300,000,000 a year.

20 (4) It has been reported that the Lourdes facil-
21 ity is the largest such complex operated by the Rus-
22 sian Federation and its intelligence service outside
23 the region of the former Soviet Union.

24 (5) The Lourdes facility is reported to cover a
25 28 square-mile area with over 1,500 Russian engi-

1 neers, technicians, and military personnel working at
2 the base.

3 (6) Experts familiar with the Lourdes facility
4 have reportedly confirmed that the base has multiple
5 groups of tracking dishes and its own satellite sys-
6 tem, with some groups used to intercept telephone
7 calls, faxes, and computer communications, in gen-
8 eral, and with other groups used to cover targeted
9 telephones and devices.

10 (7) News sources have reported that the prede-
11 cessor regime to the Government of the Russian
12 Federation had obtained sensitive information about
13 United States military operations during Operation
14 Desert Storm through the Lourdes facility.

15 (8) Former United States National Security
16 Agency officials have been quoted describing the
17 Lourdes facility as an “intelligence cornucopia”
18 which lies within the “footprint” of every United
19 States communications satellite.

20 (9) Public reports relating to the Lourdes facil-
21 ity state that Defense Intelligence Agency officials
22 testified to the Senate Select Committee on Intel-
23 ligence in 1996 that “while commercial intelligence
24 [gathered at the facility] is the top priority, it is not
25 the only one . . . Personal information about U.S.

1 citizens in private and government sectors is also
2 snatched from the airwaves and used by Russian in-
3 telligence to identify promising recruits in these sec-
4 tors.”.

5 (10) It has been reported that the operational
6 significance of the Lourdes facility has grown dra-
7 matically since February 7, 1996, when then Rus-
8 sian President, Boris Yeltsin, issued an order de-
9 manding that the Russian intelligence community in-
10 crease its gathering of United States and other
11 Western economic and trade secrets.

12 (11) It has been reported that the Government
13 of the Russian Federation is estimated to have spent
14 in excess of \$3,000,000,000 in the operation and
15 modernization of the Lourdes facility.

16 (12) Colonel General Mikhail Kolenik, Russia’s
17 current chief of staff, has affirmed during his visits
18 to the Lourdes facility that this espionage base re-
19 mains critical to the intelligence needs of the Rus-
20 sian Federation.

21 (13) The December 2000 visit of Russian Presi-
22 dent Putin to Cuba was described by United States
23 analysts as a “diplomatic offensive” to strengthen
24 and expand Russia’s ties with its former satellite in
25 Latin America.

1 **SEC. 3. PROHIBITION ON BILATERAL DEBT RESCHEDULING**
2 **AND FORGIVENESS FOR THE RUSSIAN FED-**
3 **ERATION.**

4 (a) PROHIBITION.—Notwithstanding any other provi-
5 sion of law, the President—

6 (1) shall not reschedule or forgive any out-
7 standing bilateral debt owed to the United States by
8 the Government of the Russian Federation, and

9 (2) shall instruct the United States representa-
10 tive to the Paris Club of official creditors to use the
11 voice and vote of the United States to oppose re-
12 scheduling or forgiveness of any outstanding bilat-
13 eral debt owed by the Government of the Russian
14 Federation,

15 until the President certifies to the Congress that the Gov-
16 ernment of the Russian Federation has ceased all its oper-
17 ations at, removed all personnel from, and permanently
18 closed the intelligence facility at Lourdes, Cuba.

19 (b) WAIVER.—The President may waive the applica-
20 tion of subsection (a)(1) with respect to rescheduling of
21 outstanding bilateral debt if—

22 (1) the President determines that such waiver
23 is necessary to the national interests of the United
24 States; and

25 (2) not less than 10 days before the waiver is
26 to take effect, the President transmits to the Com-

1 mittee on International Relations of the House of
2 Representatives and the Committee on Foreign Re-
3 lations of the Senate a written certification that con-
4 tains the determination made pursuant to paragraph
5 (1) and the reasons therefor.

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