

103^D CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. CON. RES. 103

Expressing the sense of the Congress that the President should develop a strategy to bring the United States back into active and full membership in the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 19, 1993

Mr. TORRES (for himself, Mr. BERMAN, Mr. BROWN of California, Mr. LANTOS, Mr. LEACH, and Mr. MILLER of California) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the Congress that the President should develop a strategy to bring the United States back into active and full membership in the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization.

Whereas the Congress recognizes that the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) was created in 1946 as an integral part of the United Nations system, designed to promote international cooperation and exchanges in the fields of education, science, culture, and communication with the larger purpose of constructing “the defenses of peace” against intolerance and incitements to war;

Whereas in 1984, the United States withdrew from the organization over questions of internal management and political polarization;

Whereas since that time UNESCO has elected new leadership, instituted tightened financial controls and strategic planning, cut staff and budget, renewed professionalism, restored recognition of intellectual property, returned the organization to the principle of an unfettered, independent international press, therefore addressing and redressing the criticisms which formed the justification for the United States' withdrawal;

Whereas in 1993 the General Accounting Office, after conducting extensive review of the organization's progress in implementing changes toward solving the problems that were cited in justifying the withdrawal of the United States from the organization in 1984, concluded that, the organization's member states, Director General, managers, and employee associations have demonstrated a commitment to management reform through their actions;

Whereas the interest of the United States to encourage further progress toward solving the problems of the organization would be best ensured by the leadership, support, and participation of the United States;

Whereas many countries that are members of the organization, especially countries that collaborate closely with the United States, have expressed a strong desire for the United States to resume active participation in the organization;

Whereas the organization's current and projected plans offer means for advancing the foreign policy interests of the

United States in promoting democracy, sustainable development, and conflict resolution;

Whereas the four interrelated areas of expertise of the organization, which are education, science, culture, and communication, represent important areas of American competitive advantage, and participation in global programs and policymaking in these fields advances the interests of the United States;

Whereas the organization has placed high priority on the promotion of democracy, free flow of information, training and expertise, and other goals consistent with United States policy in Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union;

Whereas the organization has put a high priority on programs to strengthen a free press and journalistic independence;

Whereas multilateral initiatives in such politically sensitive activities offer advantages not always offered by bilateral initiatives;

Whereas the organization avoids program duplication within the United Nations system and cooperates with other specialized agencies of the system to allocate distinct responsibilities;

Whereas other United Nations specialized agencies recognize the distinct role of the organization in building intellectual networks for the implementation of their system-wide activities;

Whereas the organization is a catalytic agency that manages, designs, and promotes projects which raise additional funding beyond the costs directly borne by the organization;

Whereas the distinct role of the organization is reflected in its inclusion in all major multi-agency initiatives, such as preparation and followup of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development;

Whereas active and effective participation in the organization could advance the domestic policy interests of the United States;

Whereas such policy interests include reducing illiteracy and improving education, including education for immigrant populations coming from other nations and cultures, increasing tolerance among ethnic and racial minority groups, protecting cultural freedom and the free flow of information, widening access to communications technology markets in developing countries by American businesses, providing broader channels for international collaboration on scientific research, and understanding environmental change and preservation;

Whereas the policy interest of the United States would be better served if the United States would resume participation in the organization and use its strategic position in the organization to demonstrate, disseminate, and express unambiguously the values of the United States;

Whereas in 1993, the Executive Board and the General Conference of the Organization will make important decisions affecting the program content, work methods, executive leadership, and general management of the organization for the remainder of the 20th century; and

Whereas the United States will have to resume active membership in the organization in 1993 in order to participate directly in these decisions: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate*
2 *concurring)*, That it is the sense of the Congress that the
3 President should—

4 (1) develop a strategy to bring the United
5 States back into active and full membership in the
6 United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural
7 Organization (UNESCO) during 1993;

8 (2) direct the Secretary of State to consult with
9 government agencies, nongovernmental organiza-
10 tions, and other interested parties that had substan-
11 tial involvement with the work of the organization
12 before the withdrawal of the United States in order
13 to formulate goals the United States should seek at
14 the organization as part of the strategy and to reex-
15 amine the frameworks established in law for the par-
16 ticipation of the American nongovernmental sector
17 in UNESCO policy and activities;

18 (3) direct the Secretary of State to reconstitute
19 the United States National Commission for
20 UNESCO;

21 (4) consult with other governments on prospects
22 for further reform of the organization's policy bodies
23 and governance, particularly with an eye to strength-
24 ening in all member states the role of independent,

1 nongovernmental, intellectual sectors in agency pro-
2 grams and governance; and

3 (5) report to the Congress before September 30,
4 1993, on the nature and extent of the consultations
5 and the progress being made on the strategy.

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