

105TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. CON. RES. 135

Congratulating the people of the Republic of Liberia for holding multiparty elections.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 30, 1997

Mr. PAYNE (for himself, Ms. PELOSI, and Mr. OWENS) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on International Relations

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Congratulating the people of the Republic of Liberia for holding multiparty elections.

Whereas the people of Liberia have suffered during the 7-year civil war with over 400,000 deaths and 2,300,000 displaced;

Whereas the war of April 6, 1996, marked the lowest time where war had devastated and disrupted the livelihood of the people of Liberia;

Whereas the international community did not concentrate its efforts and resources on the registration process;

Whereas the United States logistical training of some 500 policemen that supported the electoral process was welcomed by the Liberian people;

Whereas almost 90 percent of the Liberian people came out to vote with the highest turnout being women;

Whereas illiteracy by civil society contributed to problems with voting in the rural areas;

Whereas the historic event of democratic multiparty elections was a vote for “peace” and should be acknowledged as such;

Whereas election results of July 19, 1997, generally reflected the wishes of the people; and

Whereas Charles Chankey Taylor was elected to the presidency by 75 percent of the electorate: Now, therefore, be it

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

3 (1) congratulates the people of Liberia for hold-
4 ing multiparty presidential, legislative, and senato-
5 rial elections by proportional representation;

6 (2) congratulates ECOWAS and Independent
7 Elections Commission (IECOM) for their support
8 during the elections;

9 (3) encourages the people of Liberia to uphold
10 peace and continue to work together after taking the
11 first critical step of holding a democratic election;

12 (4) encourages the United States to provide
13 technical and financial assistance when the country
14 has shown improvements in creating stability for its
15 people;

1 (5) strongly urges the international community
2 to continue to assist Liberia to disarm and demobi-
3 lize and help with the repatriation of refugees;

4 (6) calls on all faction and opposition leaders to
5 respect the outcome of the elections and make a vow
6 to peace and stability of Liberia; and

7 (7) calls on the newly elected President to re-
8 spect the rule of law and human rights.

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