

105TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. CON. RES. 222

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of Congress, congratulating the former International Support and Verification Commission of the Organization of American States (OAS-CLAV) for successfully aiding in the transition of Nicaragua from a war-ridden state into a newly formed democracy and providing continued support through the recently created Technical Cooperation Mission (OAS-TCM) which is responsible for helping to stabilize Nicaraguan democracy by supplementing institution building.

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Whereas the Organization of American States International Support and Verification Commission (OAS-CLAV) was established August 7, 1989, for the purpose of overseeing assisting in the repatriation, disarmament, resettlement, and protection of human rights of the Nicaraguan resistance and their families;

Whereas the OAS-CLAV, successfully demobilized 22,500 members of the Nicaraguan resistance and distributed food and humanitarian assistance to more than 119,000 repatriated Nicaraguans prior to July 1991;

Whereas the OAS-CLAV successfully investigated and documented more than 1,800 human rights violations, including numerous murders and presented these cases to Nicaraguan authorities, following and advocating justice in each case;

Whereas the OAS-CLAV helped demobilize rearmed contras and Sandinistas, as well as apolitical criminal groups, and recently brokered and mediated the successful May 1997 negotiations between the Government of Nicaragua and the largest rearmed group;

Whereas the OAS-CLAV created 86 peace commissions and has provided assistance and extensive training in human rights and alternative dispute resolution for their members, who are currently mediating conflicts, including kidnaping and demobilization of rearmed groups, in every municipality of the zones of conflict;

Whereas the OAS-CLAV successfully provided critically needed infrastructure and humanitarian assistance including aid for Nicaraguan schools, roads, and health clinics; and

Whereas a new Organization of American States Technical Cooperation Mission (OAS-TCM) has been created to expand upon the mission of the OAS-CLAV by providing institution building resources in municipal government development, social work, and civic education in the twelve most conflictive municipalities in Nicaragua: Now, therefore, be it

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

3 (1) commends and congratulates Santiago Mur-
4 ray, the first OAS–CIAV Director, and Sergio
5 Caramagna, the current director of the OAS–TCM,
6 and all members of the OAS–CIAV and OAS–TCM
7 team for their tireless defense of human rights, pro-
8 motion of peaceful conflict resolution, and contribu-
9 tion to the development of freedom and democracy
10 in Nicaragua; and

11 (2) expresses its support for the continuation of
12 the role of the OAS–TCM in Nicaragua.

Passed the House of Representatives April 28, 1998.

Attest:

Clerk.