

105TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. CON. RES. 40

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 25, 1997

Referred to the Committee on International Relations

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of Congress regarding the OAS–CIAV
Mission in Nicaragua.

Whereas the International Support and Verification Commission of the Organization of American States (in this resolution referred to as the “OAS–CIAV”) was established in the August 7, 1989, Tela Accords by the presidents of the Central American countries and by the Secretaries General of the United Nations and the Organization of American States for the purpose of ending the Nicaraguan war and reintegrating members of the Nicaraguan Resistance into civil society;

Whereas the OAS–CIAV, originally comprised of 53 unarmed Latin Americans, 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–CIAV provided seeds, starter plants, and fertilizer to more than 17,000 families of demobilized combatants;

Whereas the OAS–CIAV assisted former Nicaraguan Resistance members in the construction of nearly 3,000 homes for impoverished families, 45 schools, 50 health clinics, and 25 community multi-purpose centers, as well as the development of microenterprises;

Whereas the OAS–CIAV assisted rural communities with the reparation of roads, development of potable water sources, veterinary and preventative medical training, raising basic crops, cattle ranching, and reforestation;

Whereas the OAS–CIAV, together with the Pan-American Health Organization (PAHO), trained local paramedics to staff 22 health posts in the Atlantic and Pacific regions of Nicaragua and provided medical supplies to treat mothers, young children, and cholera patients, among others, in a five-month program that benefited nearly 50,000 Nicaraguans;

Whereas the OAS–CIAV, with 15 members under a new mandate effective June 9, 1993, has investigated and documented more than 1,800 human rights violations, including 653 murders and has presented these cases to Nicaraguan authorities, following and advocating justice in each case;

Whereas the OAS–CIAV has demobilized 20,745 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–CIAV has resolved hostage crises successfully, including the 1993 abductions of UNO party Congressmen, the Vice President and the French military attache, and the 1996 kidnappings of an Agency for International Development contractor and 28 Supreme Electoral Council employees;

Whereas the OAS–CIAV 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 kidnappings and demobilization of rearmed groups, in every municipality of the zones of conflict;

Whereas the OAS–CIAV assistance and training by the OAS–CIAV of rural Nicaraguans has led to a decrease in violence in the zones of conflict since 1994, in some areas as much as 85 percent;

Whereas the OAS–CIAV has assisted children wounded by land mines;

Whereas the OAS–CIAV has provided assistance to disabled war veterans and widows of combatants;

Whereas the OAS–CIAV provided and distributed 44,010 birth certificates to rural Nicaraguans in early 1996, allowing them to participate in the 1996 presidential and parliamentary elections; and

Whereas the OAS–CIAV provided transportation to and communication with remote areas or areas of conflict, assuring a secure climate for voter registration and the elections: Now, therefore, be it

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

1 (1) commends and congratulates Santiago Mur-
2 ray and Sergio Caramagna, the first and current di-
3 rectors, respectively, of the OAS–CIAV and all mem-
4 bers of the OAS–CIAV team for their tireless de-
5 fense of human rights, promotion of peaceful conflict
6 resolution, and contribution to the development of
7 freedom and democracy in Nicaragua; and

8 (2) expresses its support for the continuation of
9 the role of the Organization of American States
10 (OAS) in Nicaragua described in the resolution
11 passed by the OAS General Assembly in Lima, Peru,
12 on June 4, 1997.

13 SEC. 2. The Secretary of the Senate shall transmit
14 a copy of this concurrent resolution to the President with
15 the request that he further transmit such resolution to the
16 Secretary General of the Organization of American States.

Passed the Senate July 23, 1997.

Attest:

GARY SISCO,
Secretary.