

110TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 445

Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the United States should support a mutually-agreed solution for the future status of Kosovo and reject an imposed solution for the status of Kosovo.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 24, 2007

Ms. BEAN (for herself and Mr. BURTON of Indiana) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the United States should support a mutually-agreed solution for the future status of Kosovo and reject an imposed solution for the status of Kosovo.

Whereas the United States has enduring national interests in the peace and security of southeastern Europe, and in the greater integration of the region into the Euro-Atlantic community of democratic, well-governed states;

Whereas stability of Serbia and its full integration into the Euro-Atlantic community of democracies furthers the stability in the entire Balkan region;

Whereas the people of Serbia forced Slobodan Milosevic out of power in October 2000 and ever since have elected pro-European and pro-Western leaders during the fol-

lowing seven democratic elections that have been conducted;

Whereas pursuant to all relevant international agreements and treaties, including the Charter of the United Nations, United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244, and the Final Act of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (Helsinki Final Act), and international law generally, Kosovo is legally part of Serbia and its state sovereignty;

Whereas the vast majority of Serbs and other minorities live in isolation and extremely poor conditions in Kosovo especially in the central and eastern regions;

Whereas United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244 established the United Nations Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) to bring stability, the rule of law, protection of human rights, and reconstruction to the war-torn province of Kosovo;

Whereas United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244 also reaffirms that Kosovo is a part of Serbia;

Whereas since 1999 Serbia has had no political, military, or economic presence in its province of Kosovo;

Whereas since the arrival of UNMIK and North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) forces in Kosovo, more than 200,000 Serbs and other Kosovo minorities have been displaced from their homes in Kosovo by Albanian extremists, more than 1,500 Serbs have been murdered, more than 100 churches and monasteries have been burned and destroyed, and more than 20,000 houses have been destroyed;

Whereas the current status of Kosovo is contentious for both Serbia and its province of Kosovo;

Whereas any attempt to impose a solution on Kosovo’s final status on Serbia could contribute to greater instability and inhibit its economic and political development;

Whereas imposed independence for Kosovo will strengthen radical and nationalistic, anti-Western forces in Serbia and could hinder Serbia’s progress toward joining the European Union and NATO;

Whereas in 2005, the United Nations Secretary-General appointed the former President of Finland, Martti Ahtisaari, as United Nations Special Envoy for Kosovo to develop a comprehensive settlement proposal to resolve the political status of Kosovo;

Whereas in March 2007, after 18 months of inconclusive talks, the United Nations Special Envoy for Kosovo submitted to the Security Council a “comprehensive settlement proposal” that would result in supervised independence for Kosovo;

Whereas the United Nations Special Envoy for Kosovo ultimately failed to reach a solution that would be acceptable for both sides; and

Whereas the United Nations Special Envoy for Kosovo was unable to find a compromise solution between Serbia and the Kosovo Albanians that would allow an enduring and stable final status for Kosovo: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That it is the sense of the House of Rep-
2 resentatives that—

3 (1) the United States should support a mutu-
4 ally-agreed solution for the future status of Kosovo
5 for both Serbia and Kosovo through a new round of
6 negotiations if needed;

1 (2) the United States should support an out-
2 come that creates an economically viable and politi-
3 cally stable Kosovo, Serbia, and greater Balkan re-
4 gion where the human rights of all persons are pro-
5 tected;

6 (3) the United States should insist on fulfill-
7 ment of all agreed-upon democratic standards in
8 Kosovo set forth previously by the United Nations
9 before supporting final status for Kosovo;

10 (4) the United States should, in consultation
11 and cooperation with its allies, vigorously and pa-
12 tiently pursue a United Nations Security Council
13 resolution that endorses a solution acceptable for
14 both parties;

15 (5) the United States should restrain from any
16 unilateral action toward Kosovo's independence, es-
17 pecially actions outside the United Nations, to pre-
18 vent damaging the United States positions in the
19 international community;

20 (6) the United States should work together with
21 the European Union in supporting the political and
22 economic development of both the province of
23 Kosovo and Serbia;

1 (7) the United States should support the full
2 integration of the province of Kosovo and Serbia
3 into international and Euro-Atlantic institutions;

4 (8) the United States should reaffirm its com-
5 mitment to southeastern Europe, including its par-
6 ticipation in the NATO mission in Kosovo to deter
7 and disrupt any efforts to destabilize the region
8 through violence;

9 (9) the provincial Government of Kosovo should
10 take full responsibility to reassure, protect, and en-
11 sure the full political and economic rights of Serbs
12 and other minority communities in Kosovo;

13 (10) the provincial Government of Kosovo
14 should make every effort to develop a cooperative re-
15 lationship with the Government of Serbia, in rec-
16 ognition of its legitimate interests in the safety of
17 the Serb population, the property rights of the Serb
18 population in Kosovo and in the protection and pres-
19 ervation of the patrimonial sites of the Serbian Or-
20 thodox Church in Kosovo;

21 (11) the international community should recog-
22 nize that additional negotiations and diplomacy does
23 not represent a delay of the process and that it is
24 better to find a mutually-acceptable solution than to

1 have prolonged crisis and confrontation in the Bal-
2 kans;

3 (12) the international community should recog-
4 nize that the Government of Serbia currently has
5 legal sovereignty over Kosovo as outlined by United
6 Nations Security Council Resolution 1244; and

7 (13) the Government of Serbia should continue
8 toward a prosperous and peaceful future through re-
9 gional cooperation and integration into Euro-Atlan-
10 tic institutions, including NATO and the European
11 Union, and toward the establishment of open, con-
12 structive relations with the provincial government of
13 Kosovo.

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