

President, appoints the following Senators as members of the Senate Delegation to the North Atlantic Assembly during the Second Session of the One Hundred Fifth Congress, to be held in Edinburg, United Kingdom, November 9-14, 1998—the Senator from Utah (Mr. HATCH); the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER); the Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY); the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. SPECTER); the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. HUTCHINSON); the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SESSIONS); the Senator from Oregon (Mr. SMITH); the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. THOMPSON); the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BUMPERS); the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI); and the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. AKAKA).

The message also announced that the Senate had passed a bill of the following title in which concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 391. An Act to provide for the disposition of certain funds appropriated to pay judgment in favor of the Mississippi Sioux Indians, and for other purposes.

¶107.42 150TH ANNIVERSARY—SENECA FALLS CONVENTION

On motion of Mr. HANSEN, by unanimous consent, the Committee on Resources was discharged from further consideration of the bill of the Senate (S. 2285) to establish a commission, in honor of the 150th Anniversary of the Seneca Falls Convention, to further protect sites of importance in the historic efforts to secure equal rights for women.

When said bill was considered, read twice, ordered to be read a third time, was read a third time by title, and passed.

A motion to reconsider the vote whereby the bill was passed was, by unanimous consent, laid on the table.

*Ordered*, That the Clerk notify the Senate thereof.

¶107.43 BLACK PATRIOTS FOUNDATION

On motion of Mr. HANSEN, by unanimous consent, the Committee on Resources was discharged from further consideration of the bill of the Senate (S. 2427) to amend the Omnibus Parks and Public Lands Management Act of 1996 to extend the legislative authority for the Black Patriots Foundation to establish a commemorative work.

When said bill was considered, read twice, ordered to be read a third time, was read a third time by title, and passed.

A motion to reconsider the vote whereby the bill was passed was, by unanimous consent, laid on the table.

*Ordered*, That the Clerk notify the Senate thereof.

¶107.44 OMNIBUS PARKS AND PUBLIC LANDS MANAGEMENT TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS

On motion of Mr. HANSEN, by unanimous consent, the Committee on Resources was discharged from further consideration of the bill (H.R. 4735) to make technical corrections to the Omnibus Parks and Public Lands Management Act of 1996.

When said bill was considered, read twice, ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, was read a third time by title, and passed.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, was read a third time by title, and passed.

A motion to reconsider the vote whereby the bill was passed was, by unanimous consent, laid on the table.

*Ordered*, That the Clerk request the concurrence of the Senate in said bill.

¶107.45 DANTE FASCELL VISITOR CENTER

On motion of Mr. HANSEN, by unanimous consent, the Committee on Resources was discharged from further consideration of the bill of the Senate (S. 2468) to designate the Biscayne National Park Visitor Center as the Dante Fascell Visitor Center.

When said bill was considered, read twice, ordered to be read a third time, was read a third time by title, and passed.

A motion to reconsider the vote whereby the bill was passed was, by unanimous consent, laid on the table.

*Ordered*, That the Clerk notify the Senate thereof.

¶107.46 SIERRA LEONE HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES

Mr. GILMAN moved to suspend the rules and agree to the following resolution (H. Res. 559):

Whereas the ousted Armed Forces Revolutionary Council (AFRC) military junta and the rebel fighters of the Revolutionary United Front (RUF) have mounted a campaign of terror, vengeance, and human rights abuses on the civilian population of Sierra Leone;

Whereas the AFRC/RUF violence against civilians continues with at least 1,200 persons having hands or feet amputated by rebels (and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) estimates that every victim who makes it to medical help is only 1 of 4 who have been mutilated);

Whereas the AFRC/RUF continues to abduct children and forcibly train them as combatants, in numbers estimated by UNICEF to exceed 3,000 since March 1998;

Whereas the humanitarian consequences of this campaign have been the flight of more than 250,000 refugees to Guinea and Liberia in the last 6 months and the increase of internally displaced Sierra Leoneans to over 250,000 in camps and towns in the north and east;

Whereas the governments of Guinea and Liberia are having great difficulty caring for the huge number of refugees, now totaling 600,000 in Guinea and Liberia, and emergency appeals have been issued by the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) for \$7,300,000 for emergency food, shelter, sanitation, medical, educational, psychological, and social services;

Whereas starvation and hunger-related deaths have begun in the north with more than 500 people dying since August 1, 1998, a situation that will only get worse in the next months;

Whereas the humanitarian community is unable, because of continuing security concerns, to deliver food and medicine to the vulnerable groups within the north and east of Sierra Leone;

Whereas the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and its military peacekeeping arm called ECOMOG are doing their best, but require additional logistic

support to either bring this AFRC/RUF rebel war to a conclusion or force a negotiated settlement;

Whereas arms and weapons continue to be supplied to the AFRC/RUF in direct violation of a United Nations arms embargo;

Whereas United Nations Under Secretary for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator Sergio Viera de Melo, Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, and Refugees International, following May through June 1998 visits to Sierra Leone, have condemned, in the strongest terms, the terrible human rights violations done by the AFRC/RUF rebels to civilians; and

Whereas the Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary General for Children and Armed Conflict, Olara Otunu, following a May 1998 visit to Sierra Leone, called upon the United Nations to make Sierra Leone one of the pilot projects in the rehabilitation of child combatants: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

(1) urges the President and the Secretary of State to give high priority to solving the conflict in Sierra Leone and to bring stability to West Africa in general;

(2) urges the State Department to give the needed logistical support to ECOMOG and the Government of Sierra Leone to bring this conflict to a rapid conclusion;

(3) condemns the use of children as combatants in the conflict in Sierra Leone;

(4) urges the establishment of a secure humanitarian corridor to strategic areas in the north and east of Sierra Leone for the safe delivery of food and medicines by the Government of Sierra Leone and humanitarian agencies already in the country mandated to deliver this aid;

(5) urges the President and the Secretary of State to strictly enforce the United Nations arms embargo on the Armed Forces Revolutionary Council and Revolutionary United Front (AFRC/RUF) rebel forces;

(6) urges the President and the Secretary of State to work with the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) nations to ensure there are sufficient African forces and arms provided to its military peacekeeping arm ECOMOG;

(7) urges the President and the Secretary of State to support the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) appeal for aid to the Sierra Leonean refugees in Guinea, Liberia, and other countries;

(8) urges the President and the State Department to support the United Nations agencies and nongovernmental organizations working in Sierra Leone to bring humanitarian relief and peace to the country;

(9) urges the President and the State Department to support the Government of Sierra Leone in its demobilization, disarmament, and reconstruction plan for the country as peace becomes a reality; and

(10) encourages and supports, Olara Otunu, United Nations Special Representative of the Secretary General for Children and Armed Conflict, to continue in his efforts to work in Sierra Leone in the establishment of programs designed to rehabilitate child combatants.

The SPEAKER pro tempore, Mr. LAHOOD, recognized Mr. GILMAN and Mr. CLEMENT, each for 20 minutes.

After debate,

The question being put, viva voce,

Will the House suspend the rules and agree to said resolution, as amended?

The SPEAKER pro tempore, Mr. LAHOOD, announced that two-thirds of the Members present had voted in the affirmative.

So, two-thirds of the Members present having voted in favor thereof, the rules were suspended and said resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider the vote whereby the rules were suspended and said resolution was agreed to was, by unanimous consent, laid on the table.

#### ¶107.47 RELIGIOUS PERSECUTION MONITORING

Mr. GILMAN moved to suspend the rules and agree to the following amendments of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 2431) to establish an Office of Religious Persecution Monitoring, to provide for the imposition of sanctions against countries engaged in a pattern of religious persecution, and for other purposes;

Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert:

##### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) *SHORT TITLE.*—This Act may be cited as the “International Religious Freedom Act of 1998”.

(b) *TABLE OF CONTENTS.*—The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

- Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.
- Sec. 2. Findings; policy.
- Sec. 3. Definitions.

##### TITLE I—DEPARTMENT OF STATE ACTIVITIES

- Sec. 101. Office on International Religious Freedom; Ambassador at Large for International Religious Freedom.
- Sec. 102. Reports.
- Sec. 103. Establishment of a religious freedom Internet site.
- Sec. 104. Training for Foreign Service officers.
- Sec. 105. High-level contacts with nongovernmental organizations.
- Sec. 106. Programs and allocations of funds by United States missions abroad.
- Sec. 107. Equal access to United States missions abroad for conducting religious activities.
- Sec. 108. Prisoner lists and issue briefs on religious freedom concerns.

##### TITLE II—COMMISSION ON INTERNATIONAL RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

- Sec. 201. Establishment and composition.
- Sec. 202. Duties of the Commission.
- Sec. 203. Report of the Commission.
- Sec. 204. Applicability of other laws.
- Sec. 205. Authorization of appropriations.
- Sec. 206. Termination.

##### TITLE III—NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

- Sec. 301. Special Adviser on International Religious Freedom.

##### TITLE IV—PRESIDENTIAL ACTIONS

- Subtitle I—Targeted Responses to Violations of Religious Freedom Abroad
- Sec. 401. Presidential actions in response to violations of religious freedom.
  - Sec. 402. Presidential actions in response to particularly severe violations of religious freedom.
  - Sec. 403. Consultations.
  - Sec. 404. Report to Congress.
  - Sec. 405. Description of Presidential actions.
  - Sec. 406. Effects on existing contracts.
  - Sec. 407. Presidential waiver.
  - Sec. 408. Publication in Federal Register.
  - Sec. 409. Termination of Presidential actions.
  - Sec. 410. Preclusion of judicial review.
- Subtitle II—Strengthening Existing Law
- Sec. 421. United States assistance.
  - Sec. 422. Multilateral assistance.
  - Sec. 423. Exports of certain items used in particularly severe violations of religious freedom.

##### TITLE V—PROMOTION OF RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

- Sec. 501. Assistance for promoting religious freedom.
  - Sec. 502. International broadcasting.
  - Sec. 503. International exchanges.
  - Sec. 504. Foreign Service awards.
- ##### TITLE VI—REFUGEE, ASYLUM, AND CONSULAR MATTERS
- Sec. 601. Use of Annual Report.
  - Sec. 602. Reform of refugee policy.
  - Sec. 603. Reform of asylum policy.
  - Sec. 604. Inadmissibility of foreign government officials who have engaged in particularly severe violations of religious freedom.
  - Sec. 605. Studies on the effect of expedited removal provisions on asylum claims.

##### TITLE VII—MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

- Sec. 701. Business codes of conduct.
- ##### SEC. 2. FINDINGS; POLICY.

(a) *FINDINGS.*—Congress makes the following findings:

(1) The right to freedom of religion undergirds the very origin and existence of the United States. Many of our Nation’s founders fled religious persecution abroad, cherishing in their hearts and minds the ideal of religious freedom. They established in law, as a fundamental right and as a pillar of our Nation, the right to freedom of religion. From its birth to this day, the United States has prized this legacy of religious freedom and honored this heritage by standing for religious freedom and offering refuge to those suffering religious persecution.

(2) Freedom of religious belief and practice is a universal human right and fundamental freedom articulated in numerous international instruments, including the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the Helsinki Accords, the Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Intolerance and Discrimination Based on Religion or Belief, the United Nations Charter, and the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms.

(3) Article 18 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights recognizes that “Everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience, and religion. This right includes freedom to change his religion or belief, and freedom, either alone or in community with others and in public or private, to manifest his religion or belief in teaching, practice, worship, and observance.”. Article 18(1) of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights recognizes that “Everyone shall have the right to freedom of thought, conscience, and religion. This right shall include freedom to have or to adopt a religion or belief of his choice, and freedom, either individually or in community with others and in public or private, to manifest his religion or belief in worship, observance, practice, and teaching”. Governments have the responsibility to protect the fundamental rights of their citizens and to pursue justice for all. Religious freedom is a fundamental right of every individual, regardless of race, sex, country, creed, or nationality, and should never be arbitrarily abridged by any government.

(4) The right to freedom of religion is under renewed and, in some cases, increasing assault in many countries around the world. More than one-half of the world’s population lives under regimes that severely restrict or prohibit the freedom of their citizens to study, believe, observe, and freely practice the religious faith of their choice. Religious believers and communities suffer both government-sponsored and government-tolerated violations of their rights to religious freedom. Among the many forms of such violations are state-sponsored slander campaigns, confiscations of property, surveillance by security police, including by special divisions of “religious police”, severe prohibitions against

construction and repair of places of worship, denial of the right to assemble and relegation of religious communities to illegal status through arbitrary registration laws, prohibitions against the pursuit of education or public office, and prohibitions against publishing, distributing, or possessing religious literature and materials.

(5) Even more abhorrent, religious believers in many countries face such severe and violent forms of religious persecution as detention, torture, beatings, forced marriage, rape, imprisonment, enslavement, mass resettlement, and death merely for the peaceful belief in, change of or practice of their faith. In many countries, religious believers are forced to meet secretly, and religious leaders are targeted by national security forces and hostile mobs.

(6) Though not confined to a particular region or regime, religious persecution is often particularly widespread, systematic, and heinous under totalitarian governments and in countries with militant, politicized religious majorities.

(7) Congress has recognized and denounced acts of religious persecution through the adoption of the following resolutions:

(A) House Resolution 515 of the One Hundred Fourth Congress, expressing the sense of the House of Representatives with respect to the persecution of Christians worldwide.

(B) Senate Concurrent Resolution 71 of the One Hundred Fourth Congress, expressing the sense of the Senate regarding persecution of Christians worldwide.

(C) House Concurrent Resolution 102 of the One Hundred Fourth Congress, expressing the sense of the House of Representatives concerning the emancipation of the Iranian Baha’i community.

(b) *POLICY.*—It shall be the policy of the United States, as follows:

(1) To condemn violations of religious freedom, and to promote, and to assist other governments in the promotion of, the fundamental right to freedom of religion.

(2) To seek to channel United States security and development assistance to governments other than those found to be engaged in gross violations of the right to freedom of religion, as set forth in the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, in the International Financial Institutions Act of 1977, and in other formulations of United States human rights policy.

(3) To be vigorous and flexible, reflecting both the unwavering commitment of the United States to religious freedom and the desire of the United States for the most effective and principled response, in light of the range of violations of religious freedom by a variety of persecuting regimes, and the status of the relations of the United States with different nations.

(4) To work with foreign governments that affirm and protect religious freedom, in order to develop multilateral documents and initiatives to combat violations of religious freedom and promote the right to religious freedom abroad.

(5) Standing for liberty and standing with the persecuted, to use and implement appropriate tools in the United States foreign policy apparatus, including diplomatic, political, commercial, charitable, educational, and cultural channels, to promote respect for religious freedom by all governments and peoples.

##### SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) *AMBASSADOR AT LARGE.*—The term “Ambassador at Large” means the Ambassador at Large for International Religious Freedom appointed under section 101(b).

(2) *ANNUAL REPORT.*—The term “Annual Report” means the Annual Report on International Religious Freedom described in section 102(b).

(3) *APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.*—The term “appropriate congressional committees” means—

(A) the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate and the Committee on International Relations of the House of Representatives; and