

103^D CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. CON. RES. 187

Relating to the December 1993 presidential election in Gabon.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NOVEMBER 21, 1993

Mr. TORRICELLI submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Relating to the December 1993 presidential election in Gabon.

Whereas respect for human rights and the conduct of free and fair elections are tenets of United States foreign policy;

Whereas 13 candidates have registered to compete in the December 1993 presidential election in Gabon and to participate in the official presidential campaign which commenced on November 5, 1993;

Whereas the incumbent President and candidate Omar Bongo governed a one-party state from 1968 to 1990, allowed multiparty legislative elections in 1990, and has pledged to hold a free and fair presidential election in December 1993;

Whereas the Government of Gabon has requested the presence of neutral and nonpartisan election observers for the presidential election process and has acknowledged the need for civic and governmental education and preparatory efforts before the December 1993 presidential election;

Whereas some incidents of civil unrest have been followed by suppressions of freedom recently in Gabon;

Whereas Gabon received approximately \$140,000 in assistance under chapter 5 of part II of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (relating to international military education and training) for fiscal year 1993 and Gabon is projected to receive the same amount for fiscal year 1994;

Whereas the United States supports the policy of “enlargement” of democracy; and

Whereas the December 1993 presidential election in Gabon represents an opportunity for the African nation to reverse the series of democratic setbacks in Africa and such election could become a test case for African democratization: Now, therefore, be it

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

3 (1) urges the Government of Gabon and incum-
4 bent President Omar Bongo to honor the pledge to
5 adhere to international law by allowing a free and
6 fair presidential election in Gabon in December
7 1993, including the neutral and impartial prepara-
8 tion and administration of the election process, free-

1 dom of expression in an open media, and observation
2 of the election by a neutral group of observers;

3 (2) pledges to condemn any and all reversals in
4 the process of democratization in Gabon; and

5 (3) calls upon the President—

6 (A) to continue urging the Government of
7 Gabon, incumbent President Bongo, and all
8 other parties in Gabon to help Gabon fulfill its
9 pledge to hold a free and fair presidential elec-
10 tion in December 1993; and

11 (B) to encourage United States allies to
12 also urge the Government of Gabon and Presi-
13 dent Bongo to hold a free and fair presidential
14 election in December 1993.

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