

103^D CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. CON. RES. 28

Expressing the sense of the Congress regarding the Taif Agreement and urging Syrian withdrawal from Lebanon, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 28 (legislative day, APRIL 19), 1993

Mr. RIEGLE (for himself, Mr. MITCHELL, Mr. DOLE, Mr. PELL, Mr. HELMS, Mr. MOYNIHAN, Mr. BROWN, Mr. WALLOP, and Mr. LEVIN) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the Congress regarding the Taif Agreement and urging Syrian withdrawal from Lebanon, and for other purposes.

Whereas the Governments of Syria and Lebanon have participated in the Middle East peace process and progress has been made in negotiations;

Whereas Syria continues to exert undue influence upon the Government of Lebanon, maintaining between thirty-five thousand and forty thousand soldiers in Lebanon;

Whereas in Senate Concurrent Resolution 129 and House Concurrent Resolution 339 of the One Hundred Second Congress, Congress called upon Syria to withdraw its armed forces to the gateway of the Bekaa Valley by Sep-

tember 1992 in accordance with the Taif Agreement of 1989, as a prelude to complete withdrawal from Lebanon;

Whereas Syria has pledged publicly and privately to abide by the Taif Agreement;

Whereas the Taif Agreement requires that two years after specific Lebanese political conditions are reached, Syria and Lebanon are to decide on the redeployment of Syrian troops to the gateway of the Bekaa Valley, with actual redeployment occurring shortly thereafter;

Whereas Syria has not begun withdrawing its armed forces to the gateway of the Bekaa Valley despite the fact that more than two years have passed since Lebanon met the political conditions listed in the Taif Agreement;

Whereas Syria's pledge to uphold the Taif Agreement requires it to oppose any action which threatens Lebanese security, independence, or sovereignty;

Whereas there is evidence that armed groups continue to operate in Lebanon with the acquiescence of the Syrian Government;

Whereas the success of the Taif Agreement depends upon the withdrawal of Syrian armed forces to the gateway of the Bekaa Valley without further delay and the disarmament of all armed militias in Lebanon;

Whereas the Government of Syria is currently prohibited by law from receiving United States Government assistance;

Whereas in Senate Concurrent Resolution 129 and House Concurrent Resolution 339 of the One Hundred Second Congress, the Congress urged the Government of Lebanon to hold elections if they can be free and fair, conducted after Syrian withdrawal and without outside interference, and witnessed by international observers;

Whereas truly free and fair elections in Lebanon are not possible in areas of foreign military control;

Whereas the Lebanese elections of September 1992 were held before the withdrawal of foreign armed forces;

Whereas international observer units were not present to monitor the Lebanese elections;

Whereas according to the State Department, there were widespread reports of electoral irregularities; and

Whereas more than half of the Lebanese people refrained from participating in or boycotted the Lebanese elections:
Now, therefore, be it

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

3 (1) commends the Governments of Syria and
4 Lebanon for their participation in the Middle East
5 peace process and encourages their continued co-
6 operation in efforts to reach a broad settlement of
7 ongoing regional conflicts and disputes;

8 (2) expresses its support for the sovereignty,
9 political independence, and territorial integrity of
10 Lebanon;

11 (3) considers the Government of Syria in viola-
12 tion of the Taif Agreement because it had not de-
13 cided, in coordination with the Government of Leb-
14 anon, to withdraw its armed forces to the gateway
15 of the Bekaa Valley by September 1992, with actual
16 withdrawal to that point following shortly thereafter;

1 (4) strongly urges Syria to withdraw its armed
2 forces to the gateway of the Bekaa Valley without
3 further delay;

4 (5) calls upon the Governments of Syria and
5 Lebanon to immediately agree upon a firm timetable
6 for the complete withdrawal of Syrian armed forces,
7 including military, paramilitary, and security serv-
8 ices, from Lebanon;

9 (6) calls upon the President to consider with-
10 holding any potential future United States assist-
11 ance to the Government of Syria, until Syria with-
12 draws its armed forces to the gateway of the Bekaa
13 Valley;

14 (7) urges the Secretary of the Treasury to con-
15 sider directing the United States executive directors
16 of all international financial institutions, such as the
17 International Monetary Fund and the International
18 Bank for Reconstruction and Development, to vote
19 against all potential future loans or assistance to
20 Syria until Syria withdraws its armed forces to the
21 gateway of the Bekaa Valley;

22 (8) reaffirms the continued applicability of all
23 prohibitions, restrictions, limitations, and directives
24 that would otherwise apply to Syria;

1 (9) calls upon the Government of Syria to in-
2 crease its cooperation with the Government of Leb-
3 anon in efforts to disarm nongovernmental armed
4 groups and militias located in Lebanon, especially
5 Hizbollah, in southern Lebanon;

6 (10) urges the President to consider methods of
7 revitalizing the Taif Agreement and to encourage the
8 negotiation of a firm, negotiated timetable for com-
9 plete withdrawal of Syrian armed forces from Leb-
10 anon, in order to facilitate the restoration of Leb-
11 anon's sovereignty, political independence, and terri-
12 torial integrity; and

13 (11) concurs with the Department of State that
14 the results of the Lebanese elections do not reflect
15 the full spectrum of the body politic of Lebanon.

○