

104TH CONGRESS
2D Session

H. CON. RES. 167

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Recognizing the tenth anniversary of the Chernobyl nuclear disaster, and supporting the closing of the Chernobyl nuclear power plant.

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CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Whereas April 26, 1996, marks the tenth anniversary of the
Chornobyl nuclear disaster;

Whereas United Nations General Assembly resolution 50/134
declares April 26, 1996, as the International Day Com-
memorating the Tenth Anniversary of the Chornobyl Nu-
clear Power Plant Accident and encourages member
states to commemorate this tragic event;

Whereas serious radiological, health, and socioeconomic consequences for the populations of Ukraine, Belarus, and Russia, as well as for the populations of other affected areas, have been identified since the disaster;

Whereas over 3,500,000 inhabitants of the affected areas, including over 1,000,000 children, were exposed to dangerously high levels of radiation;

Whereas the populations of the affected areas, especially children, have experienced significant increases in thyroid cancer, immune deficiency diseases, birth defects, and other conditions, and these trends have accelerated over the 10 years since the disaster;

Whereas the lives and health of people in the affected areas continue to be heavily burdened by the ongoing effects of the Chornobyl accident;

Whereas numerous charitable, humanitarian, and environmental organizations from the United States and the international community have committed to overcome the extensive consequences of the Chornobyl disaster;

Whereas the United States has sought to help the people of Ukraine through various forms of assistance;

Whereas humanitarian assistance and public health research into Chornobyl's consequences will be needed in the coming decades when the greatest number of latent health effects is expected to emerge;

Whereas on December 20, 1995, the Ukrainian Government, the governments of the G-7 countries, and the Commission of the European Communities signed a memorandum of understanding to support the decision of Ukraine to close the Chornobyl nuclear power plant by the year

2000 with adequate support from the G–7 countries and international financial institutions;

Whereas the United States strongly supports the closing of the Chornobyl nuclear power plant and improving nuclear safety in Ukraine; and

Whereas representatives of Ukraine, the G–7 countries, and international financial institutions will meet at least annually to monitor implementation of the program to close Chornobyl: Now, therefore, be it

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

3 (1) recognizes April 26, 1996, as the tenth an-
4 niversary of the Chornobyl nuclear power plant dis-
5 aster;

6 (2) urges the Government of Ukraine to con-
7 tinue its negotiations with the G–7 countries to im-
8 plement the December 20, 1995, memorandum of
9 understanding which calls for all nuclear reactors at
10 Chornobyl to be shut down in a safe and expeditious
11 manner; and

12 (3) calls upon the President—

13 (A) to support continued and enhanced
14 United States assistance to provide medical re-
15 lief, humanitarian assistance, social impact
16 planning, and hospital development for
17 Ukraine, Belarus, Russia, and other nations
18 most heavily afflicted by Chornobyl’s aftermath;

1 (B) to encourage national and inter-
2 national health organizations to expand the
3 scope of research into the public health con-
4 sequences of Chornobyl, so that the global com-
5 munity can benefit from the findings of such re-
6 search;

7 (C) to support the process of closing the
8 Chornobyl nuclear power plant in an expedi-
9 tious manner as envisioned by the December
10 20, 1995, memorandum of understanding; and

11 (D) to support the broadening of Ukraine's
12 regional energy sources which will reduce its de-
13 pendence on any individual country.

Passed the House of Representatives May 21, 1996.

Attest:

Clerk.