

104TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. CON. RES. 190

Urging the Government of Syria to withdraw its armed forces from Lebanon.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 19, 1996

Mr. ENGEL (for himself, Mr. ACKERMAN, Mr. ANDREWS, Mr. BERMAN, Mr. BURTON of Indiana, Mr. CHABOT, Mr. DEUTSCH, Mr. DORNAN, Mr. FORBES, Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts, Mr. GEJDENSON, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. KILDEE, Mr. KING, Mr. KNOLLENBERG, Mr. LAHOOD, Mr. LANTOS, Mr. LEVIN, Mrs. LOWEY, Mr. MCCOLLUM, Mr. McNULTY, Ms. MOLINARI, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Mr. SAXTON, and Mr. TORRICELLI) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on International Relations

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Urging the Government of Syria to withdraw its armed forces from Lebanon.

Whereas Syria continues to exert undue influence upon the Government of Lebanon, maintaining between 35,000 and 40,000 soldiers in Lebanon;

Whereas Syria has pledged publicly and privately to abide by the Taif Agreement of 1989, which required that 2 years after certain Lebanese political conditions were achieved in September 1990, Syria would withdraw its armed forces stationed in Lebanon to the gateway of the Bekaa Valley with complete withdrawal occurring shortly thereafter;

Whereas in Senate Concurrent Resolution 129 and House Concurrent Resolution 339 of the 102d Congress, Congress called upon Syria to withdraw its armed forces to the gateway of the Bekaa Valley by September 1992 in accordance with the Taif Agreement of 1989, as a prelude to complete withdrawal from Lebanon;

Whereas in Senate Concurrent Resolution 28 of the 103d Congress, the Senate strongly urged Syria to withdraw its armed forces to the gateway of the Bekaa Valley without further delay and called upon the Governments of Syria and Lebanon to agree immediately upon a firm timetable for the complete withdrawal of Syrian armed forces, including military, paramilitary, and security services from Lebanon;

Whereas in Senate Concurrent Resolution 28 of the 103d Congress, the Senate called upon the Governments of Syria and Lebanon to disarm nongovernmental armed groups and militias in Lebanon, as required by the Taif Agreement;

Whereas nongovernmental armed groups and militias continue to operate in Lebanon with the acquiescence and support of the Syrian and Lebanese Governments;

Whereas recent attacks upon northern Israel were carried out by Hizbollah, a group based in Lebanon and receiving support from and through Damascus;

Whereas Syria did not attend the March 13, 1996, anti-terrorism Summit of the Peacemakers in Sharm el Sheikh, Egypt, and has not participated in subsequent meetings;

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

Whereas the Lebanese elections of September 1992 were held in a climate of heavy foreign military and political domination and due to widespread electoral irregularities and a boycott by a large percentage of the Lebanese people, the results of the elections were not representative of the full spectrum of the Lebanese body politic;

Whereas, according to the Lebanese constitution, new elections for the Lebanese Parliament must take place between August 15, 1996, and October 15, 1996; and

Whereas Syria exerted undue pressure upon the Lebanese Parliament, forcing it to use extra-constitutional means to extend the term of President Hrawi: Now, therefore, be it

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

3 (1) expresses its continued support for the res-
4 toration of sovereignty, political independence, and
5 territorial integrity of Lebanon;

6 (2) offers condolences to the families of Leba-
7 nese and Israeli civilians who died in recent violence
8 and supports the ceasefire ending fighting in south-
9 ern Lebanon;

10 (3) considers the Government of Syria in viola-
11 tion of its pledge to uphold the Taif Agreement of
12 1989 because it has not withdrawn its armed forces
13 from Lebanon;

14 (4) considers the Syrian troops in Lebanon an
15 occupation force;

1 (5) demands that the Government of Syria im-
2 mediately declare its commitment to completely
3 withdraw its armed forces, including military, para-
4 military, and security services from Lebanon, and
5 set a firm timetable for such withdrawal, to be com-
6 pleted not later than December 31, 1997;

7 (6) recognizes the public Israeli commitment to
8 withdraw its armed forces from the “security zone”
9 in southern Lebanon once security conditions per-
10 mit;

11 (7) will not accept Syria’s continued hegemony
12 over Lebanon and rejects linking the Syrian pres-
13 ence there to Israeli-Syrian negotiations or to an Is-
14 raeli-Syrian peace agreement;

15 (8) while reaffirming the continued applicability
16 of all existing prohibitions, restrictions, limitations,
17 and directives that otherwise apply to Syria—

18 (A) urges the President to withhold any
19 future United States assistance to Syria until
20 Syria withdraws its armed forces from Leb-
21 anon; and

22 (B) urges the President to direct United
23 States executive directors of all international fi-
24 nancial institutions, such as the International
25 Monetary Fund and the International Bank for

1 Reconstruction and Development, to oppose fu-
2 ture loans or assistance to Syria until Syria
3 withdraws its armed forces from Lebanon;

4 (9) strongly urges the Government of Syria to
5 cooperate with ongoing international efforts to curb
6 terrorism and holds the Government of Syria respon-
7 sible for all terrorist acts planned, trained for, fi-
8 nanced, or initiated in Syria or Lebanese territories
9 under its occupation;

10 (10) demands that Syria prevent Hizbollah and
11 other terrorist groups from launching attacks on Is-
12 rael from areas of Lebanon under its occupation;

13 (11) urges the Government of Lebanon to initi-
14 ate serious negotiations with the Government of
15 Syria for the withdrawal of Syrian armed forces
16 from Lebanon, the disarming of all remaining non-
17 government paramilitary groups, and the redeploy-
18 ment of Lebanese armed forces to all areas of Leb-
19 anon in order to assert the sovereignty of the Leba-
20 nese state over all of its territory, which would then
21 facilitate lifting the ban on travel of United States
22 citizens to Lebanon;

23 (12) urges the Government of Lebanon to enter
24 into serious bilateral negotiations with the Govern-
25 ment of Israel in order to agree on mutual security

1 arrangements and realize a full and permanent
2 peace;

3 (13) strongly urges the Government of Lebanon
4 to prosecute to the full extent of the law all individ-
5 uals responsible for crimes against United States or
6 foreign diplomats and citizens;

7 (14) urges the Government of Lebanon to hold
8 the parliamentary elections on time and to ensure
9 that such elections are conducted in a free and fair
10 manner by enacting fair and uniform electoral laws,
11 allowing reasonable time for declaring candidacy,
12 permitting the timely return of expatriated or exiled
13 leaders wishing to participate in the elections, not
14 restricting freedom of speech or movement, ensuring
15 the neutrality of Lebanese and non-Lebanese armed
16 forces, and allowing international and domestic ob-
17 server units to monitor the elections;

18 (15) expresses its support for ongoing British
19 and French efforts to secure free and fair inter-
20 nationally monitored parliamentary elections in Leb-
21 anon and encourages similar efforts by United
22 States governmental and nongovernmental agencies;

23 (16) requests that the Secretary of State report
24 to the Committee on International Relations of the
25 House of Representatives and the Committee on

1 Foreign Relations of the Senate on the results of the
2 Lebanese elections and every 6 months thereafter on
3 Syrian efforts to withdraw its forces from Lebanon;
4 and

5 (17) requests the Secretary of State to transmit
6 a copy of this resolution to the Government of Leb-
7 anon and the Government of Syria.

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