

104TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 124

Condemning Turkey's illegal invasion of northern Iraq.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 30, 1995

Mr. PORTER (for himself, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. CARDIN, Ms. FURSE, Mr. PALLONE, Mrs. MALONEY, Mr. ZIMMER, Mr. HORN, and Mr. HOYER) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on International Relations

RESOLUTION

Condemning Turkey's illegal invasion of northern Iraq.

Whereas, as a signatory to the Charter of the United Nations, the Government of Turkey is obligated to maintain international peace and security, to develop friendly relations among states based on respect for the principle of equal rights and self-determination of peoples, and to achieve international cooperation through the promotion and encouragement of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms for all;

Whereas the Government of Turkey, as a party to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights, has made additional and firm commitments to observe and uphold the rights of all peoples;

Whereas, as a member of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, the Government of Turkey undertook to refrain in international relations from the threat or use of force in any manner inconsistent with the purposes of the United Nations;

Whereas, as a member of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, Turkey is obliged to respect the territorial integrity of other states, and to support the human rights, fundamental freedoms and the self-determination of peoples;

Whereas, on March 21, 1995, more than 35,000 Turkish military troops, with tanks, armored personnel carriers, and air support, began an invasion of northern Iraq;

Whereas the Government of Turkey declares that the invasion is in response to acts of terrorism by the Kurdistan Workers Party, also known as the PKK, and constitutes the hot pursuit of terrorists;

Whereas reports indicate that the Turkish army has penetrated 25 miles into Iraq along a 150-mile front, and that hundreds of ethnic Kurds have been killed thus far;

Whereas independent international observers claim that some of those killed are innocent civilians, and accuse Turkey of torturing prisoners, and of forcibly evacuating and destroying villages;

Whereas United States Government officials have suggested that Turkey's invasion could last more than three weeks in duration;

Whereas, in scope, scale and duration, Turkey's invasion of Iraqi Kurdistan appears to be an illegal act of aggression and inconsistent with Turkey's obligations under the United Nations Charter;

Whereas Turkey's actions jeopardize United States and international efforts under Operation Provide Comfort in northern Iraq, and threaten the provision of vital humanitarian assistance by nongovernmental organizations to the Kurds;

Whereas the United States Department of State reports that the general human rights situation in Turkey "worsened significantly" in 1994, and that in many human rights cases, the specific "targets of abuse were ethnic Kurds or their supporters";

Whereas, according to the United States Government, specific violations of human rights by the Government of Turkey in its campaign against the PKK include the illegal use of torture, excessive force, and political and extrajudicial killings of non-combatants; and

Whereas the Government of Turkey and the European Union signed a customs union agreement on March 6, 1995, subject to the ratification of the European Parliament:
Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

2 (1) condemns Turkey's invasion of northern
3 Iraq as an illegal act of aggression and violation of
4 international law, inconsistent with Turkey's obliga-
5 tions under the Charter of the United Nations, the
6 North Atlantic Treaty, and other international
7 agreements;

8 (2) calls upon the President of the United
9 States to express strong United States opposition to
10 Turkey's invasion of northern Iraq;

1 (3) urges the United States at the United Na-
2 tions Security Council to condemn Turkey's illegal
3 act of aggression and bring about an immediate and
4 unconditional withdrawal;

5 (4) denounces Turkey's consistent pattern of
6 human rights violations against ethnic Kurds;

7 (5) condemns all acts of terror, including those
8 by PKK forces against Turkish civilian, military and
9 other targets;

10 (6) supports the maintenance of Operation Pro-
11 vide Comfort and the continuation of other non-
12 governmental humanitarian assistance for the Kurds
13 of northern Iraq; and

14 (7) urges the European Parliament to reject the
15 ratification of the proposed customs union agree-
16 ment between the Government of Turkey and the
17 European Union unless the Government of Turkey
18 complies with international human rights standards.

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