

104TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. RES. 97

Expressing the sense of the Senate with respect to peace and stability in
the South China Sea.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 30 (legislative day, MARCH 27), 1995

Mr. THOMAS (for himself, Mr. ROBB, Mr. SIMON, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. SIMPSON, Mr. KERRY, Mr. LUGAR, Mr. ROTH, Mr. INOUE, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. PELL, and Mr. HELMS) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

JUNE 20 (legislative day, JUNE 19), 1995

Reported by Mr. HELMS, with amendments and an amendment to the
preamble

JUNE 22 (legislative day, JUNE 19), 1995

Considered, amended, and agreed to

RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the Senate with respect to peace
and stability in the South China Sea.

Whereas the South China Sea is a strategically important waterway through which transits approximately 25 percent of the World's ocean freight, including almost 70 percent of Japan's oil supply;

Whereas the South China Sea serves as a crucial sea lane for naval vessels of the United States and other countries, especially in times of emergency;

Whereas the People's Republic of China, the Republic of the Philippines, the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, the Republic of China on Taiwan, the State of Brunei Darussalam, and Malaysia have overlapping and mutually exclusive claims to portions of the South China Sea, especially in the Spratly Island group;

Whereas these competing claims have led to armed conflicts between several of the claimants;

Whereas these conflicts threaten the peace and stability of all of East Asia; and

Whereas the 1992 Manila Declaration of the Association of South East Asian Nations, also recognized by the Socialist Republic of Vietnam and the People's Republic of China, calls on the claimants to exercise restraint and seek a peaceful negotiated solution to the conflicts: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the Senate—

2 (1) reiterates to the claimants in the South
3 China Sea that the United States does not take a
4 position on any individual claim;

5 (2) calls upon all of the claimants to refrain
6 from using military force or similarly aggressive ac-
7 tion to assert or expand territorial claims in the
8 South China Sea;

9 (3) urges the executive branch to declare the
10 active support of the United States for the 1992
11 Manila Declaration of the Association of South East

1 Asian Nations, and calls upon all the claimants to
2 observe faithfully its provisions; and

3 (4) would view with profound concern and dis-
4 approval any maritime claim or restriction on mari-
5 time activity in the South China Sea not strictly
6 consistent with international law.

