

Calendar No. 129

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

[Omit the part struck through and insert the part printed in italic]

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 some of the nations which have claims to portions of the South China Sea are modernizing their military forces, strengthening their ability to project power outside their domestic boundaries, and consequently, are altering the strategic balance of power in the region;

Whereas this power projection capability further drives the concern of nations with territorial claims over acts of aggression in the South China Sea by other nations with claims;

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—

1 (1) ~~urges the executive branch to reiterate~~ *reit-*
2 *erates* to the claimants in the South China Sea that
3 the United States does not take a position on any
4 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
12 Asian Nations, and calls upon all the claimants to
13 observe faithfully its provisions; and

14 (4) ~~calls upon the claimants to scrupulously ob-~~
15 ~~serve the January, 1995 status quo ante pending~~
16 ~~any negotiations or resolution of the conflicts be-~~
17 ~~tween such claimants over such claims.~~

18 (4) *would view with profound concern and dis-*
19 *approval any maritime claim or restriction on mari-*
20 *time activity in the South China Sea not strictly con-*
21 *sistent with international law.*

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