

105TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. RES. 361

Calling for free and impartial elections in Cambodia.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 12, 1998

Mr. BEREUTER submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the
Committee on International Relations

RESOLUTION

Calling for free and impartial elections in Cambodia.

Whereas Cambodia continues to recover from years of political conflict, civil war, the era of Khmer Rouge genocide, and subsequent foreign invasion;

Whereas the 1991 Paris Peace Accords contributed significantly to a process of political accommodation, national conciliation, and the establishment of a state based on democratic ideals;

Whereas the people of Cambodia overwhelmingly demonstrated their support for the democratic process through the participation of over 93 percent of eligible voters in the United Nations-sponsored 1993 elections;

Whereas the commitment of the Cambodian people to democracy and stability is reflected in the national constitution guaranteeing fundamental human rights;

Whereas the international donor community has supported the democratic process in Cambodia by contributing over \$3,000,000,000 to peacekeeping and national reconstruction efforts;

Whereas notwithstanding the notable societal and economic reforms made subsequent to the 1993 elections, tensions within the Cambodian Government continued to mount, culminating in the July 5, 1997, military coup by which Second Prime Minister Hun Sen deposed the duly elected First Prime Minister Prince Ranariddh;

Whereas the Hun Sen government has yet to adequately investigate the killings and human rights abuses which occurred at the time of the July 5, 1997, and which were detailed in the August 21, 1997, Hammarberg report;

Whereas Second Prime Minister Hun Sen made a commitment to the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (UNCHR) to extend the mandate of UNCHR;

Whereas an ongoing atmosphere of intimidation has prevented many of the political exiles who have returned to Cambodia from carrying out their activities in preparation for the election scheduled for July 26 without fear;

Whereas questions remain concerning the independence and impartiality of the newly created National Election Commission;

Whereas the inability of First Prime Minister Prince Ranariddh, whose party won the 1993 election, to return to Cambodia without fear of a trial creates an unnecessary obstacle to his political participation and calls into serious question the possibility of a credible election; and

Whereas the European Union has unwisely decided to provide \$11,500,000 in aid to the Hun Sen regime to prepare for the July election in the absence of conditions that would allow a credible election: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

2 (1) calls upon the Cambodian Government—

3 (A) to fully implement the Paris Peace Ac-
4 cords;

5 (B) to enforce the rule of law and fully
6 protect human rights, including a thorough in-
7 vestigation of the extrajudicial killings and
8 human rights abuses which occurred following
9 the July 5, 1997, coup and punishment of those
10 involved;

11 (C) to restore a nonviolent and neutral po-
12 litical atmosphere, including participation in ne-
13 gotiations to lead to an immediate cease-fire;

14 (D) to allow all exiled opposition leaders,
15 including First Premier Ranariddh, to return to
16 Cambodia and to engage in political activity
17 without fear of political or physical reprisal;
18 and

19 (E) to take further measures to create
20 mechanisms to help ensure a credible election,
21 including a truly independent and impartial
22 election commission and provisions to allow do-

1 domestic and international observers to monitor
2 the entire election process;

3 (2) calls upon the European Union to recon-
4 sider its decision to provide assistance to the election
5 process until such time as genuinely free and fair
6 elections can be conducted;

7 (3) urges the Secretary of State to continue to
8 provide support through appropriate nongovern-
9 mental organizations to the courageous Cambodian
10 human rights workers who persevere in their dif-
11 ficulty task, despite the considerable risk at which
12 they put themselves; and

13 (4) calls upon the Secretary of State to work
14 with members of the Association of Southeast Asian
15 Nations and with members of the Donors Group in
16 urging the Cambodian Government to create the
17 conditions which would guarantee a free and fair
18 election.

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