

105TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. RES. 561

Concerning the crisis in Kosovo and calling for NATO agreement to take direct and decisive action against those forces attacking civilian populations in Kosovo.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OCTOBER 1, 1998

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey (for himself, Mr. HOYER, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. FOX of Pennsylvania, Mr. LANTOS, Mr. HALL of Ohio, Mr. MORAN of Virginia, Mr. OLVER, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. WEXLER, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, and Mr. McNULTY) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on International Relations

RESOLUTION

Concerning the crisis in Kosovo and calling for NATO agreement to take direct and decisive action against those forces attacking civilian populations in Kosovo.

Whereas open conflict erupted in Kosovo in early 1998 between Serbian security forces and the Yugoslav military on the one hand, and militants among the ethnic Albanian population of Kosovo on the other;

Whereas, since that time, the conflict has evolved into an assault on the civilian population of Kosovo, killing approximately a thousand men, women, and children and displacing hundreds of thousands of others, including tens

of thousands now living as refugees in Albania, Macedonia and Montenegro;

Whereas over one-third of Kosovo's villages and an estimated 4,000 homes have been deliberately damaged or destroyed;

Whereas Yugoslav officials have refused to issue visas to forensic experts seeking to investigate reported deaths in Kosovo;

Whereas the assault on the civilian population has been reported to include atrocities which could be considered war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide;

Whereas Serbian security forces have imposed food blockades and deliberately destroyed crops and livestock upon which the population of Kosovo depend;

Whereas Serbian security forces have deliberately hindered the delivery of humanitarian aid through the denial of visas to foreign personnel, restricting access to targeted regions of Kosovo, and attacking aid delivery convoys and workers;

Whereas the approaching winter season will likely create a humanitarian catastrophe for those in Kosovo currently without food and shelter;

Whereas providing sufficient humanitarian aid in a timely manner to forestall the humanitarian catastrophe requires an immediate halt to the assault on the civilian population and the assurance that the assault will not be resumed;

Whereas Yugoslav and Serbian officials, including Slobodan Milosevic, claim to seek a dialogue on Kosovo but have not ceased the assault on the civilian population of Kosovo;

Whereas Yugoslav and Serbian officials, led by Slobodan Milosevic, similarly instigated, organized and directed aggressive action against civilians in Croatia in 1991, and in Bosnia-Herzegovina from 1992 to 1995;

Whereas peace was only restored to the region of the former Yugoslavia in 1995 when Yugoslav and Serbian officials, including Slobodan Milosevic, were confronted with the clear resolve of the international community to use force against them;

Whereas both the House and Senate of the United States Congress have concurred in their belief that Slobodan Milosevic is culpable for war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide;

Whereas, on September 23, 1998, the United Nations Security Council passed Resolution 1199, expressing “grave concern at recent intense fighting and the flow of refugees from Kosovo and the excessive and indiscriminate use of force by Serbian security forces and the Yugoslav Army”; and

Whereas, on September 24, 1998, the North Atlantic Council approved the issuing of an activation warning for both a limited air option and a phased air campaign in Kosovo, signaling the readiness of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) to use force if it becomes a necessity to do so: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That it is the sense of the House of Rep-
2 resentatives that—

3 (1) the President should immediately seek
4 NATO agreement to take direct and decisive action
5 against those forces attacking civilian populations in

1 Kosovo in order to halt these attacks and ensure
2 they are not resumed, and to compel the withdrawal
3 of security forces and secure access to the vulnerable
4 population for humanitarian aid; and

5 (2) the President should strongly urge the
6 International Criminal Tribunal for the Former
7 Yugoslavia to pursue actively investigations of the
8 assault taking place in Kosovo for prosecution as
9 war crimes, crimes against humanity, or genocide,
10 including through the provision of all information
11 which could be relevant to such prosecution of
12 Slobodan Milosevic and other Yugoslav and Serbian
13 officials in addition to those comprising the security
14 and military forces present in Kosovo.

15 SEC. 2. The Clerk of the House of Representatives
16 shall transmit a copy of this resolution to the President.

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