

106TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1562

To prohibit the use of funds appropriated to the Department of Defense from being used for the deployment of ground elements of the United States Armed Forces in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia unless that deployment is specifically authorized by law.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 26, 1999

Mrs. FOWLER introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services, and in addition to the Committee on International Relations, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To prohibit the use of funds appropriated to the Department of Defense from being used for the deployment of ground elements of the United States Armed Forces in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia unless that deployment is specifically authorized by law.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Military Operations
5 in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia Limitation Act of
6 1999”.

1 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

2 The Congress makes the following findings:

3 (1) Consideration is being given to the introduc-
4 tion of ground elements of the United States Armed
5 Forces into the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia as
6 part of a North Atlantic Treaty Organization
7 (NATO) operation to halt Serbian military action in
8 the Serbian province of Kosovo.

9 (2) Such a deployment, if it were to occur,
10 would in all likelihood represent a commitment to
11 maintain United States ground forces in the Federal
12 Republic of Yugoslavia for an indeterminate period
13 and cost billions of dollars.

14 (3) The Secretary of Defense has previously op-
15 posed the deployment of United States ground forces
16 to Kosovo, a province of Serbia, as reflected in his
17 testimony before the Congress on October 6, 1998.

18 (4) The deployment of United States ground
19 forces to participate in the peacekeeping operation in
20 Bosnia, which has resulted in the expenditure of ap-
21 proximately \$10,000,000,000 by United States tax-
22 payers to date, which has already been extended
23 past 2 previous withdrawal dates established by the
24 Administration, and which shows no sign of ending
25 in the near future, clearly argues that the costs and
26 duration of a deployment of United States ground

1 forces to the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia to halt
2 the conflict and maintain the peace in the province
3 of Kosovo will be much heavier and much longer
4 than initially foreseen.

5 (5) The substantial drain on military readiness
6 of a deployment of United States ground forces to
7 the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia would be incon-
8 sistent with the need, recently acknowledged by the
9 Joint Chiefs of Staff, to reverse the trends which
10 have already severely compromised the ability of the
11 United States Armed Forces to carry out the Na-
12 tional Military Strategy of the United States.

13 (6) Military operations by the United States
14 Armed Forces against the military forces and infra-
15 structure of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia—

16 (A) have resulted in a significant depletion
17 of inventories of conventional air-launched
18 cruise missiles, Tomahawk Block III cruise mis-
19 siles, and other mission-essential armaments;

20 (B) have cost several hundred million dol-
21 lars and are projected by the Administration to
22 cost more than \$5,000,000,000 by the end of
23 fiscal year 1999;

1 (C) have left the western Pacific region
2 without a United States aircraft carrier pres-
3 ence; and

4 (D) have compromised the ability of the
5 United States to perform other critical national
6 security missions, including Operation Northern
7 Watch in the airspace over Iraq, due to a lack
8 of available assets.

9 (7) The Congress has already indicated its con-
10 siderable concern about the possible deployment of
11 United States ground forces to the region, as evi-
12 denced by section 8115 of the Department of De-
13 fense Appropriations Act, 1999 (Public Law 105-
14 262; 112 Stat. 2327), which sets forth among other
15 matters a requirement for the President to transmit
16 to the Congress a report detailing the anticipated
17 costs, funding sources, schedule and exit strategy for
18 any additional United States Armed Forces deployed
19 to Yugoslavia, Albania, or Macedonia.

20 (8) The President, in his reports to the Con-
21 gress in response to section 8115 of the Department
22 of Defense Appropriations Act, 1999, has indicated
23 that “it is not possible to determine how long NATO
24 operations will need to continue . . .” and that the
25 exit strategy for United States Armed Forces “will

1 depend on the course of events, and in particular, on
2 Belgrade's reaction to NATO operations.”.

3 (9) The introduction of United States Armed
4 Forces into hostilities, or into situations where im-
5 minent involvement in hostilities may occur, clearly
6 indicates authorization by the Congress when such
7 action is not required for the defense of the United
8 States, its Armed Forces, or its nationals.

9 (10) United States national security interests in
10 Kosovo do not rise to a level that warrants the intro-
11 duction of United States ground forces in the Fed-
12 eral Republic of Yugoslavia for peacemaking or
13 peacekeeping purposes with respect to the conflict in
14 Kosovo.

15 **SEC. 3. PROHIBITION ON USE OF DEPARTMENT OF DE-**
16 **FENSE FUNDS FOR DEPLOYMENT OF UNITED**
17 **STATES GROUND FORCES TO THE FEDERAL**
18 **REPUBLIC OF YUGOSLAVIA WITHOUT SPE-**
19 **CIFIC AUTHORIZATION BY LAW.**

20 (a) IN GENERAL.—None of the funds appropriated
21 or otherwise available to the Department of Defense may
22 be obligated or expended for the deployment of ground ele-
23 ments of the United States Armed Forces in the Federal
24 Republic of Yugoslavia unless such deployment is specifi-

1 cally authorized by a law enacted after the enactment of
2 this Act.

3 (b) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—The prohibition in
4 subsection (a) shall not apply with respect to the authority
5 of the President under the Constitution to initiate mis-
6 sions specifically limited to rescuing United States mili-
7 tary personnel or citizens in the Federal Republic of Yugo-
8 slavia.

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