

106TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. CON. RES. 117

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 26, 2000

Referred to the Committee on International Relations

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Commending the Republic of Slovenia for its partnership with the United States and NATO, and expressing the sense of Congress that Slovenia's accession to NATO would enhance NATO's security, and for other purposes.

Whereas on June 25, 1991, the Republic of Slovenia declared its independence;

Whereas on December 23, 1991, the Parliament of the Republic of Slovenia adopted the State's new constitution based on the values of human rights, market economy, rule of law, and democracy;

Whereas on April 7, 1992, the United States formally recognized the Republic of Slovenia;

Whereas, since its independence, Slovenia has demonstrated an excellent record on human rights;

Whereas Slovenia has developed a successful and growing market economy and enjoys the highest per capita gross domestic product in Central and Eastern Europe;

Whereas the European Union has recognized Slovenia's economic prosperity and the strength of its democracy by initiating accession negotiations with Slovenia as well as by putting into effect Slovenia's Association Agreement with the European Union;

Whereas Slovenia has demonstrated its commitment to bring peace, security, stability, democracy, and economic prosperity to Southeastern Europe through its membership in NATO's Partnership for Peace, the Central European Initiative, the Central European Free Trade Association (CEFTA), and the Stability Pact for Southeast Europe;

Whereas Slovenia has been an active contributor to peace support operations around the world, including the NATO Stabilization Force in Bosnia and Herzegovina, NATO's Kosovo Force, and United Nations peacekeeping operations in Cyprus and Lebanon;

Whereas Slovenia made invaluable contributions to NATO's Operation ALLIED FORCE by providing NATO access and use of its airspace and ground transportation systems and by assisting the NATO efforts to provide Albania humanitarian relief during the air campaign against Yugoslavia;

Whereas Slovenia has contributed financial and humanitarian aid to the assistance effort in Kosovo, including refuge for more than 3500 people who had fled the region as a consequence of the violence that occurred in Kosovo;

Whereas Slovenia promotes regional cooperation through its contributions to the Trilateral Multinational Land Force, a multinational brigade established with Italy and Hungary;

Whereas Slovenia, a leader in the effort to remove land mines from the war-torn regions of the former Republic of Yugoslavia, established the highly effective International Trust Fund for Demining and Mine Victims Assistance; and

Whereas the NATO Enlargement Facilitation Act of 1996, passed by the Senate on July 25, 1996, identified Slovenia, along with Poland, Hungary, and the Czech Republic, as being among the NATO applicant states most prepared for the burdens and responsibilities of NATO membership; Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives*
 2 *concurring)*, That (a) it is the policy of the United States
 3 to—

4 (1) support the integration of the Republic of
 5 Slovenia into transatlantic and European political,
 6 economic, and security institutions, including the
 7 North Atlantic Treaty Organization and the Euro-
 8 pean Union; and

9 (2) continue and further reinforce the partner-
 10 ship between the United States and Slovenia, par-
 11 ticularly their joint efforts to bring lasting peace and
 12 stability to all of Europe.

13 (b) It is the sense of Congress that—

14 (1) the Republic of Slovenia is to be com-
 15 mended for—

16 (A) its commitment to democratic prin-
 17 ciples, human rights, and rule of law;

1 (B) its transition from a communist, cen-
2 trally planned economic system to a thriving
3 free market economy; and

4 (C) its partnership with the United States
5 and NATO during the recent conflicts that have
6 undermined peace and stability in Southeastern
7 Europe; and

8 (2) the accession of the Republic of Slovenia to
9 full membership in transatlantic and European insti-
10 tutions would be an important step toward a Europe
11 that is undivided, whole and free.

Passed the Senate June 23, 2000.

Attest:

GARY SISCO,
Secretary.