

106TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

S. CON. RES. 142

Relating to the reestablishment of representative government in Afghanistan.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

OCTOBER 5 (legislative day, SEPTEMBER 22), 2000

Mr. BROWNBACK (for himself and Mr. TORRICELLI) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Relating to the reestablishment of representative government
in Afghanistan.

Whereas Afghanistan has existed as a sovereign nation since 1747, maintaining its independence, neutrality, and dignity;

Whereas Afghanistan had maintained its own decisionmaking through a traditional process called a “Loya Jirgah”, or Grand Assembly, by selecting, respecting, and following the decisions of their leaders;

Whereas recently warlords, factional leaders, and foreign regimes have laid siege to Afghanistan, leaving the landscape littered with landmines, making the most fundamental activities dangerous;

Whereas in recent years, and especially since the Taliban came to power in 1996, Afghanistan has become a haven for terrorist activity, has produced most of the world's opium supply, and has become infamous for its human rights abuses, particularly abuses against women and children;

Whereas the former King of Afghanistan, Mohammed Zahir Shah, ruled the country peacefully for 40 years, and after years in exile retains his popularity and support; and

Whereas former King Mohammed Zahir Shah plans to convene an emergency "Loya Jirgah" to reestablish a stable government, with no desire to regain power or reestablish a monarchy, and the Department of State supports such ongoing efforts: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives*
2 *concurring)*, That the United States—

3 (1) supports democratic efforts undertaken in
4 Afghanistan that respect the human and political
5 rights of the people of all ethnic and religious groups
6 in that country, including the efforts to reestablish
7 a "Loya Jirgah" process that would lead to the peo-
8 ple of Afghanistan determining their own destiny
9 through a democratic process involving free and fair
10 elections; and

11 (2) supports the continuing efforts of former
12 King Mohammed Zahir Shah and other responsible
13 parties searching for peace to convene an emergency
14 "Loya Jirgah"—

1 (A) to reestablish a representative govern-
2 ment in Afghanistan that respects the rights of
3 the people of all ethnic and religious groups, in-
4 cluding the right of the people to govern their
5 own affairs through inclusive institution build-
6 ing and a democratic process;

7 (B) to bring freedom, peace, and stability
8 to Afghanistan; and

9 (C) to end terrorist activities, drug produc-
10 tion, and human rights abuses in Afghanistan.

○