

106TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. RES. 198

Expressing sympathy for those killed and injured in the recent earthquakes in Turkey and Greece and commending Turkey and Greece for their recent efforts in opening a national dialogue and taking steps to further bilateral relations.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

OCTOBER 7, 1999

Ms. SNOWE (for herself, Mr. HELMS, Mr. SARBANES, Mr. BIDEN, and Mr. BYRD) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to

RESOLUTION

Expressing sympathy for those killed and injured in the recent earthquakes in Turkey and Greece and commending Turkey and Greece for their recent efforts in opening a national dialogue and taking steps to further bilateral relations.

Whereas in the wake of the tragic earthquakes which struck Turkey on August 17, 1999, leaving up to 16,000 dead, 24,000 injured, and 100,000 homeless, and Greece on September 7, 1999, killing 143, injuring 1,600, and leaving 16,000 homeless, an improvement of relations between Turkey and Greece has occurred;

Whereas within hours of the earthquake hitting Turkey, Greece sent rescue teams, doctors, firemen, and emergency supplies to Turkey;

Whereas immediately after the earthquake struck Greece, Turkey, already dealing with its own devastation, sent rescue personnel to Greece;

Whereas in July, senior foreign ministry officials of Greece and Turkey held talks, the first talks at this level since 1994, to discuss bilateral cooperation in the fields of tourism, the environment, trade, and the economy as well as cooperation in combating organized crime, illegal immigration, drug-trafficking, and terrorism;

Whereas in September 1999, a second round of talks between senior foreign ministry officials of Greece and Turkey were held as a follow-up to the July meeting, and a third round has been planned for October 1999;

Whereas this spirit of cooperation has led to a warming of relations and confidence building measures, including—

(1) a naval vessel of Greece calling at a port of Turkey for the first time in more than a century;

(2) Greek and Turkish news commentators agreeing to publish their columns in each other's newspapers;

(3) Greece indicating that it is prepared to accept the candidacy of Turkey for membership in the European Union as long as Turkey meets all criteria for membership in the Union; and

(4) Turkey and Greece praising the other for earthquake assistance; and

Whereas the desire to further cultivate relations between Turkey and Greece has created an atmosphere of hope: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the Senate—

2 (1) expresses sympathy for those killed and in-
3 jured in the recent earthquakes in Greece and Tur-
4 key;

5 (2) commends, encourages, and supports recent
6 efforts by Greece and Turkey to improve bilateral
7 relations between those countries; and

8 (3) reiterates the importance of promoting posi-
9 tive bilateral relations between Greece and Turkey,
10 which are of paramount interest to the United
11 States.

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