

## **H. Res. 253**

### ***In the House of Representatives, U.S.,***

*October 7, 2002.*

Whereas the Slovak Republic came into existence in 1993 after a peaceful division of Czechoslovakia;

Whereas Slovakia has consistently conducted peaceful transfers of political power;

Whereas Slovakia has demonstrated the maturity of its democracy in democratic, free and fair elections of September 2002 with high voter turnout;

Whereas Slovakia has shown a consistent record of progress in the areas of human rights, civil society, and a free market economy;

Whereas Slovakia's past government (1998-2002), which included three ethnic Hungarians, including a Deputy Prime Minister, demonstrated its commitment to improved relations with national minorities;

Whereas Slovakia reconfirmed its ability to address issues of the past, including the recent decision of its Government to compensate the Holocaust victims;

Whereas Slovakia has continually worked to retain civilian control of its military through active participation with North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) forces, and the members of the North Atlantic community have co-

operated closely with the military of Slovakia in its reform;

Whereas Slovakia has demonstrated its ability to operate with the military forces of NATO members within activities of the Partnership for Peace program and participated in missions in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Kosovo;

Whereas Slovakia sent its troops to Afghanistan in support of the war against terrorism and Operation Enduring Freedom;

Whereas Slovakia, geographically located in a strategically significant position, contributed within the framework of Visegrad Four together with its neighbors, the Czech Republic, Hungary, and Poland—all members of NATO since 1999—to regional security and stability; and

Whereas NATO will consider at its 2002 summit meeting in Prague extension of invitations to new democracies of Central and Eastern Europe to join the Alliance: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That it is the sense of the House of Representatives that—

(1) the Slovak Republic should be commended for progressing toward political and economic liberty and for its efforts to meet the guidelines for prospective North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) members set out in Chapter 5 of the September 1995 Study on NATO Enlargement;

(2) Slovakia would make significant contributions to furthering the goals of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization;

(3) extension of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization to include Slovakia would significantly contribute to security and peace of Europe and the region as a whole; and

(4) Slovakia should be invited to be a full member of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization alliance at the NATO 2002 summit in Prague.

Attest:

*Clerk.*