

107TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. CON. RES. 62

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 5, 2001

Referred to the Committee on International Relations

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Congratulating Ukraine on the 10th anniversary of the restoration of its independence and supporting its full integration into the Euro-Atlantic community of democracies.

Whereas August 24, 2001, marks the tenth anniversary of the restoration of independence in Ukraine;

Whereas the United States, having recognized Ukraine as an independent state on December 25, 1991, and having established diplomatic relations with Ukraine on January 2, 1992, recognizes that fulfillment of the vision of a Europe whole, free, and secure requires a strong, stable, democratic Ukraine fully integrated in the Euro-Atlantic community of democracies;

Whereas, during the fifth anniversary commemorating Ukraine's independence, the United States established a strategic partnership with Ukraine to promote the national security interests of the United States in a free, sovereign, and independent Ukrainian state;

Whereas Ukraine is an important European nation, having the second largest territory and sixth largest population in Europe;

Whereas Ukraine is a member of international organizations such as the Council of Europe and the Organization on Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), as well as international financial institutions such as the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the World Bank, and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD);

Whereas in July 1994, Ukraine's presidential elections marked the first peaceful and democratic transfer of executive power among the independent states of the former Soviet Union;

Whereas five years ago, on June 28, 1996, Ukraine's parliament voted to adopt a Ukrainian Constitution, which upholds the values of freedom and democracy, ensures a citizen's right to own private property, and outlines the basis for the rule of law in Ukraine without regard for race, religion, creed, or ethnicity;

Whereas Ukraine has been a paragon of inter-ethnic cooperation and harmony as evidenced by the OSCE's and the United States State Department's annual human rights reports and the international community's commendation for Ukraine's peaceful handling of the Crimean secession disputes in 1994;

Whereas Ukraine, through the efforts of its government, has reversed the downward trend in its economy, experiencing the first real economic growth since its independence in fiscal year 2000 and the first quarter of 2001;

Whereas Ukraine furthered the privatization of its economy through the privatization of agricultural land in 2001, when the former collective farms were turned over to corporations, private individuals, or cooperatives, thus creating an environment that leads to greater economic independence and prosperity;

Whereas Ukraine has taken major steps to stem world nuclear proliferation by ratifying the START I Treaty on nuclear disarmament and the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, subsequently has turned over the last of its Soviet-era nuclear warheads on June 1, 1996, and in 1998 agreed not to assist Iran with the completion of a nuclear power plant in Bushehr thought to be used for the possible production of weapons of mass destruction;

Whereas Ukraine has found many methods to implement military cooperation with its European neighbors, as well as peacekeeping initiatives worldwide, as exhibited by Ukraine's participation in the KFOR and IFOR missions in the former Yugoslavia, and offering up its own forces to be part of the greater United Nations border patrol missions in the Middle East and the African continent;

Whereas Ukraine became a member of the North Atlantic Cooperation Council of the North Atlantic Treaty Alliance (NATO), signed a NATO-Ukraine Charter at the Madrid Summit in July 1997, and has been a participant in the Partnership for Peace (PfP) program since 1994 with regular training maneuvers at the Yavoriv military base in Ukraine and on Ukraine's southern-most shores of the Black Sea;

Whereas on June 7, 2001, Ukraine signed a charter for the GUUAM (Georgia, Ukraine, Uzbekistan, Azerbaijan, and

Moldova) alliance, in hopes of promoting regional interests, increasing cooperation, and building economic stability; and

Whereas 15 years ago, the Soviet-induced nuclear tragedy of Chornobyl gripped Ukrainian lands with insurmountable curies of radiation which will affect generations of Ukraine's inhabitants, and thus, now, Ukraine promotes safety for its citizens and its neighboring countries, as well as concern for the preservation of the environment by closing the last Chornobyl nuclear reactor on December 15, 2000: Now, therefore, be it

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

3 **SECTION 1. SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

4 It is the sense of Congress that—

5 (1) as a leader of the democratic nations of the
6 world, the United States congratulates the people of
7 Ukraine on their tenth anniversary of independence
8 and supports peace, prosperity, and democracy in
9 Ukraine;

10 (2) Ukraine has made significant progress in its
11 political reforms during the first ten years of its
12 independence, as is evident by the adoption of its
13 Constitution five years ago;

14 (3) the territorial integrity, sovereignty, and
15 independence of Ukraine within its existing borders
16 is an important factor of peace and stability in Eu-
17 rope;

1 (4) the President, the Prime Minister, and Par-
2 liament of Ukraine should continue to enact political
3 reforms necessary to ensure that the executive, legis-
4 lative, and judicial branches of the Government of
5 Ukraine transparently represent the interests of the
6 Ukrainian people;

7 (5) the Government and President of Ukraine
8 should promote fundamental democratic principles of
9 freedom of speech, assembly, and a free press;

10 (6) the Government and President of Ukraine
11 should actively pursue in an open and transparent
12 fashion investigations into violence committed
13 against journalists, including the murders of
14 Heorhiy Gongadze and Ihor Oleksandrov;

15 (7) the Government of Ukraine (including the
16 President and Parliament of Ukraine) should uphold
17 international standards and procedures of free and
18 fair elections in preparation for its upcoming par-
19 liamentary elections in March 2002;

20 (8) the Government of Ukraine (including the
21 President and Parliament of Ukraine) should con-
22 tinue to accelerate its efforts to transform its econ-
23 omy into one founded upon free market principles
24 and governed by the rule of law;

1 (9) the United States supports all efforts to
 2 promote a civil society in Ukraine that features a vi-
 3 brant community of nongovernmental organizations
 4 (NGOs) and an active, independent, and free press;

5 (10) the Government of Ukraine (including the
 6 President and Parliament of Ukraine) should follow
 7 a westward-leaning foreign policy whose priority is
 8 the integration of Ukraine into Euro-Atlantic struc-
 9 tures;

10 (11) the President of the United States should
 11 continue to consider the interests and security of
 12 Ukraine in reviewing or revising any European mili-
 13 tary and security arrangements, understandings, or
 14 treaties; and

15 (12) the President of the United States should
 16 continue to support and encourage Ukraine's role in
 17 NATO's Partnership for Peace program and the
 18 deepening of Ukraine's relationship with NATO.

19 **SEC. 2. TRANSMITTAL OF THE RESOLUTION.**

20 The Secretary of the Senate shall transmit a copy
 21 of this resolution to the President of the United States
 22 with the further request that the President transmit such
 23 copy to the Government of Ukraine.

Passed the Senate August 3, 2001.

Attest:

JERI THOMSON,

Secretary.