

108TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. CON. RES. 174

Calling on the President to request former President Jimmy Carter, and members of the Carter Center, to assist the Office of Reconstruction and Humanitarian Assistance for Post-War Iraq (ORHA).

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 9, 2003

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on International Relations

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Calling on the President to request former President Jimmy Carter, and members of the Carter Center, to assist the Office of Reconstruction and Humanitarian Assistance for Post-War Iraq (ORHA).

Whereas through the conduct of Operation Iraqi Freedom the United States Armed Forces have successfully toppled the Iraqi regime headed for more than two decades by Saddam Hussein;

Whereas the Office of Reconstruction and Humanitarian Assistance for Post-War Iraq (ORHA) has been established to provide humanitarian assistance, reconstruction assistance, and oversee the establishment of an interim government in Iraq;

Whereas the Director of ORHA, retired United States Army General Jay Garner, successfully led Operation Provide Comfort in 1991, the relief mission to feed and house hundreds of thousands of Kurdish refugees displaced after the Persian Gulf War;

Whereas almost every government ministry in Baghdad, with the exception of the Oil Ministry, was bombed during Operation Iraqi Freedom, and then looted and burned by Iraqis;

Whereas electricity has not been fully restored in Baghdad since 1991, and water filtration plants are not up to modern standards;

Whereas an assessment by the International Committee of the Red Cross noted that the hospitals in Iraq are “third world” status;

Whereas in addition to the humanitarian and infrastructure challenges, ORHA must forge a peaceful, cooperative structure among Iraq’s political, religious, and ethnic factions to facilitate the establishment of an interim government;

Whereas the establishment by the United States of functioning democracies in Germany and Japan after World War II demonstrated that the provision of humanitarian assistance, reconstruction assistance, and the establishment of a cooperative, decentralized, and representative government must be undertaken simultaneously;

Whereas cooperation by local leaders in Iraq with occupying United States forces will be crucial to the success of achieving the United States objectives in Iraq;

Whereas the Iraqi people are not experienced in the principles inherent in self-government, however the Director of

ORHA is not experienced in negotiating with disparate religions and ethnic factions;

Whereas long-term peace in Iraq will require assistance from countries and organizations experienced in all aspects of nation-building;

Whereas established in 1982 by former President Jimmy Carter, the Carter Center in the State of Georgia, is dedicated to promoting human rights, resolving conflicts, and enhancing freedom and democracy throughout the world;

Whereas in 1989 former President Carter and members of the Carter Center provided a forum for negotiations between the Government of Ethiopia and the Eritrean People's Liberation Front;

Whereas in 1994 former President Carter, members of the Carter Center, and then retired Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Colin Powell, negotiated the terms for the peaceful removal from power of Haiti's de facto leaders, averting a multinational invasion of that country;

Whereas in 1994 former President Carter and members of the Carter Center facilitated talks between Bosnia Muslims and Serbs in the former Yugoslavia;

Whereas from 1989 to 2000 former President Carter and members of the Carter Center monitored elections in Panama, Nicaragua, the Dominican Republic, Haiti, Zambia, Guyana, Paraguay, Jamaica, East Timor, Mozambique, and Mexico;

Whereas in 1998 former President Carter received the first United Nations Human Rights Prize; and

Whereas in 2002 former President Carter received the Nobel Peace Prize for "his decades of untiring efforts to find

peaceful solutions to international conflicts’’: Now, therefore, be it

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

3 (1) calls on the President to request former
4 President Jimmy Carter, and members of the Carter
5 Center, to assist the Office of Reconstruction and
6 Humanitarian Assistance for Post-War Iraq
7 (ORHA) to oversee the establishment of an interim
8 government in Iraq;

9 (2) calls on former President Carter to forge a
10 peaceful, cooperative, structure among Iraq’s polit-
11 ical, religious, and ethnic factions to facilitate the es-
12 tablishment of an interim government in that coun-
13 try; and

14 (3) calls on the Director of ORHA, retired
15 United States Army General Jay Garner, to utilize
16 the expertise and experience of former President
17 Carter and the members of the Carter Center in the
18 establishment of an interim government in Iraq.

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