108TH CONGRESS 1ST SESSION

H. CON. RES. 78

Expressing the need to reengage Congress and the Administration regarding the social conditions and need for poverty reduction in Haiti, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

March 5, 2003

Ms. Lee (for herself, Mr. Frank of Massachusetts, Mr. Cummings, Mr. Oberstar, Ms. Schakowsky, Mrs. Christensen, Ms. Woolsey, Mr. Kucinich, Mr. Brown of Ohio, Mr. Conyers, Mr. Meek of Florida, Mr. Rush, Mr. Scott of Virginia, Mr. Deutsch, Mr. Hastings of Florida, Ms. Watson, Ms. Kilpatrick, Mrs. Jones of Ohio, Ms. Jackson-Lee of Texas, Ms. Waters, Mr. Owens, Mr. Payne, Mr. Clyburn, Ms. Carson of Indiana, and Mr. Clay) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Financial Services, and in addition to the Committee on International Relations, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Expressing the need to reengage Congress and the Administration regarding the social conditions and need for poverty reduction in Haiti, and for other purposes.

Whereas the United States has participated in nearly 200 years of bilateral relations with Haiti and its successive governments;

- Whereas Haiti is a nascent democracy, having had less than 7 years to develop strong democratic institutions, such as its justice system;
- Whereas the Government of Haiti has dismantled the national military, which was responsible for countless human rights violations;
- Whereas Haiti's only law enforcement consists of 3,500 national police who are charged with ensuring the safety of nearly 8,000,000 citizens;
- Whereas Haiti is the most impoverished nation in the Western Hemisphere;
- Whereas on September 4, 2002, the Organization of American States (OAS) passed Resolution 822 to normalize relations between Haiti and the international financial institutions;
- Whereas since the passage of Resolution 822, no formal action has been taken on the part of the international financial institutions;
- Whereas the United Nations Joint Programme on HIV/AIDS states that Haiti accounts for 90 percent of the HIV/AIDS infections and case rates in the Caribbean;
- Whereas the infant mortality rate in Haiti continues to rise and only 1 in every 10,000 Haitians has access to a physician;
- Whereas less than 40 percent of all Haitians have access to potable water;
- Whereas the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria has approved the Haitian Government's control mechanisms, which include measures to address trans-

parency, for disbursement of grants from the Global Fund; and

Whereas the people of Haiti have a constitutional and fundamental human right to health and the government has the obligation to fulfill these rights to the level of resources available: Now, therefore, be it

- 1 Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate 2 concurring), That Congress—
- Organization of American States (OAS) to Haiti and calls on the President to urge that this mission work closely with the Government and people of Haiti to advance their goals and aspirations and not the objectives of other governments or international organizations;
 - (2) calls on the United States Agency for International Development, the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, the International Monetary Fund, and the Inter-American Development Bank to convene a meeting of all donors and potential donors to Haiti, with the objective of launching a new and sustainable humanitarian initiative, including a lending program that will help bolster the economic and infrastructure bases of Haiti;

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- (3) urges the President to direct the Secretary of State to conduct an immediate review of United States policy toward Haiti, including adequate and appropriate consultations with the relevant committees of Congress;
 - (4) calls specifically upon the International Monetary Fund to reevaluate the current staff monitoring program conditions outlined for Haiti and work in the long-term toward a poverty reduction agreement for Haiti; and
 - (5) urges the President to instruct the Secretary of Treasury to direct the United States Executive Director at the Inter-American Development Bank to release the 4 social sector and development loans totaling \$146,000,000, for health, education, water and sanitation, and transportation, that have been approved by the Board of Executive Directors of the Bank and ratified by the Parliament of Haiti.

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