

108TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 81

Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the North Atlantic Treaty Organization must begin to plan steps for the defense of Turkey as requested by that nation.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 13, 2003

Mr. BEREUTER (for himself, Mr. HEFLEY, and Mr. McINNIS) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on International Relations

RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the North Atlantic Treaty Organization must begin to plan steps for the defense of Turkey as requested by that nation.

Whereas Turkey is considering the assistance it will offer in support of a military operation to enforce United Nations Security Council Resolution 1441 to disarm Iraq of its weapons of mass destruction programs and prohibited ballistic missile programs;

Whereas Turkey believes Iraq poses a threat to its security;

Whereas Lord Robertson, the Secretary General of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), has said that Turkey's "concerns are legitimate and the threat is real";

Whereas France, Germany, and Belgium repeatedly blocked consensus on approval of prudent planning steps requested by the United States for the defense of Turkey, most recently on February 10, 2003;

Whereas Turkey subsequently invoked Article 4 of the North Atlantic Treaty, requesting consultations with its allies about the threat to its security posed by Iraq;

Whereas the unprecedented invocation of Article 4 of the North Atlantic Treaty means that this issue is no longer a question of whether authorizing NATO planning would signal a decision to use military force against Iraq, but is rather a question of whether all 19 NATO allies will fulfill their solemn treaty commitments and take steps to reassure an ally that believes its security to be threatened;

Whereas France, Germany, and Belgium have continued to block consensus on consultation and planning for the defense of Turkey, despite Turkey's invocation of the North Atlantic Treaty, despite Turkey's legitimate concerns for its security, and despite the solemn treaty commitments of France, Germany, and Belgium to contribute to the collective defense of Turkey;

Whereas 16 members of NATO have supported the Turkish request;

Whereas the 7 nations invited to join NATO have indicated their support for United States policy in the region, as have the 3 NATO applicant nations;

Whereas the fundamental purpose of NATO is to defend its members against outside threats; and

Whereas the actions of France, Germany, and Belgium will have profound, deleterious effects on the NATO alliance,

possibly exposing its core mutual defense guarantee as nothing more than empty words from the French, German, and Belgian governments: Now, therefore be it

1 *Resolved*, That it is the sense of the House of Rep-
2 resentatives that—

3 (1) the United States must honor its treaty
4 commitment to defend Turkey should it be attacked
5 by Iraq;

6 (2) the United States must assist Turkey in un-
7 dertaking prudent planning steps for its defense as
8 requested by the Turkish government in the North
9 Atlantic Council (NAC), regardless of whether such
10 action is approved by the NAC, and regardless of
11 whether such action is blocked within the North At-
12 lantic Treaty Organization;

13 (3) the United States should encourage all of
14 its NATO allies to fulfill their solemn treaty commit-
15 ments to give similar assistance to the Turkish gov-
16 ernment;

17 (4) the United States should encourage the 7
18 nations that have been invited to join NATO and the
19 3 NATO applicant nations to demonstrate their will-
20 ingness to undertake the responsibilities of NATO
21 membership by offering Turkey whatever assistance
22 the Turkish government may require;

1 (5) Turkey's invocation of the North Atlantic
2 Treaty on February 10, 2003, means that France,
3 Germany, and Belgium must honor their North At-
4 lantic Treaty commitments and approve Turkey's re-
5 quest that NATO begin planning steps to defend it
6 against a possible attack from Iraq; and

7 (6) the continued failure of France, Germany,
8 and Belgium to permit NATO to plan for the de-
9 fense of Turkey calls into question the core collec-
10 tive-defense commitment of the NATO alliance.

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