

109TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. CON. RES. 252

Expressing the sense of Congress that the Government of the United States should actively support the aspirations of the democratic political and social forces in the Republic of Nicaragua toward an immediate and full restoration of functioning democracy in that country.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 27, 2005

Mr. BURTON of Indiana (for himself, Mr. MENENDEZ, Ms. HARRIS, Mr. WELLER, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Mr. MACK, and Mr. ROHRABACHER) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on International Relations

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of Congress that the Government of the United States should actively support the aspirations of the democratic political and social forces in the Republic of Nicaragua toward an immediate and full restoration of functioning democracy in that country.

Whereas the United States is strongly committed to promoting freedom, democracy, and the rule of law;

Whereas the Charter of the Organization of American States, of which the United States and Nicaragua are Member States, stipulates that “[t]he peoples of the Americas have a right to democracy and their governments have an obligation to promote and defend it”;

Whereas after experiencing a quarter century ago a revolution, loss of personal liberties, destruction of property, and economic instability, the people of Nicaragua are building a democratic form of government;

Whereas jailed ex-President Arnaldo Aleman and Sandinista Liberation Front (FSLN) leader Daniel Ortega have entered into an agreement widely known throughout Nicaragua as the “Pact”, to control the National Assembly in order to exploit its legislative powers to undermine the Nicaraguan Constitution, the Presidency of Enrique Bolanos, and all institutions of representative democratic governance;

Whereas Pactist politicians currently control and dominate the Supreme Court, the Electoral Council, the Comptroller’s office, and the Human Rights ombudsman’s office; and

Whereas polls indicate that an overwhelming percentage of Nicaraguans oppose the Aleman-Ortega Pact, and tens of thousands of Nicaraguans took to the streets in the past year to call for an end to the Pact: Now, therefore, be it

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

3 (1) Congress—

4 (A) strongly condemns the Aleman-Ortega
5 Pact as detrimental to democracy in the Republic
6 of Nicaragua, the future of democracy in
7 Nicaragua, and the stability of the entire region;
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1 (B) strongly condemns constitutional re-
2 forms passed by the Pact-controlled National
3 Assembly that stripped important executive
4 branch authorities from the Nicaraguan presi-
5 dency;

6 (C) strongly condemns the Pact-controlled
7 National Assembly's actions to stack the Nica-
8 raguean Supreme Court with Pact loyalists,
9 some of whom have had their United States
10 visas revoked on the ground of corruption;

11 (D) strongly condemns the Pact-controlled
12 National Assembly's efforts to remove demo-
13 cratically-elected President Enrique Bolanos on
14 dubious legal grounds;

15 (E) strongly condemns the Pact-controlled
16 National Assembly's attempts to remove from
17 office senior officials of the executive branch on
18 dubious legal grounds; and

19 (F) supports the efforts of Nicaraguan
20 democratic civil society to create the necessary
21 conditions for free and fair elections; and

22 (2) it is the sense of Congress that—

23 (A) it should be the policy of the United
24 States to actively support the aspirations of the
25 democratic political forces in Nicaragua for a

1 full restoration of democracy and the rule of
2 law in Nicaragua, headed by leaders who are
3 committed to democracy and who deserve the
4 trust of the Nicaraguan people;

5 (B) it should be the policy of the United
6 States to work with the international commu-
7 nity, including the Organization of American
8 States, to assist democratic forces in Nicaragua
9 to restore full democracy to their country;

10 (C) it should be the policy of the United
11 States to oppose all political elements that con-
12 tinue to subvert Nicaraguan democracy;

13 (D) it is critical that the 2006 elections in
14 Nicaragua are free and fair and provide the
15 winner of the election a clear mandate to gov-
16 ern the country; and

17 (E) the President of the United States,
18 acting through the Administrator of the United
19 States Agency for International Development,
20 should provide assistance grants to nongovern-
21 mental organizations in support of President
22 Bolanos' call for the international community to
23 assist in and monitor the 2006 election process
24 in order to ensure the integrity of the process.

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