

110TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. RES. 1123

Calling on the President of the United States not to commit the United States to any status of forces agreement or any other bilateral agreement with the Republic of Iraq that involves the continued presence of the United States Armed Forces in Iraq unless the agreement includes a provision under which the Republic of Iraq agrees to reimburse the United States for all costs incurred by the United States related to the presence of United States Armed Forces in Iraq after the effective date of the agreement.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 17, 2008

Mr. ROHRBACHER (for himself, Mr. DELAHUNT, Mr. CHABOT, Mr. COBLE, Mr. COHEN, Mr. DUNCAN, Mr. JONES of North Carolina, Ms. KAPTUR, and Mr. ROYCE) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

RESOLUTION

Calling on the President of the United States not to commit the United States to any status of forces agreement or any other bilateral agreement with the Republic of Iraq that involves the continued presence of the United States Armed Forces in Iraq unless the agreement includes a provision under which the Republic of Iraq agrees to reimburse the United States for all costs incurred by the United States related to the presence of United States Armed Forces in Iraq after the effective date of the agreement.

Whereas, on August 26, 2007, Iraqi leaders sent, and President George W. Bush endorsed, a communiqué stating the two nations are committed to developing a long-term relationship of cooperation and friendship as two fully sovereign and independent states with common interests;

Whereas, on November 26, 2007, Iraq and the United States signed a Declaration of Principles for a Long-Term Relationship of Cooperation and Friendship Between the Republic of Iraq and the United States of America, that signaled the beginning of a formal discussion towards the forming of a bilateral agreement between the two countries and that contemplated wide-ranging security commitments by the United States for the defense of the Government of Iraq from both internal and external threats;

Whereas the Administration has announced its intention to negotiate this bilateral agreement as two separate pacts, a “strategic framework agreement” on broad economic, social, and security issues, and a “status of forces agreement,” which in this case would also provide these forces with the “authority to fight”;

Whereas the Administration has announced that it will not seek the approval of Congress for either agreement, a stance that is disputed by some in Congress and by the judgment of some constitutional scholars to the extent that either agreement includes the obligation or the authority for United States Armed Forces to engage in combat operations;

Whereas the Congressional Budget Office has estimated that the annual cost of maintaining about 55,000 troops over the long-term in Iraq would be about \$10 billion in a

non-combat scenario and \$25 billion with combat operations;

Whereas the Congressional Budget Office's estimate assumes only minimal procurement costs for replacing or upgrading war-worn equipment;

Whereas currently there are more than over 140,000 members of the United States Armed Forces serving in Iraq in a combat situation;

Whereas the United States Congress has appropriated over \$526,000,000,000 for operations in Iraq;

Whereas for fiscal year 2009, the Administration has included a \$70 billion placeholder request for Iraq in the Department of Defense budget;

Whereas the United States is currently experiencing an economic downturn, and the Chairman of the Federal Reserve recently testified before Congress that a "recession is possible";

Whereas with 115 billion barrels of proven crude oil reserves, Iraq has the world's third-largest endowment of oil, amounting to 11 percent of the global total;

Whereas the current price per barrel of oil is over \$110; and

Whereas the current government in Iraq has a vested interest in the continued presence of United States Armed Forces in Iraq: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the United States House of Rep-
 2 resentatives calls on the President of the United States
 3 not to commit the United States to any status of forces
 4 agreement or any other bilateral agreement with the Re-
 5 public of Iraq that involves the presence of the United

1 States Armed Forces in Iraq unless the agreement in-
2 cludes a provision under which the Republic of Iraq agrees
3 to reimburse the United States for all costs incurred by
4 the United States related to the presence of United States
5 Armed Forces in Iraq after the effective date of the agree-
6 ment, including the costs of pay and allowances for mem-
7 bers of the United States Armed Forces serving in Iraq.

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