

110TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. RES. 550

Expressing the sense of the Senate regarding provocative and dangerous statements made by the Government of the Russian Federation that undermine the territorial integrity of the Republic of Georgia.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 2, 2008

Mr. BIDEN (for himself, Mr. LUGAR, Mr. MARTINEZ, Mr. KERRY, Mr. CASEY, Mr. SMITH, and Mr. LIEBERMAN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

MAY 20, 2008

Reported by Mr. BIDEN, without amendment

JUNE 3, 2008

Considered and agreed to

RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the Senate regarding provocative and dangerous statements made by the Government of the Russian Federation that undermine the territorial integrity of the Republic of Georgia.

Whereas, since 1993, the territorial integrity of the Republic of Georgia has been reaffirmed by the international community and 32 United Nations Security Council resolutions;

Whereas the Government of the Republic of Georgia has pursued with good faith the peaceful resolution of territorial

conflicts in the regions of Abkhazia and South Ossetia since the end of hostilities in 1993;

Whereas President of Georgia Mikheil Saakashvili has offered a clear plan for resolving the conflict in Abkhazia and securing legitimate interests of the Abkhaz and South Ossetian people within a unified Georgia;

Whereas, for several years, the Government of Russia has engaged in an ongoing process of usurping the sovereignty of Georgia in Abkhazia and South Ossetia by awarding subsidies, the right to vote in elections in Russia, and Russian passports to people living in those regions;

Whereas the announcement of the Government of the Russian Federation that it will establish “official ties” with the breakaway regions of Abkhazia and South Ossetia and further involve itself in aspects of their government appears to be a thinly veiled attempt at annexation;

Whereas the statements and counter-productive behavior of the Government of the Russian Federation in these regions has undermined the peace and security of those regions, the Republic of Georgia, and the region as a whole; and

Whereas the consistent effort to undermine the sovereignty of a neighbor is incompatible with the role of the Russian Federation as one of the world’s leading powers and is inconsistent with the commitments to international peace-keeping made by the Government of the Russian Federation: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the Senate—

2 (1) condemns recent decisions made by the

3 Government of the Russian Federation to establish

1 “official ties” with the breakaway regions of
2 Abkhazia and South Ossetia, a process that further
3 impedes reconciliation between those regions and the
4 Government of Georgia and violates the sovereignty
5 of the Republic of Georgia and the commitments of
6 the Government of the Russian Federation to inter-
7 national peacekeeping;

8 (2) calls upon the Government of the Russian
9 Federation to disavow this policy, which gives the
10 appearance of being motivated by an appetite for an-
11 nexation;

12 (3) affirms that the restoration of the territorial
13 integrity of the Republic of Georgia is in the interest
14 of all who seek peace and stability in the region;

15 (4) urges all parties to the conflicts in the Re-
16 public of Georgia and governments around the world
17 to eschew rhetoric that escalates tensions and under-
18 mines efforts to negotiate a settlement to the con-
19 flicts; and

20 (5) commends the Government of Georgia for
21 acting with restraint in the face of serious provo-
22 cation.

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