

degrees from some 40 colleges and universities;

Whereas Archbishop Iakovos presented a prayer at Presidential inaugural ceremonies in 1961, 1965, 1969, and 1972;

Whereas the Archbishop has said of his pastoral work with immigrants in New England and New York, "I lived and struggled with them to maintain the faith and culture.";

Whereas in a 1995 interview, the Archbishop said he had accomplished a major goal "to have the Orthodox Church be accepted by the family of religions in the United States"; and

Whereas Archbishop Iakovos was interred at the Holy Trinity Cathedral in New York, New York, on April 15, 2005: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) mourns the loss of Archbishop Iakovos and commends the life the Archbishop led;

(2) thanks Archbishop Iakovos for his service to the members of his church and to the people of this Nation;

(3) honors Archbishop Iakovos' commitment to the principles of equality, humanity, and peace; and

(4) recognizes that Archbishop Iakovos was a committed and caring pastor to a whole generation of Greek Americans—

(A) whose hard work, determination, and pride in their religious and cultural heritage Archbishop Iakovos embodied; and

(B) who will dearly miss the Archbishop.

SENATE RESOLUTION 150—EXPRESSING CONTINUED SUPPORT FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE VICTIMS OF COMMUNISM MEMORIAL

Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. SMITH, and Mr. MARTINEZ) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 150

Whereas section 905 of the FRIENDSHIP Act (40 U.S.C. 1003 note) authorizes the construction of a memorial to honor the victims of communism;

Whereas the construction of a Victims of Communism Memorial near the United States Capitol in the District of Columbia is scheduled to begin in the fall of 2005;

Whereas construction of the Memorial is supported by many Americans whose country of origin is, or was, a "Captive Nation", from Baltic-Americans to Vietnamese-Americans;

Whereas communism has claimed the lives of more than 100,000,000 people in less than 100 years; and

Whereas it is important for the people of the United States to honor and remember the victims of communism by supporting the construction of this memorial: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate expresses its continued support for the construction of the Victims of Communism Memorial.

SENATE RESOLUTION 151—RECOGNIZING THE 57TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE INDEPENDENCE OF THE STATE OF ISRAEL

Mr. FRIST (for himself, Mr. REID, Mr. MARTINEZ, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. LIEBERMAN, and Mrs. DOLE) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 151

Whereas in May 1948, the State of Israel was established as a sovereign and independent nation;

Whereas the United States was one of the first nations to recognize Israel, only 11 minutes after its creation;

Whereas Israel has provided the opportunity for Jews from all over the world to re-establish their ancient homeland;

Whereas Israel is home to many religious sites which are sacred to Judaism, Christianity, and Islam;

Whereas Israel provided a refuge to Jews who survived the horrors of the Holocaust and the evils committed by the Nazis which were unprecedented in human history;

Whereas the people of Israel have established a unique, pluralistic democracy which includes the freedoms cherished by the people of the United States, including freedom of speech, freedom of religion, freedom of association, freedom of the press, and government by the consent of the governed;

Whereas Israel continues to serve as a shining model of democratic values by regularly holding free and fair elections, promoting the free exchange of ideas, and vigorously exercising in its Parliament, the Knesset, a democratic government that is fully representative of its citizens;

Whereas Israel has bravely defended itself from attacks repeatedly since independence;

Whereas the Government of Israel has successfully worked with the neighboring Governments of Egypt and Jordan to establish peaceful, bilateral relations;

Whereas, despite the deaths of over one thousand innocent Israelis at the hands of murderous, suicide bombers and other terrorists during the past 4 years, the people of Israel continue to seek peace with their Palestinian neighbors;

Whereas the United States and Israel enjoy a strategic partnership based on shared mutual democratic values, friendship, and respect;

Whereas the people of the United States share affinity with the people of Israel and view Israel as a strong and trusted ally; and

Whereas Israel has made significant global contributions in the fields of science, medicine, and technology: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the independence of the State of Israel as a significant event in providing refuge and a national homeland for the Jewish people;

(2) strongly supports efforts to bring peace to the Middle East, including the disengagement plan of the Israeli government, the Roadmap, and the recent Quartet decision to appoint World Bank President James Wolfensohn as Coordinator for Gaza Disengagement.

(3) commends the bipartisan commitment of all United States administrations and United States Congresses since 1948 to stand by Israel and work for its security and well-being; and

(4) extends warm congratulations and best wishes to the people of Israel as they celebrate the 57th anniversary of Israel's independence.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 35—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF CONGRESS THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION SHOULD ISSUE A CLEAR AND UNAMBIGUOUS STATEMENT OF ADMISSION AND CONDEMNATION OF THE ILLEGAL OCCUPATION AND ANNEXATION BY THE SOVIET UNION FROM 1940 TO 1991 OF THE BALTIC COUNTRIES OF ESTONIA, LATVIA, AND LITHUANIA

Mr. SMITH (for himself, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, and Mr. DURBIN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. CON. RES. 35

Whereas the incorporation in 1940 of the Baltic countries of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania into the Soviet Union was an act of aggression carried out against the will of sovereign people;

Whereas the United States was steadfast in its policy of not recognizing the illegal Soviet annexation of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania;

Whereas the Russian Federation is the successor state to the Soviet Union;

Whereas the Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact of 1939, including its secret protocols, between Nazi Germany and the Soviet Union provided the Soviet Union with the opportunity to occupy and annex Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania;

Whereas the occupation brought countless suffering to the Baltic peoples through terror, killings, and deportations to Siberian concentration camps;

Whereas the peoples of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania bravely resisted Soviet aggression and occupation;

Whereas the Government of Germany renounced its participation in the Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact of 1939 and publicly apologized for the destruction and terror that Nazi Germany unleashed on the world;

Whereas, in 1989, the Congress of Peoples' Deputies of the Soviet Union denounced the Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact of 1939 and its secret protocols;

Whereas President Putin recently confirmed that the statement of the Congress of Peoples' Deputies remains the view of the Russian Federation;

Whereas the illegal occupation and annexation of the Baltic countries by the Soviet Union remains unacknowledged by the Russian Federation;

Whereas a declaration of acknowledgment of the illegal occupation and annexation by the Russian Federation would lead to improved relations between the people of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania and the people of Russia, would form the basis for improved relations between the governments of the countries, and strengthen stability in the region;

Whereas the Russian Federation is to be commended for beginning to acknowledge grievous and regrettable incidents in their history, such as admitting complicity in the massacre of Polish soldiers in the Katyn Forest in 1940;

Whereas the truth is a powerful weapon for healing, forgiving, and reconciliation, but its absence breeds distrust, fear, and hostility; and

Whereas countries that cannot clearly admit their historical mistakes and make peace with their pasts cannot successfully build their futures: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That it is the sense