

103D CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. RES. 182

Entitled "A Call for Humanitarian Assistance to the Pontian Greeks".

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 23 (legislative day, FEBRUARY 22), 1994

Mr. D'AMATO submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the
Committee on Foreign Relations

RESOLUTION

Entitled "A Call for Humanitarian Assistance to the Pontian
Greeks".

Whereas the Pontian Greeks originally settled in northern Turkey in the late 19th and early 20th centuries to escape the ravages of war and since then have found themselves alternately both discriminated against as well as innocent victims of brutal wars;

Whereas the Pontian Greeks have been subject to severe discrimination and torture since the early 1900's due to their ethnic and cultural identity;

Whereas the Pontian Greeks have historically been denied their right to develop their own culture and study their history, first under the Ottoman Empire and later while under the Soviet Empire;

Whereas the Pontian Greeks are, in part, descendants of Greeks who were uprooted and forcibly resettled in Georgia in the 1930's by Stalin during collectivization drives out of fear of divided loyalties;

Whereas this population of 15,000 is now cut off from supply lines and distribution networks by both winter storms and a brutal civil war of a year-and-a-half;

Whereas both the battle-scarred Greek settlements and their refugee camps are located in the center of this savage war;

Whereas existing supplies are rapidly eroding, leaving Greeks on the brink of starvation and forced to endure a long winter without clothing, medicine, water, or electricity;

Whereas the remaining supplies of this small minority are subject to widespread looting;

Whereas many Greeks are forced to undertake a dangerous sealift in order to emigrate to Greece out of a desperate attempt to escape this dire situation; and

Whereas the Pontian Greeks face certain death without outside assistance: Now, therefore, be it

- 1 *Resolved*, That the United States should take the lead
- 2 in organizing international humanitarian efforts to aid
- 3 this destitute population.

