

105TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. CON. RES. 128

Expressing the sense of Congress regarding measures to achieve a peaceful resolution of the conflict in the state of Chiapas, Mexico, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

OCTOBER 9 (legislative day, OCTOBER 2), 1998

Mr. LEAHY (for himself, Mr. DODD, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. KERRY, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. BINGAMAN, Mr. FEINGOLD, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. BUMPERS, Mr. WELLSTONE, Mr. JEFFORDS, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. WYDEN, and Ms. MIKULSKI) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of Congress regarding measures to achieve a peaceful resolution of the conflict in the state of Chiapas, Mexico, and for other purposes.

Whereas the United States and Mexico have a long history of close relations and share many economic and security interests;

Whereas a democratic and prosperous Mexico is in the interest of the United States;

Whereas the United States is providing assistance and licensing exports of military equipment to Mexican security forces for counter-narcotics purposes;

Whereas the Department of State has documented human rights violations by Mexican security forces and paramilitary groups;

Whereas the conflict in Chiapas, Mexico has resulted in the deaths and disappearance of innocent civilians;

Whereas the lack of progress in implementing a preliminary peace agreement signed in 1996 and the presence of tens of thousands of Mexican soldiers, as well as paramilitary and other groups, have contributed to increased political tension and violence in Chiapas and the absence of basic human rights protections;

Whereas the persistence of political tension and violence has exacerbated the impoverished conditions of indigenous people in Chiapas;

Whereas thousands of indigenous people in Chiapas have fled their homes as a result of the violence and are living in deplorable conditions;

Whereas despite President Zedillo's calls for negotiations and repeated visits to Chiapas, efforts to negotiate a peaceful resolution of the conflict have been unsuccessful and the National Mediation Commission was dissolved after the resignation of its President, Bishop Samuel Ruiz, due to the lack of progress in the peace process; and

Whereas the summary expulsions of United States citizens and human rights monitors from Mexico raise concerns about the commitment of the government of Mexico to freedom of movement, association and expression: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives*
2 *concurring), That it is the sense of Congress that the Sec-*
3 *retary of State should—*

4 (1) take effective measures to ensure that
5 United States assistance and exports of equipment
6 to Mexican security forces—

7 (A) are used primarily for counter-narcot-
8 ics purposes; and

9 (B) do not contribute to human rights vio-
10 lations;

11 (2) encourage the Government of Mexico to re-
12 duce political tension and violence in Chiapas by dis-
13 arming paramilitary groups and decreasing its mili-
14 tary presence there;

15 (3) commend the Government of Mexico for in-
16 viting the United Nations High Commissioner for
17 Human Rights to visit Mexico to discuss the
18 Chiapas conflict;

19 (4) encourage the Government of Mexico and
20 the Zapatista National Liberation Army to take
21 steps to create conditions for good faith negotiations
22 that address the social, economic and political causes
23 of the conflict to achieve a peaceful and lasting reso-
24 lution of the conflict, and to vigorously pursue such
25 negotiations;

4 (6) seeks a commitment from the Government
5 of Mexico to respect the rights of United States citi-
6 zens and human rights monitors in Mexico in ac-
7 cordance with Mexican law and international law.