

105TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. RES. 112

Condemning the most recent outbreak of violence in the Republic of Congo and recognizing the threat such violence poses to the prospects for a stable democratic form of government in that country.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JULY 31, 1997

Mr. ASHCROFT (for himself and Mr. FEINGOLD) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

RESOLUTION

Condemning the most recent outbreak of violence in the Republic of Congo and recognizing the threat such violence poses to the prospects for a stable democratic form of government in that country.

Whereas the Republic of Congo began to take significant steps after 1989 to implement a democratic form of government, including the convening of a national conference in 1991 and the adoption of a multiparty constitution in 1992;

Whereas the Republic of Congo held its first free and fair democratic elections in 1992, in which Pascal Lissouba won the presidency with 61 percent of the vote, defeating the former military ruler Denis Sassou-Nguesso in the

first round of voting and current Brazzaville Mayor Bernard Kolelas in the second;

Whereas the Republic of Congo has endured violent threats to its nascent democracy since 1993, including factional fighting between the country's leading political figures which has taken thousands of lives;

Whereas fighting in the Republic of Congo is preventing the country from holding its scheduled elections and has endangered the lives of its citizens and foreign nationals residing in the country; and

Whereas the preservation of democracy in the Republic of Congo and the peaceful transfer of power through national elections are critically important for the future of freedom in the Republic of Congo and all of Central Africa: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the Senate of the United States—

2 (1) condemns violent attempts to overthrow the
3 freely elected Government of the Republic of Congo
4 and encourages all parties involved in the conflict to
5 reach a lasting cease-fire;

6 (2) calls on all private militia to disband to end
7 the continuing threat to peace and stability in the
8 Republic of Congo;

9 (3) reaffirms its support for constitutional govern-
10 ment, the rule of law, human rights, and demo-
11 cratic processes in the Republic of Congo and calls
12 upon regional African leaders to support the preser-

1 vation of a democratic political system in the coun-
2 try;

3 (4) declares that the removal of the democrat-
4 ically elected Government of the Republic of Congo
5 by other than democratic means would severely re-
6 strict the bilateral relationship between the United
7 States and the Republic of Congo, including the sus-
8 pension of most bilateral assistance from the United
9 States to the Republic of Congo; and

10 (5) encourages the United States Government
11 to state publicly its strong support for a democratic
12 government in the Republic of Congo and the peace-
13 ful transfer of power in that country.

