

109TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. CON. RES. 65

Commending the Republic of Turkey for assuming the leadership of the International Security Assistance Force in Afghanistan and for its ongoing contribution to the war against terrorism.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 15, 2005

Mr. WHITFIELD (for himself, Mr. WEXLER, and Ms. GRANGER) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on International Relations

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Commending the Republic of Turkey for assuming the leadership of the International Security Assistance Force in Afghanistan and for its ongoing contribution to the war against terrorism.

Whereas the International Security Assistance Force (“ISAF”) was established in December 2001, following the overflow of the Taliban-led regime in Afghanistan;

Whereas the ISAF assists the government of Afghanistan, known as the Afghan Transitional Authority, in maintaining an environment of peace and stability in order that free and fair elections can be held in Afghanistan, the rule of law can be established, and the physical and institutional infrastructure of the country can be rebuilt;

Whereas the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (“NATO”) assumed responsibility for the command and coordination of ISAF activities in August 2003, the first NATO mission ever to take place outside the European and North Atlantic theaters;

Whereas ISAF currently numbers 8,000 military troops from 47 nations, including from both NATO members and non-NATO countries;

Whereas a sizable contingent from the Republic of Turkey has served the ISAF continuously since its inception in December 2001, and the equipment provided for the ISAF by Turkey during such period has included three UH–60 Black Hawk general purpose helicopters;

Whereas Major General Hilmi Akin Zorlu of Turkey exercised command of ISAF from June 2002 until February 2003;

Whereas in February 2005, Turkey has again taken command of the ISAF, and will serve through August 2005, during which time two-thirds of the ISAF headquarters staff, including staff from ISAF’s Kabul Multinational Brigade, will be comprised of Turkish officers;

Whereas Turkey has provided training for both the Afghan National Army (“ANA”) and Afghanistan’s civilian police force and has donated uniforms and equipment to the National Guard Battalion of the ANA;

Whereas a former Turkish Minister of Foreign Affairs and Speaker of its Parliament, Hikmet Cetin, serves as the NATO Senior Civilian Representative in Afghanistan; and

Whereas Turkey has undertaken a number of reconstruction projects in Afghanistan in the fields of education, agri-

culture, and health care, and has been an active participant in international efforts to rebuild Afghanistan: Now, therefore be it:

1 *Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate*
 2 *concurring)*, That the Congress—

3 (1) commends the the Republic of Turkey for
 4 assuming the leadership of the International Security Assistance Force in Afghanistan; and

6 (2) thanks the Republic of Turkey for its ongoing contributions to the stabilization of Afghanistan,
 7 an essential element in the war against terrorism.

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