

CALLING ON FREE AND FAIR PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS IN
THE REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN; URGING THE GOVERNMENT
OF ALBANIA TO ENSURE THAT THE JULY 3, 2005 PAR-
LIAMENTARY ELECTIONS ARE CONDUCTED IN ACCORDANCE
WITH INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS FOR FREE AND FAIR
ELECTIONS; AND RECOGNIZING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF
THE WORKERS' STRIKES IN POLAND THAT LED TO THE
ESTABLISHMENT OF THE SOLIDARITY TRADE UNION

MARKUP

BEFORE THE

SUBCOMMITTEE ON EUROPE AND
EMERGING THREATS

OF THE

COMMITTEE ON
INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

ONE HUNDRED NINTH CONGRESS

FIRST SESSION

ON

H. Res. 326, H. Con. Res. 155 and H. Res. 328

—————
JUNE 21, 2005
—————

Serial No. 109–46

—————

Printed for the use of the Committee on International Relations



Available via the World Wide Web: http://www.house.gov/international_relations

U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE

21–974PDF

WASHINGTON : 2005

For sale by the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office
Internet: bookstore.gpo.gov Phone: toll free (866) 512–1800; DC area (202) 512–1800
Fax: (202) 512–2250 Mail: Stop SSOP, Washington, DC 20402–0001

COMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

HENRY J. HYDE, Illinois, *Chairman*

JAMES A. LEACH, Iowa	TOM LANTOS, California
CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH, New Jersey, <i>Vice Chairman</i>	HOWARD L. BERMAN, California
DAN BURTON, Indiana	GARY L. ACKERMAN, New York
ELTON GALLEGLEY, California	ENI F.H. FALEOMAVAEGA, American Samoa
ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN, Florida	DONALD M. PAYNE, New Jersey
DANA ROHRBACHER, California	ROBERT MENENDEZ, New Jersey
EDWARD R. ROYCE, California	SHERROD BROWN, Ohio
PETER T. KING, New York	BRAD SHERMAN, California
STEVE CHABOT, Ohio	ROBERT WEXLER, Florida
THOMAS G. TANCREDO, Colorado	ELIOT L. ENGEL, New York
RON PAUL, Texas	WILLIAM D. DELAHUNT, Massachusetts
DARRELL ISSA, California	GREGORY W. MEEKS, New York
JEFF FLAKE, Arizona	BARBARA LEE, California
JO ANN DAVIS, Virginia	JOSEPH CROWLEY, New York
MARK GREEN, Wisconsin	EARL BLUMENAUER, Oregon
JERRY WELLER, Illinois	SHELLEY BERKLEY, Nevada
MIKE PENCE, Indiana	GRACE F. NAPOLITANO, California
THADDEUS G. McCOTTER, Michigan	ADAM B. SCHIFF, California
KATHERINE HARRIS, Florida	DIANE E. WATSON, California
JOE WILSON, South Carolina	ADAM SMITH, Washington
JOHN BOOZMAN, Arkansas	BETTY MCCOLLUM, Minnesota
J. GRESHAM BARRETT, South Carolina	BEN CHANDLER, Kentucky
CONNIE MACK, Florida	DENNIS A. CARDOZA, California
JEFF FORTENBERRY, Nebraska	
MICHAEL MCCAUL, Texas	
TED POE, Texas	

THOMAS E. MOONEY, SR., *Staff Director/General Counsel*
ROBERT R. KING, *Democratic Staff Director*

SUBCOMMITTEE ON EUROPE AND EMERGING THREATS

ELTON GALLEGLEY, California, *Chairman*

JO ANN DAVIS, Virginia	ROBERT WEXLER, Florida
PETER T. KING, New York, <i>Vice Chairman</i>	ELIOT L. ENGEL, New York
THADDEUS G. McCOTTER, Michigan	SHELLEY BERKLEY, Nevada
DARRELL ISSA, California	GRACE F. NAPOLITANO, California
TED POE, Texas	ADAM B. SCHIFF, California
J. GRESHAM BARRETT, South Carolina	BEN CHANDLER, Kentucky

RICHARD MEREU, *Subcommittee Staff Director*
JONATHAN KATZ, *Democratic Professional Staff Member*
PATRICK PRISCO, *Professional Staff Member*
BEVERLY HALLOCK, *Staff Associate*

CONTENTS

	Page
MARKUP OF	
H. Res. 326, Calling for free and fair parliamentary elections in the Republic of Azerbaijan	2
Amendment to H. Res. 326 offered by the Honorable Elton Gallegly, a Representative in Congress from the State of California, and Chairman, Subcommittee on Europe and Emerging Threats	7
H. Con. Res. 155, Urging the Government of the Republic of Albania to ensure that the parliamentary elections to be held on July 3, 2005, are conducted in accordance with international standards for free and fair elections	9
H. Res. 328, Recognizing the 25th anniversary of the workers' strikes in Poland in 1980 that led to the establishment of the Solidarity Trade Union .	15
Amendment to H. Res. 328 offered by the Honorable Elton Gallegly	19
LETTERS, STATEMENTS, ETC., SUBMITTED FOR THE RECORD	
The Honorable Elton Gallegly:	
Prepared statement on H. Res. 326	6
Prepared statement on H. Con. Res. 155	13
Prepared statement on H. Res. 328	18
The Honorable Eliot L. Engel, a Representative in Congress from the State of New York: Prepared statement on H. Con. Res. 155	13

**CALLING ON FREE AND FAIR PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS
IN THE REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN; URGING THE GOVERN-
MENT OF ALBANIA TO ENSURE THAT THE JULY 3, 2005
PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS ARE CONDUCTED IN AC-
CORDANCE WITH INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS FOR FREE
AND FAIR ELECTIONS; AND RECOGNIZING THE 25TH ANNI-
VERSARY OF THE WORKERS' STRIKES IN POLAND THAT
LED TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE SOLIDARITY TRADE
UNION**

TUESDAY, JUNE 21, 2005

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
SUBCOMMITTEE ON EUROPE AND EMERGING THREATS,
COMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS,
Washington, DC.

The Subcommittee met, pursuant to call, at 5:18 p.m. in room 2200, Rayburn House Office Building, Hon. Elton Gallegly (Chairman of the Subcommittee) presiding.

Mr. GALLEGLY. I call to order the Subcommittee on Europe and Emerging Threats. Pursuant to notice, I call up the resolution H. Res. 326, for the purposes of markup and move its recommendation to the Full Committee. Without objection, the resolution will be considered as read and open for amendment at any point.

Today, the Subcommittee on Europe and Emerging Threats is marking up three resolutions. Two are related to upcoming parliamentary elections in Europe, and the third is to commemorate the 25th anniversary of Solidarity.

The first item on the agenda is H. Res. 326, a resolution I introduced calling for the Government of Azerbaijan to ensure their upcoming parliamentary elections are peaceful, free, and fair.

[H. Res. 326 follows:]

109TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 326

Calling for free and fair parliamentary elections in the Republic of Azerbaijan.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 16, 2005

Mr. GALLEGLY (for himself, Mr. WEXLER, and Mr. SMITH of New Jersey) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on International Relations

RESOLUTION

Calling for free and fair parliamentary elections in the Republic of Azerbaijan.

Whereas the Republic of Azerbaijan is scheduled to hold elections for its parliament, the Milli Majlis, in November 2005;

Whereas Azerbaijan has enjoyed a strong relationship with the United States since its independence from the former Soviet Union in 1991;

Whereas international observers monitoring Azerbaijan's October 2003 presidential election found that the pre-election, election day, and post-election environments fell short of international standards;

Whereas the International Election Observation Mission (IEOM) in Baku, Azerbaijan, deployed by the Organiza-

tion for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and the Council of Europe, found that there were numerous instances of violence by both members of the opposition and government forces;

Whereas the international election observers also found inequality and irregularities in campaign and election conditions, including intimidation against opposition supporters, restrictions on political rallies by opposition candidates, and voting fraud;

Whereas Azerbaijan freely accepted a series of commitments on democracy, human rights, and the rule of law when that country joined the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe as a participating State in 1992;

Whereas, following the 2003 presidential election, the Council of Europe adopted Resolution 1358 (2004) demanding that the Government of Azerbaijan immediately implement a series of steps that included the release of political prisoners, investigation of election fraud, and the creation of public service television to allow all political parties to better communicate with the people of Azerbaijan;

Whereas, since the 2003 presidential election, the Government of Azerbaijan has taken some positive steps by releasing some political prisoners and working toward the establishment of public service television;

Whereas a genuinely free and fair election requires that citizens be guaranteed the right and opportunity to exercise their civil and political rights, free from intimidation, undue influence, threats of political retribution, or other forms of coercion by national or local authorities or others;

Whereas a genuinely free and fair election requires government and public authorities to ensure that candidates and political parties enjoy equal treatment before the law and that government resources are not employed to the advantage of individual candidates or political parties; and

Whereas the establishment of a transparent, free and fair election process for the 2005 parliamentary elections is an important step in Azerbaijan's progress toward full integration into the democratic community of nations: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

2 (1) calls on the Government of the Republic of
3 Azerbaijan to hold orderly, peaceful, and free and
4 fair parliamentary elections in November 2005 in
5 order to ensure the long-term growth and stability of
6 the country;

7 (2) calls upon the Government of Azerbaijan to
8 guarantee the full participation of opposition parties
9 in the upcoming elections, including members of op-
10 position parties arrested in the months leading up to
11 the November 2005 parliamentary elections;

12 (3) calls upon the opposition parties to fully
13 and peacefully participate in the November 2005
14 parliamentary elections, and calls upon the Govern-
15 ment of Azerbaijan to create the conditions for the
16 participation on equal grounds of all viable can-
17 didates;

1 (4) believes it is critical that the November
2 2005 parliamentary elections be viewed by the peo-
3 ple of Azerbaijan as free and fair, and that all sides
4 refrain from violence during the campaign, on elec-
5 tion day, and following the election;

6 (5) supports recommendations made by the
7 Council of Europe on amendments to the Unified
8 Election Code of Azerbaijan, specifically to ensure
9 equitable representation of opposition and pro-gov-
10 ernment forces in all election commissions;

11 (6) urges the international community and do-
12 mestic nongovernmental organizations to provide a
13 sufficient number of election observers to ensure
14 credible monitoring and reporting of the November
15 2005 parliamentary elections;

16 (7) recognizes the need for the establishment of
17 an independent media and assurances by the Gov-
18 ernment of Azerbaijan that freedom of the press will
19 be guaranteed; and

20 (8) calls upon the Government of Azerbaijan to
21 guarantee freedom of speech and freedom of assem-
22 bly.

○

Mr. GALLEGLY. In the most recent elections in that country, the 2003 Presidential elections, international election observers found that they fell short of the international standards, including numerous instances of voting fraud, restrictions on political rallies, and intimidation against political opponents. Since the Presidential election, Azerbaijan has taken a number of steps by releasing some political prisoners and opening up their airwaves to opposing viewpoints.

I urge the Government of Azerbaijan to build on this progress and conduct elections that are fair and free of fraud or intimidation. In addition, as stated in the resolution, I call upon both pro- and anti-government political parties to fully and peacefully participate in the parliamentary elections. The United States and Azerbaijan have enjoyed a strong relationship since Azerbaijan gained independence from the former Soviet Union in 1991. Azerbaijan has also made improvements in its election procedures since 2003. However, it is important that progress continues to be made and that the November parliamentary elections are viewed both in Azerbaijan and abroad as free and fair.

My office has worked very closely with Representative Chris Smith and his office, Rob Wexler and his office, the Helsinki Commission, and the State Department in drafting this resolution.

I will be offering a technical amendment to H. Res. 326. However, I would like to see if there is anyone else that has an opening statement.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Gallegly follows:]

PREPARED STATEMENT OF THE HONORABLE ELTON GALLEGLY, A REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA, AND CHAIRMAN, SUBCOMMITTEE ON EUROPE AND EMERGING THREATS

H. RES. 326

Today, the Subcommittee on Europe and Emerging Threats is marking up three resolutions. Two are related to upcoming parliamentary elections in Europe and the third is to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the Solidarity.

The first item on the agenda is H. Res. 326, a resolution I introduced calling on the Government of Azerbaijan to ensure that their upcoming parliamentary elections are peaceful, free and fair.

In the most recent elections in that country, the 2003 presidential elections, international election observers found that they fell short of international standards, including numerous instances of voting fraud, restrictions on political rallies and intimidation against political opponents.

Since the presidential election, Azerbaijan has taken a number of steps by releasing some political prisoners and opening up their airwaves to opposing viewpoints.

I urge the Government of Azerbaijan to build on this progress and conduct elections that are fair, and free of fraud or intimidation. In addition, as stated in the resolution, I call upon both pro- and anti-government political parties to fully and peacefully participate in the parliamentary elections.

The United States and Azerbaijan have enjoyed a strong relationship since Azerbaijan gained independence from the former Soviet Union in 1991. Azerbaijan has also made improvements in its election procedures since 2003. However, it is important that progress continues to be made and that the November parliamentary elections are viewed both in Azerbaijan and abroad as free and fair.

My office has worked closely with the Rep. Chris Smith's office, Mr. Wexler's office, the Helsinki Commission and the State Department in the drafting of this resolution.

I will be offering a technical amendment to H. Res. 326. However, I first want to recognize Congressman Wexler for a statement.

Ms. BERKLEY. Well, thank you, Mr. Gallegly. As a co-sponsor of this resolution, I strongly support its passage and urge the Subcommittee to report if favorably to the Full Committee.

Mr. GALLEGLY. Very good. Mr. McCotter, do you have an opening statement?

I have an amendment at the desk which, without objection, will be considered as read. As I mentioned in my opening statement, the amendment is technical in nature. It simply clarifies some of the clauses in the preamble of the resolution. The amendment does not change the resolution in any substantive manner.

[The information referred to follows:]

Amendment to H. Res. 326
Offered by Mr. Gallegly of California

In the 5th clause of the preamble, strike "against" and insert "of".

In the 8th clause of the preamble, strike "some" and insert "a number of".

In the 9th clause of the preamble, delete "," after "rights"

In the 11th clause of the preamble, strike "is" and replace with "would be".

Mr. GALLEGLY. Are there any questions anyone would like to add on the amendment?

[No response.]

Mr. GALLEGLY. Then the question occurs on the amendment. All in favor, say aye.

[A chorus of ayes.]

Mr. GALLEGLY. Any opposed?

[No response.]

Mr. GALLEGLY. The ayes have it, and the resolution is passed.

Are there any other amendments?

[No response.]

Mr. GALLEGLY. Hearing no further requests, the question occurs on the motion to report H. Res. 326 favorably, as amended. All in favor, say aye.

[A chorus of ayes.]

Mr. GALLEGLY. Any opposed?

[No response.]

Mr. GALLEGLY. The motion is approved, and the resolution is reported favorably. Without objection, the resolution will be reported favorably to the Full Committee in the form of a single amendment in the nature of a substitute incorporating the amendment adopted here today. Without objection, the staff is directed to make any technical and conforming amendments.

Pursuant to notice, I call up resolution H. Con. Res. 155 for purposes of markup. I move its recommendation to the Full Committee. Without objection, the resolution will be considered as read and open for amendment at any point.

[H. Con. Res. 155 follows:]

109TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. CON. RES. 155

Urging the Government of the Republic of Albania to ensure that the parliamentary elections to be held on July 3, 2005, are conducted in accordance with international standards for free and fair elections.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 17, 2005

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey (for himself and Mr. ENGEL) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on International Relations

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Urging the Government of the Republic of Albania to ensure that the parliamentary elections to be held on July 3, 2005, are conducted in accordance with international standards for free and fair elections.

Whereas the United States maintains strong and friendly relations with the Republic of Albania and appreciates the ongoing support of the people of Albania;

Whereas the President of Albania has called for elections to Albania's parliament, known as the People's Assembly, to be held on July 3, 2005;

Whereas Albania is one of 55 participating States in the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), all of which have adopted the 1990 Copenhagen

Document containing specific commitments relating to the conduct of elections;

Whereas these commitments, which encourage transparency, balance, and impartiality in an election process, have become the standard by which observers determine whether elections have been conducted freely and fairly;

Whereas, though improvements over time have been noted, the five multiparty parliamentary elections held in Albania between 1991 and 2001, as well as elections for local offices held between and after those years, fell short of the standards in the Copenhagen Document to varying degrees, according to OSCE and other observers;

Whereas with OSCE and other international assistance, the Government of Albania has improved the country's electoral and legal framework and enhanced the capacity to conduct free and fair elections;

Whereas subsequent to the calling of elections, Albania's political parties have accepted a code of conduct regarding their campaign activities, undertaking to act in accordance with the law, to refrain from inciting violence or hatred in the election campaign, and to be transparent in disclosing campaign funding; and

Whereas meeting the standards in the Copenhagen Document for free and fair elections is absolutely essential to Albania's desired integration into European and Euro-Atlantic institutions, including full membership in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), as well as to Albania's progress in addressing official corruption and combatting organized crime: Now, therefore, be it

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

1 (1) welcomes the opportunity for the Republic
2 of Albania to demonstrate its willingness and pre-
3 paredness to take the next steps in European and
4 Euro-Atlantic integration by holding parliamentary
5 elections on July 3, 2005, that meet the Organiza-
6 tion for Security and Cooperation in Europe
7 (OSCE) standards for free and fair elections as de-
8 fined in the 1990 Copenhagen Document;

9 (2) firmly believes that the citizens of Albania,
10 like all people, should be able to choose their own
11 representatives in parliament and government in free
12 and fair elections, and to hold these representatives
13 accountable through elections at reasonable inter-
14 vals;

15 (3) supports commitments by Albanian political
16 parties to adhere to a basic code of conduct for cam-
17 paigned and urges such parties and all election offi-
18 cials in Albania to adhere to laws relating to the
19 elections, and to conduct their activities in an impar-
20 tial and transparent manner, by allowing inter-
21 national and domestic observers to have unob-
22 structed access to all aspects of the election process,
23 including public campaign events, candidates, news
24 media, voting, and post-election tabulation of results
25 and processing of election challenges and complaints;

1 (4) supports assistance by the United States to
2 help the people of Albania establish a fully free and
3 open democratic system, a prosperous free market
4 economy, and its rightful place in European and
5 Euro-Atlantic institutions, including the North At-
6 lantic Treaty Organization (NATO); and

7 (5) encourages the President to communicate to
8 the Government of Albania, to all political parties
9 and candidates, and to the people of Albania the
10 high importance attached by the Government of the
11 United States to this parliamentary election as a
12 central factor in determining the future relationship
13 between the United States and Albania.

○

Mr. GALLEGLY. The second item on the agenda today is the consideration of H. Con. Res. 155, a resolution supporting free and fair elections in Albania introduced by my colleague and friend, Representative Chris Smith of New Jersey, the Vice Chairman of the International Relations Committee. The resolution urges Albania to hold its July 3 parliamentary elections in accordance with international standards.

This election is not only important as Albania works to develop its democratic system, but they will set the tone for the nation in the months and years ahead as it strives to become a fully democratic member of European and Euro-Atlantic institutions. The United States and Albania have strong ties and share common objectives on many issues, such as defeating international terrorism, stopping human trafficking in the Balkans, and fighting narco-trafficking. We are also working closely with the Albanian Government on maintaining stability and achieving economic prosperity throughout the region.

I strongly support our friendship with Albania and support this resolution which encourages Albania to continue down the road toward developing strong and stable democratic institutions.

I urge the passage of H. Con. Res. 155. Is there anyone else that would like to make a statement?

[The prepared statements of Mr. Gallegly and Mr. Engel follow:]

PREPARED STATEMENT OF THE HONORABLE ELTON GALLEGLY, A REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA, AND CHAIRMAN, SUBCOMMITTEE ON EUROPE AND EMERGING THREATS

H. CON. RES. 155

The second item on the agenda today is the consideration of H. Con. Res. 155, a resolution supporting free and fair elections in Albania introduced by my colleague and friend, Representative Chris Smith of New Jersey, the Vice Chairman of the International Relations Committee. The resolution urges Albania to hold its July 3 parliamentary elections in accordance with international standards.

This election is not only important as Albania works to develop its democratic system, but they will set the tone for that nation in the months and years ahead as it strives to become a fully democratic member of European and Euro-Atlantic institutions.

The United States and Albania have strong ties and share common objectives on many issues, such as defeating international terrorism, stopping human trafficking in the Balkans and fighting narco-trafficking. We are also working closely with the Albanian government on maintaining stability and achieving economic prosperity throughout the region.

I strongly support our friendship with Albania and support this resolution which encourages Albania to continue down the road towards developing strong and stable democratic institutions.

I urge the passage of H. Con. Res. 155. I will now turn to Congressman Wexler for the purposes of making a statement.

PREPARED STATEMENT OF THE HONORABLE ELIOT L. ENGEL, A REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF NEW YORK

H. CON. RES. 155

I would like to thank the Chairman and the Ranking Member for expediting consideration of H.Con.Res. 155, urging Albania to hold its July 3 parliamentary elections in accordance with international standards. I would also like to thank the lead sponsor, Chris Smith, for his work on this legislation. These elections are not only important as Albania works to develop its democratic system, but they will set the tone for the Balkan nation in the months and years ahead.

The United States and Albania have strong ties that go well beyond government relations. For that reason, we believe it important to support the people of Albania and their right to choose their elected representatives freely and fairly.

In the 15 years since Albania's brutal communist dictatorship came to an end, the country has struggled in its transition. While some elections have been problematic, there have been improvements over time, and now the country has a real chance to achieve the same international election standards that the United States, Canada and all of Europe adopted in 1990. Between now and election day, the real issue is whether the authorities, political parties and other stakeholders have the will to abide by the laws, regulations and a code of conduct. The active U.S. congressional interest expressed in this resolution can encourage all involved to do the right thing.

A good election process will have enormous benefits for Albania. Domestically, it will enable the next government to take stronger measures to address the official corruption and combat the organized crime which together thwart stronger economic recovery. Internationally, it will enable Albania to take the next steps to joining NATO and the European Union. Supporting Albanian elections today will only strengthen our relations in the future.

I will be in Albania for the July 3rd elections and will lead a delegation of Albanian Americans monitoring that the polling and counting will be done in accordance with international standards. This resolution will help make the case for a good election.

As the lead Democratic sponsor of this resolution, I urge the Subcommittee to favorably report H.Con.Res. 155 to the full Committee.

Ms. BERKLEY. I would like to thank the Chairman for bringing this to the Committee's attention. I am a co-sponsor of H. Con. Res. 155. I strongly support its passage and urge the Subcommittee to report it favorably to the Full Committee.

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. McCotter, anything?

[No response.]

Mr. GALLEGLY. There are no amendments. The question then occurs on the motion to report the resolution H. Con. Res. 155, favorably. All in favor?

[A chorus of ayes.]

Mr. GALLEGLY. Any opposed?

[No response.]

Mr. GALLEGLY. The ayes have it. The motion is approved, and the resolution is to be reported favorably. The staff is directed to make any technical and conforming amendments.

Pursuant to notice, I call up resolution H. Res. 328 for purposes of markup and move its recommendation to the Full Committee. Without objection, the resolution shall be considered as read and open for amendment at any point.

[H. Res. 328 follows:]

109TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 328

Recognizing the 25th anniversary of the workers' strikes in Poland in 1980 that led to the establishment of the Solidarity Trade Union.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 17, 2005

Mr. GALLEGLY (for himself, Mr. DINGELL, Mr. WEXLER, Mr. LIPINSKI, Mr. KANJORSKI, Mr. ROYCE, Mr. ENGEL, and Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on International Relations

RESOLUTION

Recognizing the 25th anniversary of the workers' strikes in Poland in 1980 that led to the establishment of the Solidarity Trade Union.

Whereas, although Victory in Europe on May 8, 1945, resulted in liberty and democracy in many nations, Poland and other countries of Central and Eastern Europe fell behind the repressive Iron Curtain of the Soviet Union;

Whereas for more than four decades Poland and the nations of the Soviet Bloc struggled under authoritarian rule;

Whereas in June 1979, Pope John Paul II, the former Cardinal Karol Wojtyła, returned to his homeland for the first time and exhorted his countrymen to "be not afraid" of the Communist regime;

Whereas in July and August of 1980, Polish workers in the shipyards of Gdansk and Szczecin went on strike to demand greater political freedom;

Whereas workers' committees, led by electrician Lech Walesa, coordinated these strikes and ensured that the strikes were peaceful and orderly;

Whereas in August 1980, the Communist government of Poland yielded to the 21 demands of the striking workers, including the release of all political prisoners, the broadcasting of religious services on television and radio, and the right to establish independent trade unions;

Whereas the Communist government of Poland introduced martial law in December 1981 in an attempt to block the growing influence of the Solidarity movement;

Whereas the Solidarity Trade Union and its 10,000,000 members became a great social movement committed to promoting fundamental human rights, democracy, and Polish independence from the Soviet Union;

Whereas in February 1989, the Communist government of Poland agreed to conduct talks with the Solidarity Trade Union that led to elections to the National Assembly in June of that year, in which nearly all open seats were won by candidates supported by the Solidarity Trade Union, and led soon after to the election of Poland's first non-Communist Prime Minister in the post-war era, Mr. Tadeusz Mazowiecki;

Whereas the Solidarity movement ended communism in Poland without bloodshed, inspiring other nations under Soviet control to do the same and leading to the fall of the Berlin Wall on November 9, 1989;

Whereas on November 15, 1989, Lech Walesa gave a historic speech before a joint meeting of the United States Congress with the opening remarks “We the People . . .”, which stirred a standing ovation from the Members of Congress;

Whereas on December 9, 1990, Lech Walesa was elected President of Poland;

Whereas the support of the United States and the Polish-American community was essential to the survival and success of the Solidarity movement; and

Whereas a bond of friendship exists between the United States and Poland, which is among the strongest allies of the United States, a contributing partner in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), a reliable partner in the Global War on Terrorism, and a key contributor in Iraq and Afghanistan: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That, the House of Representatives—

2 (1) recognizes the 25th anniversary of the
3 workers’ strikes in Poland that led to establishment
4 of the Solidarity Trade Union;

5 (2) honors the struggle and sacrifice of the citi-
6 zens of Poland who risked their lives to restore de-
7 mocracy to their country and to return Poland to
8 the democratic community of nations; and

9 (3) offers Poland as a model for other nations
10 struggling to emerge from authoritarian rule and es-
11 tablish a flourishing representative government.

○

Mr. GALLEGLY. H. Res. 328 is a resolution recognizing the 25th anniversary of the workers' strike in Poland in 1980 that led to the establishment of the Solidarity Trade Union. H. Res. 328 conveys our recognition of the important role played by Solidarity in setting in motion the liberation of the nations of Eastern and Central Europe and the fall of the Soviet Union. It also honors the struggle and sacrifice of the people of Poland who risked their lives to restore democracy to their country.

Solidarity began in the shipyards of Gdansk with Polish workers unwilling to submit to the tyranny of the Communist regime in Poland, even after nearly 40 years of oppression. A local electrician, Lech Walesa, coordinated the Solidarity strikes and ensured that the strikes were peaceful and orderly. After months of strikes, the Communist government yielded to the demands of the striking workers, including the release of all political prisoners, the broadcasting of religious services on television and radio, and the right to establish independent trade unions.

Throughout the 1980s, Solidarity grew to become a national movement with 10 million members, and Lech Walesa went on to become the first President of Poland after the fall of the Berlin Wall. Solidarity has had a critical role in establishing the democratic institutions that today are flourishing in Poland.

I urge passage of H. Res. 328 and would ask if my colleague, Ms. Berkley, would have any opening comments.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Gallegly follows:]

PREPARED STATEMENT OF THE HONORABLE ELTON GALLEGLY, A REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA, AND CHAIRMAN, SUBCOMMITTEE ON EUROPE AND EMERGING THREATS

H. RES. 328

The third resolution on today's agenda is H. Res. 328, a resolution recognizing the 25th anniversary of the workers' strikes in Poland in 1980 that led to the establishment of the Solidarity Trade Union.

H. Res. 328 conveys our recognition of the important role played by Solidarity in setting in motion the liberation of the nations of Eastern and Central Europe and the fall of the Soviet Union. It also honors the struggle and sacrifice of the people of Poland who risked their lives to restore democracy to their country.

Solidarity began in the shipyards of Gdansk with Polish workers unwilling to submit to the tyranny of the communist regime in Poland even after nearly forty years of oppression. A local electrician, Lech Walesa, coordinated the Solidarity strikes and ensured that the strikes were peaceful and orderly. After months of strikes, the Communist government yielded to the demands of the striking workers, including the release of all political prisoners, the broadcasting of religious services on television and radio, and the right to establish independent trade unions.

Throughout the 1980's, Solidarity grew to become a national movement with 10 million members, and Lech Walesa went on to become the first president of Poland after the fall of the Berlin Wall. Solidarity also had a critical role in establishing the democratic institutions that today are flourishing in Poland.

I urge the passage of H. Res. 328. I will now turn to Congressman Wexler for the purposes of making a statement.

Ms. BERKLEY. Mr. Chairman, I remember, long before I came to Congress, watching the Polish workers' strikes and the Solidarity trade movement unfold on television. I cannot fail to recall what an extraordinary moment that was for not only the people of Poland, but for all democracy-loving people throughout the world. I had the opportunity to travel to Poland in January and see for myself firsthand the strong support of the Polish people not only of democracy but of the United States of America. They are a key part-

ner in NATO, and I very strongly support passage of this resolution and urge the Subcommittee to report it favorably to the Full Committee.

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. McCotter?

Mr. MCCOTTER. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I, too, was able to go to Poland with the gentlelady from Nevada and my colleague, Representative Steve Israel.

In 1980, I distinctly remember Solidarity for perhaps a strange reason. I remember, after John Lennon was shot, *Time* magazine had a portrait of him on the cover. In the little inset in the corner of the picture was a red Soviet tank, and then it said, "What is next in Poland?" So it is hard to believe that it has been 25 years since these momentous events occurred.

What is not hard to believe is, having been to Poland and seen the warmth, honor, dignity, and courage of the Polish people, why they were the people who struck the first blow in eastern Europe that led to the end of the evil empire that was the Soviet Union and the Communist totalitarian system.

There were those who have always asked, in this day and age, where is the heart of Europe? In my mind, Mr. Chairman, which is why I am honored to support this resolution, if someone wants to find the heart of Europe and its soul, they need look no further than the people of Poland. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. GALLEGLY. Thank you, Mr. McCotter.

Mr. Chandler, did you have anything you would like to add?

Mr. CHANDLER. I do not need to add anything, Mr. Chairman, other than I cannot believe it has been 25 years.

Mr. GALLEGLY. Time has really flown. It was a very historic day for me, and I was honored to have the opportunity to hear Lech Walesa address the House in a joint session. I do not know if there is anyone here on the Subcommittee that was here at the time, but it was an historic time in this Nation's history.

As I mentioned in my opening statement, I have an amendment to the resolution. The amendment reflects conversations with Congressman Lantos's office regarding the role played by Solidarity in the fall of the Berlin Wall and the end of Communism in Central and Eastern Europe. The amendment is one of calculation and does not change the resolution in any substantive manner.

[The information referred to follows:]

AMENDMENT TO H. RES. 328

OFFERED BY MR. GALLEGLY OF CALIFORNIA

In the tenth clause of the preamble, strike "leading to the fall of the Berlin Wall on November 9, 1989" and insert "playing an important role in the fall of communism in Central and Eastern Europe".

Mr. GALLEGLY. Is there anyone that would like to make a comment regarding the amendment?

[No response.]

Mr. GALLEGLY. Hearing no request, the question occurs on the amendment. All in favor, say aye.

[A chorus of ayes.]

Mr. GALLEGLY. Any opposed?

[No response.]

Mr. GALLEGLY. The amendment passes.

Are there any further amendments? Do you have another?

Mr. ENGEL. I do not have an amendment, Mr. Chairman. I just ask for unanimous consent on the Albanian resolution, that was just passed, to include my statement into the record in the place that debate was taking place.

Mr. GALLEGLY. Without objection, any Member may insert comments into the record on any of the measures that were considered today.

Mr. ENGEL. Thank you.

Mr. GALLEGLY. With no further requests for an amendment, the question occurs on the motion to report resolution H. Res. 328 favorably, as amended. All in favor will say aye.

[A chorus of ayes.]

Mr. GALLEGLY. Any opposed?

[No response.]

Mr. GALLEGLY. The motion is approved, and the resolution is reported favorably. Without objection, the resolution will be reported favorably to the Full Committee in the form of a single amendment in the nature of a substitute incorporating the amendments adopted here today. Without objection, the staff is directed to make any technical and conforming amendments.

Having no other business on the agenda today, the Subcommittee stands adjourned.

[Whereupon, at 5:31 p.m., the Subcommittee was adjourned.]

