

PROVIDING FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A COMMISSION IN  
THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO ASSIST PARLIAMENTS  
IN EMERGING DEMOCRACIES; AND WELCOMING THE ACCESSION  
OF BULGARIA, ESTONIA, LATVIA, LITHUANIA, ROMANIA,  
SLOVAKIA, AND SLOVENIA TO THE NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY  
ORGANIZATION [NATO], AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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MARKUP

BEFORE THE  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON EUROPE  
OF THE

COMMITTEE ON  
INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH CONGRESS

SECOND SESSION

ON

**H. Res. 543 and H. Res. 558**

MARCH 17, 2004

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**PROVIDING FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A COMMISSION  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO ASSIST PAR-  
LIAMENTS IN EMERGING DEMOCRACIES; AND WELCOMING  
THE ACCESSION OF BULGARIA, ESTONIA, LATVIA, LITH-  
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NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANIZATION [NATO], AND  
FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

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**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 17, 2004**

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON EUROPE,  
COMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS,  
*Washington, DC.*

The Committee met, pursuant to call, at 4:07 p.m. in Room 2172, Rayburn House Office Building, Hon. Doug Bereuter presiding.

Mr. BEREUTER. Pursuant to notice, I call up the resolution, H. Res. 543, for the purposes of markup. Without objection, the resolution will be considered as read and open for amendment at any point.

[H. Res. 543 follows:]

108TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. RES. 543

Providing for the establishment of a commission in the House of Representatives to assist parliaments in emerging democracies.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 26, 2004

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina (for himself, Mr. BEREUTER, Mr. DREIER, and Mr. FROST) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on International Relations

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## RESOLUTION

Providing for the establishment of a commission in the House of Representatives to assist parliaments in emerging democracies.

1 *Resolved,*

2 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

3 This resolution may be cited as the “House Commis-  
4 sion For Assisting Democratic Parliaments Resolution”.

5 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

6 The House of Representatives makes the following  
7 findings:

1           (1) Since its founding, the United States has  
2           championed the development of democracy around  
3           the world.

4           (2) Indeed, beginning with the Continental Con-  
5           gress and continuing through the modern Congress,  
6           representative institutions have served as a critical  
7           component through which the American people have  
8           expressed their views on policy issues and through  
9           which the power of other government branches has  
10          been balanced.

11          (3) Establishing democratic institutions in  
12          other countries is in the national interest of the  
13          United States and constitutes a goal of United  
14          States foreign policy.

15          (4) For democracies to mature and to with-  
16          stand cyclical turnover in government, strong gov-  
17          ernment institutions, particularly national legisla-  
18          tures with appropriate infrastructure, are critical.

19          (5) Furthermore, the legislative branches of  
20          governments of emerging democracies are largely  
21          comprised of new legislators, citizens from many  
22          walks of life, who face the challenges of creating new  
23          democratic systems without the benefit of previous  
24          legislative experience. The legislatures of these fledg-

1       ling democracies lack training, equipment, or re-  
2       sources to carry out their work effectively.

3               (6) Currently, many parliaments do not possess  
4       the necessary technology, such as modern computer  
5       equipment, software, or access to databases and  
6       electronic resources, to facilitate the timely flow of  
7       legislative information to lawmakers and legislative  
8       staff.

9               (7) Parliaments in fledgling democracies also  
10       frequently lack trained staff to provide nonpartisan  
11       policy information, to draft legislation, and to advise  
12       legislators on policy matters.

13              (8) Newly democratic parliaments may lack the  
14       resources to establish internal libraries, reference  
15       materials, and archiving capabilities for use by legis-  
16       lators and staff.

17              (9) From 1990 through 1996, the United  
18       States House of Representatives, in conjunction with  
19       the House Information Systems Office (later known  
20       as House Information Resources) and the Congres-  
21       sional Research Service (CRS) of the Library of  
22       Congress, provided equipment and technical assist-  
23       ance to new parliaments in Central and Eastern Eu-  
24       ropean countries, including Albania, Bulgaria, the  
25       Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lith-

1 uania, Poland, Romania, Russia, Slovakia, and  
2 Ukraine in an effort to develop and strengthen those  
3 institutions.

4 (10) This program, commonly known as the  
5 “Frost-Solomon Task Force”, not only served the  
6 United States foreign policy goal of helping to estab-  
7 lish democratic institutions in other countries, but  
8 also developed significant goodwill in the countries in  
9 which it was implemented. The program was de-  
10 signed to improve the efficiency of parliaments and  
11 the professionalism of its members and staff, as well  
12 as to increase transparency and accountability.

13 (11) A program similar to the Frost-Solomon  
14 Task Force, which strengthens professionalism and  
15 efficiency within parliaments in democratic coun-  
16 tries, continues to be in the national interests of the  
17 United States.

18 **SEC. 3. ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMISSION.**

19 There is established in the House of Representatives  
20 a commission to be known as the House Commission For  
21 Assisting Democratic Parliaments (hereafter in this reso-  
22 lution referred to as the “Commission”).

1 **SEC. 4. MEMBERSHIP OF COMMISSION.**

2 (a) NUMBER AND APPOINTMENT.—The Commission  
3 shall be composed of 8 Members of the House of  
4 Representatives—

5 (1) of which 4 members shall be appointed by  
6 the Speaker of the House of Representatives; and

7 (2) of which 4 members shall be appointed by  
8 the Minority Leader of the House of Representa-  
9 tives.

10 (b) TERMS OF MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF REP-  
11 RESENTATIVES.—Each member of the Commission shall  
12 be appointed for a term that is concurrent with the Con-  
13 gress in which the appointment is made. Such a member  
14 may be reappointed for one or more subsequent terms in  
15 accordance with the preceding sentence.

16 (c) CHAIRPERSON; VICE CHAIRPERSON.—The Chair-  
17 person of the Commission shall be designated by the  
18 Speaker of the House of Representatives from among the  
19 members appointed under subsection (a)(1). The Vice  
20 Chairperson shall be designated by the Minority Leader  
21 of the House of Representatives from among the members  
22 appointed under subsection (a)(2).

23 **SEC. 5. STAFF OF COMMISSION.**

24 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Commission shall appoint  
25 and fix the pay of such personnel as the Commission con-  
26 siders appropriate.

1 (b) DETAIL OF LEGISLATIVE BRANCH EMPLOY-  
2 EES.—At the request of the Commission, the head of any  
3 office in the legislative branch may detail any of the per-  
4 sonnel of that office to the Commission to assist it in car-  
5 rying out its duties under this resolution. Any individual  
6 detailed by an office to the Commission pursuant to this  
7 subsection shall retain the individual's status as an em-  
8 ployee of the office for purposes of pay and benefits.

9 (c) EMPLOYMENT OF CONSULTANTS.—The Commis-  
10 sion may employ consultants to assist in carrying out its  
11 duties as described in section 6, including individuals with  
12 expertise in development of democratic parliaments, legis-  
13 lative systems management, legislative research, par-  
14 liamentary procedure, related legislative matters, and  
15 technology systems management.

16 **SEC. 6. DUTIES OF COMMISSION.**

17 (a) STUDY.—

18 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Commission shall con-  
19 duct an annual study on the feasibility of programs  
20 of assistance for parliaments of countries described  
21 in paragraph (2) for the purpose of strengthening  
22 the parliamentary infrastructure of such countries.  
23 This study may be conducted more frequently, if the  
24 Commission so decides. The study shall assess—

1 (A) how the parliament in each country  
2 studied plays, or could reasonably be expected  
3 to play, an independent and substantive role in  
4 the legislative process and government over-  
5 sight;

6 (B) how improving access to information  
7 and developing independent and objective re-  
8 search and analytical capabilities would enable  
9 the parliament in each country studied to im-  
10 prove the effectiveness of members and profes-  
11 sional staff and would increase legislative trans-  
12 parency and accountability; and

13 (C) how modern automation and office sys-  
14 tems would improve efficiency and transparency  
15 in the work of the parliament in each country  
16 studied.

17 (2) COUNTRIES DESCRIBED.—The countries re-  
18 ferred to in paragraph (1) are countries that—

19 (A) have established or are developing  
20 democratic parliaments which would benefit  
21 from assistance described in this resolution; and

22 (B) express to the United States Govern-  
23 ment an interest to receive such assistance.

24 (3) SELECTED COUNTRIES.—From the coun-  
25 tries studied, the Commission shall select one or

1 more parliaments that it recommends should receive  
2 assistance under the provisions of this resolution,  
3 based on the criteria in paragraph (1).

4 (b) REPORT.—The Commission shall prepare and  
5 submit to the Speaker of the House of Representatives,  
6 the Minority Leader of the House of Representatives, the  
7 appropriate House committees, and the Administrator of  
8 the United States Agency for International Development,  
9 an annual report on the following:

10 (1) RESULTS OF STUDY.—The results of the  
11 study conducted pursuant to subsection (a).

12 (2) COMMISSION ACTIVITIES.—In accordance  
13 with the results of such study, a proposal for the ac-  
14 tivities of the Commission in the following year, as  
15 described in subsection (c).

16 (3) RECOMMENDATIONS TO USAID.—(A) In ac-  
17 cordance with the results of such study, rec-  
18 ommendations to the Administrator of the United  
19 States Agency for International Development to de-  
20 sign and implement programs of assistance for par-  
21 liaments of selected countries, including rec-  
22 ommendations to achieve the purposes of subpara-  
23 graphs (B) through (D).

24 (B) Such programs of assistance may include—

1 (i) efforts to establish or improve existing  
2 libraries of parliaments of selected countries, in-  
3 cluding, but not limited to, providing equip-  
4 ment, Internet access, books, reference mate-  
5 rials, government documents, periodical sub-  
6 scriptions and databases; and

7 (ii) efforts to improve the efficiency and  
8 transparency of legislation and proceedings in  
9 parliaments of selected countries, including, but  
10 not limited to, providing equipment, Internet  
11 access, and desktop publishing capabilities.

12 (C)(i) In coordination with parliaments in se-  
13 lected countries, USAID should develop detailed,  
14 multiyear plans for providing equipment, strength-  
15 ening library collections, and enhancing research and  
16 analysis capabilities in those parliaments.

17 (ii) Plans described in clause (i) should include  
18 specific goals to be achieved through the provision of  
19 assistance, estimated costs of meeting the goals, the  
20 conditions under which assistance should be pro-  
21 vided, the type of equipment and resources to be  
22 provided, and annual plans for assessing the extent  
23 to which the goals have been achieved.

24 (D) All equipment and books that are provided  
25 to selected countries should be inscribed to designate

1 the items as gifts from the United States of Amer-  
2 ica.

3 (c) ACTIVITIES.—The Commission shall work with  
4 the parliaments of selected countries on a frequent and  
5 regular basis in order to—

6 (1) allow Commission members and staff to  
7 provide expert advice to members and staff of the  
8 parliaments of selected countries;

9 (2) enable members and staff of parliaments in  
10 selected countries to visit the House of Representa-  
11 tives and its support agencies to learn about their  
12 operations first-hand; and

13 (3) observe and provide recommendations re-  
14 garding the implementation of the assistance pro-  
15 grams described in subsection (b)(3).

16 **SEC. 7. TRAVEL.**

17 Members and staff of the Commission are authorized  
18 to travel to foreign countries to carry out this resolution.

19 **SEC. 8. DEFINITIONS.**

20 In this resolution:

21 (1) APPROPRIATE HOUSE COMMITTEES.—The  
22 term “appropriate House committees” means the  
23 Committee on Appropriations, the Committee on  
24 House Administration, the Committee on Inter-

1 national Relations, and the Committee on Rules of  
2 the House of Representatives.

3 (2) EQUIPMENT.—The term “equipment” in-  
4 cludes basic office and automation equipment (copi-  
5 ers, fax, telephone answering machines, an initial  
6 complement of personal computers and printers,  
7 software, CD-ROMs, and auxiliary storage media),  
8 and library collections and library support automa-  
9 tion, as well as the associated training and technical  
10 assistance to effectively use such equipment.

11 **SEC. 9. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

12 There are authorized to be appropriated from the ap-  
13 plicable accounts of the House of Representatives to the  
14 Commission to carry out this resolution such sums as may  
15 be necessary for each of the fiscal years 2005 through  
16 2008.

○

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Wexler, with your consent, I would like to depart from normal practice and call upon the primary co-sponsor of the resolution, our colleague from North Carolina, Mr. Price, who has been working with me, and introduce this resolution, which I am the co-sponsor of, to create a House commission for assisting democratic parliaments. Mr. Price, if you would take the witness table, we would like very much to have your statement. Is there objection?

[No response.]

Mr. BEREUTER. Hearing no objection, thank you, Mr. Wexler.

Mr. Price, you may proceed, and your entire statement will be made a part of the record. Thank you very much for your appearance here today.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Bereuter follows:]

PREPARED STATEMENT OF THE HONORABLE DOUG BEREUTER, A REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF NEBRASKA, AND CHAIRMAN, SUBCOMMITTEE ON EUROPE

H. RES. 543

As the primary original co-sponsor of the resolution before us, I first want to thank my friend, the distinguished gentleman from North Carolina, Mr. Price, for working with me and introducing this resolution to establish the House Commission for Assisting Democratic Parliaments.

Having been involved in the Frost-Solomon Task Force, which undertook a similar effort a decade ago, I am enthused to offer this new initiative. Mr. Frost and Mr. Dreier join us as original co-sponsors of this resolution.

The spread of parliamentary democracy in Central and Eastern Europe is one of the great success stories in recent history. Of course, the efforts by those nations to overthrow their communist dictatorships in some cases traces back several decades, but the rapid downfall of those regimes began after the events of 1989 and accelerated in the early 1990s.

Sadly, of course, some countries that gained independence after the collapse of the Soviet Union and Yugoslavia simply traded communist dictatorships for new dictatorships of nationalists and former apparatchiks. However, most of these countries moved quickly to establish new democracies, holding free and fair elections and beginning the process of transforming their parliaments from rubber-stamp façades into independent legislatures. This latter task proved easier to accomplish on paper than in practice.

As we well know in this Congress, our ability to successfully legislate independently of the executive in large part depends on our access to independent information and analysis. We are fortunate to have our own staffs and support agencies to which we can turn to research an issue and provide alternative points of view.

Recognizing the importance of this, the Congress has created agencies like the General Accounting Office, Congressional Research Service and Congressional Budget Office to provide Members with independent views and oversight. In this respect, the Congress is the envy of every other parliamentary body in the world.

In the newly democratic parliaments, this capacity and expertise was lacking. Recognizing its importance for legislative autonomy, in 1990 the gentleman from Texas, Mr. Frost—an original cosponsor of this resolution—was instrumental in establishing a task force through the Speaker's office to help develop the needed capabilities in the parliaments of the newly emerging democracies of Central and Eastern Europe.

In cooperation with the late gentleman from New York, Mr. Solomon, Mr. Frost developed and led a multi-member effort that allowed the House of Representatives to share with the newly democratic parliaments the expertise of Members and staff, especially from the Congressional Research Service.

The task force provided modest donations of information technology-related office equipment and reference materials for parliamentary libraries, thereby facilitating the establishment of independent research services.

The task force also helped those parliaments develop parliamentary procedures and legislative information systems to inform Members and the general public about parliamentary activities in a timely and open fashion. At a modest cost, we were

able to help these parliaments become effective legislatures and play their crucial part in a democratic system.

Largely because of its success, the Frost-Solomon Task Force was terminated in 1996. However, while most of those countries that received aid have indeed become full-fledged democracies, others still need a helping hand. The Price-Bereuter Resolution aims to provide that assistance.

The resolution before us would create a House Commission for Assisting Democratic Parliaments, comprised of eight House Members—four Republicans and four Democrats—and it would have a small staff to coordinate its activities and help Members determine which parliaments would most benefit from such assistance.

Much of the expertise that these parliaments require can be found in the House and its support agencies, so the resolution would allow congressional offices to detail employees to the Commission. Recognizing that many of those who worked so effectively and energetically on the initial Frost-Solomon Task Force have retired or are about to retire from congressional employment, the resolution also would allow the Commission to use those retirees as consultants, so that parliaments can benefit from their years of expertise.

In addition to providing expert advice from Commission members and staff, the resolution envisions a modest assistance program to provide parliaments with information technology-related equipment and with reference materials so that they can establish a research service and a legislative information system. Furthermore, when the Commission identified needs in selected parliaments, it could recommend that the Agency for International Development provide certain equipment, materials or technical assistance to enable those parliaments to become more efficient and transparent.

The first task of this Commission should be to finish the work that was begun in Central and Eastern Europe, which is the reason I am holding a markup today in this subcommittee.

I think the logical place to start would be the countries of the Western Balkans: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Macedonia, and Serbia and Montenegro. Albania was part of the original Frost Task Force, as was Ukraine, which could be considered under this new program, though I have some concerns about the direction of the current parliament. Georgia, with a new, pro-Western government and parliament, might be another country to consider.

However, the resolution does not limit the Commission's scope to the western Balkans and Eastern Europe. Once established, this program could expand to assist parliaments in other qualified countries in the Caucasus, North African, and Central Asian areas, and perhaps other parts of the world.

For example, the United States is committed to help create representative democracies in Afghanistan and Iraq.

It would send a strong, positive signal if the House were to offer practical assistance to the new parliaments in those nations to help them develop as autonomous institutions in a democratic society.

I was pleased to play a small part in the Frost-Solomon Task Force in the 1990s by participating in our trips to Albania, Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia, and the Czech Republic that reviewed the results of the assistance provided.

Today, we have an opportunity to further assist in the emergence of democratic parliaments by enabling this House to share its expertise and to work with USAID to provide the necessary assistance.

So, this afternoon I urge my colleagues to favorably report to the full Committee House Resolution 543, the Price-Bereuter-Dreier-Frost Resolution to create the House Commission for Assisting Democratic Parliaments.

Mr. PRICE. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate very much the chance to speak with you about this resolution and, before this, to have worked with you in putting this resolution together and securing co-sponsors and otherwise expediting the setting up of this much-needed commission, a commission that would assist parliaments in emerging democracies with various kinds of support and assistance from the House of Representatives.

I will be very brief in outlining the purpose of the resolution.

We all know the great success story that the spread of parliamentary democracy represents in Central and Eastern Europe. We also know that sometimes these new democracies are very fragile, that democratic institutions do not arise automatically. The

U.S. Congress itself evolved over a couple of centuries, and some would say we have not arrived yet. Certainly, there is a painstaking kind of work and support that is required if parliamentary institutions are to function well.

We are very fortunate in this House. We have a Library of Congress with incomparable resources, a Congressional Research Service. We have the latest technology, House Information Resources, to help us understand and use that technology. We have trained experts in every conceivable area. We have come a long way from the days when Congress was nothing more than a building and a few official rooms.

Well, many new democracies are starting where we started over 200 years ago. Members of these newly formed parliaments, the people they represent, have chosen democracy, and I believe it is our duty, as champions of democracy, to help them to build strong and enduring institutions.

Mr. Chairman, from 1990 through 1996, you and I and many other colleagues worked with our friend, Martin Frost, the late Gerald Solomon, who led a House task force that provided assistance, equipment, and training to new parliaments in Central and Eastern European countries in an effort to strengthen those institutions.

In the space of just a few years, the program made significant contributions to the development of democratic parliaments in the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, seven other nations, and increased the transparency and the accountability of those institutions as well. House Members and congressional staff trained over 2,200 members and staff in those new parliaments. At a modest cost, we helped those parliaments become effective legislatures.

So, as one who participated in the Frost-Solomon Task Force, I found our work immensely rewarding and was struck, even moved, by the way the parliamentary leaders we worked with looked to the U.S. Congress for inspiration.

In addition to serving our foreign policy goal of helping to establish democratic institutions, we developed extraordinary goodwill in the countries we worked with, goodwill that still exists today, and that work is still very, very important. We have a tremendous opportunity before us to continue to serve, not just as a model but as a partner, in strengthening democracy across the globe.

We should begin, I believe, by finishing the work we started in Central and Eastern Europe, in the countries of the former Yugoslavia and other countries in the Balkan region, extend our efforts then, as independent functioning parliaments emerge, to Central Asia, the Middle East, and possibly other regions. The House has made clear its commitment to help create representative democracies in Afghanistan and Iraq. I believe, down the road, this commission could play a critical role in providing the support necessary for these and other new democracies to succeed.

So, Mr. Chairman, I, again, appreciate your leadership on this and your expedited scheduling of this markup. I would be happy to answer any questions, but I do believe this is a resolution that has broad support. It has attracted good bipartisan co-sponsorship. I do think the time is ripe to undertake this kind of outreach effort with our sister democracies, and so I urge that we move the resolu-

tion forward so that, in Fiscal 2005, we can actually get this work underway.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Price follows:]

PREPARED STATEMENT OF THE HONORABLE DAVID PRICE, A REPRESENTATIVE IN  
CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

REMARKS ON H. RES. 543, A RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A  
COMMISSION IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO ASSIST PARLIAMENTS IN  
EMERGING DEMOCRACIES.

The spread of parliamentary democracy in Central and Eastern Europe is one of the great success stories in recent history.

While the House of Representatives has celebrated the fall of oppressive regimes and the formation of newly democratic governments, I am here today to point out that it also has recognized that new democracies are very fragile.

Functioning parliamentary systems do not merely appear once a country becomes a democracy. Look at the U.S. Congress, an institution that has existed for over two centuries—in many ways, we're still figuring things out!

We have the good fortune of having a Library of Congress and a Congressional Research Service. We have the latest technology and House Information Resources to help us understand and use that technology. We have highly trained experts in every conceivable area, who we can turn to for help and guidance. We have come a long way from the days when Congress was nothing more than a building with rooms.

Many new democracies are starting where we started over 200 years ago. Members of these newly formed parliaments and the people they represent have chosen democracy. I believe it is our duty, as champions of democracy everywhere, to help them build strong and enduring institutions.

From 1990 through 1996, our colleagues Martin Frost and the late Gerald Solomon, led a House Task Force that provided assistance, equipment, and training to new parliaments in Central and Eastern European countries in an effort to develop and strengthen those institutions.

In a brief time, the program made significant contributions to the development of democracies in the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, and other nations, and increased transparency and accountability, as well.

House Members and congressional staff trained over 2,200 Members and staff in those newly established parliaments. At a modest cost, we helped those parliaments become effective legislatures and play their part in a democratic system.

As one who participated in the Frost-Solomon Task Force, I found our work immensely rewarding and was struck by the ways the parliamentary leaders we worked with looked to the U.S. Congress for inspiration.

In addition to serving our foreign policy goal of helping to establish democratic institutions in other countries, we developed significant goodwill in the countries we helped—goodwill that still exists today.

That work has arguably never been more important than it is today. We have a tremendous opportunity before us to continue to serve not just as a model, but as a partner in the effort to strengthen democracy across the globe.

We could begin by finishing the work we started in Central and Eastern Europe, and then extend our efforts to the western Balkans, Caucasus, Central Asia, and the Middle East.

The House has made clear its commitment to helping create representative democracies in Afghanistan and Iraq, and this Commission could play a critical role in providing the support necessary for these new democracies to succeed.

I hope you will join me and Chairman Bereuter in supporting this resolution.

Mr. BEREUTER. Thank you very much Mr. Price, and I would recognize myself for a few comments.

I want to thank you for your initiative, and I remember well our participation in the previous Frost-Solomon Codell. Mr. Frost and Mr. Dreier join us as original co-sponsors.

I ask unanimous consent that my entire statement be made a part of the record.

[No response.]

Mr. BEREUTER. Hearing no objection, I will just hit a few additional points or perhaps a few reiterating points.

Mr. Frost really was instrumental in establishing a task force, through the Speaker's office, to help develop the needed capabilities of parliaments in newly emerging democracies of Central and Eastern Europe. And you pointed out how fortunate, indeed, we are, Mr. Price, in having the capabilities that this Congress has to assist us in legislation and oversight. They are unmatched in the world.

The task force provided modest donations of information, technology-related office equipment, reference material for parliamentary libraries, thereby facilitating the establishment of independent research services. The task force also helped those parliaments develop parliamentary procedures and legislative information systems to inform members and the general public about parliamentary activities in a timely and open fashion. At a modest cost, we were able to help these parliaments become effective legislatures and play their crucial part in a democratic system.

Largely because of its success, the Frost-Solomon Task Force was terminated in 1996. However, while most of those countries that received aid have, indeed, become full-fledged democracies, others still need a helping hand. The Price-Bereuter Resolution, I think, aims, of course, to provide that assistance.

The commission itself would be comprised of eight House Members, four Republicans, four Democrats, would have a small staff to coordinate its activities and help Members determine which parliaments would most benefit from such assistance. I think that much of the expertise that these parliaments require can be found in the House itself and in our support agencies, so the resolution would allow congressional offices to detail employees to the commission.

Recognizing that many of those who worked so effectively and energetically on the initial Frost-Solomon Task Force have retired or are about to retire from congressional employment, the resolution would also allow the commission to use those retirees as consultants so the parliaments can benefit from their years of expertise.

I think the first task of the commission would be to finish the work, as I mentioned, already begun in Central and Eastern Europe, where that needs to be the case, and the logical place to start, then, after that would be the countries of the Western Balkans: Albania, Bosnia, Herzegovina, Croatia, Macedonia, Serbia, and Montenegro. Albania was part of the original Frost Task Force effort, as was Ukraine, which could be considered again under this new program, although I have some concerns about the direction of the current parliament with respect to Ukraine. Georgia, with a new, pro-western government in parliament, might be another country to consider, and there is no reason why, in fact, this kind of assistance could not be given to the countries of the Caucasus, North African, and Central Asian regions. And, of course, we are committed to help create representative democracies in Afghanistan and Iraq.

I recall visiting Albania, Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia, and Czech Republic to review the results of the assistance provided, and I was very heartened, as were Members, on a bipartisan basis, of what had been the result of our effort.

So I urge my colleagues to favorably report to the Full Committee House Resolution 543, the Price-Bereuter-Dreier-Frost Resolution to create the House Commission for Assisting Democratic Parliaments.

And I would recognize now the distinguished Ranking Member of the Subcommittee, the gentleman from Florida, Mr. Wexler, for a statement but also to ask any questions he might wish to of Mr. Price or myself. Mr. Wexler.

Mr. WEXLER. Amen.

Mr. BEREUTER. I take it, you are ready to move to markup, then.

Mr. WEXLER. Thank you.

Mr. BEREUTER. Are there any amendments?

[No response.]

Mr. BEREUTER. Hearing none, then the Chair will now entertain a motion that the resolution be reported favorably to the Full Committee. A question occurs on the motion to report the resolution to the Full Committee favorably. All of those in favor will say aye.

[A chorus of ayes.]

Mr. BEREUTER. Those opposed, say no.

[No response.]

Mr. BEREUTER. The motion approved. The bill is reported favorably. Thank you very much. Thank you, Mr. Price.

We will now move to the second item on our markup agenda today. Pursuant to notice, I call up the resolution, H. Res. 558, for purposes of markup. Without objection, the resolution will be considered as read and open for amendment at any point.

[H. Res. 558 follows:]

108TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

## H. RES. 558

Welcoming the accession of Bulgaria, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania, Slovakia, and Slovenia to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), and for other purposes.

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### IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 11, 2004

Mr. BEREUTER (for himself, Mr. WEXLER, Mr. GILLMOR, and Mr. SHIMKUS) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on International Relations

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## RESOLUTION

Welcoming the accession of Bulgaria, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania, Slovakia, and Slovenia to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), and for other purposes.

Whereas since 1949 the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) has played an essential role in guaranteeing the security, freedom, and prosperity of the United States and its allies in Europe and North America;

Whereas since 1994 Congress has repeatedly endorsed the enlargement of NATO through the NATO Participation Act of 1994, the NATO Enlargement Facilitation Act of 1996, the European Security Act of 1998, the Gerald B. H. Solomon Freedom Consolidation Act of 2002, the Transatlantic Security and NATO Enhancement Resolu-

tion of 2002, and House Concurrent Resolution 209 (2003);

Whereas NATO heads of state and government, meeting in Prague on November 21, 2002, invited Bulgaria, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania, Slovakia, and Slovenia to commence accession negotiations with NATO;

Whereas on March 26, 2003, Bulgaria, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania, Slovakia, and Slovenia signed accession protocols to the Washington Treaty of 1949;

Whereas on May 8, 2003, the Senate voted 96–0 to give its advice and consent to ratification by the United States of the seven accession protocols;

Whereas on March 2, 2004, NATO Secretary General Jaap de Hoop Scheffer announced that all 19 NATO members had deposited with the United States Government their instruments of ratification of the accession protocols;

Whereas Bulgaria, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania, Slovakia, and Slovenia have reformed their political and economic systems in preparation for NATO membership;

Whereas Bulgaria, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania, Slovakia, and Slovenia have undertaken defense reform programs that will enable each country to contribute to NATO operations and are working to meet the financial responsibilities of NATO membership by spending or committing to spend at least two percent of their gross domestic product on defense;

Whereas Bulgaria, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania, Slovakia, and Slovenia have contributed to NATO operations in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, and Afghanistan;

Whereas Bulgaria, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania, Slovakia, and Slovenia are scheduled to become members of

NATO on April 2, 2004, and are expected to be welcomed by NATO heads of state and government when they meet in Istanbul on June 28 and 29, 2004;

Whereas Albania, Croatia, and Macedonia, the remaining countries currently in NATO's Membership Action Plan, signed the United States-Adriatic Charter on May 2, 2003, thereby affirming their commitment to the values and principles of NATO and their desire to join the Alliance at the earliest possible time;

Whereas in 2003 Congress, in House Concurrent Resolution 209, urged NATO to invite Albania, Croatia, and Macedonia to join NATO as soon as each of these countries respectively demonstrates the ability to assume the responsibilities of NATO membership through the Membership Action Plan;

Whereas the Governments of Albania and Macedonia supported Operation Iraqi Freedom and are contributing forces to stabilization operations in Iraq and to the NATO-led International Security Assistance Force in Afghanistan; and

Whereas the Government of Croatia elected in November 2003 has demonstrated its commitment to implementing reforms and meeting conditions for integration into Euro-Atlantic institutions, including the defense reforms necessary for NATO membership, and has contributed forces to the NATO-led International Security Assistance Force in Afghanistan: Now, therefore, be it

- 1       *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—
- 2               (1) welcomes with enthusiasm the accession of
- 3       Bulgaria, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania, Slo-

1 vakia, and Slovenia to the North Atlantic Treaty Or-  
2 ganization (NATO);

3 (2) reaffirms that the process of NATO en-  
4 largement enhances the security of the United  
5 States and the entire North Atlantic area;

6 (3) agrees that the process of NATO enlarge-  
7 ment should be open to potential membership by any  
8 interested European democracy that meets the cri-  
9 teria for NATO membership as set forth in the 1995  
10 Study on NATO Enlargement and whose admission  
11 would further the principles of the Washington  
12 Treaty of 1949 and would enhance security in the  
13 North Atlantic area; and

14 (4) recommends that NATO heads of state and  
15 government should review the enlargement process,  
16 including the applications of Albania, Croatia, and  
17 Macedonia, at a summit meeting to be held no later  
18 than 2007.

○

Mr. BEREUTER. I do have an opening statement. I want to thank the Ranking Member of the Subcommittee for co-sponsoring the resolution and helping me to move it forward in a bipartisan fashion.

The Bereuter-Wexler Resolution welcomes the accession to NATO membership of seven Central European democracies: Bulgaria, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania, Slovakia, and Slovenia. In the past few days, I have learned that the actual date of accession will now be March 29th, and there will be ceremonies here in Washington to mark the occasion.

The resolution also reaffirms the support of the House for the process of NATO enlargement and for keeping NATO's door open to all democratic democracies in Europe which seek to meet the criteria for NATO membership.

I have a recitation of what has happened, the amazing movement forward of the three countries already brought into NATO in recent years and the progress being made by the seven that will shortly join NATO in meeting the criteria, both written and unwritten. I think it has been a dramatic, successful story.

Beyond that, we have three other candidate nations at this point,—Albania, Croatia, and Macedonia—and we are not forgetting those countries. All three have contributed forces to the NATO mission in Afghanistan, Albania, and Macedonia, and they have forces in Iraq as well. In addition, the resolution notes the commitment of the new Croatian government to implement the necessary reforms for membership in NATO and the European Union.

And I would ask unanimous consent that the entire statement be made a part of the record.

[No response.]

[The prepared statement of Mr. Bereuter follows:]

PREPARED STATEMENT OF THE HONORABLE DOUG BEREUTER, A REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF NEBRASKA, AND CHAIRMAN, SUBCOMMITTEE ON EUROPE

H. RES. 558

As the sponsor of this resolution, I first want to thank the Ranking Democratic Member of this Subcommittee, the gentleman from Florida, Mr. Wexler, for co-sponsoring this resolution and helping me to move it forward in a bipartisan fashion.

This Bereuter-Wexler resolution welcomes the accession to NATO membership of seven Central European democracies: Bulgaria, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia. In the past few days, I have learned that the actual date of accession now will be March 29th, and there will be ceremonies here in Washington to mark the occasion.

The resolution also reaffirms the support of the House for the process of NATO enlargement and for keeping NATO's door open to all European democracies who meet the criteria for NATO membership.

The decision to admit former communist nations from Central and Eastern Europe into the Atlantic Alliance is one of the great successes of American and Alliance foreign policy since the end of the Cold War. It is a bipartisan success, promoted by Republicans and Democrats in the Congress and by both the Clinton and Bush administrations. It is also a success in which the House of Representatives has played an important role.

Since 1994, the House has repeatedly declared its support for NATO enlargement and the fundamental role of NATO in transatlantic security. We recognize that throughout its history, NATO has succeeded not only in keeping its members free, but in extending that freedom to new lands that had long yearned for freedom's blessings.

Already, the three nations that joined NATO in 1999—Poland, Hungary, and the Czech Republic—have been contributing to the Alliance and to its operations in Bos-

nia and Herzegovina, Kosovo and Afghanistan. Furthermore, Poland has been a major contributor to Operation Iraqi Freedom and currently commands a multinational force in south central Iraq.

The current round of enlargement—the fifth in NATO’s history—will further erase the dividing lines that were drawn at Yalta and further extend the zone of peace and security in the North Atlantic region.

Bulgaria, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia are already contributing to the Alliance, with each of these new allies contributing to one or more of NATO’s ongoing operations. In addition, six of them have forces on the ground in Iraq.

That is far from their only contribution. Last year, as President of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly, I traveled to all seven of these countries, and after those visits, I am confident that they and their membership will reinvigorate the Alliance. In fact, that new vigor is already being felt.

Because the citizens of these new member countries have recent memories of living under repressive dictatorships, they are especially committed to NATO and its collective defense guarantee.

Having fought so long and hard to gain their freedom, they know how precious freedom is and how fundamentally important the defense of freedom remains. They have pledged that they are ready to defend their freedom and ours, and we are very fortunate to be able to call them our allies.

In addition to noting the accomplishments of the incoming NATO members and welcoming their accession to the Alliance, this resolution expresses our support for the remaining candidates for NATO membership: Albania, Croatia and Macedonia.

A year ago, both houses of Congress passed House Concurrent Resolution 209, which stated our support for those three countries to join NATO when they meet the criteria for membership. Both that previous resolution and this resolution note the progress that those three countries have made toward that goal. All three have contributed forces to the NATO mission in Afghanistan, and Albania and Macedonia have forces in Iraq. Additionally, the resolution notes the commitment of the new Croatian government to implement the necessary reforms for membership in NATO and the European Union.

To ensure that the enlargement process continues after the accession of the seven new members, the resolution recommends that the leaders of the NATO nations “review the enlargement process, including the applications of Albania, Croatia and Macedonia, at a summit meeting to be held no later than 2007.”

This language is consistent with the language of the relevant communiqué from the 1999 Washington Summit, at which Alliance leaders welcomed Poland, Hungary and the Czech Republic to NATO membership. That communiqué called for a summit meeting to review the enlargement process to be held “no later than 2002,” that is, three years after that summit. Similarly, 2007 would be three years after this summer’s Istanbul Summit.

Scheduling a 2007 enlargement summit would also establish a five-year cycle for NATO enlargement. Three nations received invitations in 1997 at Madrid, and seven nations were invited in 2002 in Prague. I believe that this is a reasonable timetable, one that gives the Alliance time to incorporate the seven new members while ensuring that the three remaining candidates are not forgotten.

Before I turn to Mr. Wexler, I just want to inform the subcommittee that I will be offering an amendment making two minor changes to this resolution.

The first change is to add wording noting the contribution that most of the new members are making to the operation in Iraq.

The second change is to the date of their accession to the Alliance, which has been moved up a few days since I introduced this resolution, from April 2nd to March 29th.

Mr. BEREUTER. Hearing no objection, I turn now to the distinguished Ranking Member for comments that he might like to make.

Mr. WEXLER. I concur completely, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. BEREUTER. You are a good Midwesterner, a man of few words.

Mr. WEXLER. Yes.

Mr. BEREUTER. The Chair has an amendment at the desk which incorporates two changes to the resolution. The clerk will first report the amendment.

Ms. HALLOCK. Amendment to H. Res. 558, offered by Mr. Bereuter. In the ninth clause of the preamble,—  
[The amendment, offered by Mr. Beureuter, follows:]

**AMENDMENT TO H. RES. 558**

**OFFERED BY MR. BEREUTER**

In the ninth clause of the preamble, (1) strike “NATO” and insert “military”, and (2) strike “and Afghanistan” and insert “Afghanistan, and Iraq”.

In the tenth clause of the preamble, strike “April 2, 2004” and insert “March 29, 2004”.

Mr. BEREUTER. Without objection, the amendment will be considered as read, and I will explain that the first change is to add the wordings noting the contribution that most of the new members are making to the operations in Iraq. The second change is the date of the accession to the alliance, which has been moved up a few days since I introduced this resolution, from April 2 to March 29, and those are the two elements in the amendment.

Is there discussion?

Mr. WEXLER. I move the amendments.

Mr. BEREUTER. The question, then, is on the amendments. All in favor will say aye.

[A chorus of ayes.]

Mr. BEREUTER. All opposed will say no.

[No response.]

Mr. BEREUTER. The ayes appear to have it. The ayes do have it. Are there further amendments?

[No response.]

Mr. BEREUTER. If not, the Chair will now entertain a motion that the resolution be reported favorably to the Full Committee, as amended.

Mr. WEXLER. So moved.

Mr. BEREUTER. I thank the gentleman.

The question occurs on the motion to report the resolution, H. Res. 558, favorably, as amended. All in favor, say aye.

[A chorus of ayes.]

Mr. BEREUTER. All opposed, no.

[No response.]

Mr. BEREUTER. The motion is approved. The bill is reported favorably. And I thank my colleague for his cooperation and assistance during the hearing and in the markup.

Mr. WEXLER. Thank you.

Mr. BEREUTER. Thank you very much, and the Subcommittee stands adjourned.

[Whereupon, at 4:21 p.m., the Subcommittee was adjourned.]

