

H. RES. 431 AND H. RES. 429

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H. RES. 431 AND H. RES. 429

THURSDAY, MARCH 9, 2000

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS,
Washington, DC.

Chairman GILMAN [presiding]. We will now consider H. Res. 431, relating to humanitarian emergency in Mozambique. The Chair lays the resolution before the Committee. The clerk will report the title of the resolution.

Ms. BLOOMER. H. Res. 431, a resolution expressing the support for humanitarian assistance to the Republic of Mozambique.

Chairman GILMAN. This resolution was not referred to Subcommittee.

Without objection, the clerk will read the preamble and operative language of the resolution, that order for amendment.

Ms. BLOOMER. Whereas on February 9, 2000 the Southern African nations of Botswana, Mozambique, South Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe—

Chairman GILMAN. Without objection the resolution is considered as having been read. It is open to amendment at any point.

The bill was introduced this morning. It was not referred to Subcommittee. The Chair appreciates the willingness of the Subcommittee on Africa to waive its consideration of this matter.

The Chair now recognizes the gentleman from New York, Mr. Meeks.

Mr. MEEKS. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Today I urge the House International Relations Committee to pass H. Res. 431, a resolution which expresses the support of humanitarian assistance to the Republic of Mozambique.

First, Mr. Chairman, I wish to commend the Chair of the Africa Subcommittee, Mr. Royce, for agreeing to waive the Africa Subcommittee's jurisdiction.

I also commend Mr. Campbell and his staff for assisting with the drafting of this resolution.

I wish also to commend Mr. Payne and Mr. Gejdenson, and last but certainly not least you, Mr. Chairman, for your cooperation and the cooperation of your staff.

Mr. Chairman, for the past 2 weeks the world has watched with great anguish as the people of the Republic of Mozambique cling to whatever they can to escape raging flooding waters. The storms that have ravaged Mozambique are the worst the Southern African region has seen in more than 50 years. The nations of Botswana, Zimbabwe, Zambia and South Africa have also experienced national emergencies from the rainy season of flooding. However, Mo-

zambique bore the brunt of the storm that is still threatened by floodwaters from neighboring countries which are forced to open their dams to ease the pressure on these structures.

In the southern third of Mozambique, virtually all the primary roads, bridges, electric grid facilities, and clean water wells have been destroyed. Many buildings and homes that were built along the fertile flood plains of the Save and the Limpopo Rivers will need to be relocated or rebuilt.

Mr. Chairman, I find it is ironic that a nation that has experienced much success over the past 8 years to reform its government and economy, only to suffer the economic disaster that these floods are causing.

Mozambique held its second multi-party elections in 1999 and it has privatized over 800 former government-owned enterprises. For the first time in a long time, or as long as anyone can remember, Mozambique did not even request international food aid. Additionally, because Mozambique's government's track record and economic performance has been so strong, the nation qualified for the World Bank and IMF highly-indebted poor-countries program.

With the floodwaters comes the threat of water-borne diseases and other public health problems. There have already been outbreaks of dysentery reported in many towns and villages without potable water.

Another problem comes from land mines. Mozambique has thousands of semi-buoyant plastic land mines that may have been uncovered by the rising waters. These new areas must be located and demarcated to avoid the unnecessary damage that can happen to the population of Mozambique.

Mr. Chairman, the pace of international mobilization to help the Mozambiquans has sped up dramatically over the past 10 days. The government of South Africa and the Clinton Administration should be commended for their efforts to deploy military assets and emergency assistance to this country.

In the midst of destruction and great human tragedy, who can forget how we witnessed the miracle of life in Mozambique, as we watched a mother clinging to life on a limb give life to a child?

Additionally, a vast quantity of the country's crops were spared from the floodwaters. If the international community can get seeds and tools to the right areas, Mozambique's 2000 harvest yield should be available to help with the emergency food shortage.

We must prepare to do all we can to assist Mozambique get back on track so that her hard-fought economic and political reforms are not washed away with the floodwaters.

I urge you and my colleagues to support the people of Mozambique.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman GILMAN. Thank you, Mr. Meeks.

Any other Member seeking recognition?

Mr. Payne.

Mr. PAYNE. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Let me commend Mr. Meeks for this resolution and you for allowing this to bypass the Subcommittee and Mr. Royce and Mr. Gejdenson's support also.

I would just like to commend the gentleman from New York and say that I strongly support this resolution. As he's indicated, Mozambique has been very hard-hit with this devastating flood. Mozambique being one of the poorest countries in Africa has, as it's been mentioned, shown great growth over the past seven or 8 years since it has been moving toward market economy and privatization.

The fact is that Mozambique has had democratic elections, its second elections. It is one of the few countries that took a guerrilla movement, the Ranamo people, and made them into a political party.

I think if we go back through history we know that Mozambique probably would have been a supporter of the United States through the last 50 years. But, as you know, being a Portuguese colony, the NATO forces and U.S. supported the colonial powers who suppressed the independence movement of the African countries of which Mozambique and Angola and Guinea Bissau and others were a part. So there is a history that we should know of some of the problems in this country, 20 years of war against the Portuguese colonialists and then a civil war for another 15 or 20, has really taken a toll, like I said indirectly.

I think that our hand is there because of the Cold War period, and much of the battles were fought in Africa.

So I would certainly strongly support this resolution.

I would also like to say that I am disappointed that there was a lack of response, a tardiness on the part of the Administration. I do recall the earthquakes in Turkey where there was swift assistance from all over the world, and in particular the U.S. teams went there to get people out. But here it took several weeks before we could really get ourselves mobilized to respond to this tragedy.

I would certainly urge us to support this. Also I have a letter from the Mozambiquan ambassador to the U.S. where he is asking for food and medical supplies and it is in excess of \$65 million.

I will ask that it be entered into the record. Also a statement from Mr. Earl Hilliard I would like to have that also entered into the record if there's no opposition to it.

Chairman GILMAN. Without objection.

Mr. PAYNE. Thank you.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman GILMAN. Thank you, Mr. Payne.

Mr. Lantos.

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Chairman, I just want to take a moment first to commend my friends, Mr. Meeks and Mr. Payne. I, of course, fully support this resolution. I think it is eminently appropriate that we give every conceivable assistance to the long suffering people of Mozambique and I urge my colleagues to support the resolution.

Chairman GILMAN. Thank you, Mr. Lantos.

Mr. Rohrabacher.

Mr. ROHRABACHER. I join with my friend Mr. Lantos in commending Mr. Meeks and Mr. Payne, and support this resolution.

These people are suffering and the bottom line is that we represent a country that's supposed to have the highest ideals and lead the way when people are suffering like this, and I am very

pleased with the leadership you've provided and am happy to support you.

Chairman GILMAN. Thank you, Mr. Rohrabacher.

Ms. Lee.

Ms. LEE. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I want to thank you and Mr. Meeks for bringing up this resolution and would also like to commend Mr. Meeks with regard to the details of the resolution.

The fact that we were late in stepping up to the plate, I think, should prompt us to move very quickly to look at the ideas and suggestions from the Ambassador and other relief agencies so that we can really redouble our efforts. I am pleased that the resolution also calls for us to take the international lead because we should. We've neglected Africa for so long, and here we have an opportunity to be international leaders in responding to such a devastating disaster.

So thank you very much for giving us the opportunity to vote on this and to work with you on it.

Chairman GILMAN. Thank you, Ms. Lee.

Are any other Members seeking recognition?

I am pleased to announce my support for this resolution.

I want to thank the gentleman from New York, Mr. Meeks, for his leadership in this measure, and also Chairman Royce and Ranking Member Mr. Payne of the African Subcommittee for introducing it.

It is important for our Congress to recognize the devastating floods in Mozambique and the extraordinary trials the people of that nation are undergoing.

When we saw television shots of them clinging to rooftops in order to escape the rising flood tide, and then to have a limited number of helicopters there to rescue the people, I think focused our attention on the need to have international assistance.

I am pleased that we finally did react, even belatedly, and got some choppers in there and provided humanitarian supplies. Our military is in and out of there now to help the people of Mozambique. South Africa, the United Kingdom, France, and Denmark also responded even though it was a bit late, but it helped considerably and we are going to try to arouse the interest of other nations to provide assistance.

I am particularly impressed with and thankful for the rapid and effective assistance from the neighboring country of the government of South Africa.

I hope that our foreign disaster specialists at USAID are going to explore ways to further support regional disaster response capabilities in Africa in the days ahead.

Is there any other Member seeking recognition?

I would also like to note that I've just been handed a note that senior Administration officials will brief interested Members on the situation in Mozambique this afternoon at 3 p.m. in room 2255. That's this afternoon at 3 p.m. in room 2255.

Is there anyone else seeking recognition? If not, the gentleman from California, Mr. Rohrabacher, is recognized to make a motion.

Mr. ROHRABACHER. Mr. Chairman, I move that the Chairman be requested to seek consideration of the pending resolution on the suspension calendar.

Chairman GILMAN. The question is now on the motion by the gentleman from California, Mr. Rohrabacher. All those in favor of the motion, say aye.

[Chorus of ayes.]

Chairman GILMAN. Those opposed, say no.

[No response.]

Chairman GILMAN. The ayes have it. The motion is agreed to. Further proceedings on this measure will be postponed.

We will now proceed to H. Con. Res 315—I am sorry H. Res. 429.

Mr. MEEKS. Mr. Chairman?

Chairman GILMAN. Yes, Mr. Meeks.

Mr. MEEKS. Before we go on I have some technical amendments that I had at the desk.

Chairman GILMAN. I am sorry, we will vitiate the prior action of the Committee. Mr. Meeks is recognized without objection to offer a technical amendment.

Mr. MEEKS. I believe the technical amendments have already been distributed to the Members and I ask unanimous consent of these amendments be considered en bloc.

Chairman GILMAN. Without objection, the amendments are being considered en bloc.

All in favor of the technical amendments signify in the usual manner.

[Chorus of ayes.]

Chairman GILMAN. Opposed?

[No response.]

Chairman GILMAN. The technical amendments are agreed upon.

Mr. MEEKS. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Chairman GILMAN. We will now return to the motion by Mr. Rohrabacher to seek consideration of the measure on the suspension calendar.

All in favor signify in the usual manner.

[Chorus of ayes.]

Chairman GILMAN. Opposed?

[No response.]

Chairman GILMAN. So be it. Mr. Rohrabacher's motion is agreed to.

We will now consider H. Res. 429 relating to the new Austrian government. The Chair lays the resolution before the Committee. The Clerk will report the title of the resolution.

Ms. BLOOMER. H. Res. 429, a resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives concerning the participation of the extremist FPO and the government of Austria.

Chairman GILMAN. Without objection the preamble and operative language of the resolution will be read in that order for amendment. The Clerk will read.

Ms. BLOOMER. Whereas the extremist, racist and xenophobic FPO has entered into a coalition agreement and is participating in the new government of Austria. Whereas the long time——

Chairman GILMAN. The resolution is considered as read, without objection.

The resolution is in the original jurisdiction of the Full Committee and I now recognize the gentleman from California, the

original sponsor of the measure, Mr. Lantos, to introduce the resolution to the Committee.

Mr. LANTOS. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

Let me first express my appreciation to you for not only being an original cosponsor of my resolution but of having significantly improved the nature of the resolution.

I want to thank also my friend, Mr. Crowley, who has played such a pivotal role in bringing this resolution before our Committee and I hope in a day or so before the House.

We are dealing with one of the most remarkable political developments of Europe since the end of the Second World War.

The European Union, a group of democratic, friendly, free and open societies has seen fit to express in the strongest possible terms its disapproval of a neo-Nazi, racist, xenophobic political party being part of the new coalition government of Austria.

I thought long and hard, Mr. Chairman, of how I could relate the leader of this party to the American political scene, and it is not easy. But the closest I can come to is David Duke. Because Joerg Haider is a very successful David Duke. While David Duke is viewed as a fringe character on the American political scene with his sickeningly racist and xenophobic and extremist views, Haider was able to obtain 27 percent of the vote in free and open and democratic elections in Austria; and the more recent public opinion polls show that were the elections to be held today he would be likely to receive a higher percentage of the vote.

Haider is typical of the new generation of political leadership of the far-right. When David Duke talks about—no longer, he no longer talks about the white citizens council—he talks about European Americans, the European Americans who have been so put upon by recent trends in this country which have moved our country toward some degree of recognition of racial justice.

Haider is a charismatic, articulate, sophisticated European political leader. His party is included in the Governing Coalition, and our resolution merely expresses our concern that Austria now has a government in which one of the two major political parties is an extremist, racist, neo-fascist group.

Now Haider, shortly after this government was founded, removed himself from the political leadership of this party, which is one of his most recent clever moves because he will want to disassociate himself from the very harsh economic measures the new Austrian government will have to institute.

As a matter of fact, Haider's own political leadership indicates that he plans to run for Chancellor of Austria as soon as those elections will be open, and they may be open very soon because this coalition may collapse.

I cannot emphasize the importance of the Congress of the United States going on record expressing its concerns with respect to this development. There is an enormous difference between Germany and Austria in facing their Nazi past. The Germans faced up to their Nazi past forthrightly, courageously, and have undertaken a program in Germany's public schools of teaching the history of the Hitler period and recognizing the tremendous degree of responsibility that the new democratic German governments face in living down that past.

None of that happened in Austria. Austria was extremely successful in portraying herself as Hitler's first victim when in fact Austria was Hitler's first ally.

I remember as a boy in Budapest seeing newsreels of Hitler's troops marching into Austria triumphantly and being greeted by hundreds of thousands of joyful Austrians throwing countless bouquets of flowers at the feet of the Germany Nazi troops, who came in as friends and allies and were greeted with delight.

It will be necessary for Austria in the coming years to come face-to-face with its Nazi past. My resolution commends the 14 nations of the European Union and some nations that are not part of the European Union, like Norway and Canada, for recognizing the horrendous danger this philosophy of neo-Nazism, xenophobia, racism represents for Europe.

David Duke is not successful in this country because we have a history of 220 years of trying to build slowly a democratic society. As a matter of fact, one way of looking at American history is to say that we have been engaged for 220 years in closing the hypocrisy gap. When we initially declared all men are created equal, some of the people who said that had slaves and it took us a civil war to get beyond that.

When we said all men are created equal, we never even looked at women. They were not part of the scene. It took us generations to recognize that not only all men are created equal, but all women are created equal, and we are still a long way from making a reality of the phenomenally impressive and deep and moving statements of our founding documents.

Now Austria does not share a democratic past, and with this painful election where 27 percent of the Austrian voters voted for the party of a man who declares Hitler's labor policies to be admirable, who expresses his admiration for the Waffen SS, one of the most sickening military units of Europe in the 2nd World War, it is important for the Congress to express its views.

Before closing, Mr. Chairman, I feel obliged to mention that one of our colleagues, a strong supporter of the resolution, Mr. Salmon, has expressed the thought that perhaps serious support against the Haider regime may be made part of this resolution.

I obviously share his views that it is indicative of the nature of the Haider regime that the only government that expressed support for it is the dictatorial government of Assad in Syria.

Let me say my resolution enjoys the support of some of the leading Republican Members of our body including yourself, Mr. Chairman, and I ask my colleagues to support the resolution unanimously, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Chairman GILMAN. Thank you, Mr. Lantos. I commend the gentleman from California and express my appreciation to him for inviting me to join with him in sponsoring this important resolution.

H.R. 429 places the House on record regarding our concerns over the participation of the extremist freedom party, the FPO, in the government of Austria that was recently formed. The former leader and founder of the FPO, Joerg Haider, has propelled the FPO into the mainstream of Austrian politics by appealing to some of the insecurity of Austria's people.

He also capitalized on a large measure of dissatisfaction with the political status quo that was represented by Austria's traditional political establishment among the Austrian electorate.

It is important, therefore, that we express our strong condemnation to many of the statements that Haider has expressed, his demagogic attempts to stir up resentment of Austria's largest immigrant community, and his apparent sympathies for the aspects of Austria's tragic Nazi past.

This measure I think is balanced. It is aimed at the government of Austria and not at the people of Austria, with many of whom we've enjoyed a close and enduring friendship.

While we are expressing our concern, we are withholding any final judgment with regard to the direction the new government will choose to lead Austria. It calls upon our own government to make clear our concerns and to carefully monitor Austrian policies so that if further action on our part becomes necessary we will be able to take them without delay.

Accordingly I ask the support of our colleagues for H. Res. 429 so that there is no misunderstanding of the depth of our concern expressed to Austrian officials.

Mr. Crowley.

Mr. CROWLEY. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for the opportunity to speak on Mr. Lantos' resolution. First let me thank my colleague, Mr. Lantos, for his words before about our involvement and to let you know and express to you how important and how delighted we were to work with you on this resolution.

As someone who has been a victim, himself and his family of the atrocities of the Nazi regime and what it meant not only in Germany but throughout Europe, and to others like you who live today in many respects to see that governments like that do not develop again, I know how important this resolution is to you and to so many other Members of this House.

Mr. Chairman, everyone on the Committee has heard the comments made by Joerg Haider and the leaders of the Freedom Party of Austria. Comments praising Hitler's policies, statements praising the Waffen SS, assertions consistently blaming problems in Austria including low employment, high taxes, and the spread of disease on immigrant populations. His views are clear, his intentions are known, and his attempts to apologize each time he makes an offensive statement have grown as tiresome to me as his hateful statements.

Although Mr. Haider has resigned his position, his party, the Freedom Party, remains in a coalition government, albeit frail, in Austria, with the People's Party. This must not be accepted.

That is why I've joined with Congressman Lantos, Chairman Gilman, Ranking Member Gejdenson, and a number of my colleagues in introducing House Resolution 429. It is not only appropriate but also necessary that the U.S. Congress put itself on record as disapproving of this government.

I thank the Chairman and I urge all my colleagues to support this important resolution.

Chairman GILMAN. Thank you, Mr. Crowley.

Any other Members seeking recognition?

Mr. Rohrabacher.

Mr. ROHRBACHER. Let me suggest that we should move forward in Congress with a little more caution than I hear today.

First of all, Austria has a democratic tradition and we are talking about a democratic election. No one is suggesting that the election that Mr. Haider and his party received a certain significant part of the vote was anything more or less than a democratic election.

We do not like some of the things Mr. Haider has said, we do not like some of the policies of that party. Yet we have this incredible response to him winning an election or getting that part of the electorate in Austria.

There are dictatorships around the world that we are not mentioning. You've all heard me talk about communist China over and over again, yet they're our strategic partners. I do not hear the outrage that there's genocide going on in Tibet, and Mr. Lantos obviously is a very active person in the human rights community.

And yes, I have joined with Mr. Lantos time and time again when there was evidence of anti-semitism that I believed warranted not only our concern but our active opposition to in Russia, when Mr. Lantos presented a resolution about some of the anti-semitic statements made by some of the new leaders in Russia. Not only did I join him, but I asked if we could strengthen that resolution by putting meat into it rather than simply having a condemnation.

Mr. Lantos also brought to our attention what was going on in Hungary, in which I supported him.

These were clear examples of anti-semitism.

I am not sure that what we have here today is a clear example of anti-semitism. We have Mr. Haider who has made some, I would again say despicable statements about, well, the Nazis at least made the trains run on time type of thing. And, by the way, let me just say as far as I am concerned the SS were the worst type of perverts and sadists in the history of humankind. I have got no problem condemning them. Let us remember those people in Austria; however, Mr. Lantos' statement was correct. Those people were Hitler's allies and they have yet to come to grips with their past. They have yet to do what the Germans did, which is fess up, hey, our people were in the SS.

My suggestion is I think Mr. Haider made that statement, and my guess is he has properly apologized for that statement. It is obvious whoever hears it should jump on anybody's case for saying something like that, and I certainly do not hold back in condemnation of that statement. But again, I think he apologized.

There are lots of people, let me say, that I have heard over the years, say good things about Mao Tse Tung on the liberal side of the spectrum. I cannot tell you how many times I've been at meetings and been in television shows and been in the public debate and heard liberal Democrats saying, "Well at least Mao Tse Tung did this," or "At least Stalin did that," or "At least Fidel Castro's provided some kind of healthcare for his people," totally ignoring the incredible human rights abuses that have gone on under those regimes. I have to equate those two a little bit in my mind in terms of anybody who said something good about Mao or Stalin or Fidel Castro—do I automatically call them a communist? No, I do not.

Sometimes I call them aside and say, you know, you really should take a look at what the Sandinistas did or that Castro did. These are dedicated people, the communists and the Nazis, to things that we do not believe in.

But again, you have to use caution because people are, again, human beings and Austria has to come to grips with its Nazi past. It should not even be in their minds that the SS was anything but, as I say, perverts and sadists of the worst kind.

But let me say this again. I do not believe that neo-Nazism is what we are talking about here. If it were, I would be the first one in supporting this resolution. I do not believe that's what we are talking about here.

There have been a couple of statements by Mr. Haider that sound bad, and he apologized for them, but I do not believe that he is a neo-Nazi and the people over there in Austria do not believe he's a neo-Nazi either. They would not have voted for him if he were neo-Nazi.

But I think that what he is concerned about, what his party's been talking about, is the threat especially of illegal immigration into their country. I think that's the truth of the matter.

He got his votes because his party was the one party that stepped up to talk about illegal immigration. I have been called a racist skinhead in my district by liberal Democrats because it is my position that we should not provide benefits to illegal immigrants. I am not a racist skinhead. I am not a neo-Nazi. I am not any of those things. I have love in my heart for all our fellow human beings, and I think that racism, as I say when I see it, demands that we all step forward and condemn it.

But I've been called those names, so why am I surprised now to hear those same refrains about Austria's 8 million people. In the blink of an eye you could have a total change in their society. People who are totally different culturally and different nationally, racially and every other way, coming into that country. Now they're different people who will control Austria, unless they control their borders, and that's what those people are concerned about. That is, I believe, a legitimate concern.

Now tell me if I am being wrong or a racist for saying that. I think we have a concern in this country that we had at least 10 million illegal immigrants pouring into this country, and we have a population of 225 to 250 million people.

So I think we've got to be a little cautious here in saying that someone, simply because they're involved in an effort to try to prevent illegal immigration into a country of 8 million people, is automatically a racist or automatically a neo-Nazi. I think that that concern is what's foremost in the mind of those voters.

Let me just say, I've met Haider twice. The guy came in, he was in the Austrian embassy, he was touring town, and he was ushered into my office to say hello. I found him to be a personable human being. Then again, as Mr. Lantos so amply demonstrated by using the comparison to David Duke, someone who didn't know David Duke might, just with a 15 minute meeting, might think he's a good guy, too. But the fact is that David Duke is a racist and a phony and I've spent considerable personal capital in the Republican party trying to counter David Duke and any in-roads he

would have into our party. So maybe Mr. Lantos is right about that.

Mr. Lantos have you met Haider at all and talked to him?

Mr. LANTOS. If my good friend will yield?

Mr. ROHRABACHER. I will be happy to yield.

Mr. LANTOS. Let me first pay tribute to my friend from California, who has stood with me on all of the issues from Tibet to the Soviet Union. We have been colleagues and comrades in arms and I appreciated that.

I think the David Duke analogy is not a bad analogy. If David Duke is ushered into somebody's office and is on his good behavior and you know nothing about him, he's a well dressed, articulate, intelligent and very pleasant person.

If you know what David Duke stands for, then you become revolted. Even though David Duke may apologize for his statements subsequently, then he says it again in a different form, and yet again apologizes, which of course has been Haider's pattern.

What I really would like to respond to in my colleague's observations is the early remark that these were free and open and democratic elections. Adolf Hitler got a higher percentage of the vote in free and open and democratic elections in Germany.

It is not in our power to undo the results of free and open and democratic elections. I respect the right of the Austrian people to elect anybody they choose to any office. But I reserve the right through Congress to express our views about the kinds of people they have elected and the philosophies those people represent.

Haider is a racist. His statements about people with a different pigmentation from his are unprintable. He hates, he hates blacks.

I am not concerned about Mr. Haider's anti-semitism. What I am concerned about is his profound, deeply felt hatred along all racial and religious lines. What I am concerned about is that in a continent such as Europe, particularly Central and Eastern Europe, where the veneer of civilization is paper thin as we have seen it in the former Yugoslavia, ethnic and racial and religious hatreds can be whipped up with tremendous ease. This is what Haider has done. This is what members of his political party have done. This is why Austrians who hardly ever go out in the streets, tens of thousands of them, have been demonstrating against this racist political party being included in the new coalition government of Austria.

Now David Duke is sort of a bizarre and passing phenomenon in this country. We do not expect David Duke to get 20 percent of the vote in a general election in the United States, but unless I am mistaken, David Duke ran for statewide office in Louisiana and got a very respectable number of votes. I forget now, maybe some of my colleagues can help me, how high that vote was, but it was a frightening vote because it was a vote for racism.

For the Congress of the United States not to express itself on racism in its ugliest form when it manifests itself in Europe while expressing itself on all of these issues in Tibet, in Cuba, and everywhere else where we have totalitarian governments or political parties that would like to get into government, would be a very serious mistake.

I know this resolution will pass overwhelmingly. I would only hope since my good friend has stood in the forefront of fighting racism and religious intolerance and so many other issues, he would see his way clear to join us in making this vote unanimous.

I want to thank my friend for yielding.

Mr. ROHRABACHER. Reclaiming my time, let me just say I thank the Chairman for indulging us in this very good discussion. I would like to see the quotes from Mr. Haider that indicate the racism that you're talking about. I would look at them. If someone could give me a white paper, a couple of pages of things that indicate that he is indeed a racist and has said racist type things, and if he has said too many racist things who cares if he apologizes or not. It is reflecting his soul, and I'd like to see that. That would have a lot to do with my reaction.

Let me just say about David Duke, I spent a considerable portion of my own campaign funds to donate to people who were running against David Duke, as I know that the likes of David Duke pollutes the whole debate in our country because he tries to pretend he's a conservative, and he's not. I do not want him around, and I want him defeated, because it does tend to create a residue that's an evil residue.

Mr. LANTOS. But if my friend will yield for another moment.

Mr. ROHRABACHER. Yes.

Mr. LANTOS. I would just say that I would not think of two more similar people in outlook, attitude, philosophy on the political scene globally than David Duke and Joerg Haider. They are both highly presentable, highly attractive, highly articulate, peddling philosophies of hate; and if my friend is as strongly opposed to David Duke as I know he is, I would think he would want to associate himself with our resolution.

Mr. ROHRABACHER. Let me take a look at those quotes because, again, from a distance what it appears to me is that Mr. Haider has been speaking not as a racist, but as someone who is speaking up against illegal immigration into his country. With a country of eight million people, again, I think that's a legitimate issue for people to think about in that country.

Now whether or not Austria has come to grips with its Nazi past, I think you're correct in that. I think they should, and they need to. But that does not mean that the Austrian people, unlike many other countries of the world, in fact most other countries in the world, do not have a legitimate concern in preventing massive illegal immigration into their country.

I do not know any country that doesn't control its borders in that regard. People have high standards. Israel has very high standards as to who they permit to immigrate into their society. Other countries—we have a bad illegal immigration problem, but we officially have high standards as to who immigrates into our country.

So I'd like to see the racist statements you're talking about that Haider made and I may well join you on the floor in supporting your resolution then.

Mr. CROWLEY. Would the gentleman yield for—

Mr. ROHRABACHER. I will yield back the balance of my time to whoever wants the floor so they can have it.

Chairman GILMAN. Mr. Sherman is next, and then I will recognize Mr. Crowley.

Mr. Sherman.

Mr. SHERMAN. I think Mr. Haider's comments go well beyond immigration policy. He opposes both legal and illegal immigration. But beyond that, his comments are showing a remarkable level of comfort with the Nazi institutions of Austria's past—reason enough for us to be concerned and to express the concerns in a resolution.

My colleague from California compares Haider or a Haider-influenced government in Vienna with China and Beijing, and I would simply say that in looking at developments around the world we grade on the curve and we look at the history of the country. China has never had a democratic government and if they were to get one as democratic as the government in Vienna, even today, that might be a reason for celebration.

But to see the government of Austria, which has been democratic and has not been marred by public statements of racism or public support for Nazi institutions of the past, taking a step backward is something that we should comment on.

I think in other resolutions that we have passed, there are a variety of times when we have passed resolutions praising governments for democratic elections where there were a few problems with those elections, but we compared that country to its own past, not to Denmark or Canada. I think if you look at this Austrian government, there is reason for us to express our concern that this is a big step backward.

Chairman GILMAN. Thank you, Mr. Sherman.

Mr. Crowley, without objection—

Mr. CROWLEY. Just a point. Thank you for yielding the time.

Regarding Mr. Rohrabacher's statement earlier. The point I think I'd like to make is that a majority of the people of Austria did not vote for the Freedom Party. In fact less than 30 percent, 27 percent, that means that over 70 percent voted for one of the other parties. But they were unable to make a government out of those parties; therefore the People's party, it is my understanding, created a coalition government. Therein lies the difference between maybe the threat of a David Duke in this country and what has happened with Mr. Haider in the parliamentary system in which Austria's tradition of democracy has developed.

I think that's a statement that has to be made. In the tradition of the European style of democracy—a parliamentary system—it is possible that this can take place not only in Austria but within other European countries as well; so I think it is important for us to make a strong statement, as I think it is important for the EU to speak out or any other democracy to do the same thing when something like this has occurred.

I do not have a fear that Mr. Duke will come to power in Louisiana or any other national office very soon, but I do have fear of a tradition in Europe of anti-semitism, of racial hatred growing again. That's what my concern is and that's why I again applaud Mr. Lantos.

Chairman GILMAN. Thank you, Mr. Crowley. If there are no other Members—

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Chairman?

Chairman GILMAN. Mr. Payne, I am sorry.

Mr. PAYNE. Yes, I would certainly like to associate myself with the remarks of Mr. Lantos and others who have expressed concern about the statements that have been made. In many instances, there are all kinds of code words. You can be anti-immigration, especially if the immigrants are of a different religion or race. We even see some of that in Germany today. Turks who have lived there for generations have had, as you remember, some homes burned, and people were killed because they were from Turkey.

So to use sort-of a code word, if you're against this illegal immigration, many times that sends a signal. As you know, Adolf Hitler came to power because Germany was in disarray. Unemployment was high. He used the demagoging of a group of people to say that they were their problems. This is the same kind of thing being used by this gentleman.

I think that anyone who has positive things to say about Adolf Hitler they are talking about a person who when the Olympics were held in Berlin, refused Jesse Owens, one of the greatest athletes the world has ever known. Adolf Hitler refused to shake his hand when his hand was extended, and refused to give him the medal because he was black, although he broke all kinds of existing records.

So anyone who can see Hitler as anything positive, I think they send signals. Code words are used even in our country here.

So I wholeheartedly support the resolution, Mr. Lantos. I think that we have to be concerned about neo-Nazism. I do not see anywhere where the people of Austria have been condemned. I think it was very carefully crafted so that we are not saying what people should do internally.

So I certainly add my support, Mr. Lantos, and will certainly let it be known. Thank you.

Chairman GILMAN. Thank you, Mr. Payne.

If there are no other Members seeking recognition, the gentleman from California, Mr. Rohrabacher is recognized to offer a motion.

Mr. ROHRABACHER. Mr. Chairman, I move that the Chairman be requested to seek consideration of the pending resolution on the suspension calendar.

Chairman GILMAN. Thank you, Mr. Rohrabacher. The question is now a motion. The gentleman from California, those in favor of the motion signify by saying aye.

[Chorus of ayes.]

Chairman GILMAN. Those opposed, say no.

[No response.]

Chairman GILMAN. The ayes have it. The motion is agreed to. Further proceedings on this matter are postponed.

Mr. ROHRABACHER. Mr. Chairman—

Chairman GILMAN. The record will remain open for 1 week to receive additional statements from Members, and in particular the statement from Mr. Salmon will be received in the record.

Mr. ROHRABACHER. Mr. Chairman, I have remarks by Mr. Royce I'd like to submit for—

Chairman GILMAN. Without objection, the remarks will be entered into the record.

If there are no further requests, the Committee stands adjourned.
[Whereupon, at 1:50 p.m. the Committee was adjourned.]

A P P E N D I X

MARCH 9, 2000

**Statement of Benjamin A. Gilman
Chairman, Committee on International Relations
Mark-up of H. Res. 431
Expressing support for humanitarian assistance to the Republic of Mozambique
March 9, 2000**

I support this resolution and thank Mr. Meeks, Chairman Royce, and Ranking Member Payne of the Africa Subcommittee for introducing it. It is important for this Congress to recognize the devastating floods in Mozambique and the extraordinary trials the people of that nation are undergoing.

I am particularly impressed with and thankful for the rapid and effective assistance from the Government of South Africa. I hope that our foreign disaster specialists at USAID might explore ways to support regional disaster response capabilities in Africa.



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The Ambassador

Ref. 025/GE/WAS/00

3 March 2000

The Honorable Donald M. Payne
Member of Congress
2209 Rayburn House Office Bldg.
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Payne:

I am writing to call your attention to the catastrophic floods that have devastated Mozambique over the past several weeks. As I write this letter, literally thousands of my countrymen are clinging for their lives from trees and any high ground that they can find. Many are dead and we fear that many more will die as the water continues to rise and the human determination to survive gives way to exhaustion, cold and hunger. As the situation continues, water borne disease will strike at the already weak people and take an even greater toll.

This natural disaster, the worst in Southern Africa's recorded history, has interrupted the economic, political and social miracle that Mozambique had created for itself. Few world leaders realize that before this disaster, Mozambique had the fastest and most sustained economic growth rate in the world. Mozambique has made significant infrastructure investments in transportation, telecommunication and energy in order to establish a foundation for longtime growth economic development. Unfortunately, these investments have been swept away in the rising floodwaters.

I urge you to consider both the immediate needs of Mozambique, as well as the long-term development issues that we need to confront. Over the next several weeks, we need helicopters and shallow draft boats to rescue the thousands of people that will perish if they are not evacuated from the water. We also require immediate supplies for food and medicines. The United States Government has generously offers **\$12.8 million**, but we estimate that the need will exceed **\$65 million**. Mozambique will need even greater, long-term help to rebuild our infrastructure.

We are extremely grateful for any additional support you can offer Mozambique. I would also appreciate the opportunity to meet with you to discuss this crisis and the long-term needs of Mozambique. We have come too far, and struggled too hard to allow this disaster to diminish our accomplishments. Mozambique will rise again, but we could use a helping hand to speed our recovery.

Sincerely yours,

Marcos G. Namashulua

Marcos G. Namashulua

Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary

REPRESENTATIVE ED ROYCE
CHAIRMAN, SUBCOMMITTEE ON AFRICA
STATEMENT ON MOZAMBIQUE RESOLUTION

I would like to express strong support for this resolution, initiated by Africa Subcommittee member Greg Meeks. This resolution expresses strong support for humanitarian assistance to Mozambique in its hour of need. As we've all seen in news reports, Mozambique has borne the brunt of destructive torrential rains and tropical cyclones that have also hit South Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe, Mozambique's neighbors and partners in the Southern Africa Development Community.

It is appropriate to applaud the efforts of the SADC countries to help Mozambique. Special recognition should be given to the tireless efforts of South African helicopter pilots who saved many lives, plucking Mozambican families from the roofs of their now destroyed homes and off the tops of trees. These were heroic efforts.

We applaud the Administration's decision to send U.S. military units to Mozambique to help in the rescue and relief efforts. American military forces are the best in the world. They bring unparalleled skills to this multinational operation – skills that have been demonstrated in humanitarian operations in the Balkans, Bangladesh and Latin America.

I'd like to say a few words about Mozambique's recent history. The example of Mozambique is a strong counter to those who see nothing in Africa but war, famine and disease. Mozambique has put an era of authoritarian one-party rule behind it, and successfully resolved a bloody, bitter civil conflict that tore apart the country's social fabric. And it is moving toward a market-based economy – one that has registered several years of impressive growth, growth in the eight percent range. This natural disaster is a setback to this progress; we can only do our best to see that Mozambique's move toward a more prosperous future is not derailed. It's in our interest to help Mozambique now in its hour of need.

It is an imperative that the U.S. and the international community assist Mozambique to get back on its feet. The country has shown that it knows the road to a better life. Mozambique deserves American support. Thank you.

REMARKS BY REPRESENTATIVE EARL F. HILLIARD
ON H.RES. 431

MR. CHAIRMAN,

I WANT TO THANK YOU FOR ALLOWING THE COMMITTEE TO
CONSIDER THIS VERY IMPORTANT RESOLUTION TODAY. IN
PARTICULAR, I WANT TO COMMEND MY FRIEND, CONGRESSMAN
MEEKS, FOR DRAFTING THIS RESOLUTION, AND FOR HIS
DEDICATION TO SPEAKING UP FOR THE NEEDS OF PEOPLE
WHOSE VOICES ARE SELDOM HEARD.

THIS RESOLUTION CALLS UPON OUR COUNTRY, AND THE
INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY, TO PULL TOGETHER TO ASSIST
THE PEOPLE OF MOZAMBIQUE. JUST AS OUR COUNTRY MOVED
QUICKLY TO HELP THE PEOPLE OF ~~GREECE~~^{TURKEY} WHO WERE HIT BY
DEVASTATING EARTHQUAKES, WE SHOULD DO THE SAME FOR
THE FAMILIES UPROOTED BY RECORD-BREAKING FLOODS IN
MOZAMBIQUE.

MR. CHAIRMAN, WITH GREAT DISPAIR I HAVE WATCHED THE
PEOPLE OF MOZAMBIQUE SUFFER THROUGH THE WORST
FLOODS THAT COUNTRY HAS EXPERIENCED IN 50 YEARS. IN
ADDITION TO FLOODS CAUSED BY HEAVY RAINS, THE COUNTRY
WAS ALSO HIT WITH CYCLONE ELINE.

I AM SURE ALL OF YOU HAVE SEEN THE REPORTS OF PEOPLE STRANDED ON ROOFTOPS AND IN TREETOPS. ONE WOMAN WAS EVEN FORCED TO DELIVER A BABY WHILE STRANDED IN A TREETOP BECAUSE NO RELIEF HAD YET REACHED HER. WHAT MOST DISTURBED ME, THOUGH, WAS THAT THERE WAS SO LITTLE RELIEF PROVIDED TO A COUNTRY IN SUCH DIRE STRAITS. I MUST NOTE, HOWEVER, THAT COMMENDATION IS PROPERLY GIVEN IN THIS RESOLUTION TO SOUTH AFRICA FOR PROVIDING IMMEDIATE ASSISTANCE.

IT IS MY UNDERSTANDING THAT THE ADMINISTRATION HAS ANNOUNCED ITS INTENTION TO DRAW DOWN \$37.6 MILLION OF DOD FUNDS TO ASSIST THE MOZAMBICANS. THE ADMINISTRATION'S PACKAGE ALSO INCLUDES THE RELOCATION OF MILITARY ASSETS (SMALL BOATS AND HELICOPTERS) TO THE REGION TO ASSIST. IN ADDITION, THE CLINTON ADMINISTRATION ANNOUNCED THAT IT WILL CANCEL MOZAMBIQUE'S BILATERAL DEBT.

I URGE ALL MY COLLEAGUES TO SUPPORT MR. MEEKS' RESOLUTION, AND SEEK ITS IMMEDIATE CONSIDERATION BY THE HOUSE. THANK YOU.

Chairman Benjamin A. Gilman
Statement
Mark-Up of H. Res. 429
March 9, 2000

I would like to commend the gentleman from California, Mr. Lantos, and express my appreciation to him for his thoughtfulness in inviting me to be an original cosponsor of this important Resolution.

H. Res. 429 places the House on record regarding our concerns over the participation of the extremist Freedom Party, the FPÖ, in the government of Austria that was recently formed. The former leader and founder of the FPÖ, Jörg Haider, has propelled the FPÖ into the mainstream of Austrian politics by appealing to some of the insecurities of Austria's people. He has also capitalized on a large measure of dissatisfaction with the political status quo that was represented by Austria's traditional political establishment among the Austrian electorate.

Nevertheless we must express our strong condemnation of many of the statements that Haider has used, his demagogic attempts to stir up resentment of Austria's large immigrant community, and his apparent sympathies for aspects of Austria's tragic Nazi past.

This measure is balanced. It is aimed at the government of Austria and not at the people of Austria, with many of whom I have enjoyed a close and enduring friendship. While we are expressing our concern, we are also withholding our final judgment as to the direction the new government will choose to lead Austria. It calls upon our own government to make clear our concerns and to carefully monitor Austrian policies, so that if further actions on our part become necessary, we will be able to take them without delay.

I ask the support of my colleagues for H. Res. 429 so that there is no misunderstanding of the depth of our concern among Austrian officials.

REPRESENTATIVE MATT SALMON
AMENDMENT TO H. RES. ~~417~~ 429
MARCH 9, 2000

The entrance of the "Freedom Party" into the Austrian Government has been denounced by leaders around the world. The Freedom Party's Leader, Joerg Haider, praised Adolf Hitler's "sound employment policy" and called Waffen SS veterans "decent people with character who stuck to their belief through the strongest headwinds." These are sickening comments and I commend my friend from California, Mr. Lantos, for his Resolution condemning these statements.

I believe that there is one modification that would improve the Resolution. While the Resolution we are considering today "commends the European Union, Canada, Norway, and other countries which have expressed their serious concerns regarding the participation of the FPO in the Government of Austria, it does not condemn those in other nations who defend the comments of Haider.

Syria's President Hafez Assad is certainly not among the leaders condemning Haider. In fact, Syria's official state-governed media not only endorsed Mr. Haider, but it also ran a series of editorials denying the existence of the Holocaust and comparing Zionism to Nazism.

The editor of the state-run paper offered the following analysis upon Israeli's decision to recall its Ambassador upon the inclusion of the FPO in the Austrian Government: "This is a dangerous precedent . . . [Israel interfered] because Haider belongs to the Freedom Party which Israel does not like, and also because he may have non-pro-Israeli goals and a social vision that does not correspond with Israeli racism."

Some of the editorials are even more disturbing. One recent editorial, quoted in a Thomas Friedman column, asked: "Why does Israel insist on bringing up [the] alleged Holocaust policy? . . . [It's just to get money and to reinforce] the myth of the Holocaust in the face of credible voices questioning it, including that of the controversial British historian David Irving." The anti-Semitic attacks are not limited to revolting editorials. Earlier in the year, a high-level Syrian diplomat at the UN equated Zionism with racism.

I wonder how any substantive peace talks can take place while the Syrian press and Syrian officials continue to slander and libel Israel. The Congress and President must make it clear that Syria's comments will not be tolerated.

Thank you for considering my amendment to H. Res. ~~417~~ 429,

106TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. RES. 431

Expressing support for humanitarian assistance to the Republic of
Mozambique.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 8, 2000

Mr. MEEKS of New York (for himself, Mr. ROYCE, Mr. GEJDENSON, Mr. CAMPBELL, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. HOUGHTON, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Ms. LEE, Mr. CLYBURN, Mr. TOWNS, Mr. WYNN, Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD, Ms. CARSON, Mrs. MEEK of Florida, Mr. CUMMINGS, Ms. WATERS, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. CONYERS, Mrs. JONES of Ohio, Ms. KILPATRICK, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. HILLIARD, Mr. FALOMAVAEGA, Mr. FATTAH, Mr. CROWLEY, and Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on International Relations

RESOLUTION

Expressing support for humanitarian assistance to the
Republic of Mozambique.

Whereas on February 9, 2000, the southern Africa nations of Botswana, Mozambique, South Africa, Zambia, and Zimbabwe began to experience severe flooding caused by days of heavy rain;

Whereas the Republic of Mozambique bore the brunt of the torrential rains and experienced the worst flooding in 50 years;

Whereas roads, homes, bridges, the energy infrastructure, and crops were destroyed;

Whereas many towns are without potable water and the corresponding public health threat from water-borne diseases is severe;

Whereas on February 22, 2000, tropical cyclone Eline blew full force into Mozambique, exacerbating an already terrible humanitarian crisis;

Whereas continued rainfall from swollen rivers in neighboring southern African countries threatens to bring more flood waters into Mozambique;

Whereas thousands of Mozambicans have lost everything and are in desperate need of water, food, and shelter;

Whereas in 1992 Mozambique ended a bloody 16 year civil war and has made substantial progress on democratic freedoms and multi-party elections;

Whereas Mozambique is one of the world's poorest countries where 27 percent of all babies born die before the age of 5;

Whereas the flooding has virtually wiped out the significant economic recovery the Mozambican people have worked hard to achieve over the last 8 years;

Whereas large segments of Mozambican crops were spared from the cyclone and flooding and could be utilized to feed needy citizens later this year;

Whereas the Government of Mozambique will require massive international assistance over the next 90 days and the growing international relief effort must remain on high alert for the next several weeks; and

Whereas prior to the flood disaster, Mozambique was one of the first countries to qualify for benefits under the World Bank/IMF Heavily Indebted Poor Countries initiative: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

2 (1) commends the Government of the Republic
3 of South Africa for its quick response and assistance
4 to the Mozambican people;

5 (2) commends the Government of the United
6 Kingdom for announcing debt cancellation for Mo-
7 zambique so that precious financial resources may
8 be dedicated to the national relief and recovery ef-
9 fort;

10 (3) commends the Administration for its grow-
11 ing involvement and leadership in coordinating
12 America's disaster assistance package to the Repub-
13 lic of Mozambique;

14 (4) urges the United States Government to take
15 the lead in coordinating international efforts to help
16 the Republic of Mozambique salvage what remains
17 of this year's food crops and to provide seeds for
18 rural agricultural growers;

19 (5) encourages the international community to
20 continue to provide emergency relief, airlift capacity,
21 and other disaster assistance to the Republic of Mo-
22 zambique for the next 90 days;

1 (6) urges the international community to take
2 all necessary steps to locate and demarcate areas
3 that may now harbor semi-boyant plastic land mines
4 transported to new locations by the flooding in Mo-
5 zambique;

6 (7) requests that the international community
7 develop a coordinated response to the Government of
8 Mozambique's request for recovery and reconstruc-
9 tion assistance for buildings and transportation in-
10 frastructure; and

11 (8) encourages the international community to
12 assist the nations of southern Africa to increase
13 their capacity to respond to national emergencies
14 and natural disasters.

○

AMENDMENT TO H.RES. 431
OFFERED BY MR. MEEKS OF NEW YORK

In the preamble, amend the first clause to read as follows:

Whereas in February 2000, the southern Africa nations of Botswana, Madagascar, Mozambique, South Africa, Zambia, and Zimbabwe began to experience severe flooding caused by days of heavy rain;

In the preamble, in the second clause, strike "50" and insert "100".

In the text after the resolving clause, amend the fourth paragraph to read as follows:

- 1 (4) supports the efforts of the United States
- 2 Government to assist in coordinating international
- 3 efforts to help the Republic of Mozambique salvage
- 4 what remains of this year's food crops and to pro-
- 5 vide seeds for rural agricultural growers;

106TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. RES. 429

Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives concerning the participation of the extremist FPÖ in the Government of Austria.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 1, 2000

Mr. LANTOS (for himself, Mr. GILMAN, Mr. GEJDENSON, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. CAMPBELL, Mr. WEINER, Mr. HORN, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mrs. MORELLA, Mr. WEXLER, Mr. ACKERMAN, Mr. ABERCROMBIE, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. GUTIERREZ, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. PORTER, Mr. EVANS, Mr. WAXMAN, Mr. TIERNEY, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. MCGOVERN, and Mrs. JONES of Ohio) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on International Relations

RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives concerning the participation of the extremist FPÖ in the Government of Austria.

Whereas the extremist, racist, and xenophobic FPÖ has entered into a coalition agreement and is participating in the new Government of Austria;

Whereas the long-time-leader of the FPÖ, Jörg Haider, praised Adolf Hitler's "sound employment policy" and called Waffen SS veterans "decent people with character who stuck to their belief through the strongest headwinds";

Whereas Joerg Haider and his party in the recent election campaign decried the “over-foreignization” of Austria, which was an expression that was coined and used by Nazi leaders;

Whereas at a time when the European Union, the United States, and other nations are working actively to discourage ethnic hatred in the republics of the former Yugoslavia and elsewhere, the FPÖ shamelessly appealed to racist sentiment and based its political campaign on racism and xenophobia;

Whereas in the past Joerg Haider and his party have expressed fundamental disagreement with the principles of freedom, democracy, and respect for human rights, which are the foundation of a modern, democratic, open, and tolerant Europe and which Austria, as a member of the European Union, is committed by treaty to uphold; and

Whereas the inclusion of the FPÖ in the Austrian governing coalition serves to legitimize and encourage the extreme right in other countries of Europe: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

2 (1) recognizes the right of the Austrian people
3 to express their political views through a democratic
4 election, but also reaffirms the right and the obligation of the United States House of Representatives
5 to express its opposition to the anti-democratic, racist and xenophobic views that have been expressed
6 by Joerg Haider and other leaders of the FPÖ, and,
7 because of these publicly expressed views, to state its
8
9

1 opposition to the party's participation in the Aus-
2 trian Government;

3 (2) condemns the insulting, racist, and
4 xenophobic statements which have been made over
5 many years by Joerg Haider, the long-time leader of
6 the FPÖ, and by other leaders of the party;

7 (3) expresses profound regret and dismay that
8 the FPÖ will play a major role in the new Govern-
9 ment of Austria;

10 (4) commends the leaders of the European
11 Union, the fourteen other member states of the Eu-
12 ropean Union, Canada, Norway, and other countries
13 which have expressed their serious concerns regard-
14 ing the participation of the FPÖ in the Government
15 of Austria;

16 (5) calls upon the President, the Secretary of
17 State, and other officials and agencies of the United
18 States Government to emphasize to Austrian Gov-
19 ernment officials our concern about the inclusion of
20 any party in the Government of Austria, including
21 the FPÖ, that has been associated with xenophobic,
22 racist policies, and statements supportive of Nazi-era
23 programs;

24 (6) urges Members of Congress to use any meetings
25 with ministers and other political leaders of the Govern-

1 ment of Austria to express concern for Austria's continued
2 adherence to democratic standards and full respect for
3 human rights;

4 (7) calls upon the Secretary of State to continue to
5 scrutinize the policies of the new Government of Austria
6 and to be prepared to take additional measures if cir-
7 cumstances so warrant; and

8 (8) directs the Clerk of the House to send a copy
9 of this resolution to the Secretary of State with the re-
10 quest that it be forwarded to the President of Austria.

○