

H.CON.RES. 152 • May 18, 1998

**EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF CONGRESS THAT ALL
PARTIES TO THE MULTIPARTY PEACE TALKS
REGARDING NORTHERN IRELAND SHOULD
CONDEMN VIOLENCE AND FULLY INTEGRATE
INTERNATIONALLY RECOGNIZED HUMAN
RIGHTS STANDARDS AND ADEQUATELY ADDRESS
OUTSTANDING HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS AS
PART OF THE PEACE PROCESS**

Prime Sponsor: Mr. Christopher H. Smith (NJ)

H.Con.Res. 152 – Agreed to by the House on March 18, 1998

105TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. CON. RES. 152

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 19, 1998

Received and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the Congress that all parties to the multiparty peace talks regarding Northern Ireland should condemn violence and fully integrate internationally recognized human rights standards and adequately address outstanding human rights violations as part of the peace process.

Whereas multiparty talks regarding Northern Ireland attended by representatives of the British and Irish Governments and representatives elected from political parties in Northern Ireland are underway for the first time since the partition of Ireland in 1922 creating a momentous opportunity for progress on human rights concerns;

Whereas human rights violations and the lack of accountability by those responsible for such violations have been persistent features of the conflict in Northern Ireland; and

Whereas more than 3,000 people have died and thousands more have been injured as a result of the political violence in Northern Ireland since 1969: Now, therefore, be it

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

3 (1) the Congress condemns the violence com-
4 mitted on all sides of the conflict in Northern Ire-
5 land as illegal, unjust, and inhumane;

6 (2) the Congress commends the leadership in
7 both the British and Irish Governments and former
8 United States Senator George Mitchell, Independent
9 Chairman of the multiparty talks, for fostering a
10 new environment in which human rights concerns
11 may be addressed and an agreement may be reached
12 expeditiously through inclusive talks with respect to
13 Northern Ireland; and

14 (3) it is the sense of the Congress that—

15 (A) all parties should reject violence and
16 work diligently through democratic, peaceful
17 means to reach a just and lasting peace in
18 Northern Ireland;

19 (B) human rights should be protected for
20 all citizens and any peace agreement in North-

1 ern Ireland must recognize the state's obliga-
2 tion to protect human rights in all cir-
3 cumstances; and

4 (C) there are a number of measures which
5 can be taken immediately that would remedy
6 abusive human rights policies and build con-
7 fidence in the peace process, such as acting
8 upon the Standing Advisory Commission on
9 Human Rights (SACHR) report and rec-
10 ommendations put forth by other human rights
11 organizations.

Passed the House of Representatives March 18,
1998.

Attest:

Robin H. Carle,
Clerk.