

106TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. CON. RES. 156

Expressing the sense of Congress supporting World Tibet Day.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 16, 1999

Mr. JACKSON of Illinois (for himself, Mr. LANTOS, Mr. GILMAN, Mr. DEFazio, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. BROWN of Ohio, Mr. ROHR-ABACHER, Mr. KUCINICH, Mr. KING, Mr. DIXON, Mr. TANCREDO, Mr. HINCHEY, Ms. MCKINNEY, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. CAPUANO, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. GUTIERREZ, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. STARK, Mr. WAXMAN, Mr. FILNER, Mr. ABERCROMBIE, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. HILLIARD, and Ms. LEE) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Government Reform

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of Congress supporting World Tibet Day.

Whereas the history of the Tibetan state stretches back nearly 1,500 years with unique and irreplaceable cultural and religious characteristics;

Whereas in 1949, the People's Republic of China invaded and occupied Tibet, and, as a direct result, over 1.2 million Tibetans died and more than 6,000 monasteries were destroyed;

Whereas in August 1960, the International Commission of Jurists concluded that the People's Republic of China had committed "acts of genocide" in Tibet;

Whereas the State Department has concluded, in its Country Reports on the Human Rights Practices for 1998 that the People's Republic of China continues to commit systematic human rights violations in Tibet, including torture, arbitrary arrest, denial of freedom of religion, and denial of free speech and free press;

Whereas the movement of millions of ethnic Chinese to Tibetan lands threatens to extinguish Tibetan culture and religion;

Whereas the Dalai Lama, temporal and spiritual leader of Tibet, was forced into exile in 1959, where he has worked to keep alive the culture and religion of his people, along with their hopes for freedom in Tibet;

Whereas the People's Republic of China should take measures to protect the unique cultural, religious, and linguistic heritage of Tibet;

Whereas on July 10, six days after America's Independence Day, World Tibet Day was held, to share in the same spirit of freedom that Independence Day symbolizes;

Whereas many Tibetan communities also honored the July 6 birthday of the Dalai Lama by affirming fundamental human freedoms;

Whereas on the weekend of World Tibet Day, houses of worship in many parts of the world—churches, synagogues, mosques, temples, gurdwaras—took part in an inter-faith call for freedom of worship in Tibet and for universal religious freedom; and

Whereas a goal of World Tibet Day is to support negotiations between the Dalai Lama or his representatives and the government of the People's Republic of China, without preconditions, on the future of Tibet: Now, therefore, be it

- 1 *Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate*
- 2 *concurring)*, That Congress supports the goals and ideas
- 3 of World Tibet Day.

○