

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

SESSION 1999

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HOUSE RESOLUTION 1271

Sponsors: Representatives Luebke and Hensley (Primary Sponsors).

Referred to: Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House.

April 15, 1999

1 A HOUSE RESOLUTION URGING CONGRESS TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS TO
2 PAY AMOUNTS OWED BY THE UNITED STATES TO THE UNITED
3 NATIONS.

4 Whereas, during the past decade, the United States Congress, in an effort to
5 help build a better functioning, more effective United Nations for the coming
6 millennium, has urged the United Nations to take meaningful steps towards reforming
7 itself by: reducing inefficiencies, streamlining the organization, eliminating budgetary
8 growth, reducing Secretariat staff, working to reduce United Nations costs borne by
9 the United States, refocusing development efforts in support of open trade and free
10 markets, and taking on new and emerging global scale challenges like drug
11 trafficking, crime, terrorism, and environmental protection; and

12 Whereas, a strong and effective United Nations, according to the Council
13 on Foreign Relations, remains an important part of a strong and effective American
14 foreign policy as it has been since its founding in 1945; and

15 Whereas, the United Nations has made demonstrable progress and shown
16 good faith in moving to comply with American requests by:

17 (1) Reducing its staff by more than 20% in the past decade, eliminating
18 more than 3,000 positions in the United Nations' Secretariat, including 1,000 in the
19 past several years;

20 (2) Adopting a no-growth budget since 1994, and reducing the United
21 Nations' regular budget by \$123,000,000 in its most recent budget cycle;

1 (3) Appointing an Inspector General to root out waste, fraud, and abuse,
2 saving more than \$80,000,000 and numerous improvements in organizational
3 operations;

4 (4) Consolidating a wide variety of functions, including more than 12
5 Secretariat departments executive units;

6 (5) Appointing an Efficiency Board, akin to the United States
7 Reinventing Government Initiative, that has resulted in hundreds of efficiency
8 improvements and millions of dollars in savings; and

9 (6) Attracting dynamic, new leaders to head key United Nations
10 agencies and improve overall management of the United Nations system; and

11 Whereas, with the end of the Cold War and the rapid growth of economic
12 globalization, the United Nations is more important than ever as a forum for peace,
13 progress, and prosperity; particularly as the international institution capable of
14 bringing all nations together to: (i) set basic standards that are prerequisites to trade
15 (e.g. standards for telecommunications, transportation, and mail); (ii) work together
16 on common global challenges like terrorism and the drug trade; (iii) promote the
17 health and well-being of the world's children; (iv) uphold basic human rights; feed the
18 hungry, respond to natural disasters; (v) develop peacekeeping operations and mediate
19 conflict; and (vi) address global health challenges like polio, malaria, and
20 malnutrition; and

21 Whereas, the executive and legislative branches of the United States have
22 suggested that United Nations reform would effectuate payment of United States' past
23 dues, which the United States is legally bound to honor and which now total more
24 than \$1,000,000,000 (or approximately one year of operations for the United Nations
25 Secretariat); Now, therefore,

26 Be it resolved by the House of Representatives:

27 Section 1. In recognition of the rapidly increasing importance of the United
28 Nations to the future stability of the world, and to the future security and prosperity of the
29 United States and other nations, and in recognition of the United Nations' marked
30 progress and good faith work to comply with United States reform requests, the North
31 Carolina House of Representatives commends the United States Congress for its role in
32 helping to reform the United Nations and commends the United Nations for its successful
33 implementation of these important and needed reforms, and petitions the United States
34 Congress to authorize and appropriate moneys sufficient to pay amounts owed by the
35 United States and to the United Nations, now in arrears, and, in addition, that the transfer
36 of these funds to the United Nations be authorized by Congress in the current budget
37 cycle.

38 Section 2. The Principal Clerk shall transmit a certified copy of this resolution
39 to each member of North Carolina's Congressional Delegation.

40 Section 3. This resolution is effective upon adoption.