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H. RES. 1078

Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that a Global Marshall Plan holds the potential to demonstrate the commitment of the United States to peace and prosperity.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

April 3, 2008

Mr. ELLISON (for himself, Mr. MORAN of Virginia, and Mr. CLEAVER) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that a Global Marshall Plan holds the potential to demonstrate the commitment of the United States to peace and prosperity.

Whereas, after World War II, the United States established a program to provide for the reconstruction of Europe, named after General George C. Marshall and commonly referred to as the 'Marshall Plan', which has been hailed by leaders of World War II allied and enemy countries as the most magnanimous act by the United States in history;

Whereas by providing assistance to Europe through the Marshall Plan, the United States recognized the direct link between economic growth and political stability, thereby investing resources into economic development and assistance;

Whereas the Marshall Plan made possible new measures of international cooperation through the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and other institutions that have enhanced the security, freedom, and prosperity of the United States and the world;

Whereas the United States has established foreign assistance programs, as described in the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, with a goal of the 'encouragement and sustained support of the people of developing countries in their efforts to acquire the knowledge and resources essential to development and to build the economic, political, and social institutions which will improve the quality of their lives';

Whereas annual United States appropriations for foreign development assistance in its many forms, whether considered as a proportion of the Federal budget or as a proportion of gross domestic product, never again have reached the levels seen during

the first years of the Marshall Plan;

Whereas more than 1,000,000,000 people worldwide live on less than \$1 per day, and another 1,600,000,000 people struggle to survive on less than \$2 per day, according to the World Bank;

Whereas at the United Nations Millennium Summit in 2000, the United States joined more than 180 other countries in committing to work toward the United Nations Millennium Development Goals to improve life for the world's poorest people by 2015;

Whereas the United Nations Millennium Development Goals include the goal of reducing by one-half the proportion of people worldwide, between 1990 and 2015, who live on less than \$1 per day, cutting in half the proportion of people suffering from hunger and unable to access safe drinking water and sanitation, reducing by two-thirds child mortality, ensuring basic education for all children, and reversing the spread of HIV/AIDS and malaria, while sustaining the environment upon which human life depends;

Whereas United States citizens and nongovernmental organizations have proposed a new Global Marshall Plan, including--

- (1) providing enough funding to eliminate global poverty, homelessness, hunger, inadequate education, and health care, plus restoring the global environment;
- (2) creating international nongovernmental mechanisms for receiving funds contributed through foreign aid and alternative sources of financing, and for distributing such funds in a way that is environmentally sensitive, respectful of native cultures, safeguarded against corruption, protected from manipulation to serve elite interests, and empowering of the people in each region;
- (3) revising existing trade and other agreements in which the United States is currently involved so that such agreements favor improving the lives of the poor of the world; and approaching future agreements with like intent;
- (4) creating a greatly expanded Peace and Justice Corps of the United States that would provide ways for people with useful skills to volunteer two years at any age toward the goals of the Global Marshall Plan;
- (5) providing training to foreign militaries to become experts in ecologically sensitive construction of those aspects of their own societies that need relief and reconstruction, including agriculture, health care, housing, infrastructure, education, computers, and other appropriate technology; and
- (6) providing training to children and adults worldwide in techniques of nonviolent communication, diversity, environmental sustainability, family and parental support, stress reduction, emergency health techniques, diet and exercise, and caring for others who are in need of help; and

Whereas the attacks against the United States that occurred on September 11, 2001, and the subsequent global war on terrorism, have enhanced United States strategic

concern for the economic and political future of countries worldwide: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the United States House of Representatives that-

(1) the elimination of poverty and hunger, assurance of basic health and education for all, and resolution of environmental crises remain key foreign policy goals for the United States;

(2) a Global Marshall Plan holds potentially transformative power of a reinvigorated, comprehensive approach to foreign development assistance that would demonstrate the commitment of the United States to peace and prosperity to people who may have doubted the dedication of the United States to those ideals; and

(3) a Global Marshall Plan must operate within the ethical framework of generosity and magnanimity, not merely of instrumentality, and to be successful and must be perceived as more than a new attempt to extend influence into the world.

END