

111TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

S. RES. 431

Expressing profound concern, deepest sympathies, and solidarity on behalf of the people of the United States to the people and Government of Chile following the massive earthquake.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 3, 2010

Mr. LUGAR (for himself and Mr. KERRY) submitted the following resolution;
which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

RESOLUTION

Expressing profound concern, deepest sympathies, and solidarity on behalf of the people of the United States to the people and Government of Chile following the massive earthquake.

Whereas the massive 8.8-magnitude earthquake that struck Chile in the early hours of Saturday, February 27, 2010, has claimed approximately 800 lives, according to government officials of Chile, and the death toll is expected to continue to rise as assessments of the devastation continue;

Whereas the earthquake hit most strongly in 6 central and south regions, from the capital, Santiago, and the nearby port of Valparaíso in central Chile, to the Bernardo

O'Higgins, Maule, Bio Bio, and Araucanía regions of the south;

Whereas the regions most strongly hit are home to about 60 percent of the 17,000,000 inhabitants of Chile and account for approximately 70 percent of the gross domestic product of Chile;

Whereas the earthquake generated some tsunami activity, in addition to the earthquake, and several hundred people were killed in the coastal towns of Constitución and Talcahuano as a result;

Whereas many of the villages in the Juan Fernández archipelago were destroyed by tsunami activity;

Whereas the earthquake left an estimated 2,000,000 people homeless and damaged more than 1,000,000 homes, $\frac{1}{3}$ of which may have to be demolished;

Whereas the earthquake, classified as a "megathrust" earthquake, unleashed an estimated 50 gigatons of energy and broke about 340 miles of the fault zone, according to the United States Geological Survey's National Earthquake Information Center;

Whereas aftershocks have continued, seriously complicating efforts to survey the damage and rescue survivors despite the noble efforts of local teams;

Whereas the Department of Defense has estimated that reconstruction costs could exceed \$30,000,000,000, equivalent to 20 percent of the 2009 gross domestic product of Chile;

Whereas damage to ports and other infrastructure will hinder important exports and economic recovery;

Whereas Secretary of State Hillary Clinton visited Chile on March 2, 2010, and promised an extensive aid package, and the United States Ambassador to Chile requested emergency relief funding;

Whereas Chile enjoys excellent relations with the United States since its transition back to democracy, and both countries have emphasized similar priorities in the region, designed to strengthen democracy, improve human rights, and advance free trade;

Whereas Chile and the United States also maintain strong commercial ties, which have become more extensive since a bilateral free trade agreement between the two countries entered into force in 2004;

Whereas since 2004, the Government of Chile has worked with the Government of the United States and the international community as part of the multinational peacekeeping force in Haiti, first as a part of the Multinational Interim Force-Haiti (MIFH) and subsequently as a part of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH), committing more human material resources to MINUSTAH than it has to any previous peacekeeping mission; and

Whereas the Government of Chile and the Government of the United States and other regional partners have worked together in recent years to resolve a number of political issues in the Western Hemisphere, including crises in Venezuela, Bolivia, and Honduras, among others: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the Senate—

2 (1) expresses its profound concern, deepest
3 sympathies, and solidarity on behalf of the people of

1 the United States to the people and Government of
2 Chile following the massive earthquake;

3 (2) applauds the friendship between the Gov-
4 ernments and people of the United States and Chile
5 and recommits to mutually beneficial cooperation in
6 bilateral, multilateral, and Hemispheric contexts;

7 (3) strongly encourages the United States Gov-
8 ernment, with full consideration of the necessary in-
9 stitutional instruments, to offer all appropriate as-
10 sistance, if requested by the Government of Chile, to
11 aid in the immediate rescue and ongoing recovery ef-
12 forts undertaken by the Government of Chile; and

13 (4) encourages the international community to
14 join in relief efforts as determined by the Govern-
15 ment of Chile.

○