

112TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. RES. 153

Recognizing the 25th anniversary of the Chernobyl nuclear disaster.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

APRIL 14, 2011

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

MAY 9, 2011

Committee discharged; considered, amended, and agreed to

RESOLUTION

Recognizing the 25th anniversary of the Chernobyl nuclear disaster.

Whereas at 1:23 A.M. on April 26, 1986, during an experiment, a major explosion occurred at the Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant in Unit 4, a RBMK 1000-type, graphite-moderated nuclear power reactor in Pripyat;

Whereas the initial explosion dispersed a stream of radioactive particles over nearby towns, farms, and eventually to many other countries;

Whereas 500,000 brave firefighters, engineers, technicians, and emergency workers worked for more than 6 months to minimize one of the worst civilian nuclear disasters in history;

Whereas radioactivity emanating from the Chernobyl disaster has been detected in Belarus, Poland, Russia, Scandinavia, and other areas;

Whereas since the disaster, serious health, environmental, and socioeconomic repercussions have been identified in many areas near the Chernobyl plant;

Whereas the Chernobyl Forum, an initiative by the International Atomic Energy Agency in cooperation with the World Health Organization, numerous United Nations agencies, and the governments of Ukraine, Belarus, and Russia, was launched in 2003 to examine the scientific evidence of human and environmental effects of the nuclear disaster at Chernobyl;

Whereas the Chernobyl Forum's examination of the catastrophe has contributed to the understanding of the effects caused by the nuclear disaster;

Whereas, the Chernobyl Forum found that more than 5,000,000 people lived in "contaminated" areas in Ukraine, Belarus, Russia, and other countries;

Whereas the lives and wellness of people in the affected areas continue to be impacted by the catastrophic Chernobyl nuclear disaster;

Whereas the government of the United States, the people of the United States, and the international community have provided contributions to humanitarian organizations to address the effects of the Chernobyl disaster;

Whereas the Chernobyl Shelter Fund (CSF) was established in December 1997 by the G7, in cooperation with Ukraine;

Whereas the purpose of the CSF has been to construct a safe confinement over the damaged Chernobyl Unit 4 and to

convert the site to a stable and environmentally safe condition;

Whereas the Nuclear Safety Account (NSA), supported by the United States and 16 other donors, finances the Interim Spent Fuel Storage Facility that allows for the decommissioning of Chernobyl Units 1 through 3;

Whereas April 26, 2011, is the 25th anniversary of the Chernobyl nuclear disaster; and

Whereas the ongoing crisis in Japan at the Fukushima nuclear power plant serves as a reminder to the United States and the international community of the need to make strong commitments to nuclear security throughout the world: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the Senate—

2 (1) recognizes the 25th anniversary of the
3 Chernobyl nuclear disaster and the courage of the
4 Ukrainian people in persevering to address the con-
5 sequences of the disaster;

6 (2) commends efforts to mitigate the con-
7 sequences of the Chernobyl nuclear disaster; and

8 (3) requests that the Secretary of the Senate
9 transmit an enrolled copy of this resolution to the
10 Ambassador of Ukraine to the United States.

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