



H.Res. 550 - Congratulating the people of Ethiopia on the second millennium of Ethiopia, and for other purposes.

FLOOR SITUATION

H.Res. 550 is being considered on the floor under suspension of the rules and will require a two-thirds majority vote for passage. This legislation was introduced by Representative Michael Honda (D-CA) on July 16, 2007. The House Committee on Foreign Affairs marked up the resolution, as amended, on October 23, 2007.

H.Res. 550 is expected to be considered on the floor on November 5, 2007.

SUMMARY

H.Res. 550 resolves that:

- Congratulates the people of Ethiopia on the second millennium of Ethiopia;
- Recognizes the long, rich history of Ethiopia;
- Commends Ethiopia's contribution to peace and stability on the African continent through the role it played in the creation of the Organization of African Unity (OAU);
- Recognizes the longstanding relationship between Ethiopia and the United States;
- Commends the organizers of the second millennium celebration in Ethiopia and the United States; and
- Commends the peaceful and jubilant celebration of the second millennium of Ethiopia.

BACKGROUND

With more than 77 million inhabitants, Ethiopia is Africa's oldest independent nation and one of the oldest countries in the world. Ethiopia joined the United Nations in its first year (1945) and played a major role in the founding of the Organization of African Unity, which later became the African Union.

While Ethiopia is an important strategic partner with the U.S. in the Global War on Terror, human rights abuses remain a concern. Following the 2005 presidential elections,

193 political dissidents were killed and many more arrested while protesting the outcome of the elections. Earlier this year many of the imprisoned political dissidents were released. Ethiopia, however, continues to suppress independent media and to harass and intimidate political opposition.

In late 2006, upon the request of the Transitional Federal Government in Somalia, the Ethiopian military invaded Somalia to unseat the extremist-controlled Council of Islamic Courts. The U.S. supported the Ethiopian military actions because of the Council of Islamic Courts' ties to Islamic terrorism.

STAFF CONTACT

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