

Signed May 14, 1991.

Joint Resolution No. 5
(House Joint Resolution No. 23)

A House Joint Resolution concerning

Liberia – Relief, Rehabilitation, and Reconstruction

FOR the purpose of urging the Congress of the United States to enact legislation to provide a generous and comprehensive response to Liberia's immediate and long term relief and recovery needs.

WHEREAS, The American people have close historical ties with Liberians, whose country was established as an independent republic in 1847 by freed African American slaves; and

WHEREAS, The United States has been the beneficiary of a cooperative international relationship established with the country of Liberia; and

WHEREAS, Liberia has been a productive and economically viable country; and

WHEREAS, Liberia and its people are now in the midst of a civil war; and

WHEREAS, Tens of thousands of Liberian children are orphaned, malnourished, and sick and are in need of hospital treatment; and

WHEREAS, Over 500,000 people in Liberia have been displaced from their homes, and more than 720,000 Liberian refugees have fled to neighboring countries; and

WHEREAS, Hundreds of thousands of men, women, and children have become dependent on food aid; and food aid is required for the survival of displaced civilians; and

WHEREAS, Disaster assistance is needed to meet the immediate and survival needs of the Liberian people; and

WHEREAS, Disaster assistance would provide for emergency water supply systems, clothing and shelter, the delivery of food, emergency health care for disease prevention, rehabilitation of schools and hospitals, and provide seeds and tools to small farmers; and

WHEREAS, Liberia has become a casualty of the Persian Gulf War and is one of the most critical and neglected humanitarian emergencies in the world today; and

WHEREAS, Legislation has been introduced in the Congress of the United States to give more adequate authority, and greater urgency, to U. S. assistance programs; and

WHEREAS, Legislation would provide for funds for the relief and rehabilitation of the Liberian refugees as well as assistance for repatriation efforts; now, therefore, be it