

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 145

Opposing the Republic of South Africa's hosting of military exercises with the People's Republic of China and the Russian Federation, and calling on the Biden administration to conduct a thorough review of the United States-South Africa relationship.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 21, 2023

Mr. JAMES (for himself, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. KEAN of New Jersey, Mr. MILLS, Mr. BAIRD, and Mrs. KIM of California) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

RESOLUTION

Opposing the Republic of South Africa's hosting of military exercises with the People's Republic of China and the Russian Federation, and calling on the Biden administration to conduct a thorough review of the United States-South Africa relationship.

Whereas the United States and the Republic of South Africa have enjoyed strong bilateral relations since 1994;

Whereas the holding of elections with universal suffrage in 1994 marked the effective ending of apartheid in South Africa, the codified, State-enforced system of racial segregation and socioeconomic discrimination;

Whereas South Africa is the United States largest trade partner in Africa, with \$21,000,000,000 of 2-way goods trade in 2021, and in 2012, the countries signed a Trade and Investment Framework Agreement facilitating 2-way trade;

Whereas the United States is the largest source of foreign direct investment in South Africa, valued at over \$7,500,000,000 in 2021, and approximately 600 American businesses operate in South Africa;

Whereas South Africa's media landscape has proven resilient to the influence of media entities controlled by the People's Republic of China (PRC);

Whereas South Africa has benefitted from the U.S. Africa Contingency Operations Training and Assistance program since 2006;

Whereas the United States and South African militaries have historically undertaken joint military exercises and enjoyed good relations, including South Africa hosting American troops for Exercise "Shared Accord" in 2022, the fourth time they have hosted this exercise since 2011, through historic Department of Defense participation in South Africa's biennial African Aerospace Defense Exhibition, and through the periodic convening of the bilateral U.S.-South Africa Defense Committee;

Whereas South Africa declined to participate in the planned "Cutlass Express" military exercises with the United States in 2023;

Whereas South Africa often voted in alignment with the PRC within the United Nations General Assembly in 2022, especially in relation to votes condemning Russia's unjustified and unprovoked invasion of Ukraine;

Whereas South Africa reneged on its initial call for the Russian Federation to immediately withdraw its forces from Ukraine and has actively sought improved relations with Moscow in the last year;

Whereas South Africa's ruling party, the African National Congress (ANC) and the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) engage in consistent interparty cooperation in spite of South Africa's Constitution being opposed to the CCP's routine suppression of free expression and individual rights;

Whereas the "United Front" work of the CCP has established at least 3 "overseas police stations" in South Africa, and these police stations, both in South Africa and in many other countries, are reportedly being used to track and harass PRC dissidents;

Whereas South Africa hosts 6 Confucius Institutes, the most of any country in Africa, and cooperates with the PRC under the CCP's Belt and Road Initiative;

Whereas, in 2020, South Africa and the PRC established a joint bilateral "Comprehensive Strategic Partnership", and maintain numerous prior and subsequent agreements, memorandums of understanding, and similar accords;

Whereas South Africa is the PRC's largest trading partner in Africa, with total trade valued at \$54,000,000,000 in 2021, and has accepted \$5,000,000,000 in PRC-provided power and transportation sector loans since 2015;

Whereas South Africa is scheduled to hold the 15th leaders' meeting of the informal Brazil, Russia, India, China grouping (BRICS) in August 2023;

Whereas the increased Chinese presence in South Africa's technology sector has raised concerns that the ANC may be trying to copy the PRC's model of digitally aided authoritarian governance underpinned by cyber controls, social monitoring, and surveillance;

Whereas Vumacam, a South African company building a nationwide CCTV network, has partnered with Chinese company Hikvision for the cameras' hardware, and Telkom, South Africa's partially State-owned telecoms operator, launched its 5G network throughout the country in October 2022 using technology from Huawei Technologies;

Whereas the ANC has proved incapable of providing electricity to the South African people, through its chronic mismanagement of the State-owned power company Eskom, and on February 9, 2023, President of South Africa Cyril Ramaphosa declared a national state of disaster over the worsening, multiyear power crisis;

Whereas South Africa will host joint maritime exercises, entitled "Operation Mosi II", jointly with the PRC and Russia, between February 17 and 24, 2023, and the latter date corresponds to the 1-year anniversary of Russia's unjustified and unprovoked invasion of Ukraine;

Whereas South Africa has used its stated stance of nonalignment in international affairs to justify increasingly close relations with the PRC and Russia;

Whereas United States policy towards South Africa appears to have failed in building a strong, reliable bilateral partner; and

Whereas it is in the national security interest of the United States to deter acceptance, cooperation, and strategic in-

formation sharing with the PRC and Russia: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

2 (1) opposes South Africa’s decision to host military exercises with the People’s Republic of China and the Russian Federation from February 17 to February 24, 2023;

6 (2) calls on the Government of South Africa to—

8 (A) cancel all future military exercises with the People’s Republic of China and Russia and rejoin United States-led exercises, such as the “Cutlass Express”;

12 (B) respect the United Nations charter and publicly oppose Russia’s unjustified and unprovoked invasion of Ukraine;

15 (C) strengthen its political resilience to reject the Chinese Communist Party’s authoritarian vision for South Africa; and

18 (D) maintain its national sovereignty by reducing its reliance on Chinese companies in key sectors such as information and communication technology;

22 (3) calls on the Biden administration to conduct a thorough review of the current and future status of the United States-South Africa bilateral relation-

1 ship in light of the aforementioned actions of the
2 Government of South Africa; and

3 (4) calls on the United States Government to
4 keep Congress apprised by providing regular and
5 comprehensive briefings on subjects relating to
6 South Africa including—

7 (A) a complete account of all known
8 United States-sanctioned entities and
9 transnational criminal organizations' connec-
10 tions to illicit proceeds linked to wildlife traf-
11 ficking;

12 (B) a detailed account of positive economic
13 results stemming from South Africa's inclusion
14 in the African Growth and Opportunity Act and
15 the United States-South Africa Trade and In-
16 vestment Framework signed in 2012; and

17 (C) a timeline to end the Biden adminis-
18 tration's climate colonialism by including gas-
19 to-power initiatives to counter the widespread
20 and nationwide blackouts costing the South Af-
21 rican economy an estimated \$200,000,000 per
22 day.

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