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Resolution to Stop Escalating the Confrontation with Iran & Reduce the Danger of Another Military Conflict in the Persian Gulf

Whereas, the Bush administration appears intent on ratcheting up tensions with Iran over development of its nuclear energy capabilities, and this escalation has raised the danger of a miscalculation or provocation that could result in military conflict between the U.S. and Iran, possible involving Israel as well; and

Whereas, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) has found no violation of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty (NNPT) and no evidence has been presented to demonstrate that Iran is in violation of any international treaties; and

Whereas, Iran, as a signatory to the NNPT, has a right to pursue the development of nuclear energy for peaceful uses, including uranium enrichment, and the IAEA has found Iran to have met all the treaty requirements to which it is subject; and

Whereas, Rep. Gary Ackerman (D-NY) has introduced a resolution in the House, which is cosponsored by 231 other members of Congress, and a concurrent resolution has been introduced in the Senate by Sen. Evan Bayh (D-IN) cosponsored by 33 other senators that calls upon the president to immediately impose additional sanctions on Iraq, including prohibiting the export to Iran of all refined petroleum products, and imposing stringent inspections requirements on all persons, vehicles, ships, planes, trains, and cargo entering or departing Iran; and

Whereas, such an embargo can be construed under international law as an act of war, and in an atmosphere of rising tensions could trigger military confrontation and conflict; and

Whereas, under circumstances of increasing danger of military conflict with Iran the price of oil has been driven even higher on the international market; and an embargo enforced against Iran by the U.S. Navy could lead Iran to cut off oil shipments through the Strait of Hormuz, through which one-fifth of the world supply of oil is transported, resulting in a huge additional increase in the price of oil, while drawing into the conflict all the other nations affected by the cutoff; and such conflict could quickly spiral out of control into a wider regional war; and

Whereas, the Congress has already given the president unlimited authority to initiate military actions anywhere in the world under the 2003 resolution adopted at the onset of the invasion of Iraq, and thus the president will feel no obligation to bring a decision about whether to launch an attack on Iran to the Senate for ratification as required by the Constitution;

Therefore, be it resolved that the San Francisco Labor Council calls upon members of the House and Senate to reject H.R. 362 and S. 580, and to make clear to the president that he has no unilateral authority to initiate unprovoked military action against Iran or an embargo which could easily result in military conflict with Iran, or to support in any way such action initiated by Israel or any other country, and that the United States should pursue instead conflict resolution through diplomatic alternatives in conjunction with the IAEA and the United Nations; and

Be it finally resolved, that a copy of this resolution be communicated to the Speaker of the House and Majority Leader of the Senate, and all House and Senate members in the California Congressional delegation, and, further, that copies also be forwarded to the California Federation of Labor with a request that it take similar action at its forthcoming convention, and to the AFL-CIO and Change to Win to urge that they too take such action, and to all the affiliates of this Council to encourage that they also communicate their concerns to their members of the House and Senate.

Submitted by Kathy Lipscomb, SEIU UHW, and adopted by the San Francisco Labor Council on July 14, 2008.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Tim Paulson", with a long horizontal line extending to the left.

Tim Paulson
Executive Director

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