

**RESOLUTION 6-H.F.No. 1209**

*A resolution memorializing the President and Congress to condemn the use of Soviet military force in the Baltic Republics and support the Baltic Republics for their self-determination.*

WHEREAS, the Baltic Republics of Latvia, Lithuania, and Estonia were independent democratic republics, fully recognized by the United States of America and the world community before being annexed forcefully by the Soviet Union in 1940; and

WHEREAS, the United States never recognized the forcible annexation of the Baltic republics and has always supported their right to self-determination; and

WHEREAS, the Soviet troops and the black berets, in full battle gear, attacked and killed the unarmed civilians who had erected concrete barricades and flocked by the thousands to protect their parliament and official buildings in the Baltic Republics; and

WHEREAS, the Soviet actions in Latvia, Lithuania, and Estonia are in direct violation of the Helsinki Final Act, the United Nations Charter, and other international documents guaranteeing human rights and self-determination of all people; NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Legislature of the State of Minnesota that Congress should condemn the brutal violence and intimidation by Soviet forces in the Baltic Republics and should call on President Gorbachev to cease immediately the use of force against the people and the democratically elected governments of Latvia, Lithuania, and Estonia, and enter into meaningful negotiations with the democratically elected leaders of Latvia, Lithuania, and Estonia for the purposes of establishing the formal recognition of the independent Baltic Republics.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Minnesota's concern lies with the Baltic Republics due to the large number of Minnesotans who are of Latvian, Lithuanian, and Estonian heritage.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Secretary of State of Minnesota is directed to prepare certified copies of this memorial and transmit them to the President of the United States, the President and Secretary of the United States Senate, the Speaker and Chief Clerk of the United States House of Representatives, and Minnesota's Senators and Representatives in Congress.

Presented to the governor April 12, 1991

Signed by the governor April 12, 1991, 6:30 p.m.