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State Sponsors of Acts of International Terrorism – Legislative Parameters: In Brief

Updated May 4, 2021

Congressional Research Service

<https://crsreports.congress.gov>

R43835

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Introduction

The United States currently designates as state sponsors of acts of international terrorism the governments of Syria, Iran, North Korea, and Cuba. A terrorism designation is but one part in the bilateral relationship between the United States and each of these governments.

Syria.¹ The United States has recognized the government of Syria as a state sponsor of acts of international terrorism from 1979, when restrictions on exports to any country engaged in international terrorism were added to export administration law in 1979.²

Iran. Secretary of State George Shultz designated the government of Iran as a sponsor of acts of international terrorism on January 19, 1984.³ In July 2015, the United States, China, France, Germany, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom, European Union, and Iran agreed to a Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA). Under the agreement, Iran ensured that its nuclear program would be exclusively peaceful, and in return, the negotiating parties and the United Nations lifted economic sanctions related to Iran’s nuclear pursuits. In May 2018, President Donald Trump ceased U.S. participation in the JCPOA and set a course for reestablishing restrictions on trade, transactions, and investment in most of Iran’s economy. Throughout, however, U.S. sanctions have remained in place to address Iran’s support for international terrorism, missile proliferation, human rights violations, and disrupting regional stability.⁴

North Korea. Secretary of State George Shultz first designated the government of North Korea as a supporter of acts of international terrorism in 1988, after a mid-air bombing of a South Korean civilian airliner was attributed to the North.⁵ President George W. Bush, in a memorandum to Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, in June 2008, notified of his intention to rescind North Korea’s designation; the Secretary removed the designation in October 2008.⁶ In late 2014, the possibility of returning North Korea to state-sponsors lists resurfaced when the Obama Administration attributed a cyberattack on Sony Pictures to North Korea. It was a debate that Congress had sustained since 2008, when President George W. Bush removed the terrorism designation as part of multinational negotiations to disable and dismantle North Korea’s nuclear weapons program.⁷ Congress had gone so far as to require the Secretary of State to report to the Senate Committees on Foreign Relations and Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs, and the House Committees on Foreign Affairs, Financial Services, and Ways and Means by October 31,

¹ CRS Report RL33487, *Armed Conflict in Syria: Overview and U.S. Response*, coordinated by Carla E. Humud.

² U.S. Department of Commerce. International Trade Administration. Interim Rule to 15 CFR Part 385. “Revision of Foreign Policy Controls on Exports to Syria, Iraq, Libya, and the People’s Democratic Republic of Yemen.” 45 F.R. 33955; May 21, 1980.

³ U.S. Department of State. Secretarial Determination No. 84-3. “Determination Pursuant to Section 6(i) of the Export Administration Act of 1979—Iran.” 49 F.R. 2836; January 23, 1984.

⁴ CRS Report R43311, *Iran: U.S. Economic Sanctions and the Authority to Lift Restrictions*, by Dianne E. Rennack, and CRS Report RS20871, *Iran Sanctions*, by Kenneth Katzman.

⁵ U.S. Department of State. Office of the Secretary. Public Notice 1048, “Determination Pursuant to Section 6(j) of the Export Administration Act of 1979; North Korea.” 53 F.R. 3477; January 20, 1988.

⁶ Office of the President. Memorandum to the Secretary of State. “Certification of Rescission of North Korea’s Designation as a State Sponsor of Terrorism.” 73 F.R. 37351; June 26, 2008. U.S. Department of State. Public Notice 6415. “Rescission of Determination Regarding North Korea.” 73 F.R. 63540, October 11, 2008. CRS Report R43865, *North Korea: Back on the State Sponsors of Terrorism List?*, by Mark E. Manyin et al.

⁷ CRS Report R41438, *North Korea: Legislative Basis for U.S. Economic Sanctions*, by Dianne E. Rennack; CRS Report R41259, *North Korea: U.S. Relations, Nuclear Diplomacy, and Internal Situation*, coordinated by Emma Chanlett-Avery; and CRS Report R43865, *North Korea: Back on the State Sponsors of Terrorism List?*, by Mark E. Manyin et al.

2017, on “whether North Korea meets the criteria for designation as a state sponsor of terrorism.”⁸ The deadline was missed, but Secretary of State Rex Tillerson’s determination of November 17, 2017, to designate North Korea answered the question.⁹

Cuba. The government of Cuba was designated as a state sponsor of acts of international terrorism in 1982. In December 2014, President Barack Obama announced he would reestablish diplomatic relations with Cuba and ease diplomatic and economic restrictions, while anticipating Congress could engage in a review of sanctions codified in permanent law. At the same time, the President announced that the State Department had begun a review of the government of Cuba’s designation as a supporter of acts of international terrorism.¹⁰ On May 29, 2015, Secretary of State John Kerry delisted the government of Cuba.¹¹ Early in his term, however, President Donald Trump changed course, issuing new rounds of sanctions over his four years. Secretary of State Michael Pompeo designated once again the government of Cuba as a supporter of acts of international terrorism on January 12, 2021.¹²

This brief report provides information on legislation that authorizes the designation of any foreign government as a state sponsor of acts of international terrorism. It addresses the statutes and how they each define acts of international terrorism; establish a list to limit or prohibit aid or trade; provide for systematic removal of a foreign government from a list, including timeline and reporting requirements; authorize the President to waive restrictions on a listed foreign government; and provide (or do not provide) Congress with a means to block a delisting. It closes with a summary of delisting in the past.

Background

Three statutes authorize the Secretary of State to designate a foreign government for repeatedly providing support for acts of international terrorism, and to curtail aid or trade to that country as a result:

- Section 620A of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (FAA’61; P.L. 87-195; 22 U.S.C. 2371), as amended, prohibits most aid under the act, the Food for Peace Act, Peace Corps Act, or the Export-Import Bank Act of 1945;¹³
- Section 40 of the Arms Export Control Act (AECA; P.L. 90-629; 22 U.S.C. 2780), as amended, prohibits exports, credits, guarantees, other financial assistance, export licensing overseen by the State Department, and general

⁸ Section 324, Korean Interdiction and Modernization of Sanctions Act (title III, Countering America’s Adversaries Through Sanctions Act; P.L. 115-44; 131 Stat. 954).

⁹ U.S. Department of State. Public Notice 10211. “Democratic People’s Republic of Korea (DPRK) Designation as a State Sponsor of Terrorism (SST).” 82 F.R. 56100; November 27, 2017.

¹⁰ CRS Report R43888, *Cuba Sanctions: Legislative Restrictions Limiting the Normalization of Relations*, by Dianne E. Rennack and Mark P. Sullivan.

¹¹ U.S. Department of State. “Rescission of Cuba as a State Sponsor of Terrorism,” press statement, May 29, 2015.

¹² U.S. Department of State. Public Notice 11332. “Republic of Cuba Designation as a State Sponsor of Terrorism (SST).” 86 F.R. 6731; January 22, 2021. The Public Notice cited, in part, section 6(j), Export Administration Act of 1979, which was repealed in 2018.

¹³ Under Section 1621 of the International Financial Institutions Act (P.L. 95-118; 22 U.S.C. 262p-4q), if a country is listed under Section 620A of the FAA’61 or Section 6(j) of the EAA’79 (see Section 1768, ECA’18), the United States must oppose membership in and financial assistance from international financial institutions such as the World Bank, Asian Development Bank, and the International Monetary Fund.

eligibility related to providing munitions under the act, the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, or any other related law; and

- Section 1754(c) of the Export Controls Act of 2018 (ECA’18; part I, subtitle B, title XVII, of the John S. McCain National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2019; P.L. 115-232; 50 U.S.C. 4813).

In addition, one recently repealed statute was key to the designations of the governments of Iran, Sudan, Syria, and North Korea as terrorist states, and those designations are continued as the authority transitions to the ECA’18:

- Section 6(j) of the Export Administration Act of 1979 (EAA’79; P.L. 96-72; 50 U.S.C. 4605(j)), now repealed but determinations under this provision are continued by Section 1768, ECA’18,¹⁴ required validated export licenses (with an implied presumption of denial) for trade in goods or technology that were controlled by the Department of Commerce for national security or foreign policy reasons.

Congress has substantively amended the older of these statutes over time, incrementally building the definitions, notifications, rescission processes, and explicit congressional role. None of the first iterations of these statutes had anything that would constitute a construction of a list. Though Section 40, AECA, as enacted in 1986, restricted U.S. munitions exports based on decisions of the Secretary of State pursuant to Section 6(j), EAA’79, to limit export licenses, today’s four laws are linked more by the similarity in definitions and processes.¹⁵

Definitions

Of the three statutes that authorize the listing of any foreign government designated as a state sponsor of acts of international terrorism, only the AECA identifies objectionable activities as part of the definition. While that act does not define the overarching term “international terrorism,” it states that the term includes

¹⁴ The Export Controls Act of 2018 repealed all but three sections of the Export Administration Act of 1979; the remaining three are to be continued under the authorities of the National Emergencies Act (P.L. 94-412; 50 U.S.C. 1601) and International Emergency Economic Powers Act (P.L. 95-223; 50 U.S.C. 1702). Section 1768, ECA’18 (50 U.S.C. 4826) continues under Section 1754(c), ECA’18, any designation or related determination, delegation, rule, regulation, license, or order made under Section 6(j), EAA’79. In addition, Section 1768, ECA’18, provides that any reference elsewhere in law to Section 6(j), EAA’79 shall be deemed to be a reference to Section 1754(c), ECA’18.

¹⁵ Section 40, AECA (22 U.S.C. 2780), as originally added by Section 509 of the Diplomatic Security and Antiterrorism Act of 1986 (P.L. 99-399; 100 Stat. 874), read as follows:

“Sec. 40. Exports to Countries Supporting Act of International Terrorism.

“(a) PROHIBITION.—Except as provided in subsection (b), items on the United States Munitions List may not be exported to any country which the Secretary of State has determined for purposes of section 6(j)(1)(A) of the Export Administration Act of 1979 (50 U.S.C. App. 2405(j)(1)(A)) [now codified at 50 U.S.C. 4605], has repeatedly provided support for acts of international terrorism.

“(b) WAIVER.—The President may waive the prohibition contained in subsection (a) in the case of a particular export if the President determines that the export is important to the national interests of the United States and submits to the Congress a report justifying that determination and describing the proposed export. Any such waiver shall expire at the end of 90 days after it is granted unless the Congress enacts a law extending the waiver.”

Section 40, AECA, however, was substantially amended and restated by the Anti-Terrorism and Arms Export Control Act of 1989 (P.L. 101-222; 103 Stat. 1892) to prohibit transactions with countries found to be supporters of acts of international terrorism.

... all activities that the Secretary determines willfully aid or abet the international proliferation of nuclear explosive devices to individuals or groups, willfully aid or abet an individual or groups in acquiring unsafeguarded special nuclear material, or willingly aid or abet the efforts of an individual or group to use, develop, produce, stockpile, or otherwise acquire chemical, biological, or radiological weapons.¹⁶

None of the three acts defines the core term “international terrorism.”¹⁷ Section 140 of the Foreign Relations Authorization Act, Fiscal Years 1988 and 1989 (P.L. 100-204; 22 U.S.C. 2656f), as amended, however, provides the following in the context of requiring the Secretary of State to report annually to Congress on foreign countries supporting international terrorism:

(d) DEFINITIONS.—As used in this section—

(1) the term “international terrorism” means terrorism involving citizens or the territory of more than 1 country;

(2) the term “terrorism” means premeditated, politically motivated violence perpetrated against noncombatant targets by subnational groups or clandestine agents;

(3) the term “terrorist group” means any group practicing, or which has significant subgroups which practice, international terrorism;

(4) the terms “territory” and “territory of the country” mean the land, waters, and airspace of the country; and

(5) the terms “terrorist sanctuary” and “sanctuary” mean an area in the territory of the country—

(A) that is used by a terrorist or terrorist organization—

(i) to carry out terrorist activities, including training, fundraising, financing, and recruitment; or

(ii) as a transit point; and

(B) the government of which expressly consents to, or with knowledge, allows, tolerates, or disregards such use of its territory and is not subject to a determination under—

(i) section 6(j)(1)(A) of the Export Administration Act of 1979 (50 U.S.C. App. 2405(j)(1)(A));¹⁸

(ii) section 620A(a) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2371(a)); or

(iii) section 40(d) of the Arms Export Control Act (22 U.S.C. 2780(d)).

Evolution of Policy: Export Administration Act of 1979

As originally enacted, the terrorism designation provision in EAA’79 did not restrict export licensing, but only required that Congress be notified before the Administration approved any export of goods or technology valued at more than \$7 million “to any country which the Secretary of State has made the following determinations”:

(1) Such country has repeatedly provided support for acts of international terrorism.

(2) Such exports would make a significant contribution to the military potential of such country, including its military logistics capability, or would enhance the ability of such country to support acts of international terrorism.

¹⁶ Section 40(d), AECA.

¹⁷ Section 6(j) of the EAA’79, now repealed, had defined the term “repeatedly provided support for acts of international terrorism” to include “the recurring use of any part of the territory of the country as a sanctuary for terrorists or terrorist organizations.” It further defined a country’s territory as “the land, waters, and airspace of the country” and defined “sanctuary” as the territory of a country that is used by a terrorist or terrorist organization to carry out terrorist activities, including training, financing, and recruitment; or as a transit point; and the government of which expressly consents to, or with knowledge, allows, tolerates, or disregards such use of its territory. The other two acts have no such language.

¹⁸ Section 6, EAA’79 was redesignated in the U.S. Code as 50 U.S.C. 4605.

In 1980, Congress amends the section to require prior notification of “at least 30 days” (94 Stat. 3138).

In 1985, the provision is amended to make any determination outlined in paras. (1) and (2), above, permanent until the President justifies a rescission and certifies, with 30 days’ notice to Congress, that

(A) the country concerned has not provided support for international terrorism, including support or sanctuary for any major terrorist or terrorist group in its territory, during the preceding 6-month period; and

(B) the country concerned has provided assurances that it will not support acts of international terrorism in the future. (99 Stat. 135)

One year later, in 1986, the value of permitted export is lowered, from \$7 million to \$1 million (100 Stat. 874).

In 1989, the provision approaches its appearance and intent that it states today. The value of permitted export is removed; all exports governed by the EAA’79 now require a validated license to a designated state. Each designation is required to be published. And the two options for delisting a state take shape: those that were added in 1985 (above), and alternatively, the Secretary of State may certify that

(i) there has been a fundamental change in the leadership and policies of the government of the country concerned;

(ii) that government is not supporting acts of international terrorism; and

(iii) that government has provided assurances that it will not support acts of international terrorism in the future. (103 Stat. 1987)

In 1994, additional reporting requirements are added to highlight the nature of goods or services for which an export license is sought (108 Stat. 506).

In 2004, to implement recommendations of the 9/11 Commission, Congress expands the term “repeatedly provided support for acts of international terrorism” to include providing sanctuary, and defines “sanctuary” to include the use of territory “to carry out terrorist activities, including training, financing, and recruitment” or as a “transit point” (118 Stat. 3777).

In 2018, Congress repeals the Export Administration Act of 1979 almost in its entirety, leaving in current law a few sections related to weapons proliferation and multilateral export controls. These are expected to be continued by emergency authorities, as the EAA’79 had been for a number of years.¹⁹

Removal from the Lists: Statutory Requirements

Each of the three statutes has some unique aspects to its construction, but all three have in common two possible paths for removing a foreign government from designation. The first possible option is that the President certifies and reports to Congress that

(i) there has been a fundamental change in the leadership and policies of the government of the country concerned;

(ii) that government is not supporting acts of international terrorism; and

(iii) that government has provided assurances that it will not support acts of international terrorism in the future.²⁰

In the case of the ECA’18, the President notifies the Speaker of the House, Chairpersons of the House Committees on Foreign Affairs, and on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs, and Chairpersons of the Senate Committees on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs, and on Foreign

¹⁹ Most recent continuation is found at Presidential Documents. Notice of August 13, 2020. “Continuation of the National Emergency With Respect to Export Control Regulations.” 85 F.R. 49939.

²⁰ Section 1754(c)(4)(A)(i)-(iii), Export Controls Act of 2018; §40(f)(1)(A)(i)-(iii), Arms Export Control Act; and §620A(c)(1)(A)-(C), Foreign Assistance Act of 1961. In each act, the language is identical.

Relations that such changes have occurred.²¹ The FAA’61 and AECA require the President to notify only the Speaker and the Foreign Relations Committee Chairperson.

The second possible option the statutes offer is that the President, 45 days before a rescission takes effect, certifies to congressional leadership (as identified in the first option) that

- (i) the government concerned has not provided any support for acts of international terrorism during the preceding 6-month period; and
- (ii) the government concerned has provided assurances that it will not support acts of international terrorism in the future.²²

There is no reporting requirement to notify Congress that the clock has started ticking on the six-month period of changed behavior of the designated government. In past instances of delisting a foreign government, the Secretary of State has published a notice that the designation is under review, but the law does not require this advance notice beyond the 45-day requirement prior to issuing a rescission.

Presidential Waiver Authority

Each of the three statutes authorizes the President to waive its restrictive application, case-by-case, by consulting with and reporting to Congress.

The ECA’18 allows for validated export licenses to be issued to a designated government, provided the Secretaries of Commerce and State notify the House Committee on Foreign Affairs, and the Senate Committees on Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs, and on Foreign Relations at least 30 days in advance of each license issuance. The notification requires a detailed report on the goods or services intended to be exported, reexported, or transferred in-country, including “the reasons why the proposed export or transfer is in the national interest of the United States.”²³

The AECA authorizes the President to waive the restrictions under the act (related to providing of munitions) with respect to a specific transaction if he or she determines the transaction is “essential to the national security interests of the United States.” The President is required to (1) consult with the Committees on Foreign Affairs and Foreign Relations 15 days in advance of any such decision, and (2) submit a detailed report on the transaction, including “the reasons why the proposed transaction is essential to the national security interests of the United States,” to the Speaker of the House, the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and the Chairperson of the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations.²⁴

The FAA’61 authorizes the President to waive restrictions on some aid to a designated foreign government if he or she “determines that national security interests or humanitarian reasons justify a waiver”; consults with the Committees on Foreign Affairs and Foreign Relations 15 days in advance of any such waiver; and submits a detailed report on the national security interests or humanitarian reasons that require such a waiver to the Speaker of the House and Chairperson of the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations.²⁵ It is possible, too, that current restrictions on foreign aid to a designated foreign government could be, in effect, waived by enacting language

²¹ The EAA’79 had required the President to notify the Speaker of the House, Chairperson of the House Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs, and Chairperson of the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations.

²² Section 1754(c)(4)(B)(i)-(ii), Export Controls Act of 2018; §40(f)(1)(B)(i)-(ii), Arms Export Control Act; and §620A(c)(2)(A)-(B), Foreign Assistance Act of 1961. In each act, the language is identical.

²³ Section 1754(c), ECA’18.

²⁴ Section 40(g), AECA.

²⁵ Section 620A(d), FAA’61.

in annual appropriations that provides assistance “notwithstanding any other provision of law”—a strategy oft-used by Congress.

Congress’s Options Stated in Current Statute

Of the three statutes that authorize the designation of a foreign government as a state sponsor of acts of international terrorism, only the AECA states an explicit legislative mechanism for Congress to block a delisting. Section 40(f)(2) of that act provides the following:

(2)(A) No rescission under paragraph (1)(B) of a determination under subsection (d) may be made if the Congress, within 45 days after receipt of a report under paragraph (1)(B), enacts a joint resolution the matter after the resolving clause of which is as follows: “That the proposed rescission of the determination under section 40(d) of the Arms Export Control Act pursuant to the report submitted to the Congress on _____ is hereby prohibited.”, the blank to be completed with the appropriate date.

(B) A joint resolution described in subparagraph (A) and introduced within the appropriate 45-day period shall be considered in the Senate and the House of Representatives [with an expedited procedure process] in accordance with paragraphs (3) through (7) of section 8066(c) of the Department of Defense Appropriations Act (as contained in P.L. 98-473),²⁶ except that references in such paragraphs to the Committees

²⁶ Section 8066 of the Department of Defense Appropriations Act (title VIII of the Continuing Appropriations, 1985; P.L. 98-473; 98 Stat. 1837 at 1935), placed restrictions on fiscal year 1985 funds made available to the Central Intelligence Agency, the Department of Defense, or any other agency or entity of the United States involved in intelligence activities, which would have the effect of supporting, directly or indirectly, military or paramilitary operations in Nicaragua by any nation, group, organization, movement, or individual. Subsec. (b) of that section allowed for the lifting of the prohibition (1) if the President reported on certain criteria; and (2) if a joint resolution approving assistance for military or paramilitary operations in Nicaragua were to be enacted.

In particular subsec. (c), paras. (1) and (3) through (7), provided the following expedited procedure process [para. (1) included here because of repeated references to it throughout paras. (3) through (7)]:

“(c)(1) For the purpose of subsection (b)(2), ‘joint resolution’ means only a joint resolution introduced after the date on which the report of the President under subsection (b)(1) is received by the Congress, the matter after the resolving clause of which is as follows: ‘That the Congress approved the obligation and expenditure of funds available for fiscal year 1985 for supporting, directly or indirectly, military or paramilitary operations in Nicaragua.’

* * * * *

“(3) A resolution described in paragraph (1) introduced in the House of Representatives shall be referred to the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives. A resolution described in paragraph (1) introduced in the Senate shall be referred to the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate. Such a resolution may not be reported before the eighth day after its introduction.

“(4) If the committee to which is referred a resolution described in paragraph (1) has not reported such resolution (or an identical resolution) at the end of fifteen calendar days after its introduction, such committee shall be discharged from further consideration of such resolution and such resolution shall be placed on the appropriate calendar of the House involved.

“(5)(A) When the committee to which a resolution is referred has reported, or has been deemed to be discharged (under paragraph (4)) from further consideration of, a resolution described in paragraph (1), notwithstanding any rule or precedent of the Senate, including Rule 22, it is at any time thereafter in order (even though a previous motion to the same effect has been disagreed to) for any Member of the respective House to move to proceed to the consideration of the resolution, and all points of order against the resolution (and against consideration of the resolution) are waived. The motion is highly privileged in the House of Representatives and is privileged in the Senate and is not debatable. The motion is not subject to amendment, or to a motion to postpone, or to a motion to proceed to the consideration of other business. A motion to reconsider the vote by which the motion is agreed to or disagreed to shall not be in order. If a motion to proceed to the consideration of the resolution is agreed to, the resolution shall remain the unfinished business of the respective House until disposed of.

“(B) Debate on the resolution, and on all debatable motions and appeals in connection therewith, shall be limited

on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate shall be deemed to be references to the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate, respectively.

Recent History of Removing Designations

Over the years, the Secretary of State and President have exercised their authorities to remove six foreign governments, on seven separate occasions, from international terrorism designations.

Iraq was removed from the list in 1982,²⁷ relisted in 1990, and removed again in 2004.

South Yemen was removed in 1990 when it ceased to exist as a sovereign state, as it merged with North Yemen.

Libya was removed on May 12, 2006. Congress did not seek to exercise the blocking procedure made available in the AECA. After the delisting, however, the Senate considered and adopted S.Res. 504 (Lautenberg), and H.Res. 838 (Ferguson) was introduced but not considered in the House, to express a sense of the respective body that the “President should not accept the credentials of any representative of the Government of Libya” unless the United States received assurances that (language taken from S.Res. 504):

to not more than ten hours, which shall be divided equally between those favoring and those opposing the resolution. A motion further to limit debate is in order and not debatable. An amendment to, or a motion to postpone, or a motion to proceed to the consideration of other business, or a motion to proceed to the consideration of other business, or a motion to recommit the resolution is not in order. A motion to reconsider the vote by which the resolution is agreed to or disagreed to is not in order.

“(C) Immediately following the conclusion of the debate on a resolution described in paragraph (1), and a single quorum call at the conclusion of the debate if requested in accordance with the rules of the appropriate House, the vote on final passage of the resolution shall occur.

“(D) Appeals from the decisions of the Chair relating to the application of the rules of the Senate or the House of Representatives, as the case may be, to the procedure relating to a resolution described in paragraph (1) shall be decided without debate.

“(6) If, before the passage by the Senate of a resolution of the Senate described in paragraph (1), the Senate receives from the House of Representatives a resolution described in paragraph (1), then the following procedures shall apply:

“(A) The resolution of the House of Representatives shall not be referred to a committee.

“(B) With respect to a resolution described in paragraph (1) of the Senate—

“(i) the procedure in the Senate shall be the same as if no resolution had been received from the House; but

“(ii) the vote on final passage shall be on the resolution of the House.

“(C) Upon disposition of the resolution received from the House, it shall no longer be in order to consider the resolution originated in the Senate.

“(7) If the Senate receives from the House of Representatives a resolution described in paragraph (1) after the Senate has disposed of a Senate originated resolution, the action of the Senate with regard to the disposition of the Senate originated resolution shall be deemed to be the action of the Senate with regard to the House originated resolution.”

²⁷ As the requirements of EAA '79 stood in 1982, the Secretaries of Commerce and State were required to notify the House Foreign Affairs Committee and the Senate Committee on Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs 30 days before any export license was issued for Iraq. The act did not provide a procedure for delisting. It was reported that “Apparently without consulting Congress, the Administration has quietly dropped Iraq, a virulent foe of Israel, from a list of countries barred from receiving American weapons because they ‘have repeatedly supported act of international terrorism.’” Milt Freudenheim et al., “The World In Summary: Readjustments in the Mideast,” *The New York Times*, February 28, 1982.

(1) it remains an important priority for further improvement in the relations between the United States and Libya that the Government of Libya make a good faith effort to resolve all outstanding claims of United States victims of terrorism sponsored or supported by Libya;

(2) it is in the best interests of the long-term relationship between the United States and Libya that final payment be made to the families of the victims of the attack on Pan Am Flight 103; and

(3) the President should not accept the credentials of any representative of the Government of Libya without the expressed understanding that the Government of Libya will continue to work in good faith to resolve outstanding cases of United States victims of terrorism sponsored or supported by Libya, including the settlement of cases arising from the Pan Am Flight 103 and LaBelle Discotheque bombings.

North Korea was removed on June 26, 2008. Prior to the delisting, S.Res. 399 (Brownback) was introduced but not considered further in the Senate; it would have required the George W. Bush Administration to certify that the North Korean government had met certain benchmarks before sanctions were removed, including matters related to weapons proliferation, harboring terrorists, counterfeiting U.S. currency, trafficking in narcotics, abduction of citizens of Japan and South Korea, and resolution of outstanding South Korean prisoner-of-war questions remaining from the 1950s conflict. In the House H.R. 3650 (Ros-Lehtinen; see §3), and H.R. 6420 (Sherman), to raise similar congressional concerns, were introduced but not considered further.

The government of North Korea was redesignated in 2017; see discussion in “Background,” above.

Cuba was removed on May 29, 2015. Congress did not seek to exercise the blocking procedure made available in the AECA. Prior to President Obama’s announcement, on April 14, 2015, of his intention to rescind the terrorism designation, H.Res. 181 (King) was introduced, “calling on the Secretary of State and the Attorney General ... to continue to press for the immediate extradition or rendering of all fugitives”—believed to number more than 70—who have sought safe harbor in Cuba. The measure received no further consideration.

The government of Cuba was redesignated in 2021; see discussion in “Background,” above.

Sudan.²⁸ Under President William Clinton, in 1993 the Secretary of State designated the government of Sudan as a state sponsor of acts of international terrorism. This was the first of several steps that escalated in 1997 when the President declared that Sudan’s “continued support of international terrorism; ongoing efforts to destabilize neighboring governments; and the prevalence of human rights violations, including slavery and the denial of religious freedom” constituted a national emergency to the foreign policy, national security, and economy of the United States.²⁹ From the last 2000s, the United States and Sudan engaged in negotiations to find common ground on matters relating to civil conflict, human rights abuses, and international terrorism.³⁰ In January 2017, President Obama issued an order to review U.S.-Sudan relations based on Sudan’s “marked reduction in offensive military activity, culminating in a pledge to maintain a cessation of hostilities in conflict areas in Sudan, and steps toward the improvement of humanitarian access throughout Sudan, as well as cooperation with the United States on

²⁸ CRS Insight IN11531, *Sudan’s Removal from the State Sponsors of Terrorism List*, by Lauren Ploch Blanchard.

²⁹ Executive Order 13067 (November 3, 1997 (50 U.S.C. 1701 note; 62 F.R. 59989); Executive Order 13400 (April 26, 2006; 71 F.R. 25483); and Executive Order 13412 (October 13, 2006; 71 F.R. 61369).

³⁰ U.S. Embassy in Sudan. “U.S.-Sudan Relations,” <https://sd.usembassy.gov/our-relationship/policy-history/us-sudan-relations/>

addressing regional conflicts and the threat of terrorism.”³¹ This launched an extended forecast toward ending the national emergency and lifting most—if not all—of the economic sanctions. In November 2018, the State Department announced that the Trump Administration would consider rescinding Sudan’s designation if certain conditions, including respect for human rights and religious freedom, were met.³² Effective December 14, 2020, Secretary of State Pompeo removed the designation from the government of Sudan.³³

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³¹ Executive Order 13761 (January 13, 2017; 82 F.R. 5331). See also, however, Executive Order 13804 (July 11, 2017; 82 F.R. 32611).

³² For additional information, see CRS In Focus IF10182, *Sudan*, by Lauren Ploch Blanchard.

³³ U.S. Department of State. Public Notice: 11281. December 8, 2020. “Rescission of Determination Regarding Sudan.” 85 F.R. 82565. See also Office of the President. Presidential Documents. “Memorandum of October 26, 2020 Certification Pursuant to Section 6(E) of the Comprehensive Peace in Sudan Act of 2004 (Public Law 108–497), as Amended by the Darfur Peace and Accountability Act of 2006 (Public Law 109–344).” 85 F.R. 71213. November 6, 2020.