

Resolution Title: Resolution On Venezuela and The National Endowment For Democracy
Submitted by: Professional Staff Congress, Local 2334

Whereas, in Venezuela on April 11, 2002 a violent *coup d'etat* led by business interests and supported by leaders of the Confederation of Venezuelan Workers (CTV) attempted to overthrow the elected government of President Hugo Chavez; and

Whereas, according to the New York Times, in the months before the Venezuelan coup, grants from the National Endowment for Democracy (NED) were passed by the AFL-CIO's American Center for International Solidarity (ACILS) to the CTV, ostensibly to assist the union in "advancing labor rights", the CTV being the union which "led the work stoppages that galvanized the opposition to Mr. Chavez" and whose leader, Carlos Ortega, "worked closely with Pedro Carmona Estanga, the businessman who briefly took over the Presidency from Mr. Chavez";* and

Whereas, according to the Boston Globe, other NED grants passed through by ACILS with the ostensible purpose of democratizing the CTV and defending labor rights, were diverted for other purposes by CTV officials who supported the attempted coup;** and

Whereas, recent information obtained under the Freedom of Information Act confirms that ACILS continued to fund the CTV after the attempted coup of April 2002 in spite of the right-wing and anti-Chavez agenda of many within the CTV leadership;*** and

Whereas, such funding damages the AFL-CIO's reputation as a politically impartial upholder of the democratic and labor rights of workers internationally; and

Whereas, the AFL-CIO, under its present leadership, has broken the pattern established during the Cold War period when, through its affiliate American Institute for Free Labor Development (AIFLD), partially sponsored by the State Department and the CIA, the AFL-CIO supported the intervention of the American government in the internal affairs of foreign nations, including the overthrow of the democratically elected government of Chile in a coup in 1973; therefore be it

Resolved, that AFT deplore the use of funds derived from US taxpayers to support partisan political activity in foreign countries, and, particularly to support efforts to overthrow a legitimately elected government in Venezuela or any other country; and be it further

Resolved, that AFT urge that in the future the AFL-CIO and its affiliate ACILS fund international programs and activities solely with funds generated directly by its affiliates and their members and, in particular, that the AFL-CIO not accept funding for international programs from the US government or agencies funded by the US government such as the NED.

* New York Times, April 25, 2002: "US Bankrolling is Under Scrutiny for Ties to Chavez Ouster"
** Boston Globe, August 18, 2002: "US Tax Dollars Helped Finance Some Chavez Foes, Review Finds"
*** www.venezuelafoia.info, articles on March 25, 2004 by Kim Scipes and April 26, 2004 by Eva Golinger

I hereby certify that the above resolution was approved for submission to the 2004 AFT Convention by the:

Delegate Assembly at a meeting held on May 27, 2004

Signed: _____
(President)

(Secretary)

Professional Staff Congress
Local or Retiree Council Name

Local 2334
AFT#