

Has the Russian leadership spoken out forcefully in public against the transfer of Russian missile technology? Have any entities participating in the transfer of technology been arrested for their involvement?

Have the Russians begun to put in place an effective export control regime? Is there any evidence that Russian efforts are having an impact on Iran's procurement efforts?

Mr. President, we believe that the time for good will has ended. If Prime Minister Chernomyrdin does not provide the United States with concrete evidence proving that his country has taken a serious initiative to prevent the transfer of such technologies, then we must act.

Thank you for your consideration on this very important matter. We anxiously anticipate your reply.

Sincerely,

INTRODUCTION OF H. CON. RES. 235  
CALLING FOR AN END TO THE  
VIOLENT REPRESSION OF THE  
LEGITIMATE RIGHTS OF THE  
PEOPLE OF KOSOVA

**HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 5, 1998*

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, the savagery that the Serbs have unleashed upon innocent men, women and children of the province of Kosova in Serbia since the beginning of this month has surpassed the level of brutality that we have become all too accustomed to in the Balkans. In response to an attack by unknown persons in late February on Serbian police in Kosova that left four of the officers dead, the Serbian authorities conducted a series of large paramilitary sweeps utilizing helicopter gunships and armored personnel carriers throughout several rural villages. During the course of these operations they rounded up male citizens and savagely beat them in front of their terrorized relatives. Scores of people have been reported to be killed or injured.

When 30,000 Kosovars marched peacefully in the streets of Pristina, Kosova's capital, to protest the outrageous behavior of the Serbian authorities, the police again overreacted, wading into the crowd and beating anyone they could. Later they attacked newspaper offices and journalists.

The Congress has called for a non-violent resolution of the situation in Kosova since the current crack-down began ten years ago, and urged our government to keep pressure on Serbia until the government of Serbia improved conditions in Kosova. President Milosevic, who bears personal responsibility for the policies that have now led to the current violence, has been repeatedly warned by our government and other members of the international community that we would not tolerate a massive outbreak of violence. These warnings have apparently gone unheeded, and it is now time to demonstrate our strong resolve not to allow the Serbs to continue brutalizing the Albanian majority in Kosova.

I hereby introduce H. Con. Res. 235 and ask that the text be included at this point in the RECORD:

H. CON. RES. 235

Whereas the Albanian people of Kosova constitute more than 90 percent of the total population of Kosova;

Whereas the political rights of the Albanian people of Kosova were curtailed when the Government of Yugoslavia illegally amended the Constitution of Yugoslavia without the consent of the people of Kosova on March 23, 1989, revoking the autonomous status of Kosova;

Whereas in 1990, the Parliament and Government of Kosova were abolished by further unlawful amendments to the Constitution of Yugoslavia;

Whereas the State Department's 1997 Country Report on Human Rights in Serbia notes violations of civil liberties in Kosova particularly in the following categories: political and other extra-judicial killing; torture and other cruel inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment; arbitrary arrest, detention or exile; denial of fair public trial; and arbitrary interference with privacy, family, home, or correspondence;

Whereas on the night of February 28, 1998, Serbian paramilitary policy units, reported to number in excess of 25,000 men, swept through the Drenica region of Kosova killing more than 20 Albanian citizens, many of whom died from being beaten to death;

Whereas on March 2, 1998, 30,000 demonstrators peacefully marched in Pristina to protest the massacre of February 28 and were brutally attacked by Serbian police;

Whereas a group calling itself the Liberation Army of Kosova has threatened to retaliate against the atrocities committed by Serbian authorities;

Whereas new elections in Kosova have been scheduled for March 22, 1998; and

Whereas the President of the United States and other officials have warned the Government of Serbia that there would be serious consequences if Serbian policies led to an escalation of violence in Kosova: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That it is the sense of the Congress that—*

(1) efforts of the international Contact Group (the United States, United Kingdom, France, Germany, Russia, and Italy) in support of a resolution of the conflict in Kosova are to be commended and intensified;

(2) no international or United States sanctions currently in force against the Government of Serbia and Montenegro should be terminated at this time, unless such termination serves to support a peaceful resolution to the repression in Kosova;

(3) the United States should consult with its allies and other members of the United Nations on reimposing those sanctions against Serbia-Montenegro that were terminated following the signing of the Dayton Peace Agreement in 1995 if Serbian authorities continue to use unlawful violence against the Albanian people of Kosova;

(4) the United States should acknowledge recent developments in the Republic of Montenegro that indicate that the new leadership of the Republic is seeking a peaceful resolution to the repression in Kosova, particularly the statement by Montenegrin President Milo Djukanovic that Kosova must receive a certain degree of autonomy, and his call for a dialog between the Government of Serbia and Montenegro and ethnic Albanians in Kosova;

(5) the United States should, to the extent practicable, recognize positive actions by the Government of the Republic of Montenegro with regard to repression in Kosova through exclusion from those sanctions that may be applied to the Government of Serbia;

(6) the elections in Kosova scheduled on March 22, 1998, should be allowed to proceed unimpeded by Belgrade, as they represent the opportunity for a peaceful expression of the political will of the Albanian people of Kosova;

(7) all parties should refrain from acts that could lead to heightened tensions in Kosova;

(8) the agreement on education in Kosova should be implemented immediately, including at the university level, allowing all residents of Kosova regardless of ethnicity to receive education in their native tongue; and

(9) that the elected leaders of Kosova should begin a dialog with the authorities in Belgrade to resolve the present situation, and to provide for the exercise of the legitimate civil and political rights of the Albanian people of Kosova.

AMERICAN SAMOA GARMENT  
INDUSTRY

**HON. ENI F.H. FALEOMAVAEGA**

OF AMERICAN SAMOA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 5, 1998*

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation which would make effective the country of origin rules in effect on June 30, 1996 for apparel items produced in American Samoa. This legislation is limited in scope, and it will have a limited impact on U.S. trade. It is, however, critical to the economic development of American Samoa.

Mr. Speaker, the American Samoa Government has been pursuing outside investment opportunities for many years. A few years ago, a garment manufacturing company began production in American Samoa—the first significant new outside industry to invest in the territory since the nineteen-sixties. The new industry provides jobs for our people, tax revenues for the local government and secondary revenue for a variety of private sector businesses.

The industry is small by U.S. standards (it employs fewer than 500 local people at this time), but it represents diversification for our economy, and its presence lessens our dependence on the federal government. The plant is running smoothly and is meeting scheduled production levels.

Because this is a new industry for American Samoa, it requires a significant amount of planning and training of the local workforce. While our people need time to develop the sewing skills needed to be competitive on a world-wide basis, we are very good at cutting—regularly meeting or exceeding the quantitative standards.

To take advantage of our cutting skills, the existing garment manufacturing company is proposing a three-phase expansion. The expansion plans call for the construction of an enlarged cutting facility where fabric of U.S. origin will be cut, a dye plant in which "grey goods" or pre-dyed fabric of U.S. origin will be dyed and a knitting facility where yarn of U.S. origin will be knit into fabric.

This will be good for the U.S. textile industry—in American Samoa and on the mainland. We estimate that an additional \$5–7 million dollars can be generated for the mainland U.S. textile industry if the expansion goes forward as planned.

Mr. Speaker, the numbers involved are very small in U.S. mainland terms, but they are of great significance on an island whose population totals 60,000 people.

It now appears that the 1996 change in U.S. Customs regulations has placed in jeopardy our infant garment industry and its future

growth. As of July 1, 1996, garments produced almost entirely in American Samoa lost their previous customs treatment even when only a relatively small portion of the production process is performed in a foreign country.

The garment company doing business in American Samoa would like to import U.S. yarn to American Samoa, knit or weave it in American Samoa, dye it in American Samoa, sew as much as the factory in American Samoa can handle, ship the excess out to another country for sewing, bring it back to American Samoa for final assembly and packaging, and have the finished goods enter the United States as products of the United States.

This was possible under the old regulations, but under the 1996 regulations, this can no longer be done. It does not make good business sense for this company to expand as it is proposing in American Samoa unless this expansion is economically feasible. The legislation I am introducing today, if enacted into law, would grandfather the nascent American Samoa garment industry under the old rules, enabling the industry to operate successfully in American Samoa and allowing the existing company to build a larger production facility and finance an orderly expansion.

I believe that this legislation is reasonable and fair and in the best interest of the U.S. textile industry as a whole and the U.S. territories in particular.

My legislation is limited in scope and will merely preserve the old country of origin rules for garment producers in American Samoa. My legislation will help other manufacturing companies who may contemplate locating in American Samoa.

This industry is already providing more than 400 new local jobs in American Samoa, and will provide hundreds more if the expansion plans can be implemented. The infant industry and its future growth are at stake.

This is an important test case which will prove whether or not new export industries can be successful in American Samoa. The implications of the success (or failure) of the expansion project are critical for the economic future of the territory.

Mr. Speaker, the experience of the people of American Samoa is a good example of the difficulties the U.S. territories face in attracting businesses to invest in our economies.

American Samoa's economy has been hampered by our isolation from world markets and world shipping lanes. We have relied on incentives such as the Possessions Tax Credit and the advantages offered under General Note 3(a) of the Harmonized Trade Agreement to help attract the outside investment our economy needs to grow, but those incentives are disappearing.

Over time, the advantages of doing business in the U.S. territories are being outweighed by the emergence of low-cost alternatives engendered by NAFTA and GATT/WTO policies. Countries with lower wage scales, such as Mexico and others in Central America and the Far East, are luring business away from the United States.

Under my analysis, sewing in higher-wage countries will continue to be reduced to the extent that soon there may not be a domestic U.S. sewing industry. I believe that this legislation will better position the United States to keep as much of the industry in U.S. hands as possible, and I look forward to seeing this bill enacted into law.

#### TRIBUTE TO JOHN ORELLANA

##### HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 5, 1998

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to John Orellana, an individual from my hometown of Corona, California who contributed generously of his time and talents to help others and to make his community a better place in which to live and work. In doing so, he made the ultimate sacrifice and died in January in the line of duty.

Mr. Orellana was not born an American citizen—he immigrated from El Salvador to the United States when he was 17 years old. He was proud of his adopted country, served honorably in the U.S. Marine Corps, and worked hard to provide for his family. Mr. Orellana was a 22-year veteran of the Immigration and Naturalization Service and worked as a special agent in the anti-smuggling unit. He was killed in a car crash as he responded to a call for help from a U.S. Border Patrol agent. Mr. Orellana was a husband, a father, and a great American who went out everyday to make a difference. And he did, some days in small ways, some days in big ways, and on January 29, 1998, it cost him his life. Mr. Orellana deserves our deepest respect and gratitude.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and our colleagues join me in remembering John Orellana. Our prayers and most heartfelt sympathy are extended to his family and loved ones. To Mr. Orellana's wife Aura, and his children Nami, David, and Pilar—we honor your husband and father and wish him God's peace.

#### SALUTE TO GRANT BRIMHALL

##### HON. ELTON GALLEGLY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 5, 1998

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, I would like to salute a man who has dutifully managed the city of Thousand Oaks for 20 years and has served the State of California for almost 35 years.

Today, I would like to recognize Grant Brimhall's commitment to public service—his commitment to everything from the arts, to social service, to transportation.

Under Grant's direction, Thousand Oaks boasts some of the busiest libraries in the Nation, active teen and senior centers and has maintained beautiful nature paths and scenic trails. And under Grant's direction, Thousand Oaks has provided affordable housing, and a successful business industry for its citizens, with solid and balanced economic growth extending into Ventura County.

Grant Brimhall set a standard—a standard and a philosophy that caught on. His example and urgings inspired the community to take control of their neighborhoods by getting involved in community policing, making Thousand Oaks ranked among the top three cities with the lowest crime rate for its size. Thousand Oaks is a place where residents have joined together to make their streets safer through community policing programs such as a citizens police academy, volunteers in policing, and mobilizing a police resource center.

But Grant Brimhall's contributions go beyond the district lines of Thousand Oaks. He also served the city of Glendora for many years as city manager and was actively involved in many civic activities as well.

I join many others in honoring Grant, who is the recipient of numerous awards from various groups and organizations.

Again, on the event of his retirement, I am pleased to honor the successful career of Grant Brimhall. His leadership and service will be missed, but whose years of hard work will continue to benefit the citizens of Thousand Oaks, California.

#### PROTECT SMALL BUSINESSES FROM ABUSIVE LAWSUITS

##### HON. BOB INGLIS

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 5, 1998

Mr. INGLIS of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Small Business Lawsuit Abuse Protection Act of 1998.

American small businesses are under assault from excessive taxation, regulation and litigation. Particularly frustrating to many entrepreneurs is the fact that the current legal system makes them liable for accidents they do not cause and are powerless to prevent.

In the 104th Congress, the House of Representatives overwhelmingly supported common sense reform of our legal system. Today, however, because a comprehensive reform package was not enacted, it is vitally important that we stand up for small businesses facing a barrage of frivolous lawsuits. In the absence of a comprehensive package, we can still achieve much needed reform by advancing legislation that will offer targeted and incremental reform, as we did in 1997 by enacting the Volunteer Protection Act.

Mr. Speaker, I believe we can build on the momentum we started with the Volunteer Protection Act and provide similar protections to small businesses. The Small Business Lawsuit Abuse Protection Act of 1998 is simple and straightforward. It will offer three important protections to small businesses with 50 or fewer employees: Protects small businesses by allowing the imposition of punitive damages in any civil action only if the claimant establishes by clear and convincing evidence that the conduct carried out by the defendant through willful, misconduct or with a conscious, flagrant indifference to the right or safety of others was the proximate cause of the harm that is the subject of the action; protects small businesses by limiting punitive damages to the lesser of either two times the total amount of economic and non-economic losses or \$250,000; and protects small businesses by holding them liable in an amount that is proportionate to the degree of harm for which they are responsible.

A broad and bi-partisan consensus exists on the need to protect America's small businesses from abusive litigation. This legislation is supported by the United States Chamber of Commerce, the National Restaurant Association, National Small Business United and the National Federation of Independent Business.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to give this measure swift and favorable consideration.