

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 2807, the Rhino and Tiger Product Labeling Act, a bill introduced by the Chairman of the Subcommittee on Fisheries Conservation, Wildlife and Oceans, JIM SAXTON.

There is no question that intense competition for land has resulted in the destruction of critical rhino and tiger habitat. After all, we are talking about some of the most densely populated countries in the world.

Nevertheless, the major cause of the decline of rhinos and tigers is the huge ongoing demand for products made from these animals. For generations, Oriental medicines have contained ingredients of rhino and tiger parts that are consumed to fight headaches and fever in children, kidney and liver problems, convulsions, and heart conditions. In almost all cases, rhino horn and tiger bones are obtained from illegal sources.

We must eliminate the market for these products and stop their importation into the United States. This is the goal of H.R. 2807. Instead of spending thousands of dollars trying to prove whether a particular Chinese medicine contains rhino or tiger parts, this legislation simply prohibits them from entering this country if the label says they contain these highly endangered species.

By closing the U.S. market, the hope is that the demand for these products will end and the financial incentives to illegally kill rhino or tiger will no longer exist.

Furthermore, there are synthetic alternatives to these products and it is essential that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service renew their educational efforts. Based on surveys conducted by the Wildlife Conservation Society, the majority of those people consuming traditional medicines have no idea they might be contributing to the destruction of these flagship species.

I urge an aye vote on this bold wildlife conservation legislation which will hopefully stop the slaughter of rhinos and tigers in the wild.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS,
Washington, DC, April 23, 1998.

Hon. DON YOUNG,
Chairman, Committee on Resources, U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR DON: I am writing to address certain issues with H.R. 2807, as reported by the Committee on Resources on March 11, 1998, which would amend the Rhinoceros and Tiger Conservation Act of 1994. The bill contains import prohibition and Customs forfeiture provisions, which fall within the jurisdiction of the Committee on Ways and Means.

With respect to the import ban, H.R. 2807, as reported by the Committee on Resources, prohibits any person from selling, importing or exporting or attempting to sell, import, or export any product, item or substance intended for human consumption containing or purporting to contain any substance derived from any species of rhinoceros or tiger, creates criminal and civil penalties, and allows for the forfeiture of such products. Because these provisions fall within the Committee's jurisdiction, the Committee would ordinarily meet to consider the bill. However, because the bill, as reported, applies the ban in compliance with the letter and spirit of U.S. obligations under an existing multilateral agreement governing such trade, I do not believe that a markup of the bill is necessary.

With respect to forfeiture, section 2 of H.R. 2807, as reported, includes language within the jurisdiction of the Committee on Ways

and Means. Under normal circumstances the Committee would meet to consider the bill. However, it is my understanding that you will be offering an amendment on the floor of the House of Representatives to substitute the following language so that the existing statutory Customs forfeiture provisions would apply:

(c) Forfeitures.—Any product, item, or substance sold, imported, or exported, or attempted to be sold, imported, or exported, contrary to the provisions of this Act or any regulation made pursuant thereto shall be seized and forfeited to the United States. All equipment, vessels, vehicles, aircraft, and other means of transportation used to aid the selling, exporting, or importing, or an attempt to sell, export, of any product, item, or substance in violation of this Act or any regulation issued pursuant to this Act, may be seized and forfeited to the United States. All laws relating to the seizure, forfeiture, and condemnation of a vessel for violation of the customs laws, the disposition of such vessel or the proceeds from the sale thereof, and the remission or mitigation of such forfeiture, shall apply to the seizures and forfeitures incurred under this Act, insofar as those laws are applicable and not inconsistent with this Act.

Based on your assurances to this effect, and in order to expedite consideration of this legislation, I do not believe that a markup by the Committee on Ways and Means will be necessary on this issue.

I would appreciate your response to this letter, confirming this understanding with respect to H.R. 2807, and would ask that a copy of our exchange of letters on this matter be included in the record during floor consideration. Thank you for your cooperation and assistance on this matter.

With best personal regards,
BILL ARCHER,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON RESOURCES,
Washington, DC, April 23, 1998.

Hon. BILL ARCHER,
Chairman, Committee on Ways and Means,
Longworth HOB, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you for your letter regarding H.R. 2807, the Rhino and Tiger Product Labeling Act. Enactment of this bill will help enforce the existing ban on the sale, import or export of products containing rhinoceros and tiger parts and therefore help conservation efforts for these endangered species.

I agree that the Committee on Ways and Means has jurisdiction over import prohibitions and U.S. Customs Service forfeitures. As noted in your letter, current law already prohibits imports and exports of products containing endangered species under the Lacey Act and the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora. In addition, when H.R. 2807 is considered by the House of Representatives, I do intend to substitute the forfeiture language of the bill you have identified regarding Customs powers, as this provision also duplicates Lacey Act authority for the Secretary of the Interior.

Thank you for your cooperation in this matter, and I will place our correspondence on this issue in the Congressional Record during debate on H.R. 2807.

Sincerely,
DON YOUNG,
Chairman.

Mr. SABO. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 2807, the Rhinoceros and Tiger Product Labeling Act. This bill is a key bipartisan step to protect two of our planet's most precious and endangered animals—rhinos and tigers.

Rhinos and tigers are coming perilously close to extinction in the wild because of illegal poaching to support the high demand for traditional medications. Congress has worked to protect these majestic animals by creating the Rhinoceros and Tiger Conservation Fund, and by banning the import or sale of products that contain parts of endangered species.

Despite these laws to protect rhinos and tigers, a loophole allows many products to be sold in the United States that explicitly state—on their labels, no less—that they contain rhino and tiger parts.

Proving that these products contain banned substances can be extremely difficult. Even after performing costly tests, the U.S. Customs Service often can't prove what the labels plainly show—that these products contain rhino and tiger parts and are illegal. The result is that many such products end up in stores across America.

The Rhinoceros and Tiger Labeling Act would stop this costly and confusing exercise, and allow us to accept product labels at their face value. If products say they contain parts of endangered animals, we shouldn't let them in the country.

I strongly support this bipartisan legislation to stop the flaunting of our laws and strengthen protections for endangered species.

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BARRETT). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SAXTON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2807, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on H.R. 2807.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New Jersey?

There was no objection.

CONGRATULATING PEOPLE OF SRI LANKA ON THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THEIR INDEPENDENCE

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 350) congratulating the people of Sri Lanka on the occasion of the fiftieth anniversary of their nation's independence.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.RES. 350

Whereas on February 4, 1948, the people of Sri Lanka gained their independence from the British;

Whereas the people of Sri Lanka and the United States have a common interest in the promotion and preservation of democratic systems of government;

Whereas the people of Sri Lanka and the United States have had many shared values

and interests, including the desire to promote the peaceful development of the South Asian region;

Whereas Sri Lankan citizens who have visited or lived in the United States, and United States citizens who have visited or lived in Sri Lanka, have done much to improve mutual understanding and build friendship over the past fifty years;

Whereas United States citizens of Sri Lankan origin have contributed greatly to the advancement of knowledge, the development of the United States economy, and the enrichment of cultural life in the United States;

Whereas the ties of trade and investment between the United States and Sri Lanka have grown over fifty years to the benefit of the people of both countries; and

Whereas the fiftieth anniversary of the independence of Sri Lanka offers an opportunity for Sri Lanka and the United States to renew their commitment to international cooperation on issues of mutual interest and concern: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) congratulates the people of Sri Lanka on the occasion of the fiftieth anniversary of their nation's independence; and

(2) looks forward to broadening and deepening United States cooperation and friendship with Sri Lanka in the years ahead for the benefit of the people of both countries.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. BEREUTER) and the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. LUTHER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. BEREUTER).

(Mr. BEREUTER asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on H. Res. 350.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Nebraska?

There was no objection.

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, as the author of H. Res. 350, this Member rises to congratulate the people of Sri Lanka on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of their nation's independence.

Mr. Speaker, H. Res. 350 was introduced on February 4, the day that Sri Lanka celebrated the 50th anniversary of their independence, by this Member, by the distinguished gentleman from Indiana (Mr. HAMILTON), the ranking member of the Committee on International Relations, and by the distinguished gentleman from California (Mr. BERMAN), the ranking member of the Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific.

America's relations with this island nation are very strong and productive. The social and economic progress that Sri Lanka has made in the last five decades is truly encouraging and has laid a strong foundation for its future. Sri Lankan Americans, both Sinhalese and Tamil, have made major contribu-

tions to American society, and our relationship has proven mutually beneficial.

While the official celebration will last all year, the precise date of the 50th anniversary was, as I mentioned, February 4. Major celebrations were held on that day, attended by Prince Charles as the head of the British delegation.

Regrettably, the celebrations have been marred by a series of bombings. This tragic fact emphasizes the point that a terrible bloody civil war continues in Sri Lanka that has cost tens of thousands of lives. This Member's purpose in introducing today's resolution is not just to discuss the specifics of the ethnic conflict. No, not at all. Rather, this Member wishes to give the U.S. House of Representatives an opportunity to celebrate and commend the achievements of the people of Sri Lanka, Sinhalese, Tamil and Muslim alike.

H. Res. 350 does precisely that. It congratulates the people of Sri Lanka and points to this occasion as an opportunity to renew the common U.S.-Sri Lankan commitment to international cooperation.

Mr. Speaker, the Committee on International Relations unanimously adopted H. Res. 350. This Member believes that H. Res. 350 represents a fitting and balanced expression of congratulations to the people of Sri Lanka on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of their nation's independence.

This Member also thanks the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN), the distinguished chairman of the Committee on International Relations, for moving this initiative in an expeditious manner. This Member also expresses appreciation to the distinguished gentleman from Indiana (Mr. HAMILTON), the ranking member of the Committee on International Relations, for his constructive additions to this resolution.

Finally, this Member thanks the distinguished gentleman from California (Mr. BERMAN), the ranking member of the Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific, for his important assistance in speeding this resolution to the House.

Mr. Speaker, I urge unanimous adoption of H. Res. 350.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LUTHER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume, and I rise in support of this resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly support this resolution; and I commend the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. BEREUTER) for his leadership in bringing it before the House today.

Fifty years ago, following the example of our own country, the Sri Lankan people threw off the bonds of empire and entered the ranks of fully and free independent nations. In the five decades since then, notwithstanding economic hardship and civil war, Sri Lanka has proudly maintained its independence, promoted economic develop-

ment, and fostered a democratic form of government.

Sri Lanka has also been a good friend of the United States. The people of Sri Lanka have earned our respect and admiration. This resolution attempts to convey those sentiments and express our desire to see the bonds of friendship that link our two nations broadened and deepened in the years ahead. It deserves our support, and I urge my colleagues to join me in voting "yes" on this important resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from American Samoa (Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA).

(Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I certainly would like to add my commendation to the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN), chairman of the Committee on International Relations, and the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. HAMILTON), our ranking Democratic member, and to the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. BEREUTER), as the chairman of our Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific for his authorship on this piece of legislation, and also the gentleman from California (Mr. BERMAN), the ranking member of our Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the House Resolution 350, a measure congratulating the people of Sri Lanka on the occasion of their 50th anniversary of the independence of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka from Great Britain.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to be an original cosponsor of this measure. And again, I commend the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. BEREUTER), chairman of the House Committee on International Relations Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific, for introducing this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, earlier this year on February 4, Sri Lanka celebrated its 50th anniversary of independence from British colonial rule, which ended on February 4, 1948. I join my colleagues in commemorating the golden jubilee independence celebration of Sri Lanka and offer my sincere congratulations to her excellency, President Chandrika Kumaratunga, and the good people of Sri Lanka.

Sri Lanka, unlike much of Asia, has had a long tradition of a functioning democratic system of government. Since 1931, and even before the grant of its independence, voting rights were exercised by men as well as women. During the five decades since independence, Sri Lanka has held regular national elections as well as provincial and local government elections. The last parliamentary election was held in August of 1994, with a Presidential election taking place in November 1994. With a voter turnout of over 70 percent, President Kumaratunga was overwhelmingly elected into office. The most recent election in Sri Lanka was in the conflict-ridden Jaffna Peninsula,

where in January the people of Jaffna elected local administrators.

Mr. Speaker, the United States is Sri Lanka's largest trading partner, and over 90 American companies have investments there, including Motorola, IMC Agrico, Coca-Cola, and American Express and others. In 1977, Sri Lanka was the first country in South Asia to adopt economic liberalization policies, which shifted the economy away from state controls and subsidies and paved the way for the private sector to become the engine of growth.

Sri Lanka's shift to a market-oriented system has become very successful, with the country recording some 6 percent economic growth in 1997. A major factor aiding Sri Lanka's economic growth has been the highly-educated work force. The government provides free education from elementary school through university levels, and the result has been a national literacy rate of 90 percent. The government also extends free health care services, and Sri Lankans enjoy low infant mortality rates and an average life expectancy of 70 years.

Relations between Sri Lanka and the United States date back to 1850, when an American, John Black, was officially appointed to head up a commercial agency between the governments. With a move to the capital, Colombo, the agency office became a U.S. consulate, and upon independence in 1948, it was elevated to a United States Embassy.

Mr. Speaker, this year Sri Lanka and the United States also celebrate the golden jubilee of establishing diplomatic relations. In honor and in recognition of this occasion, Ambassador Bill Richardson, the United States Representative to the United Nations, and Ambassador Karl Inderfurth, Assistant Secretary of State for South Asian Affairs, recently traveled to Sri Lanka for meetings with President Kumaratunga and other high-ranking dignitaries of the Sri Lankan Government.

Mr. Speaker, despite its prosperity and commitment to democratic principles, Sri Lanka, as we all know, has been years threatened by separatist movements. In its search for peace, the Government of Sri Lanka has proposed extensive devolution of power through constitutional reforms to resolve the present ethnic problem in the country through a negotiated settlement. This is a process supported by our government, and we should all take steps necessary to encourage the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Elam to lay down their arms, stop their terrorism, and enter into peaceful negotiations.

Mr. Speaker, I urge our colleagues to adopt the measure before us that congratulates the people of Sri Lanka on their 50th anniversary. We should all recognize the many accomplishments of our partners in Sri Lanka and the deep and enduring friendship that will always bind the good people of Sri Lanka and the people of the United States.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I wish that I could join in the enthusiasm that the people of Sri Lanka deserve in celebration of their nation's 50th anniversary. However, the deadly spiral of violence still gripping that beautiful nation makes it difficult to be joyous.

The Tamil Tigers need to change their methods and learn to compromise to obtain their goals. The government must renew its commitment to human rights and get back on the "high road" of respect for human rights. One way it can achieve this is by giving free and unrestricted access to the press and human rights organizations.

We must see an end to the "disappearances" of persons taken into custody by military and special police units, and the killings of moderate Tamil Parliament members and public execution of suspected "informers" or "traitors" by the Tamil Tigers.

Our policy towards Sri Lanka needs closer scrutiny. It is currently unbalanced. More attention needs to be placed on giving constructive criticism and suggestions that could lead to peace in that long troubled nation. Until then, any calls for celebration will ring hollow for the Sri Lankan people and their friends.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I wish to join with my colleagues in paying tribute to the nation and the people of Sri Lanka during this year of celebration of the 50th anniversary of their independence. I want to congratulate the Chairman of the Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific, Mr. BEREUTER, for introducing this resolution, as well as the Chairman of the International Relations Committee, Mr. GILMAN, the Ranking Democrat of the IR Committee, Mr. HAMILTON, the Ranking Democrat of the Asia and Pacific Subcommittee, Mr. BERMAN, and Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA, a member of the Asia and Pacific Subcommittee, for their support of this initiative. I am proud to join my colleagues, as a co-sponsor of this Resolution.

As the co-chairman of the Congressional Caucus on India and Indian-Americans, I welcome the continuing trend toward more attention to the vitally important South Asia region on the part of Congress, the Administration and the private sector. At the same time, I hope we will continue to encourage greater regional cooperation and confidence building measures among the nations of South Asia.

Mr. Speaker, Sri Lanka has been an independent country for the last 50 years, but relations with the United States have gone as far back as 1850. John Black, an American merchant residing in Colombo, the capital of Sri Lanka, was appointed as the first commercial agent. His job was to assist American shipping with Sri Lanka. Now, 150 years later, the United States is Sri Lanka's largest trading partner, accounting for 30% of Sri Lanka's exports, with 90 U.S. companies having invested in mining and textiles. Furthermore, U.S. investments will reach \$500 million after the completion of certain trade agreements.

Bi-lateral relations between the two countries have always remained strong. We can see this in numerous economic and technical support programs, trade and investment agreements, and the continuous exchange of high level officials—the most high-profile being the visit by First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton in 1995.

We have signed agreements to protect investments and intellectual property rights to

foster trade and encourage economic growth. In fact, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce is in Sri Lanka and works with the Sri Lanka government in creating an investment friendly climate.

Sri Lanka rose to international prominence when on July 21, 1960, the Sri Lanka Parliament appointed Ms. Bandaranike as the prime minister of Sri Lanka. Sri Lanka became the first country in the world to appoint a woman as the head of state. Interestingly enough, in a part of the world, where many Westerners believe women are being treated as second class citizens, Sri Lanka became the first country to recognize a women's ability to lead a nation. This led to women heads of government in Bangladesh, Britain, France, India, Israel, Norway, Pakistan, Poland and Turkey.

Sri Lanka was the first country in South Asia to introduce economic liberalization policies (1977) and shifted away from state controls. Recently, Sri Lanka has embarked on market oriented reforms that have allowed the economy to grow by 6% last year.

Unfortunately, Sri Lanka been plagued with ethnic violence. Despite this, Sri Lanka continues to be one of the few countries in South Asia committed to democracy. For the last 50 years, Sri Lanka has held national, provincial and local government elections. Sri Lanka has provided universal adult suffrage, including women. Indeed, Sri Lanka had democratic elections 20 years prior to independence, when it was part of the British Empire. Thus, Sri Lanka is one of the oldest practicing democracies in the developing world.

Mr. Speaker, there is no doubt in my mind that the next 50 years holds tremendous potential for Sri Lanka. With the recent collapse of the East Asian economies, and the South Asian economies remaining stable, is a strong indication that Sri Lanka and the rest of South Asia will demonstrate new economic strength.

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, it is my deep pleasure to rise in support of H. Res. 350, which I cosponsored with Mr. BEREUTER, in honor of the people of Sri Lanka on the occasion of the fiftieth anniversary of their nation's independence.

We have a long and deep friendship with Sri Lanka, dating back at least to 1789 when the first American traders visited Colombo, and followed in the early part of the 19th century by American missionaries and educators, who established the first boarding school for girls in Asia in 1824.

We established a consulate as early as 1874.

We are most proud of the role played by Colonel Henry Steel Olcott in promoting the study of Buddhism. The enlightened altruism demonstrated by Colonel Olcott continues to motivate our relations with Sri Lanka.

Today, our relations are being further solidified by our growing economic and political relationship. We are now Sri Lanka's largest trading partner. Most recently, the First Lady visited—the first, I hope, of many such visits, including perhaps that of the President later this year.

As we salute the past, it is also my hope that we will take all possible steps to assist in the resolution of the problems which afflict Sri Lanka today. The conflict which continues to disturb the rich Sri Lankese political culture is deeply disturbing. The recent terrorist bombing at the Temple of the Tooth in Kandy and the

American decision to withdraw Peace Corps Volunteers testifies to the intensity of that internal conflict. I hope that efforts will be taken by all sides to the conflict to seek a peaceful resolution of the civil strife for only by ending this dispute will Sri Lanka realize the very bright future its people deserve.

I urge my colleagues to support this resolution's adoption.

Mr. LUTHER. Mr. Speaker, I urge unanimous support for the resolution, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. BEREUTER) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H.Res. 350.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

CONCERNING AFGHANISTAN

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 218) concerning the urgent need to establish a ceasefire in Afghanistan and begin the transition toward a broad-based multiethnic government that observes international norms of behavior, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. CON. RES. 218

Whereas peace and stability has not returned to Afghanistan despite the February 1989 Soviet withdrawal from Afghanistan;

Whereas the Department of State's Country Reports on Human Rights for 1997 states: "The overall human rights situation [in Afghanistan] is poor . . . political killings, torture, rape, arbitrary detention, looting, abductions and kidnappings for ransom were committed by armed units, local commanders, and rogue individuals";

Whereas the continuing civil conflict in Afghanistan has had a grievous impact upon the Afghan people, where within its borders occurs the highest rate of infant, child, and maternal mortality in the region;

Whereas neighboring countries have provided support in the form of financial assistance and arms to the different groups warring in Afghanistan, thereby extending the length and expanding the destruction of this internal conflict;

Whereas another byproduct of this conflict is the harboring of Islamic militants and terrorist leaders in Afghanistan;

Whereas due to the tyranny and destruction caused by Taliban rule, Afghanistan is now one of the world's leading producers of opium, and over the past year alone, the production of opiates in Afghanistan has increased and resulted in a growth in the drug trade not only in the Central and South Asian regions but in Russia and the West as well;

Whereas continuing instability serves as an obstacle to international investment and the establishment of developmental projects inside Afghanistan, so necessary to Afghanistan's rejuvenation from years of conflict, and central to promoting political cooperation among Afghan factions;

Whereas the continuing conflict in Afghanistan serves as an impediment to economic

prosperity and political development throughout all of South Asia and the newly independent Central Asian nations as well; and

Whereas despite repeated efforts by the United Nations to broker an end to continuing warfare among the country's warring factions, the absence of peace has prevented Afghanistan from addressing the numerous problems facing its citizenry: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That the Congress—

(1) acknowledges that, through determination, tenacity, and courage, the Afghan people successfully waged a war against Soviet expansionism and greatly assisted in bringing an end to the cold war;

(2) calls upon all warring factions and national powers to participate in intra-Afghan dialogue (the "Frankfurt Process") and in the peace process and to actively cooperate in the acceleration of endeavors for peace;

(3)(A) deplores continuing human rights violations occurring within Afghanistan, especially against women and female children, who have suffered condoned discrimination and harassment, and the reported widespread execution of prisoners of war and civilians evidenced by the discovery of mass graves which contained an estimated 2,000 corpses; and

(B) supports the intention of the United Nations and the International Committee of the Red Cross to continue their investigation into these reported killings;

(4)(A) welcomes the appointment of Ambassador Lakhbar Brahimi as special envoy of the United Nations Secretary General for Afghanistan and supports his efforts toward attaining a peaceful negotiated settlement with the assistance of the six nations bordering Afghanistan as well as representatives from the United States and Russia; and

(B) encourages a role for Afghan leaders of all factions and ethnic groups in the United Nations negotiation efforts, based on the fact that peace and national reconciliation cannot be imposed on the Afghan people by their neighbors;

(5) urges the nations of the region to cooperate in the peace process and to end immediately the supply of arms, ammunition, military equipment, training or any other military support to all parties to the conflict;

(6) urges appropriate parties in the United Nations, Afghanistan, and its neighbors to work toward the eradication of the production of opium, especially in southern Afghanistan, and to link such efforts wherever possible to realistic income alternatives;

(7) calls upon all parties within Afghanistan to prevent the reoccurrence of actions which impede the ability of humanitarian and international organizations to move food shipments and other forms of humanitarian assistance into Afghanistan;

(8) acknowledges that due to the death and destruction wrought by the February 4, 1998, earthquake in northeastern Afghanistan, where approximately 5,000 people have died and an estimated 30,000 have been left homeless, there is a continuing need for international emergency aid of food, clothing, and shelter;

(9) recognizes the continuing requirement to address the needs of more than 2,500,000 Afghan refugees in neighboring countries, three-quarters of whom are women and children;

(10) acknowledges the necessity of international efforts to clear the estimated 10,000,000 land mines buried in the Afghan countryside; and

(11) calls for the expulsion of all known terrorist leaders from Afghanistan and the

closing down of all terrorist training camps operating in the country.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. BEREUTER) and the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. LUTHER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. BEREUTER).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on this measure.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BARRETT of Nebraska). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Nebraska?

There was no objection.

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Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

(Mr. BEREUTER asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, H. Con. Res. 218, which this Member introduced on February 1, 1998, calls for the urgent need to establish a cease-fire in Afghanistan and begin the transition towards a broad-based multi-ethnic government that observes international norms of behavior.

Today Afghanistan has no internationally recognized government. It is a country torn apart by civil war carried out by two warring factions known as the Taliban and the Northern Alliance. No parties to the conflict are heroic. All must share the blame for the destruction and division.

One of the by-products of the destruction brought about by this extended warfare is that Afghanistan has become one of the world's leading producers of opium. Over the past year alone, the production of opiates in Afghanistan has increased, and results in a growth in the drug trade throughout Central and South Asia, Russia, Europe and the United States.

Other problems currently facing Afghanistan include serious and repeated human rights violations occurring throughout the country, especially the treatment of women. The Department of State's Country Reports on Human Rights for 1997 states,

The overall human rights situation in Afghanistan is poor. Political killings, torture, rape, arbitrary detention, looting, abductions and kidnappings for ransom were committed by armed units, local commanders and rogue individuals.

At the end of this decade-long conflict it would appear that Afghanistan is beginning the process of resolving these problems, as well as a number of others, including the removal of millions of land mines scattered throughout the Afghan countryside; the repatriation of over 2 million Afghan refugees currently residing in Pakistan and Iran; as well as the cessation of safe haven for terrorist leaders and activities in this war-torn Nation.