

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague from American Samoa, my fellow islander, for yielding me time.

Mr. Speaker, I, too, want to associate myself with all of the remarks previously made by the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. BEREUTER), as well as the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS), and also extend my personal congratulations to my friend the gentleman from American Samoa (Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA) for this very important and timely resolution. I want to point out to the body that the gentleman personally made this suggestion to the President in a recent meeting about having a Pacific summit that would be in concert with the APEC summit, and it was very well received, and I am hopeful that the administration will heed his request and that we will see this summit come to fruition in the future.

Mr. Speaker, on Guam, we share the Pacific Ocean with island nations like Palau and Vanuatu and many of the nations that are referred to and are being considered under this resolution, and we also share many of the same values and cultural traits which already enhance our significant bonds. Our geographical and our cultural proximity with other Pacific island nations gives Guam the opportunity to facilitate cultural, educational and economic exchanges with our Pacific neighbors.

The United States already meets with Pacific island nations through such organizations as the South Pacific Forum, Pacific Economic Cooperation Council and the United Nations, but, as we enter the next millennium, I certainly encourage the United States to continue and in fact intensify its diplomatic and economic engagement.

H. Res. 505 calls for this type of cooperation, and specifically calls for a Pacific summit. A Pacific summit would be a prodigious opportunity for the United States to dialogue with the leaders of nations which control vast marine resources, from fishing rights to sea bed minerals.

The passage of H. Res. 505 is an indication that we are committed to our friends in the Pacific. As has been pointed out, the Pacific island nations are sometimes ignored in the process of even discussing the Pacific Ocean and the Asian-Pacific region. Sometimes in those discussions we are really talking about the Pacific rim nations.

I always like to tell people it is like a big donut, and we are always concerned about the rim nations and we forget that it is the hole in the middle that makes the donut, and it is the Pacific basin and it is all those tiny little islands and tiny little nations which really are sitting on top of a vast variety of resources which need attention.

□ 1545

Not only are they economically important, but certainly they also have strategic and diplomatic importance,

as well. It is also significant that in this, the International Year of the Ocean, we must also mean that it must be the International Year of the Islands in those oceans, and those islands whose cooperation is vitally necessary for the development and cultivation of ocean resources in an environmentally sound manner, while making sure that the islanders profit from those resources.

This is a very timely, a very necessary resolution, and I urge its adoption.

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

Mr. Speaker, I would really like to express my appreciation to the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS), and my good friend, the gentleman from Guam (Mr. UNDERWOOD), my fellow Pacific Islander, for their eloquence.

I know this is probably the last piece of legislation that we will be working on as far as the Committee on International Relations Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific is concerned, but I certainly would like to offer my highest commendation to the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. BEREUTER), the chairman of the subcommittee, not only for his keen insight, but the tremendous eloquence of his statement, which really, I could not have stated better, his full understanding and knowledge of what is happening there in the Pacific region.

I really, really want to thank and commend him for his assistance, for his help, not only as a friend, but for his tremendous leadership that has been demonstrated as chairman of the Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific, and of course my good friend, the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN).

Mrs. MINK of Hawaii. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Res. 505.

The South Pacific was one of the major theaters of World War II. During that time, the United States and the island nations of the Pacific established strong bonds that endure even after the passage of over half a century.

Yet, while the United States has developed and maintained a strong economic, political, and strategic interest or presence in the Pacific, the same cannot be said of the United States diplomatic presence in the region, which has diminished considerably over the decades. This resolution expresses the sense of Congress that the United States should strengthen its diplomatic presence with the Pacific island nations.

This resolution, by encouraging a greater U.S. diplomatic presence in the Pacific, recognizes that while the United States should promote and support its commercial and strategic interests by encouraging Pacific island nations to become more fully integrated into the regional and global economy, it is equally important that such integration be accompanied by the promotion and consolidation of human rights and democratic values. And, these broader developments can better be realized by reestablishing America's diplomatic presence in the South Pacific.

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MILLER of Florida). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, House Resolution 505.

The question was taken.

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 5 of rule I and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

SENSE OF CONGRESS CONDEMN- ING ATROCITIES BY SERBIAN POLICE AND MILITARY FORCES AGAINST ALBANIANS IN KOSOVA

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 315) expressing the sense of the Congress condemning the atrocities by Serbian police and military forces against Albanians in Kosova and urging that blocked assets of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) under the control of the United States and other governments be used to compensate the Albanians in Kosova for losses suffered through Serbian police and military action, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. CON. RES. 315

Whereas the ethnic Albanian population of the province of Kosova, which makes up the overwhelming majority of the population of that area, has been denied internationally recognized human rights and political rights, including the protection of life, freedom of speech, freedom of assembly, and freedom of the press;

Whereas Serbian police and military forces have engaged in brutal suppression of the Albanian people, and the number of Serbian police and military forces which have been deployed in Kosova is estimated at some 50,000 men;

Whereas human rights groups have reported and documented instances of Serbian forces conducting abductions and summary executions of innocent ethnic Albanian civilians in reprisal killings that are similar to those conducted by Nazi forces during World War II and are similar to the ethnic cleansing which was carried out by ethnic Serbian troops in Bosnia;

Whereas Serbian forces have indiscriminately shelled and burned villages, reducing them to rubble, in order to drive out the ethnic Albanian inhabitants, inflicting heavy material losses upon the ethnic Albanians in Kosova;

Whereas hundreds of ethnic Albanians, including women and children, have been killed and over 200,000 ethnic Albanians have been forced to flee and have become refugees as a result of this Serbian military action;

Whereas the stubborn denial of human rights and political rights to the ethnic Albanian majority in Kosova by the Government of Serbia has been the major factor in

the radicalization of the political situation in the province and made the prospects of a peaceful resolution of the conflict there difficult if not impossible;

Whereas the dissolution of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (SFRY) resulted in 5 independent states and the ownership of the blocked assets of the SFRY has yet to be determined and apportioned among the successor states; and

Whereas the United States and the governments of other countries have blocked the assets of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) as part of the blocked assets of the SFRY: Now, therefore, be it

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

(1) deeply deplores and strongly condemns the appalling loss of life and the extensive destruction of property in Kosova that is the consequence of the brutal actions of Serbian police and military forces against the ethnic Albanian population of the province;

(2) believes that the Government of Serbia is primarily responsible for the loss of life and destruction of property, and thus Serbia should bear the principal burden of providing compensation for the loss of life and for the costs of rebuilding areas which its forces have devastated;

(3) urges the President and officials he designates to work with the Congress to draft legislation and regulations which will permit the claims of ethnic Albanians from Kosova who have suffered as a consequence of the brutal actions of Serbian police and military forces in Kosova to be considered, without prejudice to the claims of United States nationals, when claims settlement negotiations involving the assets of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) which the United States has blocked or asserted control over takes place;

(4) urges that, in drafting such legislation and implementing regulations, special consideration be given to the circumstances of the Government of the Republic of Montenegro and to persons located in and organized under the laws of the Republic of Montenegro;

(5) urges the President and the Secretary of State to urge all other countries to follow a policy which permits ethnic Albanians who have suffered as a consequence of the brutal actions of Serbian police and military forces in Kosova to make claims against the assets of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) which are in the control of the respective country; and

(6) requests that a copy of this resolution be transmitted to the President and the Secretary of State by the Clerk of the House of Representatives and the Secretary of the Senate.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN) and the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on House Concurrent Resolution 315.

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

There was no objection.

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

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

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, this resolution, House Concurrent Resolution 315, expresses the well-founded view that Serbia is responsible for the mayhem that police and military personnel have inflicted upon the unfortunate people of Kosova, and that Serbia should be held financially responsible for the damages done to their homes and other property of the Albanian citizens of Kosova.

I commend the distinguished gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS), a senior member of our committee, for introducing this measure. I am pleased to be listed as an original cosponsor.

This resolution calls for our President to work with the Congress to develop laws and regulations that would make it possible to utilize the Serbian blocked assets here in our Nation under the control of our government for the purpose of providing restitution to those who have suffered property losses as a result of the conflict in Kosova.

While we recognize that there may be other claimants to these assets, we want to put the House on record that Serbia is financially accountable for the damages that its police and military have caused through unrestrained use of force and willful destruction of housing and other property belonging to members of the Albanian community in Kosova.

Just last week I called upon the President to mobilize NATO to issue an ultimatum to Milosevic to permit the hundreds of thousands of displaced people in Kosova to return to their homes in safety, and to permit unimpeded access for humanitarian assistance for these people.

Winter comes early to Kosova. We can no longer play for time for other forms of diplomacy to take effect. Milosevic is completely untrustworthy, and the lives of more than 250,000 people in Kosova now hang on the credibility of the international community's pledge to permit no more Bosnians in the Balkans. We must not wait to act until scenes of human misery flash across our TV screens in the next few weeks.

Accordingly, I urge all of our Members of the House to join with the sponsors of this resolution in sending a strong message to the Serbian leadership that in addition to any legal and political penalties they may face, they will also pay a financial penalty for their actions in Kosova.

It is our hope that other governments will undertake similar measures, so that the people of Kosova may eventually receive some restitution from the government that is directly responsible for their suffering and for their tremendous losses.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, let me first express my thanks and respect to the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN), the chairman of our committee, for his strong support of this long overdue measure.

If I may, Mr. Speaker, I would like to put this whole resolution in some historic context. Kosova, an Albanian province of Serbia, was a relatively peaceful, poor place until 1989. In 1989, without the slightest provocation, Mr. Milosevic destroyed whatever modicum of autonomy the people of Kosova had and created of 1,800,000 Albanian ethnic Kosovars colonial subjects within their own country.

I visited Kosova many times during the last decade. It is, without any question, Europe's poorest region. It is the only region, Mr. Speaker, where you can meet a young man or a young woman in their twenties having only one or two or three teeth, because there are no dental services available. The grinding poverty of the Albanian ethnic population of Kosova is pitiful and heartrending.

The people of Kosova have been fortunate to have reasonable, moderate, peace-loving leadership in the person of Dr. Ibrahim Rugova, a scholar of great distinction. But he could not get anyplace with the dictatorial regime of Milosevic, and gradually an extremist element emerged within the Albanian population which started military activities.

In response to this, the Serbian army not only crushed this military uprising, but caused over 250,000 civilians, men, women, children, old folks, to leave their poor villages, many of them by now destroyed. As we speak, Mr. Speaker, over 50,000 civilian Kosovars are hiding in the mountains, and last week the first snow fell in Kosova.

My resolution calls for two things. It calls for the Congress to denounce the brutal and inhumane activities of Serbian military and paramilitary and police forces against the civilian population of Kosova; and secondly, it calls on our government to see to it that Serbian assets frozen in this country be used to compensate, to whatever extent is feasible, these poor and destitute people, so that when they return to their destroyed and devastated villages, they can start rebuilding their lives.

This is the very least that we can do for an innocent, persecuted, long-suffering people, 1,800,000 ethnic Albanian Kosovars whose sole crime is that they happen to live within the boundaries of the state of Serbia. Mr. Speaker, I strongly urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to yield such time as he may consume to my distinguished friend and colleague, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. TRAFICANT).

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding time to me. I also want to thank the distinguished Member for sponsoring this

legislation, which I am a cosponsor of, and for his leadership throughout the world for freedom.

I think if there is some day a dictionary encyclopedia that says, what does a Congressman look like, we will see Mr. Bill Natcher and the gentleman from California (Mr. TOM LANTOS). I mean that.

Also, I thank the gentleman from New York (Chairman GILMAN) for all the work he has done. Naturally, I support this resolution. I think it is on target.

I, though, would also like to recommend that my legislation that would move Kosova toward an independent state be seriously considered, for several reasons. Number one, Milosevic has shown that he is a brutal dictator, and the atrocities against ethnic Albanians may in fact produce another Bosnia for the world.

Having said that, I think it is time to look at Kosova. The population consists of 90 percent ethnic Albanians, their roots, their language, and under the former state of Yugoslavia, they had an independent status.

As much as I support this, I would like to say that ethnic Albanians do not just want an opportunity to make a claim against Serbian assets in our country, ethnic Albanians want independence, and they are crying out for freedom all over this world. I believe our administration is trying to keep the lid on, in all fairness. But I believe we can coddle this guy Milosevic a little too much, and I think it is time to get stern with this man.

I would just like to recommend to the chairman and distinguished leaders of this committee to look at the matter of independence. I believe there is no other answer because ethnic Albanians will not accept anything else, and I believe if there is to be a tempest in this teapot, we should deal with it now. But this certainly is on the right track.

I am proud to join forces with the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS), and I am hoping that the administration and the State Department look very carefully at the recommendation coming from the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS), the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN), and the rest of the Congress.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this resolution and urge the House to pass it by a unanimous vote.

This resolution condemns the violence in Kosovo and calls for compensation for its victims from the assets of the perpetrators. This is the just and right thing to do.

And while, Mr. Speaker, we must condemn the violence and ethnic cleansing, we must do more. As we debate this resolution, Milosevic and his thugs are conducting yet another assault against civilians in the Drenica region of Kosovo. Reports indicate that 20,000 more refugees are fleeing their homes as Serb police and military units continue their scorched Earth policy. Hundreds of people, including women and children, have been killed since the violence began. More than a quarter of a

million people—one-sixth of Kosovo's overwhelmingly ethnic Albanian population—have been driven from their homes. An estimated 50,000 are living in the open, threatened by starvation, hypothermia and disease.

Last week Senator Bob Dole and Assistant Secretary of State John Shattuck testified about their recent visit to Kosovo before the Helsinki Commission. Senator Dole said that what he saw in Kosovo shares many of the worst characteristics of the war in Bosnia, including the genocide in Srebrenica. Secretary Shattuck described horrendous human rights violations, violations of humanitarian law, and acts of punitive destruction on a massive scale.

Make no mistake about it. This is Bosnia—again. And as we saw in Bosnia, the only thing Milosevic responds to is force.

In December 1992, President Bush warned that if civilians in Kosovo were attacked, we would respond with force. President Clinton reiterated that warning in March 1993. The international community has threatened, NATO has planned contingencies, we have rattled our sabers, yet Milosevic and his thugs carry on with impunity.

I call on the Congress, the administration, and our NATO allies to act now to save the people of Kosovo, to halt Milosevic's reign of terror and to finally bring a chance for peace to the Balkans.

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, House Concurrent Resolution 315, as amended.

The question was taken.

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, on that, I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 5 of rule I and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

□ 1600

RICHARD C. LEE UNITED STATES COURTHOUSE

Mr. KIM. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill (S. 1355) to designate the United States courthouse located in New Haven, Connecticut, as the "Richard C. Lee United States Courthouse," as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

S. 1355

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. DESIGNATION.

The United States courthouse located at 141 Church Street in New Haven, Connecticut, shall be known and designated as the "Richard C. Lee United States Courthouse".

SEC. 2. REFERENCES.

Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the United States court-

house referred to in section 1 shall be deemed to be a reference to the "Richard C. Lee United States Courthouse".

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HANSEN). Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. KIM) and the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. TRAFICANT) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. KIM).

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

Mr. Speaker, Senate 1355, as amended, designates the United States courthouse located in New Haven, Connecticut, as the "Richard C. Lee United States Courthouse."

Richard Lee was the mayor of New Haven, Connecticut, for eight terms, comprising 16 years in office. He was a dedicated public servant who played a significant role in American urban history. Celebrated as an urban pioneer, under his leadership the City of New Haven became a model in urban renewal for cities across the United States.

Mayor Lee recognized the importance of a thriving downtown area and healthy middle-class population to ensure a city's existence. Mayor Lee is a credit to his hometown of New Haven.

This is a fitting tribute to a dedicated public servant, and I support the Senate bill, as amended. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support it as well.

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

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from New Haven, Connecticut (Ms. DELAURO), the sponsor of this legislation in the House.

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I thank both gentlemen for the opportunity to be able to speak on this issue this afternoon. I am very, very proud to sponsor this bill which will designate the U.S. courthouse in my hometown of New Haven, Connecticut, as the "Richard C. Lee United States Courthouse."

Richard C. Lee epitomizes all that a mayor can and should be and is truly a model mayor of a city for this century.

Dick Lee's dedication to the City of New Haven is illustrated by a lifetime of public service. His career began as a reporter. He became editor of the New Haven Journal Courier. He later became editor of the Yale News Digest and director of the Yale University News Bureau. He went on to a career as a public servant after that.

After twice running and losing, he became New Haven's youngest mayor in 1953. He served for 16 years, longer than any mayor since. There is a historic dimension to Dick Lee's administration. During his tenure as a mayor, he was deeply involved with and dedicated to issues of urban renewal. He initiated an economic revitalization plan marking a turning point in New Haven's history.

He was particularly interested in the human side of urban redevelopment. He