

It is also about the Palestinians and its recognizing Israel's right to exist. Yet the Palestinian Authority, by the day, is under more and more influence of an element that will not rest until the other side is wiped off the map.

I was disturbed when the Secretary of State's spokesperson, John Kirby, said:

Individuals on both sides of this divide are, have been proven capable of, and, in our view, are guilty of acts of terrorism.

Last month the State Department claimed that the Temple Mount status quo was violated. I was just there a couple of months back. I was at a place called Decks Restaurant in Tiberias. It is right on the Sea of Galilee.

The owner of the restaurant got on the microphone—the place was crowded with locals—and she started preaching about her love of America, about her appreciation of the strength of that bond between the U.S. and Israel.

As she is saying this, a boat pulls in off the Sea of Galilee and starts setting off fireworks. As the fireworks start blowing off, they start playing “God Bless America” over the loud speaker. All the locals stood up and were singing along, and if they didn't know the words, they were lip-syncing it.

It was such a proud moment. Where else in the world can you go where you will find a restaurant at which the owner will get on the microphone and start talking about her love of America?

I value the relationship that we have with our friends, such as Israel. We didn't see the Israeli Prime Minister going on international TV trying to embarrass the President of the United States after there was a hospital strike, which the President took responsibility for.

It is important that we don't embarrass our allies and that we stand with them in tough times. Right now we stand with innocent victims in Israel, who are being targeted by terrorist attacks through the incitement of violence by the leadership of the Palestinian Authority.

That is why I am so proud to stand here today with Ms. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN for, again, her consistent and strong dedication and leadership and for her determination in ensuring that this body stands united with Israel every single day.

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

In closing, as you have heard from everyone who has spoken, the recent surge of Palestinian violence against Israel must stop. It must stop to save innocent lives. It must stop so that negotiations can go forward. It must stop because acts of terrorism are not to be tolerated.

Any way you look at it, these are terrorist acts, and the only way we can have peace and the only way we can have a two-state solution is if both parties sit opposite each other, with no preconditions, and start negotiating.

I do support a two-state solution—a Palestinian Arab state and an Israeli

Jewish state—living together in peace and harmony; but it is not going to happen if the Palestinian leadership, which is bankrupt in more ways than one, refuses to teach its people the right thing, if it refuses to repudiate acts of terror.

Mahmoud Abbas, or Abu Mazen—the leader of the Palestinians—is, I think, on the eighth year of his 4-year term. He is not really legitimate anymore. The more he talks with rhetoric and incitement, the less relevant he becomes.

It is really a shame because I do think that the Palestinians deserve better and I do think that, ultimately, they deserve their own state; but they will not have their own state if they resort to terror. It is bankrupt, and it is a dead end for them.

Instead of encouraging these kinds of acts of terror against innocent civilians, the leadership of the Palestinians ought to be dismissing it, ought to be condemning it, ought to be taking strong stands against it. We have yet to hear, and that is why this resolution is so important.

This resolution sends the signal that Palestinian leaders have a responsibility to repudiate this violence and put an end to the horrific campaign of incitement against Jews and Israelis.

Everyone who spoke today is saying the same thing. We are saying the same thing because it is clear as night and day what is going on over there. So I urge all of my colleagues to support this measure.

The United States will always stand with the people of Israel, and the United States will always stand against violence and terrorism wherever it rears its head around the world.

I again thank my good friend, ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN, for her leadership and Mr. DEUTCH for his leadership as well.

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

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I want to thank the chairman of our committee, Mr. ROYCE, for his help in bringing this resolution to the floor after the markup in the subcommittee and the full committee.

I want to thank Mr. ENGEL for his steadfast support of doing everything that is humanly possible to support efforts in getting peace in the Middle East and his support for the democratic Jewish state of Israel.

I want to thank Mr. DEUTCH, who is my partner on the Middle East and North Africa Subcommittee. He has been a person who understands the many obstacles to peace that the Palestinians encounter because of their failed leadership, and the responsibility lies in that leadership. I have had the opportunity to travel to Israel with Mr. DEUTCH, and I am very thankful for his friendship and for his guidance.

I also want to thank Mr. POE and Mr. ZELDIN—valued members of our Com-

mittee on Foreign Affairs—for their perspectives on how to reach peace, because, when all is said and done, this is what this resolution is all about.

We are condemning the anti-Israel and anti-Semitic incitement to violence by the Palestinian Authority, but we do so because this is antithetical to the cause of peace, which is what this body is all about and what the United States' foreign policy is based on in the Middle East.

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

Mr. ELLISON. Mr. Speaker, securing a lasting peace between Israel and Palestine requires a commitment to humanizing the experiences of both peoples. Divisive rhetoric dehumanizes people and undermines the prospect of long-term peace. This resolution is divisive.

Incitement by either party, including Palestinian Authority leaders, is a serious issue and deserves to be condemned. But when we denounce the Palestinians and leave no mention of divisive rhetoric by the Israeli government, we do a disservice to Palestinians and Israelis. Just two weeks ago, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said “Hitler didn't want to exterminate the Jews.” He laid the blame for the Shoa at the feet of a Palestinian Grand Mufti of Jerusalem, Haj Amin al-Husseini. Al-Husseini was a virulent anti-Semite. But Prime Minister Netanyahu's blaming the idea of the Holocaust on a Palestinian, and by implication Palestinians, deserves to be condemned by this body just as Palestinian incitement does.

I oppose this resolution, not because the Palestinians are not inciting, and not because I believe this incitement should not be condemned. I oppose this resolution because any resolution that attacks one side while ignoring the other can only further tension and violence.

If Congress wants to be considered a legitimate arbiter of peace between Israel and Palestine we must pursue a balanced approach that calls for an end to incitement on both sides and both leaders to live up to their obligations under the Oslo Accords.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HARRIS). The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 293, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution, as amended, was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

□ 1715

PARTICIPATION OF TAIWAN IN THE INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL POLICE ORGANIZATION

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1853) to direct the President to develop a strategy to obtain observer status for Taiwan in the International Criminal Police Organization, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.
The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1853

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

SECTION 1. PARTICIPATION OF TAIWAN IN THE INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL POLICE ORGANIZATION.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following findings:

(1) Safety, security and peace is important to every citizen of the world, and shared information ensuring wide assistance among police authorities of nations for expeditious dissemination of information regarding criminal activities greatly assists in these efforts.

(2) Direct and unobstructed participation in the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) is beneficial for all nations and their police authorities. Internationally shared information with authorized police authorities is vital to peace-keeping efforts.

(3) With a history dating back to 1914, the role of INTERPOL is defined in its constitution: "To ensure and promote the widest possible mutual assistance between all criminal police authorities within the limits of the laws existing in the different countries and in the spirit of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights."

(4) Ongoing international threats, including international networks of terrorism, show the ongoing necessity to be ever inclusive of nations willing to work together to combat criminal activity. The ability of police authorities to coordinate, preempt, and act swiftly and in unison is an essential element of crisis prevention and response.

(5) Taiwan maintained full membership in INTERPOL starting in 1964 through its National Police Administration but was ejected in 1984 when the People's Republic of China (PRC) applied for membership.

(6) Nonmembership prevents Taiwan from gaining access to INTERPOL's I-24/7 global police communications system, which provides real-time information on criminals and global criminal activities. Taiwan is relegated to second-hand information from friendly nations, including the United States.

(7) Taiwan is unable to swiftly share information on criminals and suspicious activity with the international community, leaving a huge void in the global crime-fighting efforts and leaving the entire world at risk.

(8) The United States, in the 1994 Taiwan Policy Review, declared its intention to support Taiwan's participation in appropriate international organizations and has consistently reiterated that support.

(9) Following the enactment of Public Law 108-235, a law authorizing the Secretary of State to initiate and implement a plan to endorse and obtain observer status for Taiwan at the annual summit of the World Health Assembly and subsequent advocacy by the United States, Taiwan was granted observer status to the World Health Assembly for six consecutive years since 2009. Both prior to and in its capacity as an observer, Taiwan has contributed significantly to the international community's collective efforts in pandemic control, monitoring, early warning, and other related matters.

(10) INTERPOL's constitution allows for observers at its meetings by "police bodies which are not members of the Organization".

(b) TAIWAN'S PARTICIPATION IN INTERPOL.—The President shall—

(1) develop a strategy to obtain observer status for Taiwan in INTERPOL and at other related meetings, activities, and mechanisms thereafter; and

(2) instruct INTERPOL Washington to officially request observer status for Taiwan in INTERPOL and to actively urge INTERPOL member states to support such observer status and participation for Taiwan.

(c) REPORT CONCERNING OBSERVER STATUS FOR TAIWAN IN INTERPOL.—Not later than 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the President shall transmit to Congress a report, in unclassified form, describing the United States strategy to endorse and obtain observer status for Taiwan in INTERPOL and at other related meetings, activities, and mechanisms thereafter. The report shall include the following:

(1) A description of the efforts the President has made to encourage INTERPOL member states to promote Taiwan's bid to obtain observer status in INTERPOL.

(2) A description of the actions the President will take to endorse and obtain observer status for Taiwan in INTERPOL and at other related meetings, activities, and mechanisms thereafter.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. ENGEL) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Florida.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on this bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Florida?

There was no objection.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I first want to thank the chairman of the Asia and the Pacific Subcommittee, Congressman MATT SALMON, for introducing this important resolution.

Taiwan is indeed a strong ally of the United States, one which shares our interests and values, including an enduring commitment to democracy and the freedom of expression.

Taiwan is a beacon of freedom in the Pacific, serving as an inspiration for the world's oppressed, and it serves as a model for future democratic transitions. Unfortunately, however, Taiwan is under increasing pressure from an aggressive China that is attempting to assert its dominance in the Pacific and to isolate Taiwan on the international stage. One organization that China has prevented Taiwan from joining is INTERPOL, the International Criminal Police Organization.

INTERPOL was created, Mr. Speaker, to promote international cooperation between criminal police authorities; but because of undue Chinese pressure, Taiwan is no longer a member of INTERPOL. Taiwan is forced to receive less effective, secondhand information about international criminals and their illicit activities. Likewise, Taiwan cannot share the law enforcement information that it gathers in order to benefit INTERPOL.

In China's efforts to exclude Taiwan and in the efforts of some nations to accommodate China, they have ended up hurting Taiwan and the entire international community in the process.

So we have this bill before us, Mr. Speaker. This bill by Congressman SALMON directs the President to request observer status for Taiwan at INTERPOL, to urge other INTERPOL members to support it, and for the President to develop a strategy to ensure the participation of Taiwan.

I am pleased to support this legislation. I believe that the United States should be helping Taiwan's meaningful participation in all international organizations and entities in which it has expressed an interest in participating.

Taiwan's exclusion from organizations like INTERPOL is dangerous. It is a dangerous practice. It hurts the international community just as much as it hurts the people of Taiwan.

We must not allow U.N. politics or China's efforts to isolate Taiwan to exclude it from international organizations. It is, therefore, crucial that the United States provide the kind of military assistance, economic assistance, and political assistance that will allow Taiwan to resist any type of Chinese coercion.

The Taiwan Relations Act, together with the Six Assurances are the cornerstone of U.S.-Taiwan relations, and we must always keep it as our guiding beacon. I know that this is a sentiment that is greatly shared by the members of our Foreign Affairs Committee and by the chairman of our committee, Mr. ROYCE of California, because the friendship between the people of the United States and Taiwan has cemented into one of the most cherished partnerships. I look forward to the United States Government demonstrating its continued commitment to the people of Taiwan with the passage of Mr. SALMON's bill.

I want to thank, again, Chairman SALMON for introducing this important resolution. I am pleased to offer my support, and I urge my colleagues to do the same.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I want to also thank Mr. SALMON from Arizona, who chairs our Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific, for authoring this bill. I am proud to be a cosponsor.

The International Criminal Police Organization, what we call INTERPOL, helps law enforcement agencies around the world collaborate with one another. Thanks to INTERPOL, a task force in New York can share information with a police agency in Hamburg or flag a terrorist suspect for authorities in Tokyo.

Sensitive information about criminals or missing persons is available at the push of a button for INTERPOL's

members. For decades, it has been a vital tool for global security.

Until 1984, Taiwan was a member of INTERPOL; but since the People's Republic of China applied for membership, Taiwan has been left out. This is ridiculous, absolutely ridiculous.

Taiwan has the 16th or 17th largest economy in the world. And anyone who has ever been to Taiwan, as I have and as my colleague has, will just be amazed at the democracy they have built themselves on that tiny island. The fact is that they look to the United States for protecting them and helping them. Because just like we share the same values with Israel, we share the same values with Taiwan, and that is why we work with them.

Taiwan has been left out, and this gap in INTERPOL's membership creates a public safety risk for the people of Taiwan and also for the rest of the world. So nobody is saying that China should not be a member, but China should not have the right to exclude Taiwan.

This legislation would close that gap. It would instruct the administration to push for Taiwan to be granted observer status in INTERPOL. Observer status, that is what we are asking for.

There are countries around the world that function as countries, that have everything that all other countries have, and yet, because of politics, they are excluded from these international organizations. Taiwan is one such country. Kosovo is another type of country.

We have to stop this. People that live in these countries need to not bear the brunt of politics, but really need the protections that citizens of other countries have. By our not giving them the protections, we leave ourselves a bit unprotected as well.

So this legislation would instruct the administration to push for Taiwan to be granted observer status in INTERPOL. As an observer, Taiwan would have access to the information that law enforcement agencies already have. It would also allow Taiwan to contribute information to INTERPOL, information that could be used to stop crime or thwart terrorist activity, arrest human traffickers, or sideline other bad actors.

Good precedent exists for giving Taiwan this status. Taiwan is an observer in the World Health Assembly, where it has played a vital role in contributing to public health and fighting pandemic disease.

In fact, Taiwan has repeatedly shown itself to be a constructive, positive force in the global community. Countries around the world stand to benefit from Taiwan's inclusion in international organizations like INTERPOL. So not only does Taiwan benefit, but the rest of the world benefits. It is a no-brainer. It is a win-win situation for everybody.

I support this legislation wholeheartedly. I urge my colleagues to do the same.

I thank my colleague from Florida, LEANA ROS-LEHTINEN, and the chairman from California, ED ROYCE. Again, we are all in this together.

This is great bipartisan legislation of the Foreign Affairs Committee. It is important for Taiwan and important for the United States.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, before I yield to Mr. SALMON, I ask unanimous consent that the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE), the esteemed chairman of our committee, who is here with us now, manage the rest of the bill.

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

There was no objection.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. SALMON). He is the chairman of the Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific and the author of this important measure.

Mr. SALMON. Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairman ED ROYCE for bringing this important measure to the floor today and for being a constant champion of the people of Taiwan.

I was able to go on a trip with the chairman to Taiwan, and I think that he is as close to royalty in Taiwan as anybody that I have ever met. They love ED ROYCE. In fact, the guy that used to be called "Mr. Taiwan" was the former Senator from Arizona, Barry Goldwater, but I think ED ROYCE has maybe taken that title away.

I am just honored to be able to be here supporting this bill that he has allowed to come to the floor. I have been a long-time supporter of Taiwan, as have Members throughout this body on both sides of the aisle.

Let me just segue for a minute.

A lot of people out there get really, really frustrated by the partisan nature of what they see happening here in the Nation's Capital. A lot of people are frustrated: Why can't both sides just agree? I mean, after all, aren't we all Americans?

The interesting thing is I wish more Americans could come and see our committee, the Foreign Affairs Committee, in action because it is the epitome of bipartisanship. Besides the fact that Chairman ED ROYCE leads the committee and demands that we exhibit bipartisanship, Ranking Member ELIOT ENGEL is one of the best men I have ever met in my life. And I mean that from the bottom of my heart.

Whether it is dealing with terrorism in the Middle East or fairness across the globe like this issue with Taiwan and common sense, he is always on the right side. He leads his delegation, his folks on that side of the aisle in something that we have long believed, but sometimes it kind of gets lost in the cacophony of arguments here on Capitol Hill on other things, but that is that partisanship ends at the water's edge.

My hat is off to you, Mr. ENGEL, because you have always exhibited that, and I appreciate the way that you have led this body in that way.

Taiwan is a wonderful, thriving democracy. In fact, I had an opportunity as a young man to live there for 2 years, from 1977 to 1979, while serving a mission for my church. While I was there in 1978, the Nixon administration normalized relations with China, recognizing the Government of the People's Republic of China as the sole, legal government of China and declaring it would withdraw diplomatic recognition from Taiwan. The U.S. Government has since articulated a one-China policy, which was a dark turn for U.S.-Taiwan relations. Since then, we have seen a Taiwan that is marginalized in the international community.

Taiwan's ambiguous sovereignty status has contributed to its exclusion from many, many international organizations, despite Taiwan's obvious willingness to play a larger role in international affairs and international security, as it should. From humanitarian assistance and disaster relief to law enforcement and global health, so often it has been denied the right to share its knowledge and its expertise in the international fora.

This bill, H.R. 1853, would improve Taiwan's capability to contribute and benefit from the international community in the interest of international security. H.R. 1853 would direct the President to develop a strategy to obtain observer status for Taiwan in the International Criminal Police Organization, or INTERPOL. It would also require the President to report to Congress on efforts to encourage Taiwan's inclusion in INTERPOL.

Since the early 20th century, INTERPOL has facilitated mutual assistance between criminal police authorities worldwide through the sharing of information, such as access to comprehensive lists of suspicious persons and criminals.

As we all know and, I think, as every American knows, terrorism and other nontraditional security challenges no longer end at our borders or anybody's borders. These threats are global by nature.

□ 1730

In order to secure domestic and international security, the sharing of information across borders is vital. Taiwan's exclusion from INTERPOL hampers efforts to prevent and respond to threats.

To ensure that potential terrorists are barred from entering Taiwan, it is essential that Taiwan have direct access to INTERPOL and its I-24/7 system, which provides real-time information on criminals and global criminal activities.

Without this access, Taiwan is forced to cobble together its own list based on incomplete and untimely information obtained from a small number of friendly countries to Taiwan and Taiwan's own domestic intelligence.

Equally important, Taiwan is unable to share the information that it gathers on criminals and suspicious persons with INTERPOL directly. Mr. ENGEL called this policy silly. I think that that is very, very appropriate and accurate. This puts everybody at risk, when we have a policy that plays politics instead of common sense.

Cooperation between Taiwan and INTERPOL could be markedly enhanced if Taiwan is able to become an observer. H.R. 1853, with 114 bipartisan cosponsors, continues to carry the torch of congressional support for Taiwan's membership and inclusion in the international community.

Taiwan is a vibrant, democratic society, with much to contribute to the international community. The United States must do more to fulfill our obligations under the Taiwan Relations Act, which provides that the U.S. treat Taiwan the same as foreign countries, nations, states, government, or similar entities.

This is a vote for U.S. support of Taiwan's inclusion in international affairs. This is a vote for international security. I urge my colleagues to vote to support Taiwan's participation in international policing efforts by supporting this legislation, H.R. 1853.

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

We are all saying the same thing, and I think it really shows how important this legislation is. I want to mention the gentleman from Arizona, as I mentioned before. He was very kind about some of the things he said about me.

You need to go on a trip to China or Taiwan with the gentleman from Arizona because he is very modest, but he speaks fluent Mandarin. He has great diplomatic skills, and the people there really appreciate what he has done. I appreciate him being the author of this important piece of legislation.

It is true, when we talk about bipartisanship in foreign affairs, it is probably more important than in any other place. I have gone on a number of trips and we have had delegations of Republicans and Democrats together, and always, as Americans, the differences that we might have are very, very tiny.

When you travel together and you go to another country, we realize how important it is that, as Americans, we stand united and that other countries respect our country for what our country has done and is doing. That is really important.

I want to thank the gentleman from Arizona, my friend. He has been a vital force for this legislation, H.R. 1853, but he has also been a vital force on so many other issues on the Committee on Foreign Affairs and global issues that are really just so important.

When we talk about global issues and talk about policy that we need to do, there really are no Democrats and no Republicans. We are all Americans. We want to make sure that other countries respect what we try to do.

We believe in what this country stands for, and we want to have good

relations with countries around the world. I think it is so important when Members travel there and meet with dignitaries and meet with leaders of the country and meet with other parliamentarians that people understand what the United States of America is all about.

I want to thank the gentleman from Arizona for his leadership.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this bill, as a strong original cosponsor. I want to thank Mr. ENGEL, and I want to thank Mr. SALMON and Mr. BRAD SHERMAN for this legislation.

Taiwan is a nation of 23 million people. It is a booming democracy, with a free and open media. It is a loyal friend. It is a loyal partner to the United States.

Taiwan is engaged in important missions worldwide. We see the results of a lot of that engagement. Ebola is one most recently on our mind. When Ebola hit West Africa, it was Taiwan that donated 100,000 sets of protective equipment that were used to stop the spread of Ebola. It was Taiwan that gave so much in financial resources to help the sickest in Liberia.

Taiwan today is assisting those who have been forced out of their homes by terrorists, whether it is in Syria or Iraq; yet, despite its active and constructive role internationally, Taiwan is excluded from many international organizations because of its political status.

While Taiwan voluntarily adheres to the rules and the regulations of international organizations like the U.N., it is barred from participating. It is barred from being included in U.N. treaties against transnational organized crime and nuclear proliferation. This is not good for Taiwan, and it is not good for us.

To better protect its citizens and all the people around the world who travel there, Taiwan is seeking observer status in the International Criminal Police Organization, which many know as INTERPOL.

This organization enables police from 190 member countries to work together to make the world a safer place through information sharing, capacity building, and response coordination between police departments. That is 190 countries, but Taiwan is not included.

The legislation before us today will help to secure observer status for Taiwan at INTERPOL. The measure requires the President of the United States to develop and execute a strategy to ensure that Taiwan participates in INTERPOL's next General Assembly meeting, which is coming up in Indonesia. This will bring better international law enforcement cooperation with one of our most important partners: Taiwan.

Mr. Speaker, by way of history, Taiwan had full membership in

INTERPOL starting back in 1964, but Taiwan was ejected from the law enforcement group in 1984, when the People's Republic of China applied for membership.

Since then, Taiwan has relied on delayed secondhand information that they get from the United States about international criminals and global criminal activities, and that, frankly, makes Taiwan more vulnerable to security threats.

Likewise, Taiwan cannot share the law enforcement information it gathers to the benefit, frankly, of INTERPOL and the rest of the community and all of the members of INTERPOL, all the police organizations that try to rely on that. And, of course, we are part of that. We could utilize that benefit.

Mr. Speaker, the fact that Taiwan must rely on a convoluted process, with an added layer of bureaucracy, to access this critical information makes no sense. Taiwan regularly hosts the type of megaevents which often, unfortunately, attract terrorist activity, or they could.

For example, in 2009 Taiwan hosted the World Games and had to rely solely on the United States to vet athletes and media lists, and with the U.S.' help, several suspicious persons were, in fact, identified. They were denied entry into Taiwan.

In 2017 Taiwan will host the Summer Universiade, a student sporting event in which 900 athletes from 170 countries are expected to attend. This event is second only to the Olympics in the number of participants and countries that are represented.

There must be a more streamlined way for Taiwan to access information from INTERPOL. As the number of visitors from Taiwan to the United States has grown exponentially, there is an urgent need to ensure that Taiwan's police forces have real-time access to information on criminal activities and on threats.

Taiwan entered into the U.S. Visa Waiver Program in 2012. Since then, the number of Taiwanese visitors to the United States has increased by nearly 42 percent. From my home State of California, the increase in visitors from Taiwan has been a boon to the economy.

I am proud to have worked on Taiwan's entry into the Visa Waiver Program because I know that, as a result of this agreement, Taiwanese Americans in southern California have a much easier time staying connected to their families, and business travelers are having an easier time, too.

That is why I am also supporting Taiwan's participation in Customs and Border Protection's Global Entry program, which will make two-way travel even easier.

Mr. Speaker, strengthening Taiwan's law enforcement capabilities benefits American citizens as much as it does the Taiwanese. Every year tens of thousands of Americans travel to Taiwan, and this bill will certainly help

Taiwan's police forces protect American citizens traveling in Taiwan.

INTERPOL's constitution allows for observers at its meetings by police bodies which are not members of the organization. And so I am confident Taiwan will be able to be an observer.

H.R. 1853 will support Taiwan's efforts to gain observer status with INTERPOL. It is going to improve everybody's security. Mr. Speaker, we must constantly be pressing to ensure that security across the globe is protected.

Taiwan's unique political status has thus far hindered its inclusion in INTERPOL and is a vulnerable loophole for criminals and, frankly, for terrorists to target. With this piece of legislation, we are sending a clear message that safety is a priority.

I want to again commend Representative MATT SALMON of Arizona, chairman of the Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific, and, of course, Mr. ENGEL and Mr. SHERMAN for authoring and introducing this important measure. I appreciated working with them on it.

I will just say this of Mr. SALMON as well. He has a longstanding interest in Taiwan. His leadership on this measure is very much appreciated by all of us.

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

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I am prepared to close on my side. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

As I have said, we need to use every tool available to combat terrorism and disrupt criminal networks around the world. It only makes sense to have more partners at the table in that effort.

So bringing Taiwan back into INTERPOL as an observer just makes common sense. The more participants in INTERPOL, the more good the organization can do. We should do all we can to bring willing contributors off the sidelines.

Again, Taiwan was a member and was thrown out when everyone recognized People's Republic of China. There is room for both. There should be both.

I again want to commend my friend, Mr. SALMON, who is largely responsible for this, and our chairman, Mr. ROYCE, who I think has more people from Taiwan in his district than virtually any other district in the country. So he knows quite a bit about Taiwan and quite a bit about what should be done.

It is something that we are all saying the same thing. It makes sense for Taiwan. It makes sense for the United States. It makes sense for INTERPOL. I encourage my colleagues to support this measure.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1853.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

GLOBAL ANTI-POACHING ACT

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2494) to support global anti-poaching efforts, strengthen the capacity of partner countries to counter wildlife trafficking, designate major wildlife trafficking countries, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2494

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Global Anti-Poaching Act".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) Poaching and the illicit trade in endangered and threatened wildlife are among the most lucrative criminal activities worldwide, worth an estimated \$7 to \$10 billion annually.

(2) Poaching and wildlife trafficking have escalated in scale, sophistication and violence, risking the potential extinction of some of the world's most iconic species.

(3) Wildlife poaching and trafficking threaten elephants, rhinoceros, and tigers greatly, but also have devastating impact on a number of other species, including sharks, great apes, and turtles.

(4) The high demand for rare wildlife products has driven prices to historically high levels.

(5) Much of the demand for wildlife products comes from Asia and is fueled by the perceived medicinal value and social status associated with these products.

(6) Reporting indicates that a number of rebel groups and terrorist organizations, including Sudan's Janjaweed militia, the Lord's Resistance Army, the Seleka rebel movement in the Central African Republic, and Somalia's al-Shabaab, either participate in or draw funding from illicit wildlife trafficking networks.

(7) Analyses suggest the high demand for illegal wildlife products, combined with weak law enforcement and security measures and corruption and governance failures, has led to the increased involvement of transnational organized crime in wildlife trafficking.

(8) The United Nations Security Council has authorized multilateral sanctions against individuals and entities supporting armed groups through the illicit trade in wildlife, in addition to other natural resources, in the Democratic Republic of Congo and the Central African Republic.

(9) A National Intelligence Council analysis of wildlife poaching threats found that certain African government officials facilitated the movement of wildlife products, and that these governments' ability to reduce poaching and trafficking was hindered by corruption and weak rule of law.

(10) On November 13, 2013, the Secretary of State announced the first reward under the Transnational Organized Crime Rewards Program for information leading to the dismantling of the Xaysavang Network, a large

wildlife trafficking syndicate that is based in Laos and spans Africa and Asia.

SEC. 3. EXPANSION OF WILDLIFE ENFORCEMENT NETWORKS.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

(1) Wildlife enforcement networks are government-led, regionally-focused mechanisms that increase capacity and coordination efforts between law enforcement, environmental agencies, and other entities focused on countering wildlife trafficking of member countries.

(2) Currently there are active wildlife enforcement networks in Southeast Asia, South Asia, and Central America. The more mature wildlife enforcement networks, such as the Southeast Asia wildlife enforcement network, have proven effective in dismantling transnational wildlife trafficking networks and bringing to justice those individuals involved in the illegal trade of endangered and threatened species.

(3) Efforts are underway to establish additional wildlife enforcement networks in Central Africa, the Horn of Africa, South America, and Central and West Asia, among other regions.

(b) STATEMENT OF POLICY.—The Secretary of State, the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development, the Director of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, and heads of other appropriate agencies should, in an effort to address regional threats to biodiversity and conservation, support strengthening existing wildlife enforcement networks and the establishment of new networks in other appropriate regions.

(c) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that in the process of strengthening and expanding wildlife enforcement networks, the appropriate agencies should—

(1) assess the existing capacity of wildlife enforcement network member countries to gather baseline data that may be used for developing program activities for the wildlife enforcement network;

(2) establish a central secretariat within each wildlife enforcement network that will coordinate the operational mechanisms of each such network;

(3) establish a focal mechanism in each member country of a wildlife enforcement network, that includes representatives from environmental and wildlife protection agencies, law enforcement agencies, financial intelligence units, customs and border protection agencies, and the judiciary system, that will serve as a conduit to the larger wildlife enforcement network and the central secretariat;

(4) strengthen cooperation and the capacity of law enforcement agencies of the wildlife enforcement network;

(5) facilitate the sharing of intelligence and relevant case information within the agencies of a wildlife enforcement network;

(6) support the cooperation and coordination between different regional wildlife enforcement networks;

(7) incorporate and utilize expertise from international bodies and civil society organizations that have appropriate subject matter expertise;

(8) eventually create an institutionalized, sustainable, and self-sufficient platform; and

(9) recognize that lawful, well regulated hunting can contribute to sustainability and economic development, and that enforcement policies should not discourage or impede this activity.

SEC. 4. SUPPORTING THE PROFESSIONALIZATION OF THE WILDLIFE LAW ENFORCEMENT SECTOR.

The Secretary of State, the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development, the Director of the