

my question, I believe that the Members of your conference have confidence in you, Mr. Leader, and I believe the Members of our caucus have confidence in the gentleman from Missouri [Mr. GEPHARDT]. I think if the two of you agree that this can be moved forward, with the Speaker's concurrence as well, the gentleman from Michigan [Mr. EHLERS] is echoing what I said, that we ought to be able to do that, it seems to me, by unanimous consent and put the Government back to work at least through January 2, which after all is a very short time.

But what it does is, it solves the problem that the gentleman from Virginia [Mr. MORAN] has referenced with reference to getting paychecks to people for the second half of this month. We are running into a time now where we are not going to be able to pay people, not going to be able to send out checks except for the exceptions we have made.

I thank the gentleman for his comments and would concur with him. I do not believe, very honestly, Mr. Leader, that that takes any pressure off because of the short-term nature of that action.

Mr. FAZIO of California. Mr. Leader, perhaps we could delegate this responsibility to the gentleman from Maryland [Mr. HOYER] and the gentleman from Michigan [Mr. EHLERS].

Mr. ARMEY. If the gentleman would yield further, I appreciate the observation of the gentleman from Maryland [Mr. HOYER] about the enormous confidence my colleagues have in me, and I am sure they would agree that they have every confidence that I would not deny them their right to vote on a matter of such consequence as a continuing resolution in any shape.

Mr. FAZIO of California. Mr. Leader, let me at this point yield to the gentleman from Florida [Mr. FOLEY], who I believe is seeking recognition. Is the gentleman still interested in commenting?

Mr. FOLEY. I thank the gentleman for yielding. I just wanted to see if the gentleman from New York [Mr. SOLOMON], the chairman of the Committee on Rules, will engage in just 1 minute of question.

I want to be certain, and I have received a number of phone calls to my office both in the district and in Washington, inquiring as to whether veterans of wars, disabled veterans, and others, would receive a check on January 1. There has been a lot of stress on the phone of some people who are deeply, deeply concerned. I just want to make certain we are taking care of those men and women who have spilled blood for this Nation for the freedoms that we enjoy.

Mr. FAZIO of California. Mr. Speaker, I am more than happy to yield to the gentleman from New York [Mr. SOLOMON] for a response.

Mr. SOLOMON. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Let me just assure the gentleman that in the recently passed continuing

resolution over in the Senate, that the veterans provisions that guaranteed that those checks would go out for medical compensation, medical disability compensation, for GI bill, all of those checks are provided for in the Senate bill. In the bill just passed by the House the same is true.

There is one little difference, that the Medicaid provision that passed over in the Senate is not in our bill, so there is still a difference. As I understand, we are protected because the veterans are in both bills. But what it does mean is that one of the Houses will have to act on the other's bill before we go home this evening. That will be done by unanimous consent. But whichever way it works out, it guarantees that those checks for veterans will go out in a timely manner.

Mr. FOLEY. If the gentleman would continue to yield, that means the Senate must act today on the appropriations matter before them in order for those checks to be delivered?

Mr. SOLOMON. That is correct.

Mr. FAZIO of California. Mr. Speaker, I will reclaim my time, unless the leader has any further comments he may wish to make. I appreciate the gentleman's comments.

I would just like to announce to my colleagues on the Democratic side of the aisle that the most updated schedule, that will be updated daily, will be available through our Cloakroom, and Members should call that number at any point to receive the latest information on a regularly updated recording.

DISPENSING WITH CALENDAR WEDNESDAY BUSINESS ON WEDNESDAY NEXT

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the business in order under the Calendar Wednesday rule be dispensed with on Wednesday next.

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

There was no objection.

DESIGNATING OF THE HONORABLE CONSTANCE A. MORELLA TO ACT AS SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE TO SIGN ENROLLED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS FOR RE- MAINDER OF FIRST SESSION OF 104TH CONGRESS.

The Speaker pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker.

WASHINGTON, DC,

December 22, 1995.

I hereby designate the Honorable CONSTANCE A. MORELLA to act as Speaker pro tempore to sign enrolled bills and joint resolutions for the remainder of the First Session of the One Hundred Fourth Congress.

NEWT GINGRICH,

Speaker of the House of Representatives.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the designation is approved. There was no objection.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF SPECIAL ORDER ON TODAY

(Mr. DORNAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DORNAN. Mr. Speaker, I am going to do a 60-minute special order in a few moments here after a few 5-minutes. I raced in this morning and missed the 1-minute.

I just wanted to say that since there is a 50-50 chance we will not have any votes next week, and I hope to head off to Europe to visit with our troops in the field, I wanted to do a tribute for a half hour to our men and women in uniform today as we close out 1945, the last year of World War II.

I also want to do a half hour on execution-style, a few inches from infanticide, partial-birth coupe de grace abortion. We may not think that is proper at this time of year, but on December 28, which we may miss, it is the Feast of the Holy Innocents to remind us of the Herod slaughter of innocent children, trying to kill the Messiah, whose birth many of us will celebrate next Monday.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. COBLE). The Chair will recognize special orders but not beyond 6 p.m. today at this point.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of May 12, 1995, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

SALE OF ATACMS MISSILES TO TURKEY.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New Jersey [Mr. PALLONE] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, as soon as today, or at least by the middle of next week, our Department of Defense will sign a letter of offer and acceptance [LOA] with the Government of Turkey, to complete the sale of 120 Army Tactical Missile Systems [ATACMS]. The ATACMS—pronounced attacks 'ems—is a ground-launched surface-to-surface, conventional, semiguided ballistic missile which carries an antipersonnel/antimateriel cluster warhead capable of spraying shrapnel over a 150-square-meter area. Turkey already has the multiple launch rocket system from which to launch these very nasty, destructive weapons. What this weapon does is essentially deliver 950 small bombs, some of which do not immediately detonate and remain on the ground, posing a threat to noncombatants—including children.

Mr. Speaker, this is the wrong weapon sale to the wrong country at the wrong time.

Earlier this month, I circulated a letter with the gentleman from Florida [Mr. BILIRAKIS] which was signed by 35 Members from both sides of the aisle, calling on President Clinton to reconsider this sale, based on our very serious concerns over how these weapons would be used. The Turkish Government's domestic and international behavior—including the ongoing campaign against the Kurdish people, the occupation of Northern Cyprus, and the blockade of Armenia—makes us deeply concerned that providing such destructive power to that Government has the potential to cause terrible, and preventable, human suffering.

Today I am joining with my colleagues, Mr. TORRICELLI and Mr. BILIRAKIS in introducing House Concurrent Resolution 124 expressing the sense of Congress that the President should suspend the proposed sale of the Army Tactical Missile System to the Government of the Republic of Turkey until the Government takes significant and concrete steps to end the military occupation of Cyprus, lift its blockade of Armenia, cease its ongoing campaign against the Kurdish people, and demonstrate progress on the protection of human and civil rights within Turkey.

Mr. Speaker, the timing of this sale is peculiar to say the least. The Foreign Operations appropriations bill includes a cut in economic assistance to Turkey. This provision, which has strong bipartisan support, was enacted in response to the concerns cited above. We believe that the message we are trying to send with this provision would be undermined by approving a new sale of military hardware at this time. In Ankara, the conclusion would inevitably be that, beyond limited symbolic measures, Americans do not take seriously the shocking breaches of international law and decency committed in the name of the Turkish Government.

The proposed transaction represents the first sale of these weapons to any foreign nation. The Turkish military track record is not consistent with what we would expect of any recipient of United States arms, much less a NATO member. The Human Rights Arms Project has cited numerous examples of the indiscriminate use of weapons by Turkish forces in Kurdish civilian areas. We are also concerned about the evidence strongly linking Turkey to unauthorized transfers of United States and NATO weapons to the Republic of Azerbaijan.

While it is our contention that the weapons sale should be halted entirely, in our letter to the President we recommended that, at the very least, strong conditions governing the use and transfer of these weapons be attached to any sale, and that these conditions be strongly enforced.

Mr. Speaker, this sale has been strongly opposed by Greek-American,

Armenian-American, and Kurdish-American organizations, as well as Human Rights Watch, the Council for a Liveable World, and the Federation of American Scientists. And for good reason.

Turkey claims it needs the ATACMS as a deep strike weapon against the threat of tanks in Syria, Iraq, and Iran. Yet, in Greece, Turkey's neighbor to the west, there is deep concern about the threat posed by these offensive weapons. In the regional arms race, Turkey already has a substantial edge, with F-16 fighter jets, attack helicopters, and antiarmor missiles. In addition Turkey has imported more than 1,000 tanks from the United States alone in the past 5 years.

The Government of Turkey is conducting a war against the Kurds within Turkey and has made incursions into Kurdish areas of Iraq, resulting in thousands of civilian casualties and millions of refugees. This cruel war is one part of an overall effort to essentially negate the Kurdish people as a distinct entity within Turkey. Many people are concerned that these missiles could be used as part of this military campaign, resulting in terrible civilian casualties.

Also, Turkey continues its occupation of one-third of the territory of Cyprus, having declared a "Northern Republic of Cyprus," an entity that has no international recognition, and resisting good-faith efforts of the United States, Greece, and other nations and international bodies to end the conflict. The occupation of Cyprus is well into its 21st year. There is no sign that it will end if we continue to send the message to Ankara that there are no significant consequences to this illegal occupation, and that our protests are largely symbolic and rhetorical.

Another illegal and immoral Turkish Government policy is the blockade of its border with the Republic of Armenia. This blockade has blocked the delivery of American humanitarian aid to Armenia and complicated its delivery. In the foreign ops bill, we have language, with strong bipartisan support, known as the Humanitarian Aid Corridor Act, which restricts aid to those countries that block the delivery of aid to other nations. Although the language does not mention Turkey by name, clearly that is the country that would be targeted.

Why are we taking these seemingly significant legislative steps—Humanitarian Aid Corridor Act, cutting aid to Turkey—and then turning around and giving them this terrible weapon system?

Mr. Speaker, we also have to worry about whether Turkey will see fit to transfer this technology—our technology—to other nations. Strong evidence has linked Turkey to the unauthorized transfer of United States and North Atlantic Treaty Organization weapons to the Republic of Azerbaijan. Azerbaijan and Armenia are engaged in a tense conflict over the region of Nagorno-Karabagh. A tenuous cease-fire is holding, and the administration

has recognized the importance of resolving this crisis by appointing a special negotiator with the rank of Ambassador. Why, again, do we turn around and take steps that will potentially undermine our efforts to negotiate a just and lasting resolution to this conflict?

International human rights organizations continue to cite Turkey for egregious violations of the basic human rights and freedoms of its own citizens. Earlier this year, an American journalist was jailed in Turkey because of her reporting on the campaign against the Kurds. She was released, thank God. Unfortunately, there has not been such a happy ending for those few brave Turkish journalists and human rights activists who try to tell their countrymen and the world the truth about what's going on. These brave souls languish in prison, largely forgotten by all but a few friends and supporters.

Mr. Speaker, I am very discouraged and disappointed by the reaction of Western governments—not only our own—to Turkey's continued flouting of international law and standards of decency. Just last week, the European Union admitted Turkey into its Customs Union, a likely first step toward full membership in the EU—despite the strong objections from many legislators and activists on the other side of the Atlantic.

Why are we doing this? Sadly, we are witnessing the triumph of Realpolitik, in other words, putting economic or strategic interests ahead of our own values. The argument is that we need Turkey because of its strategic location and as a bulwark against Islamic fundamentalism. Well, in the first place, I believe that these goals could be achieved by more positive means than weapons sales. But I also wonder whether we're making a terrible strategic mistake over the long term, investing billions, sending our most advanced weapons and otherwise hurting America's good name by associating with a regime that isn't very stable and may collapse anyway.

While it may be too late to stop this ill-advised weapons sale, I urge all my colleagues to work with me and other Members of this House to stop coddling the regime in Ankara, to stand with Turkey's neighbors, and to stop basing our foreign policy on the bad bet represented by the Government of Turkey.

It may be too late to stop this ill-advised weapons sale to Turkey. I urge all of my colleagues to work with me and other Members of this House to stop coddling the regime in Ankara, to stand with Turkey's neighbors, and to stop basing our foreign policy on the bad debt represented by the Government of Turkey.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New Jersey [Mr. SAXTON] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. SAXTON addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Illinois [Mr. POSHARD] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. POSHARD addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]