

The legislature of the Virgin Islands, in 1970 designated January 15, the birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. as a legal holiday, in the Virgin Islands. The legislation was proposed by the Committee of the Whole, which included senators John L. Maduro; Randall N. James, David Puritz; Earle B. Ottley; Augustin Doward; Louis P. Hestres; Horace A. Callwood; Alexander A. Farrelly; Santiago Garcia; David M. Hamilton; Arnold M. Golden; Frits E. Lawaets; Theovald E. Moorehead; Aureo Diaz Morales; and Percival H. Reese. It was received at the legislative desk February 2, 1970, reported, read in full and adopted February 2, 1970 transmitted to the Governor February 5, 1970 and approved February 16, 1970, to become effective in 1971.

This legislation became bill No. 4293 which states: It is most fitting and proper that the anniversary of the birth of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. be set aside each year as a day to honor the memory of a leader who symbolized the freedom and faith of America. The life, works, and philosophy of Dr. King brings to Americans and Virgin Islanders the hope and dream that what he stood for will one day become a reality. All Virgin Islanders and particularly our youth, may take comfort and gain encouragement from the life of this great apostle of non-violence who sought through constructive measures justice and liberty for all mankind. We Virgin Islanders have long prided ourselves in having attained the liberty, justice, and brotherhood for which Martin Luther King gave his life. Therefore, let us annually, on January 15, commemorate Dr. King and examine our hearts to determine that we are honoring the dream and fulfilling the vision of brotherhood, justice, and individual liberty that gave true purpose to the life and works of Martin Luther King.

The passage of this legislation made the Virgin Islands the only place under the U.S. flag to legally celebrate the birthday of Dr. King, which also gives it historical significance. Mr. Speaker, on the 25th anniversary of the passage of this historic legislation by the eighth legislature of the Virgin Islands, I pay tribute to those individuals for their leadership and foresight. Because 13 years later in 1983, as outlined in Public Law 98-144, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday became a national holiday.

SUPPORT PEACE, DEMOCRACY,
AND JUSTICE FOR ALL OF TUR-
KEY'S CITIZENS

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 25, 1996

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer a resolution advocating a peaceful end to the conflict between the Turkish Government and Kurdish militants. The ongoing war undermines the very foundations of both the Turkish State and our bilateral relations and its persistence challenges the desires of the United States and Turkish Governments to establish a secure, long-term relationship. For the sake of the people of Turkey, the end of the conflict will strengthen Turkish democracy, help eliminate the scourge of terrorism, resuscitate a shaky economy and promote regional stability.

Mr. Speaker, Turkey is home to half of the world's 25 million Kurds and has experienced 28 Kurdish uprisings in the past century. Since 1984, more than 20,000 people have died in clashes among security forces, the Kurdistan Workers Party [PKK] and shadowy Moslem fundamentalist groups. In the past 3 years, security forces forcibly evacuated or destroyed more than 2,650 villages in southeast Turkey and displaced more than 3 million people. Villagers have been rounded up by security officials and subjected to beatings, mass arrests and intimidation. Death squads, believed connected to security forces and fundamentalists, have been responsible for hundreds of extrajudicial killings and disappearances. PKK fighters have also snuffed out the lives of innocent civilians. Each month there are reports of individuals killed in detention and torture remains widespread in cases involving political charges. Eight southwestern Turkish provinces are under a constant state of emergency authorizing local authorities to curb political and media activity.

Mr. Speaker, successive Turkish Governments have viewed the PKK solely as a terrorist phenomenon undermining its sovereignty and dividing the country along ethnic lines. The Government has dismissed as propaganda recent PKK statements renouncing violence and separatism and calling for peaceful and lasting political solutions. Turkey's Government has given the military free reign in responding to the PKK, and its heavy-handed approach has also stifled legitimate Kurdish political voices.

Mr. Speaker, in southeastern Turkey, citizens are often forced to choose between supporting the guerrillas and risking violent reprisal by Turkish security—or not helping and facing equally harsh PKK retribution. Locals believed to be sympathetic to Turkish authorities have been executed by the PKK. Eleven years of violence has polarized Turks and Kurds and threatens to rend Turkish society along ethnic lines. Kurds, resentful of military abuses, become more supportive of the PKK. Turks, angered by the costs and brutality of terrorism, become increasingly intolerant of the rights of Kurdish citizens.

Mr. Speaker, no one disputes Turkey's key role in preserving U.S. strategic, political and economic interests in a critical region. However, the inability of successive Turkish Governments to resolve the Kurdish crisis remains an obstacle to improved ties and enables persistent human rights problems to stunt Turkey's democratic development. The time has come for Turkey's true friends and supporters to call on all sides in the conflict to abandon violence and settle their differences peacefully, democratically and within the framework of the territorial unity of the Republic of Turkey. Following recent elections, Turkey's Government finds itself in a state of protracted paralysis. Observers believe that any new government is unlikely to offer substantially new approaches to the Kurdish issue because of prevailing nationalist sentiments and the possibility of new elections in the near future. Additionally, Turkey's military supports the war in southeast Turkey, although its approach has failed to do anything but foster local support for the PKK.

Mr. Speaker, I have learned from our experiences dealing with the PLO and Israel, the ANC and South Africa, and the IRA and Britain, that the longer it takes to begin reconciliation, the harder it becomes to look beyond

the bloodshed and suffering. Mr. Speaker, violence will not resolve this conflict. The time for dialog is long overdue.

Mr. Speaker, the U.S. Government has often been instrumental in promoting peace in troubled areas. So too should we demonstrate our commitment to encouraging the resolution of this destructive and bloody conflict. The resolution which I am introducing, along with Mr. STENY HOYER, ranking minority member of the Helsinki Commission, is an important first step in this direction. I would ask our colleagues to join us in cosponsoring this resolution. I ask that the language of the resolution be printed in the RECORD at this time.

H. CON. RES. _____

Whereas armed conflict has existed in southeastern Turkey since 1984, and the entire region has been placed under a state of emergency since 1987;

Whereas the human toll of this conflict has been great, with the loss of more than 20,000 lives, the displacement of more than 3,000,000 civilians, and the destruction of more than 2,650 Kurdish villages;

Whereas free expression in Turkey is restricted by laws which criminalize non-violent expression, resulting in the incarceration of journalists, writers, academics, human rights activists, and others as political prisoners;

Whereas in the past 2 years, 13 Kurdish members of Turkey's parliament have been removed from office, jailed, or exiled for expressing political opinions or having alleged contacts with the illegal Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK);

Whereas Kurdish citizens of Turkey have been denied certain basic political and civil rights such as the right to full and free participation in political life, the right to be educated in their mother language, and the right to freely write and publish materials in the Kurdish language;

Whereas the conflict between Kurdish guerrillas and Turkish armed forces has spilled over Turkey's borders and threatens the stability of the region;

Whereas the escalating conflict poses grave threats to economic stability and the existing political order and prevents realization of full-fledged democracy;

Whereas international and local humanitarian organizations, including the International Committee of the Red Cross, have been denied access to southeastern Turkey;

Whereas terrorism poses a grave threat to human rights and violates international law;

Whereas Turkey's leaders have made commitments to building a democratic society and have made significant progress in realizing this goal;

Whereas the Government of Turkey has acceded to upholding international human rights agreements, including the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Geneva Conventions, and the Helsinki Final Act;

Whereas Turkey, a member of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, is an important strategic and economic partner of the United States;

Whereas long-term strategic and economic interests of the United States are jeopardized by the continuing conflict in Turkey;

Whereas after 11 years, Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) guerrilla leaders have offered to lay down their weapons;

Whereas a military solution to the Kurdish question in Turkey is not possible, and only a nonviolent political solution can bring peace, stability, full democracy, and prosperity to Turkey; and

Whereas such a solution must be sought and implemented within the framework of

the territorial unity of the Republic of Turkey: Now, therefore, be it

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

(1) the Government of Turkey should immediately release all political prisoners and lift restrictions on free expression and thereby enable all Turkish citizens, including those of Kurdish origin, to enjoy the political and cultural rights of peoples in all democratic countries;

(2) the President should take every opportunity to encourage the Government of Turkey to initiate steps to end the armed confrontation in that country;

(3) the Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) should declare a cease-fire and restate support for resolution of the conflict through democratic means and within the framework of the territorial unity of the Republic of Turkey;

(4) the Government of Turkey should declare a cease-fire and reaffirm a foundation upon which its Republic is based: "Peace at home. Peace in the world";

(5) upon cessation of hostilities, the International Committee of the Red Cross and other appropriate humanitarian and monitoring organizations should be given access to southeastern Turkey;

(6) the Government of Turkey should take steps to further reduce the potential for future confrontation, including—

(A) allowing all political parties committed to nonviolence to participate in Turkish political life;

(B) repealing the state of emergency in southeastern Turkey;

(C) dismantling the paramilitary "village guard" system;

(D) lifting all constraints on the dissemination in the Kurdish language of television and radio broadcasts, print, music, and other media;

(E) allowing schools to offer instructions in the Kurdish language; and

(F) establishing consultative mechanisms to defuse sources of conflict and propose strategies to resolve current crisis in southeastern Turkey; and

(7) the President should support providing technical assistance to carry out paragraphs (1) through (6).

SAMSHA REGULATIONS

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 25, 1996

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I came to the floor last August to express my opposition to Food and Drug Administration [FDA] Commissioner David Kessler's unilateral move to regulate tobacco products.

I said that I supported the President's goal in reducing underage use of tobacco products, but the answer was not FDA regulation. Thirteen Federal agencies already regulate tobacco.

I remarked that Congress had already spoken on the matter of youth access to tobacco products by passing the Synar amendment to the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration [SAMHSA]. I encouraged the President to direct the Health and Human Services [HHS] to release the final SAMHSA regulations so the will of Congress can proceed.

Mr. Speaker, I come to the floor today—6 months later—to express my support for the

final SAMHSA regulations. Now everyone can join hands and work together toward a common goal.

The actions called for in the regulations are the most immediate and effective way to make positive gains in reducing youth access to tobacco products. The regulations recognize that the individual States—all of which have laws on the books which prohibit minors from purchasing tobacco products—are better equipped to enforce these laws than the Federal Government.

Under the regulations, States are required to enforce their laws preventing the sale of tobacco to minors in a manner that is at least 80-percent effective. States will have to conduct annual random, unannounced inspections to ensure compliance with the law. In addition, each State will be required to submit an annual report detailing its activities and its overall success.

Mr. Speaker, the issue here is not whether juvenile use of tobacco products should be curbed. Everyone agrees it must be. Rather, the question is how best can we make immediate and effective advances. Commissioner Kessler's unilateral attempt to create jurisdiction is not the answer. Over 3 years ago, Congress overwhelmingly asserted its commitment to prohibiting minors from purchasing tobacco products. Finally, Mr. Speaker, we now have the ability to start down the road of progress.

INDIA REPUBLIC DAY: A CELEBRATION OF 46 YEARS OF DEMOCRACY

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 25, 1996

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, tomorrow, January 26, is a date of enormous significance for all the people of India, and for the many sons and daughters of India living in the United States and around the world. January 26 marks the celebration of Republic Day, a national holiday that holds the same significance for Indians as the Fourth of July does for Americans.

On January 26, 1950, India became a Republic. The country adopted a Constitution which enshrined the principles of democracy and secularism. At that time, Dr. Rajendra Prasad was elected as the nation's first President. Since then, despite the challenges of sustaining economic development while reconciling her many ethnic, religious and linguistic communities, India has stuck to the path of free and fair elections, a multi-party political system and the orderly transfer of power from one government to its successor.

Since many Americans may be unfamiliar with the anniversary that the people of India celebrate tomorrow, I would like to draw particular attention to the similarities and shared values of the United States and India. The framers of the Indian Constitution drew inspiration from our own Constitution and its Bill of Rights. Both of our countries are former British colonies that gained their freedom after a long and difficult struggle. English continues to be an important language of commerce in India, while the principles of common law continues to shape the nation's judicial system. Many Americans almost instinctively saw in Ma-

hatma Gandhi a reflection of values that our country holds dear. During this month when we celebrate the birthday of one of America's greatest heroes, Martin Luther King, Jr., we should remember that Dr. King derived many of his ideas of non-violent resistance to injustice from the teachings, actions and self-sacrifice of Gandhi.

Mr. Speaker, I am happy to report that United States-India relations are continuing their trend toward greater cooperation and partnership on many key issues. Last year was marked by an unprecedented flurry of visits—in both directions—from leading government and private sector officials from both countries. Three United States Cabinet Secretaries travelled to India during 1995, and major contracts valued in the billions of dollars were concluded. In my capacity as cochairman of the Congressional Caucus on India and Indian-Americans, I am proud that our bipartisan Congressional Member Organization has been able to host forums for Members of Congress to hear from these distinguished Indian leaders, including Cabinet Ministers, Members of Parliament, opposition leaders and the heads of major firms and trade organizations. In 1996, I hope we in Congress will continue to make it a high priority to continue this momentum and move it forward. The steady improvement in United States-India relations will benefit the people of both of our countries.

In addition, Mr. Speaker, I want to point out that Republic Day will be celebrated by the one million Asian Indians here in America, a community of hard-working, family-oriented people who have contributed greatly to their new country while maintaining pride and devotion to their motherland.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, Republic Day 1996 marks one of the final events to be presided over by Ambassador Siddhartha Shankar Ray. After more than 3 years of representing his country in Washington, Ambassador Ray is returning home and returning to the political fray in this year's parliamentary elections. I would like to take this opportunity to wish a fond farewell to the Ambassador and his wife Maya Ray, herself a barrister, former Member of Parliament and an effective representative for her country before the international community.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor for me, an elected Representative of the oldest continuous democratic republic on Earth, to pay tribute to the world's most populous democracy on the occasion of their great national day.

IN MEMORY OF AMBER HAGERMAN

HON. MARTIN FROST

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 25, 1996

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a few moments to apprise my colleagues of a tragic incident which recently occurred in my congressional district.

Earlier this month, Amber Hagerman, a 9-year-old girl from Arlington, was kidnapped and murdered. The autopsy has not yet been completed; however, it is likely that Amber was sexually assaulted.

The crime has sparked national outrage over the brutality of the incident. Amber was