

and civilian employees of the Department of Defense, intelligence community, Foreign Service community, and other Federal agencies who contributed to the victory in the cold war.

Mr. Speaker, our Nation's victory over the Soviet Union and the Warsaw Pact brought to an end over 40 years of East-West confrontation. The gentleman from New York [Mr. LAZIO] is to be commended for bringing forward this resolution to recognize the men and women who served our Nation with skill, determination, and discipline during the cold war. It takes a thoughtful man of Mr. LAZIO's caliber to understand the historical importance of this resolution that so many of us simply overlooked. In our haste to celebrate a victory that most of us took for granted, it would have been very easy to chalk it up as just another landmark in the history of the United States. It was RICK LAZIO's resolution that made us pause, consider the struggle we had engaged for so many years, and give thanks to the people that sacrificed so much to gain the victory. The cold war victory is a monumental landmark in the history of the United States and thank God we had RICK LAZIO in the Congress to ensure the people who won that great victory are not forgotten.

The winning of the cold war required the concerted effort of all America, however, it was the people who serve our Nation in the military and throughout government as civilian employees who fought in the trenches of the cold war. It is these lives that we honor with this resolution. It is to these people we owe our heartfelt gratitude for their service.

Again, I commend again the gentleman from New York for this excellent resolution and I urge my colleagues to vote "yes" on House Concurrent Resolution 180. Please let's make it unanimous.

Mr. PICKETT. 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 California [Mr. DORNAN] that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, House Concurrent Resolution 180, as amended.

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

The title was amended so as to read: "Concurrent resolution commending the members of the Armed Forces and civilian personnel of the Government who served the United States faithfully during the Cold War."

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

CONCERNING REMOVAL OF RUSSIAN FORCES FROM MOLDOVA

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 145) concerning the removal of Russian Armed Forces from Moldova.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. CON. RES. 145

Whereas the United States Government has recognized and continues to emphasize

its commitment to the independence and territorial integrity of the sovereign nation of Moldova;

Whereas units of the former Soviet 14th Army of the Russian Federation continue to be deployed on the territory of the sovereign nation of Moldova against the wishes of the government and the majority of the people of Moldova;

Whereas the Prime Minister of Russia and the Prime Minister of Moldova signed an agreement on October 21, 1994, according to which Russia would withdraw its military forces from Moldova within three years;

Whereas in the period since the agreement was signed, there have been negligible force reductions of the Russian Army in Moldova;

Whereas the Organization on Security and Cooperation in Europe has been engaged in efforts to resolve differences between the Government of Moldova and the authorities of the Transnistria region where the Russian Army continues to be deployed, and the Government of Ukraine has offered to use its good offices to assist in these efforts; and

Whereas the Parliamentary Assembly of the Organization on Security and Cooperation in Europe has passed a resolution calling for the "most rapid, continuing, unconditional, and full withdrawal" of the 14th Army of the Russian Federation: Now, therefore, be it

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

(1) calls upon the Government of the Russian Federation to adhere to the provisions of the troop withdrawal agreement signed on October 21, 1994;

(2) welcomes recent statements by the Administration supporting Moldova's territorial integrity, and urges the Secretary of State to use every appropriate opportunity and means, including multilateral and bilateral diplomacy, to secure removal of Russian military forces from Moldova in accordance with the terms of the troop withdrawal agreement;

(3) urges all of Moldova's neighboring countries to recognize the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Moldova; and

(4) urges the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe to continue its efforts in resolving differences between the government of Moldova and the authorities of the Transnistria region, and welcomes the offer by the Government of Ukraine to assist in these efforts.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New York [Mr. GILMAN] and the gentleman from American Samoa [Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA] each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York [Mr. GILMAN].

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of House Concurrent Resolution 145, which calls for the withdrawal of Russian troops from the sovereign and independent state of Moldova.

House Concurrent Resolution 145 speaks to the situation in Moldova with regard to the unwanted presence of Russian troops there, but, in speaking to that specific case, the resolution touches on a much larger problem concerning Russia's relations with its neighbors.

Mr. Speaker, the breakup of the Soviet Union in 1991 left Russia with access to a number of Soviet military facilities located on the territory of New

Independent States such as Moldova. Unfortunately, for the last 3 years, rather than working sincerely to withdraw from those facilities, Russia has become more intent on maintaining its control of such bases.

To persuade these New Independent States to agree to such military bases, Russia has employed economic pressure and manipulation of ethnic conflicts, real and potential, in those states.

While Georgia and Armenia have now agreed to Russian military bases and border guards, Moldova and its eastern neighbor, Ukraine, are still seeking the removal of Russian-controlled military facilities from their territory.

On September 4, the House of Representatives passed House Concurrent Resolution 120, which calls on Russia to recognize Ukraine's sovereignty. The resolution before the House today calls on all of Moldova's neighbors to recognize its sovereignty—and on Russia to remove its military units from Moldova.

That is the right thing for Russia to do, particularly if it insists that the rest of the world respect Russia's own sovereignty.

Mr. Speaker, I want to commend my colleague on the House International Relations Committee, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, for his work to bring this resolution to the floor today.

I hope that it will enjoy the support of all of my colleagues.

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

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

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

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

I commend the chairman of the Committee on International Relations and certainly the gentleman from New Jersey, who is the chief sponsor of this resolution, for bringing it before the floor of the House.

The conflict in Moldova has gone on too long, Mr. Speaker. The sides should intensify efforts to reach a political solution. Russian troops are in Moldova against the expressed wish of the Moldovan Government. Russia agreed and signed an agreement to withdraw its forces. The Congress here is calling on Russia to do the right thing and abide by that agreement.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

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

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from New Jersey [Mr. SMITH], the distinguished subcommittee chairman of our committee.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I thank my good friend, the gentleman from New York [Mr. GILMAN], for yielding me this time, and I

want to thank him for his help and the gentleman from Indiana [Mr. HAMILTON], in bringing House Concurrent Resolution 145 which calls upon the Russian Government to remove its armed forces from the sovereign nation of Moldova.

The Government of the Russian Federation is being called upon to adhere to its agreement of October 21, 1994, with the Moldovan Government and withdraw its military forces and equipment from Moldova within a 3-year timeframe. The resolution further urges the Secretary of State to use every appropriate opportunity and means to secure such removal, urges all of the Moldovan neighbors to recognize the sovereignty and the territorial integrity of Moldova and urges the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe to continue its efforts in resolving the differences between that country and its neighbors to welcome the offer of the Government of Ukraine to assist in those efforts.

Mr. Speaker, very simply, Moldova, a nation which recently celebrated its fifth year of independence, is the last of the New Independent States in which Russian military forces are stationed without a specific agreement with the host government for their deployment. These forces, estimated at between 5,000 to 6,000 soldiers, are the remnants of the Soviet 14th Army stationed exclusively in the eastern region of Moldova.

While some Russian equipment has reportedly been moved out and some ammunition has been destroyed, there has been little progress in the removal of the military personnel, as called for in the 1994 agreement.

Mr. Speaker, the administration has indicated its support for this resolution and, hopefully, this pressure, this push, combined with statements by the Council of Europe and others will let the Russians know that we are very serious. This vestige of Russian troops who remain there needs to leave. They are not wanted, they are not welcome and they are certainly not needed. This resolution puts us on record in that regard.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support House Concurrent Resolution 145, which calls upon the Russian Government to remove its armed forces from the sovereign nation of Moldova. I thank Mr. GILMAN, chairman of the House International Relations Committee, and Mr. HAMILTON, the ranking minority member of the committee, for their support for this resolution.

The Government of the Russian Federation is being called upon to adhere to its agreement of October 21, 1994, with the Moldovan Government and withdraw its military forces and equipment from Moldova within a 3-year timeframe. The resolution further urges the Secretary of State to use every appropriate opportunity and means to secure such removal; urges all of Moldova's neighbors to recognize the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Moldova; urges the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe [OSCE] to continue its efforts in resolving differences be-

tween the Government of Moldova and the authorities of the Transdniestria region; and welcomes the offer by the Government of Ukraine to assist in these efforts.

Mr. Speaker, Moldova, a nation which recently celebrated its fifth year of independence, is the last of the New Independent States in which Russian military forces are stationed without a specific agreement with the host government for their deployment. These forces, estimated at between 5,000 and 6,000, are the remnants of the Soviet 14th Army, stationed exclusively in the eastern Transdniestria region of Moldova. While some Russian equipment has reportedly been moved out, and some ammunition has been destroyed, there has been little progress in the removal of military personnel, as called for in the 1994 agreement.

Mr. Speaker, the administration has indicated its support for this resolution. During his meeting with Moldovan President Snegur in February 1995, President Clinton stated that the United States expects the 1994 agreement to be implemented on time. The State Department has reported that it "intends to continue to take advantage of every opportunity to encourage the removal of Russian military forces from Moldova in accordance with the terms of the troop withdrawal agreement."

The Moldovan Government supports this resolution.

Our European friends are also concerned about this issue. Both the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly and the Council of Europe have passed resolutions calling for the removal of the Russian military forces from Moldova.

Although the Russian Duma has yet to approve the 1994 treaty, the Russian Government is on record as saying it expects to abide by the agreement. Moreover, when the Russian Federation was admitted into the Council of Europe earlier this year, one of the stipulations for admission was that Russia would, and I quote:

*** ratify, in a period of six months after the accessions of Russia to the Council of Europe, the Agreement of 21 October 1994 between the Russian and Moldovan Governments to continue the withdrawal of the 14th Army and its equipment from the territory of Moldova, within a time-limit of three years from the date of signature of the agreement.

Having agreed to this, and several other stipulations for membership, the Russian Federation became a member of the Council of Europe on February 28, 1996.

Mr. Speaker, the pending resolution does not attempt to dictate foreign policy to the Russian Federation, but merely asks the Russian Government to fulfill the agreement it made in 1994. In an era when NATO is exploring establishment of a special security relationship with Russia, I believe we should go on record expressing our concern that Moscow should act in good faith and remove its military forces from a sovereign state which poses no threat to Russian security.

Simply put, Russian armed forces are neither wanted nor needed in Moldova. I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from New York [Mr. SOLOMON], the distinguished chairman of the Committee on Rules, a former member of our House Committee on International Relations.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from New Jersey for his supportive remarks.

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, I certainly thank the chairman of the Committee on International Relations, the gentleman from New York [Mr. GILMAN], and I want to tell the gentleman I still miss that committee. It is still one of the best committees in the Congress to serve on.

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. SOLOMON. I yield to the gentleman from New York.

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I want the gentleman to know that we miss his indulgence and work on our committee.

Mr. SOLOMON. I thank the gentleman.

Mr. Speaker, today, like the other Members, I am rising to support this resolution calling for the removal of Russian troops from Moldova, and I commend the gentleman from New Jersey, Mr. SMITH, for taking the lead on a very vital and important issue, especially Chairman GILMAN, for his leadership on all of these important issues.

Mr. Speaker, there is a forgotten country in Europe and it is called Moldova. In 1939 when Adolph Hitler and Joseph Stalin conspired to carve up Central Europe, a place called Moldova was ceded, so to speak, to the Soviet Union, and that was a disgrace.

Subsequent to this insidious and evil Nazi-Soviet Pact, Stalin's Red army invaded and annexed Moldova along with eastern Poland and the Baltic States as well. Some of the worst human rights violations in the history of this whole world took place after that happened. As we all know, Poland received its freedom and independence in 1989 with Soviet troops leaving shortly thereafter. The Baltic States gained their independence in 1991 though Russian troops intransigently remained until 1994.

Forgotten in our joy over these positive developments, however, is the fact that tiny Moldova, though it gained its independence in 1991, remains occupied by 7,000 troops of the Russian 14th Army, partly paid for by American foreign aid dollars, and that is the disgraceful part of this whole thing. They have no more right to be there today than Stalin did almost 50 years ago.

Frankly, when you consider that we are giving the Russian Government tens of billions of American taxpayer dollars, we should demand that the Russians leave Moldova. They ought to leave today, not tomorrow or new week or next month or next year.

The Moldovans have a right to get on with the task of building their new democracy without outside interference. By all reports, Moldova is handling this task quite well, all things considered. Moldova has received high marks from the administration for its economic reform efforts, has made good strides toward establishing democratic institutions and has been a good neighbor in the region of Central Europe and

has been a vigorous participant in NATO-related activities, NATO-related activities which keep peace in the whole area.

Moldova's desire to become a part of Western institutions, Mr. Speaker, is so important, and for that we should be grateful. For that we should support Moldova's efforts to free itself from Russian occupation.

We can serve both of these ends by passing this resolution unanimously here today, and I urge support for that. Again my hat is off to Chairman GILMAN and to the gentleman from New Jersey, CHRIS SMITH, for bringing this vital legislation to this floor.

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume to thank the gentleman from New York [Mr. SOLOMON] for his supportive remarks. He has been a consistent supporter of doing the right thing in the former Soviet states.

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

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time, and I again urge the adoption of this resolution.

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 145.

The question was taken.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. 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.

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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 the subject of the measure just considered.

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

There was no objection.

REGARDING UNITED STATES MEMBERSHIP IN SOUTH PACIFIC ORGANIZATIONS

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 189) expressing the sense of the Congress regarding the importance of United States membership in regional South Pacific organizations, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. CON. RES. 189

Whereas the United States and the South Pacific region enjoy a close and historic

partnership built on a strong foundation of shared values and an unshakable commitment to democracy, development, and human rights;

Whereas the Pacific Island Nations and Governments, together with New Zealand and Australia, share many of the global objectives of the United States, including the nonproliferation of nuclear weapons, the protection of unique ecosystems, and sustainable economic development consistent with good resource management practices;

Whereas the United States, through support of the East-West Center in Hawaii, has facilitated establishment of the Pacific Islands Conference, wherein the heads of Pacific Island governments have met triennially to target critical research in furtherance of the region's trade, environment, and development; and

Whereas the United States is a member of the regional economic and social development body, the South Pacific Commission, participates in and plans to become a party to the regional environment body, the South Pacific Regional Environment Program, as well as being a dialogue partner for the regional political body, the South Pacific Forum: Now, therefore, be it

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

(1) recognizes the traditional and close ties between the United States and the South Pacific region and reaffirms the value of these ties;

(2)(A) notes the need to continue to support the efforts of the nations and governments of the region to enhance the sustainable development of the more fragile island economies and their integration into the regional economy, while helping to ensure the protection of the unique ecosystems of the region; and

(B) recognizes the efforts of the East-West Center and Pacific Islands Conference in furtherance of the efforts described in subparagraph (A);

(3) commands the South Pacific Commission for the process of managerial and organizational reform currently being undertaken, and recognizes the important role the United States financial contribution to, and participation in, the organization makes in assisting it to realize the gradual economic self-sufficiency to all members of the organization; and

(4) reaffirms the commitment of the United States as a member of the South Pacific Commission and a participant in the South Pacific Regional Environment Programme, and a member of the post-Forum dialogue partnership of the United States with the South Pacific Forum.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New York [Mr. GILMAN] and the gentleman from American Samoa [Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA] each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York [Mr. GILMAN].

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, I want to thank the chairman and ranking minority member of our Asia and Pacific Subcommittee for this support of House Concurrent Resolution 189, a resolution expressing the sense of the Congress regarding the importance of United States membership in regional South Pacific organizations.

In the post colonial era, regional cooperation has become one of the key elements in the development of the South Pacific. While the programs that the South Pacific Commission, the South Pacific Regional Environment Program and other regional organizations undertake are small in scale, the impact on regional stability is critical. In short the small investment is for a high return.

Nations in the South Pacific share our values and a commitment to the democratic process. These values are of course also shared by our friends in the North Pacific, many of whom such as the Federated States of Micronesia and the Republic of the Marshall Islands are also members of these important regional organizations. Their support has been important to the United States in the United Nations and other international fora. However, we cannot continue to take it for granted.

In the post-cold-war era we need to ensure that we remain engaged in this key strategic region on the doorstep of Asia. In order to do this we must continue to support the work of regional organizations such as the South Pacific Commission, the South Pacific Regional Environment Program and the South Pacific Forum.

Accordingly, I urge my colleagues to support the resolution.

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

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

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Guam [Mr. UNDERWOOD], a distinguished colleague and friend of mine, a very valued member of the Committee on National Security.

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me the time.

I want to extend my personal congratulations to the gentleman from New York [Mr. GILMAN], the gentleman from Nebraska [Mr. BEREUTER], the gentleman from American Samoa [Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA], and the gentleman from California [Mr. BERMAN], for co-sponsoring this resolution. This resolution draws attention to some very important islands and a very important ocean in this world and it is perhaps a mark of the changing world dynamics that we have to seek through a resolution to bring attention to this. I also want to personally thank the chairman of the subcommittee, Mr. BEREUTER, for his hearing yesterday in which he drew attention to the condition of the freely associated States in the North Pacific.

I have to make the point that as a former social studies teacher, although this resolution refers to areas in the South Pacific, that it includes the Northern Pacific as well, as indicated by Mr. GILMAN. Those of us who live in the Northern Pacific are sometimes lumped as part of the South Pacific, and it is an important item at least to those of us who live north of the equator.