

"(i) has 1 or more prior convictions for an offense described in subsection (a)(1)(A); or
 "(ii) has been convicted of an aggravated offense described in subsection (a)(1)(A); or
 "(iii) has been determined to be a sexually violent predator pursuant to subsection (a)(2)."

SEC. 4. STATE BOARDS.

Section 170101(a)(2) of the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994 (42 U.S.C. 14071(a)(2)) is amended by inserting before the period at the end the following: ", victim rights advocates, and representatives from law enforcement agencies".

SEC. 5. FINGERPRINTS.

Section 170101 of the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994 (42 U.S.C. 14071) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

"(g) FINGERPRINTS.—Each requirement to register under this section shall be deemed to also require the submission of a set of fingerprints of the person required to register, obtained in accordance with regulations prescribed by the Attorney General under section 170102(h)."

SEC. 6. VERIFICATION.

Section 170101(b)(3)(A)(iii) of the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994 (42 U.S.C. 14071(b)(3)(A)(iii)) is amended by adding at the end the following: "The person shall include with the verification form, fingerprints and a photograph of that person."

SEC. 7. REGISTRATION INFORMATION.

Section 170101(b)(2) of the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994 (42 U.S.C. 14071(b)(2)) is amended to read as follows:

"(2) TRANSFER OF INFORMATION TO STATE AND THE FBI.—The officer, or in the case of a person placed on probation, the court, shall, within 3 days after receipt of information described in paragraph (1), forward it to a designated State law enforcement agency. The State law enforcement agency shall immediately enter the information into the appropriate State law enforcement record system and notify the appropriate law enforcement agency having jurisdiction where the person expects to reside. The State law enforcement agency shall also immediately transmit all information described in paragraph (1) to the Federal Bureau of Investigation for inclusion in the FBI database described in section 170102."

SEC. 8. IMMUNITY FOR GOOD FAITH CONDUCT.

State and Federal law enforcement agencies, employees of State and Federal law enforcement agencies, and State and Federal officials shall be immune from liability for good faith conduct under section 170102.

SEC. 9. REGULATIONS.

Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Attorney General shall issue regulations to carry out this Act and the amendments made by this Act.

SEC. 10. EFFECTIVE DATE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—This Act and the amendments made by this Act shall become effective 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act.

(b) COMPLIANCE BY STATES.—Each State shall implement the amendments made by sections 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7 of this Act not later than 3 years after the date of enactment of this Act, except that the Attorney General may grant an additional 2 years to a State that is making good faith efforts to implement such amendments.

(c) INELIGIBILITY FOR FUNDS.—

(1) A State that fails to implement the program as described in section 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7 of this Act shall not receive 10 percent of the funds that would otherwise be allocated to the State under section 506 of the Omnibus

Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 3765).

(2) Any funds that are not allocated for failure to comply with section 3, 4, 5, 6, or 7 of this Act shall be reallocated to States that comply with these sections.

SEC. 11. SEVERABILITY.

If any provision of this Act, an amendment made by this Act, or the application of such provision or amendment to any person or circumstance is held to be unconstitutional, the remainder of this Act, the amendments made by this Act, and the application of the provisions of such to any person or circumstance shall not be affected thereby.

The Senate bill was ordered to be read a third time, was read the third time, and passed, and a motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

A similar House bill (H.R. 3456) was laid on the table.

REMOVAL OF RUSSIAN TROOPS FROM KALININGRAD

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 51) expressing the sense of the Congress relating to the removal of Russian troops from Kaliningrad, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. CON. RES. 51

Whereas from 1945 to the early 1990's Kaliningrad was a Russian military outpost consisting of as many as 200,000 Russian military personnel concentrated in an area of 15,000 square kilometers and Kaliningrad has suffered substantial environmental damage as a result of this military presence;

Whereas since this time the number of Russian military personnel in Kaliningrad has declined significantly, although the number of such personnel in the region is still substantial;

Whereas polls conducted by the Kaliningrad Sociological Center have shown that over 60 percent of the Kaliningrad public favors development of Kaliningrad as an economic bridge between Europe and Russia;

Whereas establishment of Kaliningrad as a free economic zone by the Russian Government in 1994 represents a positive step toward Kaliningrad's integration into the Baltic and European economies and toward giving Kaliningrad an opportunity to flourish economically and to contribute substantially to the well-being of the Baltic region; and

Whereas Russian economic analysts at the Russian Foreign Policy Foundation have noted that militarization of Kaliningrad "corresponded neither to the needs of the population of the region itself, nor to the necessities of its economic development": Now, therefore, be it

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

(1) Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia have the right to self-determination which extends to the conduct of their foreign policy regarding membership in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization;

(2) development of the Kaliningrad region as a free trade zone will help ensure the freedom and future prosperity and stability of the Baltic region; and

(3) continued military reductions in and environmental restoration of the Kaliningrad region will greatly facilitate economic development and prosperity in Kaliningrad.

□ 1245

The SPEAKER pro tempore. (Mr. EWING). Pursuant to the rule, the gen-

tleman 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, House Concurrent Resolution 51 focuses on a situation that has received very little attention in our foreign policy considerations with regard to Europe—and specifically with regard to the Baltic region of that continent.

This resolution, as introduced by Congressman Cox of California—and as amended by the House International Relations Committee, expresses certain concerns regarding that portion of the Baltic region now known as Kaliningrad, which has been a part of the Russian Federation since the end of World War II.

Specifically, the resolution notes the need for Russia to continue to reduce its military presence in Kaliningrad, encourages the environmental restoration of that enclave, and also encourages its economic integration into the larger Baltic region.

Unlike the original text, the amended version of this resolution does not raise questions concerning Russia's sovereignty over Kaliningrad.

Frankly, it is probably best that we leave unopened the Pandora's Box that involves possible border changes and challenges to sovereignty in post-cold-war Eastern Europe.

Still, although this resolution does not now challenge the sovereignty of the Russian Federation with regard to Kaliningrad, we should take a moment to at this point to note Russia's challenges to the sovereignty of the Baltic states—including:

Its threats of retaliation against those states as they seek membership in NATO;

Russian military transit to and from Kaliningrad through the sovereign territory of Lithuania; and

Questions related to the Russian border with Estonia.

With regard to that last issue, Russia's de facto demarcation of the border with Estonia has left Estonia with little choice but to relinquish 5 percent of the territory it held prior to the 1940 Soviet occupation.

All Estonia asks in return is that Russia recognize the validity of the 1920 Treaty of Tartu, under which the U.S.S.R. recognized Estonia's sovereignty.

Russia, however, continues to refuse to recognize that Treaty.

Mr. Speaker, as I have stated, this resolution, as amended, does not challenge the current status of Kaliningrad.

Let me take this opportunity, however, to say that what is good for the goose is good for the gander.

If Russia expects its sovereignty to be respected in regions like

Kaliningrad, it must respect the sovereignty of its neighbors, including the Baltic States.

I hope that the President will make that clear to the Russian Government, and make it clear also—as this resolution does—that the decision by the Baltic states to apply for membership in NATO is their decision to make.

It should not be subject to continuing threats of military retaliation originating in Russia proper or from the Kaliningrad region.

Mr. Speaker, I commend my colleague, Congressman COX, for working diligently on this resolution and on issues of security and stability in the Baltic region in general.

I am pleased to be a cosponsor of this resolution, along with more than 50 other Members of Congress, and I hope that all of my colleagues will join in supporting this measure.

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, as amended by the Committee on International Relations. I want to commend the gentleman from New York, the chairman of the Committee on International Relations, and the gentleman from California [Mr. COX] for their hard work in working the provisions of this resolution.

I appreciate the gentleman from California's willingness to work with the administration and with the minority to craft a resolution that deserves strong bipartisan support. I believe this resolution is constructive. It spells out a future for Kaliningrad that can contribute to peace, stability, and prosperity in the Baltic region. In case some of our colleagues do not know where Kaliningrad is located, Mr. Speaker, it is between Poland and Lithuania.

Mr. Speaker, I urge 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 Wisconsin [Mr. ROTH].

Mr. ROTH. Mr. Speaker, let me just say that I have very much enjoyed serving under the gentleman's chairmanship. I served in my 18 years in Congress under many chairmen, but I must say that he is the most fair, the most open-minded and also the most internationally focused. It is one of the reasons the last resolution we had before us on Kaliningrad. There are not many chairmen, in my opinion, that would have taken this up because there is not much of a constituency. But it is a big problem and he addressed it. I think it exemplifies the type of leadership that we have had under his chairmanship, and I think I just want to say it has been most gratifying to serve under the gentleman.

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his kind remarks.

Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from California [Mr. COX], who is a major sponsor of this measure.

Mr. COX of California. Mr. Speaker, I, too, want to congratulate the chairman not only for reporting this vitally important legislation but also for what he has done throughout the last 2 years of this remarkably productive Congress. He has been a beacon of wisdom, judgment, and expertise on the subject of foreign affairs. I wanted to thank him personally for the leadership that he has provided to the United States during this period.

The bill before us, House Concurrent Resolution 51, will promote two very good ideas in the relationship between Russia and Western Europe and, frankly, the United States and the rest of the world.

The first is that it will demilitarize a region that is not even contiguous to Russia but in which Russia maintains more than twice as many troops as does the United States and all of Europe. That is Kaliningrad. Kaliningrad, as has been discussed here amply, is nudged between, nestled between Lithuania, Poland, Belarus. It is not reachable from Russia without crossing the air space or the territory of some other country.

Necessarily without the permission of Lithuania, particularly when Russia used to be the Soviet Union, the troop crossings took place massively, disruptively in ways that caused a great deal of friction. It is important for Baltic peace, stability, and security that Kaliningrad be demilitarized. It is also important for the relationship of Russia, Europe, and the United States because this is a potential hot spot. This is where NATO and Russia might unfortunately accidentally meet in the future. It ought not to happen.

This is a flash point of conflict that we can see in advance, that we ought to deal with it just now. Russia did not create this problem. Russia is now a nation friendly to the United States. Russia inherited this problem, and as a sign of good faith Russia ought to neutralize this situation as quickly as possible.

The second good idea embedded in this resolution is that the area of Kaliningrad will be made a free trade zone, making this area centrally located at the intersection of the Baltics, of Western and Eastern Europe and Russia, making this area economically vital, a bridge from Russia to Europe and from Europe into Russia. In 1995, Boris Yeltsin signed a decree creating a 10-year free economic zone in Kaliningrad. Customs duty exemptions are maintained in this area as a result. There is a 5-year cap on tax rates at 16 percent. This compares favorably even to Hong Kong, where the rate is 17 percent.

Before Kaliningrad can become another economic Hong Kong, the region

has to undergo a massive environmental cleanup. As a result of the Soviet military occupation and presence in this area for so long a period of time, Kaliningrad became the major polluter of the Baltic Sea. This, too, must be attended to. Kaliningrad must be cleaned up. The key elements of the resolution before us are the following: First, the need for Kaliningrad's demilitarization; second, the need for environmental cleanup; third, the development of Kaliningrad as a commercial bridge between Europe and Asia; and, finally, Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia's right autonomously, independently, without coercion to join whatever military alliance they wish. It happens that that is NATO. They have the right to request NATO membership.

This resolution is strongly supported by a number of groups who have communicated with us in the Congress, not the least of whom are committees representing all the Baltic nations. I personally have met with the presidents of each of the Baltic countries in recent weeks to discuss this. I know that if Russia takes these forward-looking steps, it will very much improve the prospects for even better relations between the United States and Russia.

For that reason, I have written this resolution, introduced it, moved it through the committee, and am happy to have it here before us on the floor today. By sending this message, not just to Russia but to the people of Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Belarus, all of Europe, Congress will help reduce the possibility of military conflict between Russia and NATO, between Russia and its neighbors and bolster the progress of freedom in the Baltics and in Russia.

I urge an aye vote in favor of the resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I include the following for the RECORD:

JOINT BALTIC AMERICAN
NATIONAL COMMITTEE, INC.,
Rockville, MD, September 13, 1996.

Hon. BENJAMIN GILMAN,
House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE GILMAN: The Joint Baltic American National Committee, Inc. (JBANC) appreciates your efforts to facilitate NATO expansion and hopes for your support for Congressman Christopher Cox's Concurrent Resolution no. 51, regarding Kaliningrad.

JBANC is concerned about the security and territorial integrity of the Baltic countries. We support the Baltic states membership in NATO. The demilitarization of Russian forces, environmental restoration, and development of a free trade zone in the Kaliningrad region will help create stability in the entire Baltic area.

Baltic regional security is in the U.S. national interest. A recent study by the Commission on America's National Interests places the Baltic states in the "extremely important interest" category. It states that a U.S. policy priority is to prevent Russia from reabsorbing the Baltic states.

Your efforts to help restore security in the Baltic region will be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

VELLO EDERMA,
Chairman.

CENTRAL AND EAST
EUROPEAN COALITION,
Washington, DC, August 29, 1996.

COALITION STATEMENT ON BALTIC SECURITY

The Central and East European Coalition expresses deep concern for the security of the Baltic states of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania in the face of constant vocal threats from Russia. These threats run from demands to draw them into the Russian sphere of influence and prevent them from being considered for NATO membership, to outright absorption into the Russian state.

The Central and East European Coalition is an umbrella organization of 18 national ethnic groups, representing some 22 million Americans with roots in Central and Eastern Europe.

The aggressive Russian rhetoric has originated from President Yeltsin, the Foreign and Defense Ministers and many other officials, diplomats and the military. In some cases, threats have included renewed military occupation. Government-funded think-tanks have drafted new doctrines that have suggested absorption of the three independent states into a new Russian-controlled entity. In confidential correspondence, President Yeltsin has attempted to influence President Clinton to keep the Balts out of NATO.

The Coalition opposes Russian intimidation against any of its neighbors. The Baltics, as other independent states of Central and Eastern Europe, are and must remain sovereign states. Their territorial integrity must be preserved. Their independence and development of democratic institutions and free markets are in the national interest of the United States. The Commission on America's National Interests, a joint enterprise consisting of RAND, Harvard and the Nixon Center, recently concluded that it is in "extremely important" U.S. national interest to prevent Russia from reintegrating Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania by force.

The Coalition urges the Administration and the Congress, along with the Presidential candidates, immediately to issue specific public declarations in support of the security of the Baltic States and their right to sovereignty, the inviolability of their territory, and their right to seek NATO membership. Russia must be warned that continued intimidation and threats against the Baltics will be met with appropriate measures.

LITHUANIAN AMERICAN COMMUNITY,
INC., BOARD OF DIRECTORS, EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE,

Los Angeles, CA, September 11, 1996.

Hon. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN,
Chairperson, Committee on International Relations, House of Representatives.

DEAR CONGRESSPERSON GILMAN: It is my understanding that in the near future, the Committee on International Relations might consider the revised version of House concurrent Resolution 51, introduced by Congressmen Christopher Cox and William O. Lipinski calling for the demilitarization of the Kaliningrad region on the shores of the Baltic sea.

This is an issue of monumental importance to the Baltic American community in the United States as well as the people of the Baltic countries. The Kaliningrad/Konigsberg enclave is the site of a massive concentration of Russian military forces, equipment and weapons right in the heart of the Baltic region. As such it is a serious military threat to the sovereignty of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania and a destabilizing factor in Central and Eastern Europe.

Specifically, HCR 51 calls for the demilitarization of Kaliningrad and calls upon Russia to respect Baltic interests in joining NATO.

I respectfully ask your support for the resolution when it is considered by the Committee on International Relations.

Thank you for your help.

Respectfully,

ANTHONY POLIKAITIS,
Secretary.

SEPTEMBER 11, 1996.

Hon. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN,
Chairman, Committee on International Relations, House of Representatives.

I understand that the Committee on International Relations may soon consider the revised version of House Concurrent Resolution 51, requesting demilitarization of the Kaliningrad region and respecting Baltic interests in joining NATO.

This is a critical issue to the safety of the Baltic region, as well as a major concern to the Baltic American Community. The large concentration of Russian military forces and weapons in the heart of Northern Europe poses a serious military threat. It is also a good reason for the Baltic countries to become part of NATO.

Our community asks that you support HCR 51 when it enters your committee. We appreciate your support.

Sincerely,

ULDIS K. SIPOLS,
Chairman, Latvian Association of Detroit.

AMERICAN LATVIAN ASSOCIATION
IN THE UNITED STATES, INC.,
Rockville, MD, September 9, 1996.

Hon. CHRISTOPHER COX,
House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE COX: The American Latvian Association, which unites more than 160 Latvian American groups located throughout the United States, wholeheartedly supports HCR 51, expressing the sense of Congress concerning demilitarization, environmental improvement and economic development in the Kaliningrad region. We thank you for your leadership on this legislation, which affirms U.S. interest in the achievement of stable, secure and environmentally safe conditions for the furthering of democratic and market reforms in Central and Eastern Europe and the Baltic countries.

As the process of political, security and economic transformation continues in the lands formerly controlled by the Soviet Union and the Warsaw Pact, concern continues to grow about the Kaliningrad region of the Russian Federation. An exclave of the Russian Federation separated from Russia's mainland by Lithuania and Poland, the Kaliningrad region, economically disadvantaged and environmentally degraded by its former Soviet administrators, continues today to be a major outpost for the armed forces of the Russian Federation.

Russia has taken steps to reverse the region's economic plight, by establishing Kaliningrad as a Free Economic Zone. However, Kaliningrad and its military garrison continue to be used by Russia as a means to intimidate the country's closest western neighbors, including Latvia, Estonia, Lithuania and Poland. Russian military forces in the region have been used repeatedly as an argument against the expansion of the NATO alliance to include countries that have made clear their freely stated desire to join the group—specifically the formerly Soviet occupied, now sovereign countries of Latvia, Estonia and Lithuania.

In a Europe recovering from a half-century of superpower confrontation, Kaliningrad is notable for its lack of participation in the political, economic and security transformation now underway. This legislation, which offers sensible suggestions to achieve

stability, security and environmental safety in Kaliningrad, serves as a reasonable expression of the will of Congress concerning this pivotal region of Europe. This is why the American Latvian Association supports HCR 51, and thanks you, Rep. Cox, for your sponsorship of this important legislation.

Sincerely,

JĀNIS KUKAINIS,
President.

LITHUANIAN-AMERICAN
COMMUNITY, INC.

Arlington VA, September 12, 1996.

Hon. CHRISTOPHER COX,
House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN COX: As a steadfast and long time supporter of Lithuania's independence, we greatly value your efforts to enhance Lithuania's security and peace in the Baltic region by focusing U.S. government attention on the continuing problem of Russian military forces in the Baltic sea-coast region now known as Kaliningrad.

We all know the history of the region; i.e., that the former Soviet government parlayed its role as temporary administrator of the area after World War II into a huge military base at the heart of Europe. The current Russian government maintains it as the most forward projection of Russian military power in Europe. As you know, the forces that Russia maintains in the Kaliningrad area do not fall under CFE Treaty limits. And Russian officers stationed in the region have been linked to illegal weapons shipments and smuggling of illicit drugs.

It is quite clear from the negotiations which have proceeded between yourself and the Clinton Administration, that the Clinton Administration intends to continue to turn a blind eye to the threats posed by the continuing Russian military presence in Kaliningrad.

We support your efforts without reservation and urge you and your colleagues in the House and Senate to stand firm in requiring the Clinton Administration to begin, what will be a long process of, strengthening the security of the emerging democracies of Lithuania, Poland, Latvia, Estonia and the rest of central Europe.

We believe that the fundamental question which the United States Congress should address is the question of security for the states bordering the Russian exclave in the Kaliningrad territory. We have suggested language which appears the State Department has rejected. But we submit it to the Congress, hoping that it or something similar in nature will find its way into the final version of the Cox resolution.

Resolved: That it is the sense of the Congress that the United States in pursuing enhanced security for the countries of Eastern Europe, should take all possible steps to ensure that the Russian Federation's efforts to maintain relations with the territory now known as Kaliningrad, not undermine the security and sovereignty of any neighboring country.

The current inattention to the threats emanating from the Russian military forces based in the Kaliningrad territory will only fester weakening the surrounding states and undermining the peace in Europe. Since the Administration lacks the political will to focus on this problem before it becomes a crisis, it is right that the United States Congress should remind the Administration of its responsibility to help secure the peace and security of the emerging democracies of Eastern Europe.

Sincerely,

REGINA NARUSIS, J.D.,
President, Lithuanian-American
Community, Inc.

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume. This may be the last item that I will be managing during the 104th Congress. I wanted to take just a moment to note that there were a number of significant legislative achievements of the Committee on International Relations during this Congress and to say a few words of gratitude to those who have assisted our committee in its work.

I also want to take this opportunity to recognize the members of our committee who will not be returning next year. We will have other opportunities to discuss their careers at length. I would like to mention special affection for the gentleman from Wisconsin, TOBY ROTH, for the gentlewoman from Kansas, JAN MEYERS, for the gentleman from Kansas, SAM BROWNBAC, the gentleman from New Jersey, BOB TORRICELLI, and the gentleman from Florida, HARRY JOHNSTON. Serving together on our committee is a very special experience, and I have valued our relationship with each of these Members.

I would also like to specifically thank the gentleman from Indiana [Mr. HAMILTON], the ranking minority member of the committee. He and I have faced each other many times during the past 2 years, sometimes on the same side of the question, sometimes on opposite sides. I very much appreciate his many courtesies and the courtesies he has extended through his staff.

I have been privileged during the Congress to have been able to have the assistance of the gentleman from Nebraska, DOUG BEREUTER, who served as the vice chairman of our committee and also as subcommittee chairman. I extend my thanks to him and to TOBY ROTH, the gentleman from New Jersey, CHRIS SMITH, the gentleman from Indiana, DAN BURTON, and the gentlewoman from Florida, ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN, who served as our subcommittee chairs and to their respective subcommittee ranking members.

Our committee has had more full committee chairmen than any other committee as part of our membership. The gentleman from Pennsylvania, BILL GOODLING, the gentleman from Iowa, JIM LEACH, the gentleman from Illinois, HENRY HYDE, and JAN MEYERS are full committee chairs and have made time to participate in our committee's work. To them and to all the members of our committee on both sides of the aisle, I extend my personal thanks.

Mr. Speaker, many people who usually go unnamed and unnoticed by the American people are indispensable to the work of the House and the House committees. They have been especially helpful to me as I fulfilled my responsibilities as chairman of our committee during this session of the Congress. These people, the floor staffs, leadership staffs, Cloakroom staffs, and pages, as well as the Parliamentarians, reporters, clerks, and doormen, all deserve our thanks.

Also, we have received invaluable help from the Office of Legislative Counsel, Congressional Research Service, and finally our own committee staff provides highly professional assistance to the Members.

Under leave to revise and extend, I will be a little more detailed in our thanks, but I want to let all of them know that their assistance is truly heartfelt and thanks go to all of them.

Mr. Speaker, this may be the last item I will manage during the 104th Congress and I wanted to take just a moment to note that there were a number of significant legislative achievements of the Committee on International Relations during this Congress and to say a few words of gratitude to those who have assisted our committee in its work.

First of all, there was H.R. 7, our portion of the Contract With America, which had important provisions related to U.N. peacekeeping and command-and-control issues, as well as NATO enlargement.

Then, in H.R. 1561, the American Overseas Interest Act, we reauthorized and reinvented the American foreign policy establishment and extended—at lower levels—our foreign assistance programs. This bill was, unfortunately, subject to a long filibuster in the Senate and was ultimately vetoed even when it was reduced considerably in its reach.

We passed legislation providing for a move of the American Embassy in Israel to Israel's capital, Jerusalem. The President did not see fit to sign that bill, but did allow it to become law.

We passed legislation, that was signed into law, aimed at preventing foreigners from taking over the confiscated assets of American citizens in Cuba, under the LIBERTAD Act, also known as the Helms-Burton Act.

We passed legislation, also signed into law, aimed at cutting off investments in the Iranian energy sector, so as to deprive that regime of the funds needed to carry out terror operations and to develop weapons of mass destruction.

We passed legislation concerning important security assistance provisions, the first such authorization bill in 11 years. We also passed micro-enterprise and Africa development fund bills.

We also passed legislation aimed at facilitating the entry of emerging democracies into NATO, and we passed legislation extending and reforming the Export Administration Act.

These are just a few of our achievements of our committee. Many others took the form of oversight.

I also want to take this opportunity to recognize the members of our committee who will not be returning next year. We will have other opportunities to discuss their career at length, but I would like to mention special affection for TOBY ROTH, JAN MEYERS, SAM BROWNBAC, BOB TORRICELLI, and HARRY JOHNSTON. Serving together on our committee is a very special experience, and I have valued our relationships with each of these Members.

I would like to specially thank the gentleman from Indian [Mr. HAMILTON] the ranking minority member of our committee. He and I have faced each other many times during the past 2 years, sometimes on the same side of the question and sometimes on opposite sides. I very much appreciate his many courtesies and the courtesies he has extended through his staff.

I have been privileged during this Congress to have been able to have the assistance of Representative DOUG BEREUTER who served as vice chairman of our committee and also as subcommittee chairman. I extend my thanks to him and to TOBY ROTH, CHRIS SMITH, DAN BURTON, and ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN, who have served as subcommittee chairmen, and to the respective subcommittee ranking members.

Our committee has had more full committee chairmen than any other committee. BILL GOODLING, JIM LEACH, HENRY HYDE, and JAN MEYERS, all full committee chairs, have made time to participate in our Committee's work.

To them, and to all of the members of our committee on both sides of the aisle, I extend my thanks.

Mr. Speaker, many people who usually go unnamed and unnoticed to the American public are indispensable in the work of the House. They have been especially helpful to me as I fulfilled my responsibilities as chairman of our committee.

I also wish to express my appreciation for the Speaker's floor staff—Len Swinehart and his colleagues, and the Speaker's Assistant for National Security matters, Gardner Peckham, who have been most helpful during this Congress.

Also, the majority leader's staff—David Hobbs, Peter Davidson, Brian Gunderson, Siobhan McGill, and their colleagues.

Also, the majority whip's staff—Scott Hatch and his colleagues, especially Scott Palmer and Monica Vegas Kladakis.

And the other members of the majority floor staff—Jay Pierson and Ron Lasch.

Also, the cloakroom managers and staff—Tim Harroun, Jim Oliver, Joelle Hall, and their colleagues; and the pages, who are under the supervision of Peggy Sampson.

We have had good cooperation from the minority counterparts of these individuals, as well.

I also wish to thank the House Parliamentarian, Charles Johnson, as well as his colleagues, John Sullivan, Tom Duncan, Moftiah McCartin, and Tom Wickham, who have worked extensively with our committee.

In addition, I'd like to recognize the reading clerks and other clerks and assistants who stand and sit near the presiding officer to aid him, as well as the skilled official reporters and transcribers who record our proceedings.

I also thank the other floor staff and doormen and Capitol Police who provide for our security or summon us to see our constituents.

I might also add that, off this floor, we have had wonderful assistance from the Office of Legislative Counsel, especially Ms. Yvonne Haywood, Mr. Mark Synnes, and Ms. Sandra Strokoff. We also had excellent help from the Congressional Research Service, especially the Foreign Affairs and Defense Division, the Economics Division, and the American Law Division.

And, finally, our own committee staff, headed by Dr. Richard Garon, and our committee's minority staff, headed by Dr. Mike Van Dusen.

I thank them all for the innumerable contributions to the work of our committee in this challenging and fruitful Congress.

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

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

The senior Democrat on this side of the aisle to the Committee on International Relations deeply regrets not being here because of a conflict of schedule. I am certain that the sentiments expressed earlier by the gentleman from New York is very much in order to the fact that this has been a very productive year for the Committee on International Relations.

I will say to the gentleman from New York that we have had our differences in principle, but it has never been on differences in personalities. I appreciate the leadership and certainly the fairness that he has given in this stewardship as chairman of this committee. I want the gentleman to know that.

Mr. Speaker, I also want to express the gratitude and appreciation of the Nation also to the two gentlemen from this side of the aisle on the committee, the gentleman from New Jersey [Mr. TORRICELLI], also the gentleman from Florida [Mr. JOHNSTON], who will also not be here next year due to retirement and other choices that they have made in their political careers. I certainly would like to commend them for their services that they have rendered as members, outstanding members of this committee.

I also want to recognize with appreciation the gentleman from Wisconsin whom I have had the privilege of working with closely on matters of international trade and some of the foreign policies that we have dealt with on this committee and certainly would like to wish him well because of his retirement. I want to express that on behalf of the members of this side of the committee.

□ 1300

Mr. Speaker, the gentleman from California, given his profound statement and understanding of the seriousness of the problem here in the Baltic States, I think the provisions of this resolution are well in order, and I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

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

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

I want to thank the delegate from American Samoa, Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA, for his kind remarks and for his willingness to take an active role continually throughout the consideration of the measures before our Committee on International Relations. We thank him for his involvement.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. EWING). 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 51, 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 of the concurrent resolution was amended so as to read: "Concurrent resolution expressing the sense of the Congress concerning economic development, environmental improvement, and stability in the Baltic region."

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

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. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

UNITED STATES NATIONAL TOURISM ORGANIZATION ACT OF 1996

Mr. OXLEY. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2579) to establish the National Tourism Board and the National Tourism Organization to promote international travel and tourism in the United States, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 2579

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 "United States National Tourism Organization Act of 1996".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSE.

(a) FINDINGS.—The Congress finds that—

(1) The travel and tourism industry is the second largest service and retail industry in the United States, and travel and tourism services ranked as the largest United States export in 1995, generating an \$18.6 billion surplus for the United States.

(2) Domestic and international travel and tourism expenditures totaled \$433 billion in 1995, \$415 billion spent directly within the United States and an additional \$18 billion spent by international travelers on United States carriers traveling to the United States.

(3) Direct travel and tourism receipts make up 6 percent of the United States gross domestic product.

(4) In 1994, the travel and tourism industry was the nation's second largest employer, directly responsible for 6.3 million jobs and indirectly responsible for another 8 million jobs.

(5) Employment in major sectors of the travel and tourism industry is expected to increase 35 percent by the year 2005.

(6) 99.7 percent of travel businesses are defined by the Federal government as small businesses.

(7) The White House Conference on Travel and Tourism in 1995 recommended the establishment of a new national tourism organization to represent and promote international travel and tourism to the United States.

(8) Recent Federal tourism promotion efforts have failed to stem the rapid erosion of our country's international tourism market share.

(9) In fact, the United States' share of worldwide travel receipts dropped from a

peak of 19.3 percent in 1992 down to 15.7 percent by the end of 1994.

(10) The United States has now fallen to only the third leading international destination.

(11) Because the United States Travel and Tourism Administration had insufficient resources and effectiveness to reverse the recent decline in the United States' share of international travel and tourism, Congress discontinued USTTA's funding.

(12) Promotion of the United States' international travel and tourism interests can be more effectively managed by a private organization at less cost to the taxpayers.

(b) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this Act is to create a privately managed, federally sanctioned United States National Tourism Organization to represent and promote United States international travel and tourism.

SEC. 3. UNITED STATES NATIONAL TOURISM ORGANIZATION.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established the United States National Tourism Organization which shall be a private not-for-profit organization.

(b) ORGANIZATION NOT A FEDERAL AGENCY.—The Organization shall (1) not be considered a Federal agency, (2) have employees appointed without regard to the provisions of title 5, United States Code, governing appointments in the competitive service, and paid without regard to the provisions of chapter 51 and subchapter III of chapter 53 of that title relating to classification and General Schedule pay rates, and (3) not be subject to the Federal Advisory Committee Act or any other Federal law governing the operation of Federal agencies.

(c) IRS STATUS.—The Organization shall be presumed to have the status of an organization described in section 501(c)(6) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 until such time as the Secretary of the Treasury determines that the Organization does not meet the requirements of such section.

(d) PURPOSE OF THE ORGANIZATION.—The Organization shall—

(1) seek and work for an increase in the share of the United States in the global tourism market;

(2) work in conjunction with Federal, State, and local agencies to develop and implement a coordinated United States travel and tourism policy;

(3) advise the President, the Congress, and the domestic travel and tourism industry on the implementation of the national travel and tourism strategy and on other matters affecting travel and tourism;

(4) operate travel and tourism promotion programs outside the United States in partnership with the travel and tourism industry in the United States;

(5) establish a travel and tourism data bank to gather and disseminate travel and tourism market data;

(6) conduct market research necessary for effective promotion of the travel and tourism market; and

(7) promote United States travel and tourism, including international trade shows and conferences.

(e) POWERS OF THE ORGANIZATION.—The Organization—

(1) shall have perpetual succession;

(2) shall represent the United States travel and tourism industry in its relations with international tourism agencies;

(3) may sue and be sued, make contracts, and acquire, hold, and dispose of real and personal property, as may be necessary for its corporate purposes;

(4) may provide financial assistance to any organization or association in furtherance of the purpose of the corporation;

(5) may adopt and alter a corporate seal;