

At this crucial time, as sponsors of the Middle East peace process, we reaffirm our support for the peace process and remain confident that terrorists will not be allowed to obstruct the development of the Palestine-Israeli peace process, their constructive dialog and cooperation to resolve the existing problems. We encourage the Palestinian leadership, which has already condemned these abhorrent provocations, to follow this policy with even tougher measures.

Mr. Speaker, we have simply worked too hard for too long to allow terrorists to take over the peace process and determine the fate of peace after so much progress. Our support for the people of Israel, however, should not stop with passage of this resolution. Later this week, we will debate the antiterrorism legislation which seeks to provide significant resources to fight domestic and international acts of terrorism and bring swift justice to the perpetrators.

While nothing can take away the national and personal pain caused by terrorist attacks on innocent men, women, and children, perhaps this resolution can help in some small way by helping to bring an end to the violence. We strongly voice our support and understanding to the Jewish people of Israel and around the world for peace and against cowardly acts of terror.

Mr. FOX of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, like you, I was shocked and deeply saddened when I heard about the fourth suicide bombing which took place on the Eve of Purim in Tel Aviv's shopping district. The once-solid confidence of the people of Israel and of the pro-Israel community in the United States has been terribly shaken by the tragic events of the past weeks.

The United States and Israel are permanent partners in our pursuit of peace, prosperity, and the promise of liberty. We have built a strong foundation based on years of mutual respect and trust. Together, we share risks, rewards, and losses as we strive to make this world a better, safer place to live, work, and raise our families. The United States will continue to stand "shoulder to shoulder" with its closest ally, the State of Israel, during this troubling time. Hamas and other enemies of peace should know that no blast will be strong enough to weaken the indestructible link between our country and the state of Israel.

After returning from the funeral of the late Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, I remember thinking that in the long run, those who resort to violence will find that it accomplishes little. Often, it spurs people on to completion of the task at hand—in this case, peace in the Middle East. Just as we were building upon the legacy of Yitzhak Rabin, we will now continue on the path for peace, honoring the memory of the 61 innocent victims who were murdered and the 190 who were injured in the four recent reprehensible suicide bombings.

Seventeenth century Dutch philosopher Benedictus De Spinoza once said, "Peace is not the mere absence of war, but is a virtue that springs from force of character." During my trips to Israel this past year, it was clear to me that Yitzhak Rabin provided that force of character. And after meeting with Prime Minister Peres, Yitzhak Rabin's partner in peace, I became convinced that he would continue to provide that force. We must work with him to heal the wounds and move on toward a more permanent peace and sustained security for our Israeli allies.

As Members of Congress, we must not hesitate, together with our colleagues and the White House, to provide whatever diplomatic, economic, humanitarian, or military support is necessary so that Israel can combat the cowardly terrorists of Hamas and others who would seek to derail the peace for which Yitzhak Rabin and so many others gave their lives. The United States must continue to provide whatever form of assistance is required to preserve and protect the peace and security of Israel and its people.

While I am encouraged by the recent arrest of the head of the military wing of Hamas, we must continue to demand that PLO Chairman Arafat and the leaders of all the states of the Middle East join us in this war on terrorism. I am proud to stand in support of International Relations Committee Chairman BEN GILMAN's resolution to clearly communicate this message to Chairman Arafat—we will accept no less than full cooperation on this matter. Chairman GILMAN's legislation demands that the Palestinian Authority apprehend and punish terrorists, confiscate all unauthorized weapons, eliminate the terrorist structure and activities of Hamas, Palestinian Islamic Jihad, and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, ban the existence of all such organizations in the autonomous areas, and amend the Palestinian National Covenant to remove all hate-filled anti-Israel language. This legislation also calls upon all parties to the peace process to condemn terrorist acts and join us in the fight against terrorism. We insist that Iran and Syria cease all support for such deplorable activities. I salute the President for convening the antiterrorism conference tomorrow, and I am also strongly urging him to act decisively and swiftly against those who continue to harbor, arm, or finance terrorists seeking to undermine the peace process.

I thank the chairman for his leadership and I join you in praying for an end to the despicable violence committed by terrorists and for peace and prosperity for Israel and throughout the Middle East.

Mr. SANFORD. Mr. Speaker, this past month terrorist acts in Israel have taken the lives of innocent people. More than that, they have placed the peace of this region once again in jeopardy. Today, I rise to stand with the people of Israel and the Jews around the world. This measure, which we are currently considering, condemns the recent terrorist attacks as well as urges action in support of the peace process. However, it cannot console those who have become victims of a misguided attempt to settle a dispute over land. It cannot repair the buildings and lives which are now fragmented. Through this measure the United States states its opposition to actions such as those which have occurred recently in Israel. This Nation will not condone the senseless actions of terrorists. We stand with those for peace and for Israel.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CAMP). 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 (H. Con. Res. 149), as amended.

The question was taken.

Mr. GILMAN. 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.

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 this concurrent resolution.

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

There was no objection.

SUPPORT HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 149 CONDEMNING TERROR ATTACKS IN ISRAEL

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

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I wanted to add my voice to the comments of my colleagues about the resolution condemning terrorism, but we had hearings today in the House Committee on International Relations to try to find out if the Palestinian authority is doing all it can do or has done all it can do to curb the scourge of terrorism, and I think the frustration that one sees and hears; we feel, on the one hand, that the peace process needs to continue. On the other hand, we cannot continue with blinders and pretend that nothing has happened.

So I certainly support the resolution, I think we need to condemn terrorism, I think we need to reach out to the brave people of Israel. No country could tolerate this kind of wanton terrorism against its civilian population, and I think clearly the ball is in Mr. Arafat's court. He has to determine whether or not he is going to be serious about cracking down on the scourge of terrorism. It is not enough anymore just to condemn it, it is not enough anymore to say one is against it. We have to show actions speak louder than words. He has got to route out terrorism, the United States has to stand foursquare against terrorism, but all the nations of the world have to participate.

So I am happy to join in support of the resolution as I know every Member of Congress will. Terrorism is a threat to all of us everywhere in the world.

□ 1645

IN SUPPORT OF THE PEOPLE OF ISRAEL

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

Mr. FOX of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise to support the Gilman resolution. The terrible devastation of Israel,

with the fourth attack on the innocent Israeli victims, which has killed 61 people, injured 190 people, is certainly something this country, the United States, will not tolerate. The Hamas organization has caused such terror and such grief that the once solid confidence of the people in Israel has been shaken. We here in America will show our support in every way possible, whether it is economic, humanitarian, in any way that Israel needs our help. It is our strongest ally in the Middle East, and a democracy that is so important to this country and the world's peace. We must be there to help them.

WAIVING POINTS OF ORDER
AGAINST CONFERENCE REPORT
ON H.R. 1561, FOREIGN RELATIONS
AUTHORIZATION ACT, FISCAL
YEARS 1996 AND 1997

Mr. GOSS. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 375 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 375

Resolved, That upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider the conference report to accompany the bill (H.R. 1561) to consolidate the foreign affairs agencies of the United States; to authorize appropriations for the Department of State and related agencies for fiscal years 1996 and 1997; to responsibly reduce the authorizations of appropriations for United States foreign assistance programs for fiscal years 1996 and 1997, and for other purposes. All points of order against the conference report and against its consideration are waived. The conference report shall be considered as read.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CAMP). The gentleman from Florida [Mr. GOSS] is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. GOSS. For purposes of debate only, Mr. Speaker, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from California [Mr. BEILENSEN], pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

(Mr. GOSS asked and was given permission to include extraneous material.)

Mr. GOSS. Mr. Speaker, this is a very simple, fair rule providing for House consideration of the conference report on H.R. 1561, the American Overseas Interests Act—otherwise known as the State Department Reauthorization. As is the custom for conference reports, this rule allows for 1 hour of general debate and preserves the right of the minority to offer a motion to recommend, with or without instructions. Finally, the rule waives all points of order against the conference report and its consideration. Mr. Speaker, H.R. 1561 was passed by the House on June 8, 1995. Since that time, Members in both Houses have invested a great deal of time and energy working to make this the first year since 1985 that we have reauthorized the State Department

programs in this bill. In our Rules Committee hearing last week, both Chairman GILMAN and the ranking minority member, Mr. HAMILTON, said they were encouraged by the efforts that the conference committee has made to bring us this far. Unfortunately, I understand that the President is planning to veto this reform-minded initiative, essentially because it will cramp his unique foreign policy style.

In response, Mr. Speaker, I have to say that I think we all understand that the responsibility for conducting foreign policy rests primarily but certainly not exclusively with the executive branch. Today, this long overdue legislation recognizes and addresses the responsibility of the legislative branch in this area—responsibility it has passed on over much of the past 10 years. These duties include policy oversight and, most importantly, laying out the broad priorities for the expenditure of U.S. tax dollars overseas. In this respect, Congress must share some of the blame for our current confused and inconsistent foreign policy agenda. However, it is clear that the lion's share of the blame for recent flip-flops, diplomatic gaffs, excessive costs and ill-defined missions rests squarely with President Clinton and his foreign policy "B" team. To date, the Clinton administration has focussed its priorities and resources on extensive involvement on high-visibility—low-yield projects in Northern Ireland, Bosnia and Haiti—to the point where the United States has been actively engaged in the de facto governance of two out of these three regions. While the administration may have the best of intentions, its focus on these efforts has resulted in the neglect and/or mismanagement of critical situations in Cuba and Taiwan, to name just two. Today, the administration is finally getting around to recognizing that Fidel Castro is not such a nice guy, and that a Chinese invasion of Taiwan could threaten the entire balance of power in Asia and the Pacific—but I am afraid that the reason it took so long to arrive at these rather obvious conclusions is that the White House has conducted United States foreign policy in the same way it has conducted domestic policy: setting priorities by what the opinion polls say, bowing to pressure from hunger-striking activists, and giving more attention to photo ops that will resonate with the voters instead of doing the hard work of conducting a vigorous and consistent policy agenda across the globe based on a clear delineation of what our national security interests really are in today's world.

Mr. Speaker, I hope that passage of H.R. 1561 will begin to put us back on the right track by freeing up foreign policy assets and making them reflect changing priorities in a changing world. It does make some necessary cuts to the operating expenses of the bureaucracy at the State Department and agencies like USAID, USIA, and

ACDA—a total of \$1.7 billion over 4 years—and requires one of these agencies to be consolidated into the State Department. It also includes many other important provisions, including asserting the supremacy of the Taiwan Relations Act, and setting strict reporting requirements for the Bosnia operation. I would urge my colleagues to support this rule.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, House Resolution 375 makes it in order to consider the conference report on H.R. 1561, the Foreign Relations Authorization Act for fiscal years 1996 and 1997. As our friend and colleague, the gentleman from Florida [Mr. GOSS] has explained, it waives all points of order against the conference report.

The conference report authorizes appropriations for the State Department, and it requires the President to select and abolish at least one foreign affairs agency among the Agency for International Development, the Arms Control and Disarmament Agency, or the U.S. Information Agency, USIA. We have concerns about the substance of this conference report, as well as the manner in which the conference was conducted.

The gentleman from Indiana [Mr. HAMILTON], the ranking Democrat on the Committee on International Relations, told the Committee on Rules that a Democratic alternative to the conference agreement was dismissed out of hand. Furthermore, the gentleman from Indiana said that he as the ranking member never saw the conference agreement before it was filed. He told the Committee on Rules "With this kind of approach, we are not making laws, we are making political statements."

Furthermore, I want to express strong objections to the provisions in this conference agreement, as our colleagues know. If the measure is presented to the President in its current form, he has said that he will veto the bill. This bill could result in the abolition of AID, the Agency for International Development. This agency provides vital assistance to millions of poor and hungry people in developing nations. The small amount, the really tiny amount of savings that his, perhaps, would achieve could come at a terrible loss to human life and to our international standing around the world.

The funding levels contained in this bill are inadequate to protect the foreign policy interests of the United States. The bill would seriously undermine our ability to conduct diplomacy and operate overseas posts of foreign affairs agencies. If the bill passes, our Nation would retreat like a turtle into its shell, avoiding our international responsibilities and opportunities. That should not, it seems to us, be the image of our great Nation.