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House of Representatives

The House met at 2 p.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore [Mr. Cox of California].

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
April 29, 1996.

I hereby designate the Honorable CHRISTOPHER COX to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NEWT GINGRICH,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Rev. James David Ford, D.D., offered the following prayer:

May this season when nature surrounds us with the signs of spring, remind us, O God, of the benefits of restoration and renewal in our lives and in our world. We know that Your wondrous creation can become ordinary and Your remarkable presence can become routine. So we pray for the renewal of our minds and for new zeal in our hearts so we will become strong in body, and spirit. For the gifts of this season and for Your gracious spirit, O God, we offer our thanksgiving and praise. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from North Carolina [Mr.

BALLENGER] come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. BALLENGER led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message in writing from the President of the United States was communicated to the House by Mr. Edwin Thomas, one of his secretaries.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Mr. Lundregan, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate had passed without amendment a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 2024. An act to phase out the use of mercury in batteries and provide for the efficient and cost-effective collection and recycling or proper disposal of used nickel cadmium batteries, small sealed lead-acid batteries, and certain other batteries, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the Senate had passed a concurrent resolution of the following title, in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. Con. Res. 56. Concurrent resolution recognizing the tenth anniversary of the Chernobyl nuclear disaster, and supporting the closing of the Chernobyl nuclear power plant.

DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1996—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, without

objection, referred to the Committee on Appropriations and Committee on Resources and ordered to be printed:

To the Congress of the United States:

I hereby report that I have exercised the authority provided to me under subsection 325(c) of the Department of the Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 1996, to suspend subsection 325(a) and 325(b) of such Act. A copy of the suspension is attached.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON.

THE WHITE HOUSE, April 26, 1996.

GOOD NEWS REGARDING BOSNIA

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

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, this is the fifth speech I am giving on Bosnia. It contains good news.

In my last address I stated that on March 28 I sent a letter to the President regarding the New York Times report that the United States is being urged to stay in Bosnia longer than a year. This would break the word of the administration and of the Secretary of State, who said that the American forces would be in Bosnia for only 1 year.

The Secretary of State, Warren Christopher, said that 1-year limitation would give the warring parties the opportunity to have peace but it would not be a guarantee. Mr. Speaker, I have heard from the President today with a letter dated April 22. He clearly states that the IFOR mission should be complete in about a year. This is good news, and it is in contrast with the New York Times article.

Mr. Speaker, I include for the RECORD my March 28 and the President's April 22 letters.

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, March 28, 1996.

The PRESIDENT,
The White House,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT: The March 21 edition of the New York Times reported the U.S. and NATO are being urged to keep our forces in Bosnia after the end of the year. International civilian and military authorities are alleged to be pressing for continued NATO presence beyond our scheduled departure.

To keep American troops in Bosnia past the announced date of departure at the end of 1996 would be a major mistake. First, it flies in the face of a clear statement by Secretary of State Warren Christopher: "This is not a permanent commitment. This is approximately a one-year commitment. . . . If it can't be done in a year, perhaps it can't be done in a longer period of time." Second, it breaks faith with our American troops who are presently stationed in Bosnia, who expect to return to their families in nine months. Third, it contradicts what the American people were told about the duration of the mission.

American forces are facing a difficult and challenging assignment in the NATO peacekeeping mission. The one-year deployment was intended to provide an opportunity for peace, not a guarantee of it. The people of Bosnia must assume the responsibility of ensuring their own peace.

Already, American and NATO peacekeepers are being diverted from their original mission to the task of rebuilding Bosnia. This assignment shifts the focus of our military forces from peacekeeping to assisting in civil projects.

Further, by several accounts, a cornerstone of the Dayton agreement—the continuance of the Muslim-Croat Federation—appears severely weakened. The U.S. and NATO could well be in a quandary if that alliance should crumble.

The push to keep U.S. and NATO forces in Bosnia, the expansion of mission assignments and the possible disintegration of the Muslim-Croat Federation could compel us to extend our commitment in Bosnia. We are on a slippery slope toward a lengthy deployment of five or even ten additional years.

I commend Major General William L. Nash, Commander of the American sector of NATO forces in Bosnia, who stressed his determination to withdraw on schedule. He properly stated that the burden for peace is "on the shoulders of those folk that live here."

Mr. President, if the people of Bosnia truly want peace, one year is more than enough time to get it started.

Very truly yours,

IKE SKELTON,
Member of Congress.

THE WHITE HOUSE,
Washington, April 22, 1996.

Hon. IKE SKELTON,
House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR IKE: Thank you for your letter expressing concerns about American troops remaining in Bosnia beyond the end of 1996. I fully agree with you that we and the rest of the international community can only provide the people of Bosnia the opportunity for peace. The Bosnian people themselves must assume the responsibility of ensuring a stable future.

Our policy remains that IFOR should be able to complete its mission in about one year. The major military tasks have already been accomplished. In the coming months, IFOR will help provide a secure environment so that civilian implementation efforts can

get firmly established, refugees can begin to return, and free elections can be held under OSCE supervision. It is our view that, with these efforts on track, there will not be a need for a robust, NATO-led force beyond a year.

IFOR Commanders have the authority to support civilian tasks, including provision of assistance to the War Crimes Tribunal and other international organizations in their humanitarian missions. IFOR has provided such support since its arrival, and it will continue to do so, within the limits of its resources and its primary mission of implementing the military aspects of the Dayton accords. For example, IFOR will provide training and support for civilian determining efforts, in tandem with mine-clearance aimed at ensuring IFOR's own safety. In this respect, military and civilian efforts complement one another.

Regarding the Federation, the parties recently signed an agreement that outlines concrete steps with specific deadlines that will strengthen the Federation and get its institutions up and running. The main provisions include abolition of customs duties, measures to facilitate return of refugees and sanctions against local officials who refuse to comply. The Bosnians and Croats have also agreed on a flag and coat of arms for the Federation. The Federation agreement, combined with Congressional approval of the \$200 million supplemental and new steps by the parties to cooperate with the War Crimes Tribunal, demonstrate new momentum in the civil implementation of the Dayton accords.

As I have said before, all of these efforts underpin my commitment to complete IFOR's mission in about a year. Once again, I thank you for your support for our efforts to help the people of Bosnia achieve a lasting peace.

Sincerely,

BILL.

GOOD NEWS ON BOSNIA

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

Mr. MONTGOMERY. Mr. Speaker, I want to commend the gentleman from Missouri for what he said today. I have been very concerned, Mr. Speaker, that we will not get those Americans in Bosnia out within year, and the gentleman from Missouri has been following up on that and that is good news.

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

Mr. MONTGOMERY. I yield to the gentleman from Missouri.

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, I became quite concerned over this as a result of the New York Times article, and I subsequently wrote the President because the Secretary of State clearly said that we are not guaranteeing peace over there, that the 1 year of the IFOR and the American forces would give the warring parties the opportunity for peace, and the President in his letter dated April 22, which I received today, clearly states the administration's policy that they will be about a year. It gives the opportunity, though we are not guaranteeing it.

That of course is good news for the families of all the Americans.

Mr. MONTGOMERY. Mr. Speaker, reclaiming my time, I appreciate the gentleman's remarks.

I want to say, Mr. Speaker, that I was in Bosnia. We have a wonderful Army over there, wonderful Air Force, Navy and Marines. They are all doing a good job, and especially the total forces working with the Reserves, the National Guard and active duty carrying on.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, April 26, 1996.

Hon. NEWT GINGRICH,
The Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 5 of Rule III of the Rules of the House of Representatives, I have the honor to transmit a sealed envelope received from the White House on Friday, April 26th at 1:07 p.m. and said to contain a message from the President whereby he notifies and transmits a copy of a suspension under the Department of the Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 1996.

With warm regards,

ROBIN H. CARLE,
Clerk, House of Representatives.

1996 NATIONAL DRUG CONTROL STRATEGY—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, without objection, referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Committee on Banking and Financial Services, Committee on Commerce, Committee on Economic and Educational Opportunities, Committee on Government Reform and Oversight, Committee on International Relations, Committee on the Judiciary, Committee on National Security, Committee on Resources, Committee on Science, Committee on Small Business, Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, Committee on Veterans' Affairs and Committee on Ways and Means:

To the Congress of the United States:

I am pleased to transmit to the Congress the 1996 *National Drug Control Strategy*. This Strategy carries forward the policies and principles of the 1994 and 1995 Strategies. It describes new directions and initiatives to confront the ever-changing challenges of drug abuse and trafficking.

This past March I convened the White House Leadership Conference on Youth, Drug Use, and Violence in order to focus the Nation's attention on two major health problems faced by young people today—drug use and violence. The conference brought together over 300 young people, parents, clergy, community and business leaders, judges,