

[Mr. LEACH addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereinafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Georgia [Mr. KINGSTON] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. KINGSTON addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereinafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

CYPRUS—22 YEARS OF DIVISION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of May 12, 1995, the gentleman from Florida [Mr. BILIRAKIS] is recognized for half the time until the hour of midnight as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, here we are again, year after year, doing this special order marking the 22 years of division of the Republic of Cyprus as the result of an unlawful invasion 22 years go by the Turkish military.

I am saddened by this so-called anniversary but, of course, we are all hopeful that this will be the year that the division of Cyprus is finally resolved. And I guess year after year after year we are always hopeful that this will be the year. And, of course, it never turns out to be that way. And then here we are again, the esteemed gentleman from New York [Mr. GILMAN], the esteemed gentleman from Illinois [Mr. PORTER], the esteemed gentleman from Pennsylvania [Mr. KLINK], so many others, doing this. We will continue to do it because we feel that possibly we may penetrate the consciousness of the people responsible.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks regarding the subject of my special order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Florida [Mr. BILIRAKIS]?

There was no objection.

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from New York [Mr. GILMAN].

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, today's Special Order on Cyprus comes on the 22d anniversary of the brutal invasion by Turkish troops. I commend my friend the gentleman from Florida [Mr. BILIRAKIS] for organizing this Special Order. Today, the international community is still confronted with the fact that in excess of 30,000 Turkish military personnel remain on the island of Cyprus to enforce an illegal partition and to protect a self-proclaimed government that has been recognized by only one other country—Turkey itself.

Those of us in the Congress who have supported a negotiated settlement to the dispute which has led to the division of Cyprus are painfully aware of the complexities of the issue, the injustices committed, and particularly the suffering over these many long years of

the Cypriot people on both sides of the Green line.

Indeed, Cyprus has become a code-word for stale-mate and intractability in international diplomacy.

This year, new governments in Greece and Turkey had led to hopes and expectations that a fresh start in improving relations between the two countries could be made, and lead to the mutual confidence that could produce a settlement for Cyprus.

Those hopes were dashed when Turkish war ships attempted to challenge Greek sovereignty over Imia. Because of concerns over increasing instability in the Aegean we placed a hold on the transfer of three U.S. naval frigates to Turkey.

I hope that our hold will send a strong signal to Ankara that the patience of the Congress has just about run out, and that we want to see movement on getting Turkish troops out of Cyprus, among other things.

I am distressed that the Clinton administration seems more interested in coddling Turkey's military than in finding a solution for Cyprus.

Last year, we were hopeful that the Administration under the guidance of former Assistant Secretary Richard Holbrooke would take on the Cyprus question, just as Holbrooke had taken on the job of finding peace in Bosnia. Regrettably Mr. Holbrooke has left the Administration, but it is hoped that one of our other talented diplomats could produce a breakthrough in the region.

The shape of a possible settlement is out there. I believe that both President Clerides and Mr. Denktash are men who can rise above the recent enmity that has developed between the two communities, and find a way to reunite the island based on mutual good-will and confidence.

Regrettably, following the elections this past December, the Turkish government appears to be in a weakened position and thus less able to reign-in recalcitrant elements among Turkey's political and military establishment. Recent developments in Turkey have led to an Islamist government coming to power in Ankara. The willingness of that government to engage in dialog and compromise on the Cyprus question is not yet clear. But the fortunes of the people of Cyprus must not be held hostage to internal Turkish political problems.

Old history and grievances must be placed behind us as we seek to resolve the division of Cyprus. I hope and pray that both sides of the problem will reach within themselves to find the resolve to settle this persistent problem. The Greek Cypriots have demonstrated flexibility and the spirit of compromise in recent rounds of U.N. sponsored talks. The international community and the U.N. should recognize this as we re-evaluate our tactics in the light of the most recent failure to move beyond the current situation.

Twenty-two years is a long time. There are now young people coming of

age in Cyprus who know nothing other than the experience of living in a divided society. For this next generation what can guide them in learning to accept life with a neighboring but different culture? Time is running out for the possibility of achieving a peaceful settlement, and the people of Cyprus now have to ask themselves if the enmity between the two communities is truly worth the price of a divided nation.

□ 2230

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, nobody deserves more credit than the gentleman from New York [Mr. GILMAN] on the issue of human rights all over the world, and I really thank the gentleman.

Mr. Speaker, Cyprus is roughly the same size as the State of Connecticut with approximately 660,000 inhabitants. Turkish and Greek Cypriots lived together on the island side by side for almost five centuries. However, the landscape, Cyprus, was dramatically changed when Turkey invaded the island in 1974. On July 20 of that year Turkish forces, some 6,000 troops and 40 tanks, landed on the north coast of Cyprus and captured almost 40 percent of the island, and the international community has strongly condemned the military invasion from the beginning. On the very day of the invasion the United Nations adopted Resolution 353, which called upon all states to respect the sovereignty, independence, and territorial integrity of Cyprus and demanded an immediate end to military intervention in the Republic of Cyprus. However, Turkey ignored the edict of the international community and launched a second offensive in August, 1974.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Illinois [Mr. PORTER] at this time.

Mr. PORTER. I very much thank the gentleman from Florida for arranging this special order on Cyprus and commend him for his great leadership in attempting to once again bring us together to address this very, very serious matter.

Mr. Speaker, I come to the floor today, as I have many times before, to commemorate the sad anniversary of the tragic separation of Cyprus by Turkish troops. This past Saturday, July 20, marks the 22d year of the separation.

On July 20 1974, over 6,000 Turkish troops and 40 tanks landed on the north coast of Cyprus and heavy fighting took place between them and the Cypriot National Guard. Turkish troops pressed on to the capital city of Nicosia, where they engaged in heavy street fighting with Cypriot National Guardsmen and Cypriot irregulars. Throughout the battles, the Turkish air force bombed and strafed Greek-Cypriot positions and attacked the Nicosia airport. By the time a cease fire had been arranged on August 16, Turkish forces had taken the northern third of the country.

Throughout the battles subsequent occupation, tales of atrocities, abductions, rapes, and executions were heard. It was only as those abducted or taken prisoner of war began to filter back to their homes after the cease fire that it became apparent that hundreds were missing.

The Congressional Human Rights Caucus, which I have co-chaired with the gentleman from California [Mr. LANTOS] for over a decade, has held numerous briefings on this issue. Always, we hear wrenching testimony of violations and subsequent coverups by the Turks. The coverup continues to this very day.

Over 1,600 Greek Cypriots and 5 Americans are still among the missing, and a generation has grown up in Cyprus not knowing unity and peace. Over 35,000 Turkish troops occupy the northern third of this beautiful country, despite the fact that this military occupation is recognized to be illegal and in violation of numerous United Nations resolutions.

Since we stood here on this same date 1 year ago, Congress and the administration have repeatedly indicated that a Cyprus solution is long over due. The House has passed a resolution, of which I was an original cosponsor, reaffirming that the status quo on Cyprus is unacceptable and calling for the demilitarization of Cyprus. In addition, the House reduced economic assistance to Turkey for fiscal year 1996 from the administration request of \$100 million to \$33.5 million because of their ongoing human rights violations, including their illegal military occupation of Cyprus. The administration has repeatedly said that 1996 is to be the year of the "big push" on Cyprus.

But, Mr. Speaker, we are over half way through 1996 and a Cyprus solution still seems a distant reality. We talk, and talk, and talk some more about what needs to be done to bring peace and unity to this tiny, beautiful Mediterranean country. According to a recent Washington Times article, the Cyprus problem has been reviewed at least 150 times during the past 22 years to no avail. I would argue that 150 is a very conservative estimate.

But, Mr. Speaker, most significantly talks are scheduled to begin in 1998 regarding Cyprus' entry into the European Union. Their approach should galvanize serious negotiations now that lead Greek and Turkish Cypriots of goodwill to find the keys to unlock a lasting peace and reunite a divided country.

Mr. Speaker, we cannot suffer another round of failed talks between the parties. I would urge not only an extra strong push by the administration to raise this issue to the highest priority, but that our military talk directly with their counterparts in the Turkish military to gain their cooperation in finding a way to begin withdrawing Turkish troops as a first step toward unification.

Obviously, Mr. Speaker, our country cannot and, in fact, must not involve

itself in the negotiations themselves. But we can and should do everything possible to encourage the parties to find common ground and to establish an environment in which agreement can take place.

Mr. Speaker, let us all hope that next year, at this time, we no longer have the need to gather once again on the House floor to reiterate our deep frustration at the ongoing Turkish military occupation of Cyprus. Twenty-two years is much too long to see a divided island and divided people. It is my deepest hope, that the next special order on Cyprus will be to commemorate and celebrate a new found lasting peace and unity in Cyprus.

I thank my good friend and colleague, the gentleman from Florida [Mr. BILIRAKIS], for calling this special order and for bringing us together in this ongoing effort to solve this very, very difficult problem.

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Long before I got here you were very much interested in this issue, and you are the chairman of the Human Rights Caucus, ranking member of that caucus for many, many years, and I know your interest in human rights, and this is a human rights issue. It is an issue of right versus wrong, but also very much so human rights, and I know that it is something that you have been greatly concerned with.

As a result, Mr. Speaker, of Turkey's illegal invasion, 1,619 people are missing. Among these missing, five are U.S. citizens. In addition, more than 200,000 Cypriots were forcibly driven from their homes and are now refugees, a people without a home. To date, Turkey continues its illegal occupation of the northern portion of Cyprus, maintaining more than 35,000 troops and some 80,000 settlers there. Clearly, this occupation continues to serve as a wedge among Cyprus, Turkey, and Greece. In fact, relations among these three countries have recently deteriorated from the dispute over the island of Imia, as Mr. GILMAN mentioned, this past January, to the shooting of an unarmed Greek teenager by the Turkish occupation army in Cyprus this June.

These incidents, Mr. Speaker, are just a few of the many hostile actions taken by Turkey and are indicative of Turkey's aggressive behavior towards Cyprus and Greece.

Mr. Speaker, I would yield to the gentleman from Pennsylvania, my fellow Greek American, Mr. KLINK.

Mr. KLINK. I thank the gentleman from Florida, Mr. BILIRAKIS for yielding to me, and like Mr. PORTER and Mr. GILMAN, I have the desire that the next time we stand to talk about Cyprus it will be because the right thing has been done and that the international community, European Union and others have forced the hand of the Turks to finally do what is right.

Mr. Speaker, since we stood here 1 year ago, many things have happened that have changed that part of the Aegean where Cyprus is or the island of

Imia is, and not many of them have been good. In fact, on March 1 of this year Turkish Cypriot leader Rauf Denktash finally made the comment that those Greek Cypriots that the gentleman from Florida [Mr. BILIRAKIS] referred to who were captured during Turkey's 1974 invasion of Cyprus were murdered, were murdered, he said, by Turkish Cypriot paramilitary forces, which would be, I would remind you, in violation of the Geneva accords.

When he was asked about the fate of the Greek Cypriots, and we assume also the five Americans who are listed as missing, including, I would mention, one 17-year-old boy from Michigan who was taken away from his family with his American passport in his hand, and Denktash told a Greek Cypriot television station; this is a direct quote, Mr. Speaker; what happened, he said, was this:

"As the Turkish army moved and captured Greek Cypriots, unfortunately they were handed to our fighters;" an aside here, Mr. Speaker, he was speaking of the Turkish Cypriot militia; he said, "Among whom were people that had lost family over the years. Instead of taking them to the police station or the prison camps, they were killed."

Well, President Clerides of Cyprus said if the Turkish side claims that the missing are dead, then we demand to know the circumstances of their death, and we want to know where they were buried. Their families deserve to know. The world deserves to know. As of yet we do not know. We have not had an answer.

This comment, I would remind you, was made March 1 of this year. A Cyprus government spokesman said the government was considering whether or not to press for the prosecution of these acts as war crimes, saying if prisoners of war were executed in cold blood, that would violate the Geneva Convention on the treatment of prisoners of war. He also disputed the claims of the Turkish Cypriot leaders that prisoners taken to Turkey were all accounted for. He said even among the people taken to Turkey and registered by the International Red Cross some of them never came back and questioned whether or not Denktash was now attempting to exonerate the Turkish Army which, under the Geneva Convention, bore the sole responsibility for prisoners of war.

Now, strong condemnation of the Turkish admission came from leaders across Europe. They said again that the main responsibility for the disappearance of these persons still lies with the Turkish Army, a fact that has been verified by international organizations.

I will remind you that over hundreds of years it has been Turkey that has been the provocateurs. The incident of the invasion of Cyprus 22 years ago does not stand alone in the annals of history of this part of the world. My

own family's name, as they lived on the island of Kalymnos, which is where Mr. BILIRAKIS's family also came from, was changed to Giavasis by the Turks, as they had control of Greece for hundreds of years, and it was always the Turks who came as the provocateurs, and they showed us again, I mentioned at the beginning of my statement, that during the past year many things have occurred. Well, it was not only having to do with Cyprus, but the Turks moved to make a claim on a tiny island by the name of Imia, small island, uninhabited except for some goats or for some sheep.

Many people say, "Well, why fight about it?" Well, I would argue that there were parts of south Texas that are virtually uninhabited except by jack rabbits and snakes and scorpions, but if the Mexicans tried to occupy that, we would be at war.

This island is Greek. This island was controlled, as part of the Dodecanese, by Italy by the Lausanne peace treaty of 1923, and subsequently the Italians granted this to Greek sovereignty in the Paris Peace Treaty of 1947 following World War II.

There is no question about this, and yet in the past year the Turks once again being the provocateurs, having been successful for 22 years at occupying Cyprus, at raping, at pillaging, at creating hundreds of people who are refugees in their own land, were not happy. They moved in a provocative way toward the island of Imia, and it is up to the United States and to the Congress and to the President to not allow this to occur, to not stand idly by. It is up to the European Union to not look at this as happening to Greece, that Greece is one country alone, but this is an attack upon the European Union just as the movement against Cyprus was a movement against all the Aegean.

□ 2245

If you go to islands like Khios, you will find out that tens of thousands of natives of the island of Khios were massacred 175 years ago by the Turks. When the Turks moved against Cyprus in 1974, tens of thousands of those living on the island 150 years after the massacre left because they were afraid of what was going to happen.

That island still bears the scars of Turkish violence towards them, of the 3,000 Greeks who were burned to death when they fled to a church on Khios, and the Turks burned the church down around them. And you can see the bloody imprints of the faces and hands of children, of small Greek children, still today, on the floor, on the marble floors of this church, as they have rebuilt it. You can see the charred bones. They have been kept there for Greeks to be able to remember these hostilities that were brought against them by the Ottoman Empire.

So what we are looking at today is not something that can be blamed on the fact that Turkey has tough eco-

nomic times. Of course, Greece has tough economic times. They are one of the poorest of the European Union. Yet they are forced year after year to spend 6 to 7 percent of their gross national product on defense, because they stand alone against the Turks, and the world and the European Union has not forced the Turks to find a solution on the island of Cyprus.

Mr. Speaker, I will be very thankful tonight to the many Members who have stayed here on the floor because they have justice in their heart. It would be very easy for Members and for the staff here in the House Chamber to go home, but the fact of the matter is that, while we may be a little bit tired tonight, while we may not like working long hours, we are talking about hours. To the Greek Cypriots it is years.

I thank my friends on both sides of the aisle who have had justice and the feeling for their fellow humankind in their hearts for these years that have time after time come to this floor to speak on behalf of not constituents of theirs, but for people of a nation who have been wronged.

I thank my dear friend, the gentleman from Florida, MIKE BILIRAKIS, again for leading us, and for being the voice of reason of Greeks around the world, and I hope that before the next year's anniversary comes we have some kind of positive solution to the problems of Cyprus.

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman. Obviously, that is the hope we all have. I cannot say how proud I am to be working with the gentleman on this issue, as well as so many others.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Rhode Island [Mr. REED].

Mr. REED. Mr. Speaker, I first want to commend the gentleman from Florida [Mr. BILIRAKIS], for his leadership in organizing this special order, and for his leadership on all of these vital issues of importance, not only to our country but to the country of Greece and to the country of Cyprus.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call attention to the 22nd anniversary of the Turkish invasion and occupation of the Republic of Cyprus. July 20, 1996, marks 22 long years of Turkish military presence in Cyprus. This anniversary serves as a reminder that continued efforts on the part of the United States are essential in trying to establish a lasting, peaceful solution to the Cyprus dispute.

On July 20, 1974, 6,000 Turkish troops launched the invasion of Cyprus, an invasion that would ultimately conclude with the occupation of 40 percent of the island and its 660,000 inhabitants. Moreover, the installation of Turkish troops on Cyprus wrote an end to centuries of peaceful cohabitation between the Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot communities.

Since then thousands of Cypriots have lost their lives over the years as a result of horrific acts imposed upon

them by the Turkish military. Today Turkey maintains more than 35,000 troops in northern Cyprus, further straining the unstable and tumultuous environment of the region.

I commend President Clinton for designating 1996 as the year of Cyprus. Indeed, I wrote to the President earlier this year urging him to seek a permanent, peaceful settlement of the Cyprus dispute. I am encouraged by the recent developments as a result of the administration's efforts in Cyprus last week. The recent visit of U.S. presidential envoy Richard Beattie and Ambassador Albright was a positive one. Discussions aimed at reducing military tensions between the parties are expected to begin in the near future. It is extremely important that the administration continue to work with the parties to reduce tensions and move the peace process forward.

The 22nd anniversary of the Turkish invasion of Cyprus comes at a time when other formerly embattled nations are at last finding common ground upon which to reach a lasting peace. The U.S. has the ability to play a critical role in helping the people of Cyprus and stabilizing relations in the eastern Mediterranean.

Mr. Speaker, the settlement of the Cyprus dispute should be the highest priority for the United States. I urge the support of my colleagues in moving this important initiative forward, and once again commend the gentleman from Florida [Mr. BILIRAKIS], for his leadership, his endurance, and his great commitment to the cause of peace, both here and in Cyprus.

Mr. Speaker, I include for the RECORD a letter from President Clinton regarding U.S. efforts towards peace in Cyprus:

The letter referred to is as follows:

THE WHITE HOUSE,
Washington, DC, July 17, 1996.

Hon. JACK REED,
House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR JACK: Thank you for your letter concerning our Cyprus initiative. I value your expressions of support for our efforts to end the division of that island.

We have long appreciated the adverse effect that the Cyprus problem has on relations between Greece and Turkey. A negotiated solution would remove a serious source of tensions between the two countries. We made this point to Presidents Demirel and Stephanopoulos, Prime Minister Simitis and Foreign Minister Gonensay during their recent visits to Washington. We solicited and received their support for our planned efforts to work toward an eventual negotiated settlement.

I completed my series of personal consultations with regional leaders when I hosted President Clerides at the White House on June 17. I reaffirmed to him my commitment to assist in the search for a Cyprus solution. After meeting President Clerides, I announced that I would send my Special Envoy, Richard Beattie, to the region this month to begin discussions on the key issues involved in a comprehensive settlement, with special emphasis on security. I expect cooperation from all the parties when Mr. Beattie and his delegation arrive in Turkey, Greece and Cyprus.

As we undertake our efforts to advance a solution, you can be assured of my commitment to continued U.S. leadership on what I consider one of our highest priorities in Europe.

Sincerely,

BILL CLINTON.

Mr. BILIRAKIS. I thank the gentleman for joining us in this very important special order, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from California [Mr. HORN].

Mr. HORN. Mr. Speaker, I thank my distinguished colleague, the gentleman from Florida, Mr. BILIRAKIS, for arranging this colloquy. I thank my colleagues on both sides of the aisle for our common participation on what is basic American policy. We hope it will reach fruition and implementation.

Mr. Speaker, this past weekend marked the 22d anniversary of the Turkish invasion of Cyprus. Once again, this body marks an annual remembrance of the suffering of the Cypriot people and the division of Cyprus.

Following a long investigation, the European Commission of Human Rights concluded that there were "very strong indications" of killings "committed on a substantial scale" by the Turkish Army during its invasion. Actions by Turks and Turkish Cypriots included wholesale and repeated rapes of women of all ages, systematic torture, savage and humiliating treatment of hundreds of people, including children, women, pensioners, during their detention by the Turkish forces, as well as looting and robbery on an extensive scale by Turkish troops and Turkish Cypriots.

It is because of these atrocities that the world has held the Turkish occupation of one-third of Cyprus in scorn and contempt. Turkey is the only country in the world that recognizes the "Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus." The government of Turkey must accept that its actions in Cyprus are simply wrong, and its continued presence as an occupying force is illegitimate.

While Turkey may see the status quo as an acceptable alternative, the world, and its American ally, does not see it as an acceptable alternative. Turkey's intransigence is a threat to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and to stability in the Mediterranean.

We all hope that recent tensions in Cyprus, including the shooting of a Greek Cypriot guardsman by Turkish soldiers and rock-throwing by Turkish troops at other Greek Cypriots, is only a rough spot in the road to peace and a return to normal. These tragic deaths should bring everybody to their senses on this matter.

Recent diplomatic activity is encouraging, and I hope that the administration will be successful in its efforts. But the United States must also be very clear, that it has never accepted, it never will accept, a continuation of the Turkish occupation of part of Cyprus. It violates the United Nations charter, it violates the rule of law, it violates international law, and it violates human rights.

Mr. BILIRAKIS. I thank the gentleman for joining us this evening, this late evening, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, Turkey also deployed, in addition to all of these other transgressions that we have heard here tonight, nearly 100 American-made tanks on northern Cyprus this past January; I repeat, nearly 100 American-made tanks on northern Cyprus, this is the occupied territory, this past January, in direct violation of agreements between Turkey and the United States.

We have to ask ourselves, finally we have to ask ourselves, what are we doing in protest of these violations? Rhetoric after rhetoric after rhetoric, and nothing is being done. I am not just referring to the administration, but I am referring to the Congress, even though we have had a couple of votes in the last couple of years particularly focusing on human rights violations which would be sending a message to Turkey.

Turkey's recent actions have caused me, as I am sure I speak for all members in this House, great concern. I am still particularly troubled about the claims Turkey made over Imia. It has been mentioned twice already tonight two or three times.

I have followed this dispute closely, and in fact recently returned from Greece, where I had the opportunity to visit not only my ancestral homeland, Kalymnos, the island the ancestors of the gentleman from Pennsylvania [Mr. KLINK] also come from, but also this disputed island of Imia.

I was accompanied by the gentleman from Florida, Mr. PORTER GOSS, and the gentleman from Chicago, Illinois, Mr. BOBBY RUSH. As we sailed through the Dodecanese Islands, a group of 12 islands down in that southern part of the Aegean, I wanted my colleagues to understand that Imia is Greek. Indeed, it has always been considered, and, as the gentleman from Pennsylvania [Mr. KLINK] said, as Greek by those living nearby and by the international community.

Despite these recent tensions, I am confident that they will not hinder, I am hopeful they will not hinder the administration's push to resolve the Cyprus issue. Cyprus is the only country in Europe, the only country in Europe with 37 percent of its land under the occupation of an invading force. Resolving the division of Cyprus will not only reunite Cypriots, but will also help lay the foundation for better relations between Greece and Turkey.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from New Jersey [Mr. MENENDEZ] who was also in Cyprus on my last trip there.

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

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman for yielding, and also for his leadership in bringing us together on the commemoration of what many of my colleagues have already stated is an incredible 32 years of

invasion, of separation of families, of a division of a country in an artificial means, and at the same time of a continuous occupation. And as the gentleman just pointed out, 37 percent of the island remains under occupation by Turkish troops, which, in defiance of United Nations resolutions, now number 35,000. This makes Cyprus one of the most militarized areas in the world, considering its overall size.

The fact of the matter is that despite the tragic history, we hope there is reason to be optimistic. We believe the Cyprus problem is resolvable. The Clinton administration announced a new initiative to reunite Cyprus, and last week Ambassador Madeleine Albright and special envoy Dick Beattie arrived in Cyprus to kick off what they have termed as the big push, and that is exactly what our Cyprus policy needs.

It is time to dispose of all of the arguments and excuses which have postponed progress on the Cyprus problem. There is never a perfect time, and certainly this is a time to go ahead and have a solution.

Mr. Speaker, I empathize with this issue because I believe, having visited Cyprus nearly a year ago, when the gentleman from Florida was there himself, having crossed the green line, a line that divides, artificially, northern Cyprus and the rest of it from the Greek side to the Turkish side, having brought constituents of mine, the Zambas family from my district, who for the first time after all of these years got to return to what to them in essence is their homeland, their homeland, to be able to see their roots, to be able to go to what was their church, to see their village, their neighborhoods.

The interesting part of that trip was the tremendous resistance that we got first of all in trying to cross, although if you hear the Turkish authorities on the other side, they claim that it is easy to go back and forth across the green line. It is not. As a Member of the United States Congress, with the United States Embassy in Cyprus behind us in an effort to get a few people to cross to see what their homeland was, we were told it was going to be easy, but it was very difficult. In addition to that we ended up with a whole group of people with us as a security force well beyond our numbers. It made it every step of the way.

What was interesting was that when the Americans of Greek Cypriot descent got together with the Turkish Cypriots, those who were native Turkish Cypriots on the northern side, and started communicating with each other, they were fine. It was only those people, the Turkish authorities who were not originally Cypriots, who came from Turkey to settle in the area, that created difficulties and division between what is naturally two people, and left to those two people, Greek and Turkish Cypriots who believe in one Cyprus and an opportunity to co-exist with each other, this problem could be resolved.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, let me just simply say that having seen that chemistry between the people, having seen this artificial division in person, having seen the beauty of the country and its enormous possibilities and its importance to the United States in terms of security in that part of the world, and its importance to others of our allies in terms of their security in that part of the world, and the opportunity that Cyprus has geographically in being a gateway to the West from that part of the world, the United States must put its full diplomatic effort and every tool of peaceful diplomacy it has at work to come to a solution.

That includes having our military, which is intricately involved with the Turkish military, to have an enormous say, even though it is a democratic government, but it has a tremendous influence in that government, to come to a solution on the Cyprus question. It can be done. The people of Cyprus, Greek and Turkish alike, want a solution, and the fact of the matter is the United States has the wherewithal, I believe, in this matter to be an honest and efficient participant in bringing peace with justice in Cyprus.

I close by reading a brief poem that was written by Cypriot Nese Yasin, which I feel probably best characterizes the sentiments of the Cypriot people.

It says "My father says love your country. My country is divided into two. Which part should I love?"

□ 2300

Hopefully a year from now that question will no longer need to be posed, Mr. Chairman, and I thank you for the opportunity to participate with you in this historic moment.

Mr. BILIRAKIS. I certainly agree with the gentleman. His points are very well taken and you are right, we have the power, we have the wherewithal to do what needs to be done there. It is so very frustrating that we are not really trying. There is an awful lot of rhetoric, an awful lot of words to the effect that we will try, we are going to continue to try. We can do it if we really want to. All we have to do is put our mind to it and basically roll up our sleeves and put our energy behind our words.

Mr. MENENDEZ. We are committed to working with the gentleman to make sure that happens.

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, the green line that the gentleman just refers to divides northern and southern Cyprus. It not only divides a nation but it divides a people. I might add since the Berlin Wall went down, it is the only wall left in the entire world that divides a people, and we sit back and talk about it, do not do anything about it. The invasion and subsequent illegal occupation of Cyprus by Turkey left thousands, thousands without a home, and because it is late the gentlewoman wants to get home, I know where I would like to go in a few minutes, I will yield at this point to the gentle-

woman from New York [Mrs. MALONEY], who has just been a wonderful partner on all of the issues involving Greece and Cyprus.

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, once again as I have every year that I have been a Member of Congress, it is my distinct honor and great privilege to stand with the gentleman from Florida and commemorate the tragic invasion and occupation of Cyprus. I am sure Mr. BILIRAKIS will agree with me when I state that a lot has transpired in the year since we stood in this well to discuss the fate of this beautiful island.

First, I am pleased of the success that the gentleman and I had in the formation of the Congressional Caucus on Hellenic Issues. This has become a large and active organization. We now have 50 Members from both parties from all regions of the country and from all political ideologies. Democrats, Republicans, liberals, and conservatives have all joined together to pursue our common objectives of justice, human rights and stronger ties between the United States and its strong democratic allies, Cyprus and Greece. The Hellenic Caucus has organized important and informative meetings with Greek President Stephanopoulos and Ambassador Tsilas, with Cypriot President Clerides, as well as a touching and very special meeting with this Eminence Archbishop Iakavos, who retired this year after 37 years of service to the community.

In addition, the Hellenic Caucus members have strongly urged President Clinton to forcefully condemn hostile Turkish actions regarding the Greek Islands of Imia and Gavdos and other aggressive actions in the eastern Mediterranean. Many members of the Hellenic Caucus wrote to the Turkish foreign minister in protest of his country's attacks on the human rights foundation of Turkey which treats victims of torture.

Mr. BILIRAKIS and I joined with Senator SARBANES in a successful effort to stop the proposed sale of 12 deadly Super Cobra helicopters to Turkey. Several of us have kept up the pressure on Turkey to stop its persecution of Christians and Kurds. Hellenic Caucus members are well represented on the list of cosponsors of House Concurrent Resolution 42, which passed the House. This bill puts the United States on record in support of the demilitarization of Cyprus and highlights Congress' continuing interest in achieving a solution to the Cypriot situation.

This brings me to perhaps the greatest victory for those of us who support Cypriot and Greek causes. On June 5, by a resounding vote of 303 to 115, the House passed the Visclosky amendment, which would end United States economic aid to Turkey unless it ends its inhumane blockade of Armenia.

Mr. Speaker, we all know what Turkey's response was to this House action. Turkey announced that it would rather forgo our generous assistance

than end the suffering caused by this cruel and callous blockade. Tragically, it is the same intransigence that has marked Turkey's attitude on the Cyprus issue.

Let us not forget the facts: 22 years ago, Turkey brutally invaded Cyprus. 200,000 Greek Cypriots were expelled from their homes, their property was confiscated. Worst of all, 1,614 Cypriots and 5 American citizens were seized by Turkish troops and remain missing to this day.

Mr. Speaker, it has become somewhat of a cliché to refer to these so-called missing, but to me this phrase has a distinctly human face. I have met many, many times with constituents of mine in the Astoria neighborhoods whose family members are still among the missing. I have seen the great pain on the faces of the families of Chris Loizoi, Andrew Kassapis, and George Anastasiou. I resolved never to give up my quest to see that the fates of their family members are accounted for. Human decency demands that we use all the means at our disposal, including special orders like this one in this great Hall of democracy, to hold Turkey accountable for all of the missing. The simple cause of justice demands that Turkey pull back from the third of Cyprus that it now illegally occupies with 35,000 troops who are armed to the teeth.

Mr. Speaker, last week President Clinton dispatched our able U.N. Ambassador Madeleine Albright to Cyprus, Greece, and Turkey to restart talks on resolving the dispute. I wish my friend the Ambassador the best of luck in this extremely important mission, and I look forward to hearing her report and that of the Special Envoy Richard Beatty—22 years of brutality, human rights abuses and illegal occupation is far, far too long.

I commend my colleagues who are speaking this evening for taking the time to go on the record in opposition to war and suffering and in favor of peace and justice. All of us owe it to those who have endured a terrible fate on this beautiful island to speak up and speak out. Tonight we say to the people of Cyprus and the families of the missing we will never forget you. We will always continue working for peace and justice on Cyprus.

I want to conclude by thanking my dear friend Congressman BILIRAKIS for his extreme effort on the Cyprus issue and on all Greek causes. He not only supports it with his rhetoric, with his legislation, with his heart, but also with his physical time. He is the only Member of Congress that has initiated a voyage to the island of Imia, who has gone into the enclaves on Cyprus and has attended almost every CECA conference in Cyprus. I thank you for your strong, strong commitment to these issues, your hard work and for organizing this special order tonight. My constituents thank you. The families of the missing thank you.

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Well, I thank the gentlewoman. She has just been great

to work with, and I am just proud again to be a cochair of the Hellenic Caucus with the gentlewoman.

Mr. Speaker, while chairing hearings of the Congressional Human Rights Caucus in 1992, I had the opportunity to hear first-hand the heart-wrenching stories of people who had relatives abducted during and after the illegal Turkish invasion. Throughout these hearings, a common theme emerged: The families want concrete answers regarding the fates of their loved ones.

Mr. Denktash, the Turkish Cypriot leader, made a recent statement referred to by the gentleman from Pennsylvania [Mr. KLINK] on a Greek Cypriot television station that the missing in Cyprus were turned over to the Turkish militia and killed. While shocked by this statement I question it, given the fact that there is much evidence to the contrary. We must know conclusively what happened to the five Americans and the 1,614 Greek Cypriots that have been missing since 1974.

I have sent a letter to President Clinton urging him to do everything possible to determine once and for all the fate of the missing in Cyprus.

In addition to the missing, as the gentlewoman from New York [Mrs. MALONEY] just mentioned, I also have serious concerns about the enclaved people in Cyprus. I am pleased to have cosponsored H.R. 2223, the Freedom and Human Rights for the Enclaved People of Cyprus Act.

I would advise my colleagues that the enclaved are a group of people in a certain part of Cyprus who have refused to leave their homes. Those who have left their homes over the years have lost all of their property. These people just do not want to leave their homes and, consequently, they have stayed there and we call them "enclaved" because that is exactly what they are. This legislation will implement efforts to eliminate restrictions on the enclaved people of Cyprus.

Besides cosponsoring the bill, I also am very proud to say one of the finest experiences of my life, I visited this area last August accompanied by the gentleman from Ohio, MARTIN HOKE. We visited the area. We saw and heard firsthand the life experiences of these people. We were accompanied by a couple of top leaders from the Turkish side who were delegated by Mr. Denktash to accompany us. Both of these people were born, as I understand it, as I remember it, but in any case raised in a part of southern Cyprus, the nonoccupied part of Cyprus called Paphos. They speak Greek fluently. I might add that they visited these coffee houses with us. They spoke Greek so very fluently that when the people, in the process of communicating with us regarding all of their problems and sharing with us all their problems and the enslaved nature of them all, they also communicated the same thing to them because they thought that they were also Americans, or at least they

thought that they were Greek Cypriots rather than Turkish Cypriots because they spoke Greek so very well.

The point was made, I think, by the gentleman from New Jersey [Mr. MENENDEZ], the fact that these people got along over the years and it was these outside forces that basically split everything up. But we visited this coffee house there, we sat down and had coffee with the people and heard their problems.

We visited a monastery, we call it Apostle Andrew, which is Apostle Andrew. It was a monastery that was the subject of pilgrimages by families over the years. The monastery had been closed for better than 20 years, had not been opened, and to the credit of the people in charge, they opened it for us. We visited, we went into the monastery, we lit candles, we drank of the holy water, and we also captured some of the holy water that came from the base of the monastery. The story goes that the Apostle Andrew struck his staff against the rocks on the side of the mountain and water came out just as fresh and as cool and as beautiful as could be.

We visited a schoolteacher by the name of Eleni Foka, we call her Kitty Eleni. That means Miss Helen Foka, F-O-K-A, a lady who is very vocal, a lady who is, based on what Mr. Denktash told me personally, is a thorn in the side. She still teaches school, I might add there. We asked her, "Well, since you live under these types of conditions, why do not you just get up and leave? Why do not you just go over the line into the Greek Cypriot side where there is freedom at least?" She very tearfully and very emotionally said to us, "This is my paradise. Why should I leave it?" That I think says it all. "This is my paradise, why should I leave it?"

I would add that just this week I received a letter from this lady that I have had interpreted. My Greek is not good enough to be able to do too well with it, so I was able to have it interpreted. It is addressed to me and I would like to read this.

"First I would like to thank you for your great interest and love and also thank you for your visit to our enslaved village, where you saw with your own eyes our living conditions. You witnessed a very cruel reality, that we are living under 'medieval' conditions that nowhere in the civilized world can be found. We are denied the right to religion, education, movement, correspondence and so much more; in a few words, our human rights are flagrantly violated.

The barbarian Turkish invaders appear to fear no one, because none of the powerful people in the world," and I think we know who she is referring to when she says that, "and no international organization compels them to respect international law and order, human rights and freedom.

"On June 3, while we are absent from the school, Turkish occupation soldiers

and settlers went to my school and with wood cutting machines cut the trees and with excavators destroyed all the area." She sent me photographs of the area as it was destroyed. "Their target was to demolish the school and force me to leave my occupied village, thus, closing down the school forever. They claim that the property of the Greek school belongs to them after the invasion and, therefore, they can do whatever they want. In addition, they provocatively tell me that they will turn the school into a field for them to play soccer. This is their respect for education. The photographs I am sending to you are speaking for themselves. Unfortunately, I do not have the strength and the courage to describe all that is happening.

"After your visit here," she is referring to our visit there," the conquerors, declared that they would improve our living conditions. However, the situation is becoming worse and worse. Moreover, myself and many other enslaved Greeks are being threatened, blackmailed and humiliated. Recently, for instance, some people that are not even 'policemen', visited us and asked to take pictures of us, saying that they were going to issue us their so-called "State's" photo IDs. They want us to denounce our ethnicity and our identity as enslaved Greeks to become Turkish citizens.

"For all of the above, we call you, our free brothers and Greeks all over the world, to help us. Our brothers, we ought not to waste precious time; 23 years of slavery are too long; we are begging you to find ways to save our country. Today is Cyprus, tomorrow is the Aegean sea, later will be Thrace; please do not delay, you can help us.

"We wish the best for you and for ourselves. We wish only freedom.

"With my best regards, your enslaved sister, Eleni Foka."

And she goes on with a note, "Please accept this small gift that was made by an enslaved sister in an enslaved Agia Triada Karpasias. It is made on a black background, symbolizing our black slavery, using silk which symbolizes the strength of our endurance. Please to not be late. Unfortunately, as you realized yourself during your visit, we are facing a deadline."

Mr. Speaker, although the rights of those enclaved are intended to be protected by the 1975 Third Vienna Agreement which States that the Greek Cypriots, and I quote, that the Greek Cypriots present in the north are free to stay and they will be given every help to lead a normal life, end quotes, a recent United Nations report paints a far different picture of their fate.

According to the report, the life of the Greek Cypriots is anything but normal. In fact, according to the report, quote from that full report, "Much of the time they live in trepidation and even fear, due to the constant Turkish Cypriot police presence in their lives."

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I would tell my colleagues that the focal theme of all the remarks that we received from those people at the coffeehouse and throughout that entire area was fear. They lived constantly in fear.

Mr. Speaker, the time has come to reunite Cypriots who have been separated from their brothers and sisters by an arbitrary boundary for so long. Surely it is in Turkey's best interest, surely it has to be in their best interest to resolve this conflict as expeditiously as possible. Turkey's actions are keeping it from becoming an accepted part of the European Community. Meanwhile, Cyprus is moving forward with its aspirations for membership in the European Community.

As Cyprus takes steps to improve itself, so, too, must we. We must do our utmost. We have to do our utmost to end the division of Cyprus. The administration's push to settle the Cyprus issue was slated to begin after the May 26 parliamentary elections in Cyprus, and I am hopeful those efforts will complement our own in the House.

As we in Congress focus on settling this issue, I am reminded of what Alex- is Galanos, president of the Cyprus House of Representatives, has stressed, and I quote him:

Any initiative that is not focused on the respect of Cyprus' sovereignty, on respect for the rule of law, on basic freedoms and on the termination of any foreign intervention, including the termination of the policy of illegal settlers in Cyprus is bound to fail.

As many of my colleagues may know, the gentlewoman from New York [Mrs. MALONEY] and I recently formed—she referred to it proudly, as I am proud of it too—formed a Hellenic Caucus to foster and improve relations between the United States and our important ally, Greece. A principal purpose of the caucus is to educate more Members of Congress about the need to resolve the long-standing dispute on Cyprus.

I am pleased to announce, and I think she has already done so, that the caucus already has over 40 Members. I know there are many others out there who would like to join. I guess they need an invitation. We have sent out the "Dear Colleagues" and some of these things sometimes fall in the cracks, but we have held meetings with His Eminence, Greek Ambassador Tsilas, Greek Speaker Kaklamanis, and Hellenic President Stephanopoulos.

This important caucus gives Hellenic and Cypriot causes additional clout so that, along with grassroots efforts, we can better succeed in our constant effort to achieve justice for Cyprus. As co-chair, I look forward to working with my colleagues to ensure that justice for Cyprus is achieved.

We have a responsibility, Mr. Speaker, to use our influence to see Cyprus made whole again, to rescue the thousands of Greek Cypriots who have become refugees in the land of their birth. Unbelievable, refugees in the land of their birth.

Like those faithful Cypriots in my district, in Clearwater and Tarpon Springs, FL, and my entire district of the Tampa Bay area and elsewhere, we must stand up for the values so important to us.

We must continue to press for a just resolution to this long-standing dispute. Every year since first coming to Congress, I and so many others have worked hard to give Cyprus the attention it deserves, and this year will be no exception.

Mr. Speaker, before I close I would like to particularly thank and express my apologies, I guess, to the reporters, to the members of the staff, to you, and to so many others who we have kept here late tonight, but this is a very important cause and I think you all understand that.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my colleagues, Mr. BILIRAKIS and Mrs. MALONEY, the co-chairs of the Congressional Caucus on Hellenic issues, for their tireless efforts on behalf of the Greek-American community and for putting together this special order to mark the 22d anniversary of Turkey's illegal invasion and occupation of Cyprus. Restoring independence and freedom to the island nation of Cyprus is, in my opinion, one of the most important foreign policy challenges the United States continues to face and I am saddened that yet another year has gone by without much progress.

I am, however, as equally determined to keep Congress actively involved in this issue until a just settlement for the Cypriot people is reached. Accordingly, I would like to commend the American delegation dispatched by the administration to Greece, Cyprus, and Turkey last week for their dedication. Headed by our Permanent Ambassador to the United Nations Madeleine Albright and the President's Special Emissary for Cyprus Richard Beattie, as well as other high level State Department officials working on the Cyprus problem, the delegation is once again offering American assistance in breaking the now 22-year-old stalemate and bringing peace to the region.

The history of this issue is well known to all of us. On July 20, 1974, 6,000 Turkish troops invaded Cyprus, stealing its independence after a campaign of pillaging, terror, and murder.

Over the next 22 years, the Turkish Government fortified its illegal occupation force, defiantly ignoring the calls from the international community—including multiple U.N. resolutions—to allow the Cypriot people to live a free and sovereign life. Today 1,619 people, including 5 American citizens, remain missing as a result of the invasion, and the Turkish occupying force stands at some 35,000 troops. A barbed wire fence, moreover, divides the island in two, prohibiting thousands of Greek Cypriots the freedom to live on and travel to some 37 percent of their own country.

Mr. Speaker, during the 22 years the Turkish Government has been fortifying its illegal occupation force and thumbing its nose at the international community, the United States has reviewed the Cyprus problem at least 150 times. And while we all hope, as we do each time the United States intensifies its focus on the Cyprus issue, that the current delegation's effort will lead to a breakthrough, we must convey to the Turks in no uncertain terms that

we are prepared to return 150 more times, or as many times as it takes to secure a just resolution for the Cypriot people. It is a message the Turks have always found hard to swallow.

The Turkish Government has found this message hard to digest because agreeing to a just settlement on Cyprus is a solution rooted in the larger acceptance of international law—a principle which the Turks openly, and hostilely, rebuke. Indeed, since we gathered here last year to mark this occasion, the Turks nearly introduced yet more armed conflict into an already unstable area with their unfounded claim to the Creek islet Imia in the Aegean Sea. This extremely volatile claim has, in fact, elevated Turkey's disregard for international law to a new level. As Greece's foreign minister, Theodore Pangalos stated "this is the first time that Turkey has actually laid claim to Creek territory." Though violence was averted through the personal intervention of President Clinton in the matter, Turkey remains opposed to Greece's offer to submit the dispute by itself to the International Court at The Hague for a peaceful, legal resolution.

It is precisely this type of intransigence—ignoring opportunities to resolve disputes in peaceful manners—that has now stretched the Cyprus problem into its 22d year. Just last year Cyprus' President extended an olive branch to the Turks and suggested that Cyprus be demilitarized as part of an effort to create a peaceful environment under which negotiations for a comprehensive solution to the dispute could be conducted. The House of Representatives strongly endorsed the idea last year, passing House Concurrent Resolution 42, echoing the Cypriot President's call to demilitarize the island. The Turks have so far rejected the idea.

In response, many of us in the House joined forces to send Turkey a strong message. As was the case during consideration of the fiscal year 1996 budget, we were successful again this year in passing amendments to the fiscal year 1997 foreign appropriations bill that cuts aid to Turkey in response to its continued illegal occupation of Cyprus, its inhumane blockade of Armenia, its campaign of oppression against its own Kurdish population and its general disregard of human rights.

As these measures indicate, we are steadfastly committed to once again seeing a free and independent Cyprus. We will continue to ensure Congress plays an active role in pressuring Turkey to abide by all relevant U.N. resolutions and insist that any solution to the Cyprus problem must be based on the establishment of a single sovereign state with a single citizenship.

Mr. Speaker, over the last 2 years the United States has used its influence to help further the causes of peace and freedom in some of the world's most intractable, bitter disputes, such as in the Middle East, Bosnia, and Northern Ireland. Let us hope that in the coming year our work will allow us to add Cyprus to that list so that when we gather next, it will be to celebrate the island's liberation instead of to mark yet another year of division.

Mr. VISCLOSKEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to mark the 22d anniversary of Turkey's invasion, and subsequent occupation, of Cyprus.

Having gained its independence from Great Britain in 1960, Cyprus enjoyed a proud, albeit short, period of political independence. On July 20, 1974, this independence was shattered when 6,000 Turkish troops and 40 tanks

invaded the north coast of Cyprus and proceeded to occupy nearly 40 percent of the island.

The ensuing fighting killed thousands of Cypriots and forced hundreds of thousands from their homes. Today, there are 1,619 people still missing, 5 of whom are United States citizens.

Twenty-two years after the invasion, 35,000 Turkish troops continue to occupy Cyprus in violation of international law. A barbed wire fence cuts across the island, separating families from their property and splitting this once beautiful country in half.

Despite efforts by the United States and the United Nations to bring about an acceptable resolution to this situation, Turkey continues to stonewall negotiations. It has continuously refused to either return or pay restitution for any of the land that is captured, and sporadic fighting on the island continues to this day.

The occupation of Cyprus is one of the reasons that I offered an amendment to the fiscal year 1997 Foreign Operations appropriations bill to cut \$25 million in United States economic aid to Turkey. This amendment, which the House overwhelmingly approved by a vote of 301 to 118, sends a clear message to Turkey that its illegal and immoral occupation of Cyprus will not be tolerated by this country.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to join with my colleagues in standing up against Turkish tyranny in Cyprus. I would especially like to extend my thanks to the gentleman from Florida, Mr. BILIRAKIS, for his tireless work to ensure that the people of Cyprus are not forgotten. Twenty-two years is a long time to wait, but it is my sincerest hope that our actions will help persuade Turkey to end its unlawful occupation of Cyprus and return the island to its rightful owners.

Mr. KENNEDY of Massachusetts, Mr. Speaker, July 20, 1996 marked the 22d year of Turkey's illegal invasion and continued occupation of the Island of Cyprus. On July 20, 1974, 6,000 Turkish troops attacked the island, destroying nearly five centuries of peaceful coexistence between Turkish and Greek Cypriots.

As a result, almost 40 percent of the island came under Turkish rule—even though Turkish Cypriots make up less than 20 percent of the total population of that island. And the Turks employed deliberately cruel and harsh measures to intimidate the Greek Cypriots. There are reports of extensive killings, rape of women of all ages, torture, looting, and robberies.

Despite countless efforts by the Greek communities and the United Nations to settle this dispute, a solution has not been found. Turkey is the only nation that recognizes the Turkish claim to the island—yet the Greeks are still held victims of the Turkish invasion. The current situation is one of gridlock.

This situation cannot be allowed to continue. We must have peace on the Island of Cyprus. And peace requires that foreign troops withdraw from their occupation of Cyprus.

Cyprus has been a divided country since 1974—22 years too long. I urge all of my colleagues to focus their attention on finding a just and lasting solution for the Island of Cyprus.

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, we should all be thankful for our distinguished colleagues, Mr. BILIRAKIS and Mrs. MALONEY, cochairs of the Hellenic Issues Caucus, for organizing this observance of a sad and frustrating anniversary.

Today, there are 35,000 Turkish troops on the island of Cyprus who occupy one-third of the island. Since their invasion 20 years ago, those troops have patrolled the Green Line, a barbed wire fence that cuts across Cyprus, separating thousands of Greek Cypriots from the towns and communities in which their families have lived for generations.

Mr. Speaker, ending the military occupation of Cyprus is among the greatest challenges the international community faces today. But we must have the cooperation of Turkey to make progress and bring unity and freedom to Cypriots on the island.

For it was on July 20, 1974, that Turkish troops invaded the island of Cyprus and began a military occupation. Thousands of people were killed, more than 200,000 people were expelled from their homes, and today, more than 1,600 remain missing—including 5 Americans.

The Turkish Government must know that the division and occupation of Cyprus will continue to be an obstacle to better relations with the United States.

Until Turkey begins to remove its troops from Cyprus, we have no business sending aid to Turkey. That is why I strongly supported the limitation on aid to Turkey in the foreign operations appropriations bill passed last month.

Mr. Speaker, there are encouraging developments to report. Our Ambassador to the United Nations, Madeleine Albright, traveled last week to Greece, Turkey, and Cyprus to begin talks aimed at demilitarizing and reuniting the island. Joining her was President Clinton's special envoy for Cyprus, Richard Beattie.

Ambassador Albright secured a commitment from the parties to begin a dialog on reducing the military forces along the Green Line. Talks between the military commanders of the Cypriot national guard and the Turkish forces occupying northern Cyprus would be the first ever held.

We should all wish them well as this initiative by the United States may represent our best opportunity to resolve this difficult and agonizing problem. Let us hope and pray that this anniversary will be the final time we join together with Cyprus as an occupied island.

Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island. Mr. Speaker, I would like first to thank my colleagues from Florida and New York for their continued diligence in recognizing the illegal invasion and occupation of the Island of Cyprus.

Their work in founding the Congressional Caucus on Hellenic Issues and commitment to initiating this special order provide an essential forum in speaking out against the atrocious crimes Cyprus has endured under the hands of Turkey, while honoring our close relationship with the nation of Greece and commitment to our constituents of Hellenic descent.

In beginning their struggle for freedom from the Ottoman Empire in March 1821, the nation of Greece embarked on a fragile struggle to embody democratic ideals of their most famous philosopher, Plato envisioned.

The Turkish invasion of Cyprus over two decades ago marks the return to an occupied state, a situation unprecedented since the 19th century and clearly unacceptable in the 20th.

We can no longer remain silent on this issue. We must not ignore the injustice occurring in Cyprus.

The reasoning behind Turkey's actions echo those used by the fathers of genocide in the past.

And the situation warrants the attention we have always provided our closest allies.

The famous philosophers of Greece provided our democratic nation with the ideas upon which it now stands, I hope we can return the gift in restoring those ideals to where they most belong.

I join my colleagues in calling for peace and a prompt resolution of the current situation.

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise this evening to pay tribute to a dubious anniversary. As we sit here, after 22 years of Turkish occupation of Cyprus, it is especially appropriate to recognize the struggle for the freedom of all Cypriots that has been waged for more than two decades.

It was over two decades ago that 6,000 Turkish troops and 40 tanks landed on the north coast of Cyprus, and more than 200,000 Cypriots were driven from their homes and forced to live under foreign occupation. Over two decades ago, and still Turkey has more than 35,000 troops on the island. Over two decades ago, and we still don't know what became of the 1,614 Greek Cypriot and 5 American citizens missing since the Turkish invasion.

That is why I'm pleased that we have this opportunity today. Today we remember what happened in Cyprus 22 years ago and we pledge to fight to end the occupation. We must continue to fight against injustice in Cyprus. We must continue to provide aid to Cyprus to help that country deal with the terrible problems caused by more than two decades of Turkish occupation. And, above all, we must continue to keep the plight of the Cypriots on the minds of everyone around the world.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the distinguished gentlemen from Florida, Mr. BILIRAKIS, for organizing this special order in commemoration of a very sad day in history. I refer to the anniversary of the 22-year occupation of the island of Cyprus by Turkey.

In 1974, Turkey shocked the world and invaded Cyprus. As a result of this invasion, 200,000 Cypriots have been made refugees and over 1,619 people, including 5 Americans, were missing without explanation until just recently. In March, Turkish-Cypriot leader Rauf Danktash admitted in a televised interview that those missing since the invasion were slaughtered.

After 22 years and numerous attempts to resolve the matter by the United Nations, the United States, and other countries, 37 percent of the island is still illegally occupied by 35,000 Turkish troops and over 80,000 transplanted "colonists" from Turkey—almost outnumbering the original Turkish Cypriots.

During this time, the Turkish Cypriots have engaged in an effort to cleanse the cultural heritage of the occupied territory. The names of villages and towns have been given Turkish names and Greek churches have been looted, desecrated, or converted to mosques or, in some instances, stables. In addition, the two portions of the country are divided by barbed wire fence known as the "Green Line."

For years, negotiations to end the stalemate and resolve the issues between the two countries have been stonewalled by the Turkish-Cypriot leadership who refuse to negotiate in good faith.

This fact has only been compounded by the steady escalation of aggression by Turkey against Greece and Cyprus over the past year. During this time, Turkey has initiated a number of very serious provocations including the January attempt to annex Imia, an island in the Aegean which is internationally recognized as Greek territory. In addition, overflights of Greek territories by Turkish combat aircraft has escalated from an average of 21 per year from 1988–1992, to an incredibly provocative 852 per year.

On Cyprus last month, Turkish soldiers shot an unarmed Greek teenager and then prevented U.N. peacekeepers from rescuing the boy by firing upon them.

Finally, in a direct violation of agreements between the United States and Turkey on the use of American made and leased equipment, the Turkish Government has begun using U.S.-made military equipment in their campaign of intimidation. In January of this year, Turkish Armed Forces landed nearly 100 American-made tanks on occupied Cyprus.

The United States cannot continue to let this egregious behavior to go on without a strong response.

I am pleased by the President's decision to send special envoy, Richard Beattie to Cyprus to help bring an end to the island's partition. This the first attempt in nearly 5 years undertaken by the United States to mediate the dispute. It is my hope this endeavor will be more fruitful than the last and finally bring an end to this terrible incident.

In the meantime, the United States needs to take a firm stand against these provocations and urge the Turkish Government to cease its acts of aggression against its neighbor and to agree to resolve the issue of Cyprus. If the situation is not dissolved soon, we stand the very real chance of an even larger conflict in south central Europe and the possibility of it rekindling the flames of war throughout the Balkans.

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 22nd Anniversary of Turkey's illegal occupation of the island of Cyprus on July 20, 1974. The Turkish military invasion resulted in an involuntary division of this once harmonious Mediterranean state. Greek residents in northern Cyprus have since suffered innumerable restrictions on freedom and human rights at the hands of their Turkish invaders and more than 35,000 Turkish troops continue to occupy the northern portion.

The effects of this invasion has included the deaths of more than 6,000 Greek-Cypriots, the displacement of over 200,000 refugees from towns and communities once occupied by their ancestors, and the capture of thousands more. Sadly, 1619 people, including five Americans, are still missing today.

The current situation in Cyprus is of great importance to the United States and specifically the Greek-American community. Members of Congress have finally begun taking steps to ensure that this illegal and inhumane state of affairs is resolved peacefully. The Clinton Administration has also turned its attention to Cyprus, demonstrating with Congress a joint commitment to demilitarizing this divided island.

Today, we not only commemorate the anniversary of this invasion, but remind America that the injustices created by Turkey's military aggression are as pervasive today as they were 22 years ago. The enclaved Greek popu-

lation, living within the Turkish occupied zone, live without many of the rights and privileges implicit within a democratic society, and will continue to do so until Turkey's military presence is no more.

I commend Mr. BILIRAKIS in holding this very important Special Order, and I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering the Turkish invasion of Cyprus as well as continue to support efforts being made to end this wrongful occupation, so that we may one day commemorate the restoration of Cyprus to a peaceful, harmonious and united nation.

Mr. TORRICELLI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to draw this country's attention to Turkey's continued occupation of Cyprus. This gross violation of human rights is now in its twenty-second year, and gives no indication of abating in the near future. It is for this reason that I speak today, in an effort to heighten the international community's awareness of the situation and bring some relief to the people of Cyprus.

July 20, 1974 is a day that will forever be embedded in the hearts of the Cyprus people. Since then, Cyprus has been divided nearly in half as Turkish troops maintain control of almost forty percent of the island. Families have been torn apart and loved ones separated from one another by the brutal line which rends the country in two.

A list of some of the more blatant abuses comes easily to mind. The occupying forces have evicted people from their homes and confiscated Cypriot property in order to give it to Turkish citizens. Citizens who disappeared during the occupation have yet to be accounted for. These and other offenses have been directed against a population which has no recourse for justice except to gain the sympathetic ears of states like ours.

Rather than heed, or even acknowledge, the international community's requests to resolve the situation in Cyprus, Turkey has chosen to flagrantly ignore calls for moderation. Suppression of Cyprus' cultural heritage has become the order of the day as the Turkish government seeks to change the face of the Cypriot population. Villages and towns in the occupied area of the island now bear Turkish names. Churches that have not been looted or destroyed have been converted into mosques or stables.

Little respect has been shown by the Turkish government toward the Cypriot community, a situation that any concerned individual should find unconscionable. It is time for the international community to band together in condemnation of the Turkish Government's policy. The people of Cyprus look to us to make it be known to Turkey that this behavior shall not pass unnoticed nor unsanctioned.

Mr. MANTON. Mr. Speaker, this Saturday, July 20, will mark the twenty-second anniversary of Turkey's illegal invasion of Cyprus. I rise today to join my colleagues and thank Mr. BILIRAKIS for organizing this important special order to commemorate this anniversary.

The division of Cyprus has the distinction of being one of the most intractable in the world today. Since Turkey first invaded Cyprus in 1974, 1,619 people, including five Americans, last seen alive in the occupied areas of Cyprus have never been accounted for. We must not let the passage of years weaken our resolve to pressure the Turkish government to provide answers for the families of the missing. We cannot forget their suffering continues.

Mr. Speaker, last year, when marking this solemn anniversary, many of us felt hopeful that this conflict would soon be resolved peacefully through the auspices of the United Nations. Unfortunately, the northern portion of Cyprus is still illegally occupied by 35,000 Turkish troops.

In December of 1993, in an effort to facilitate a peaceful resolution, President Clerides submitted to the United Nations a thoughtful and innovative proposal calling for the demilitarization of Cyprus. In exchange for the withdrawal of Turkish troops, Cyprus would disband its national guard; transfer the national guard's military equipment to the United Nations peacekeeping force; and the money saved from defense spending for development projects that would benefit both communities. Demilitarization would alleviate the security concerns of all parties and substantially enhance the prospects for peaceful resolution of the problem. Once again the Turkish side rejected Cyprus' efforts toward ending the tragic unacceptable status quo.

I am proud to join my colleagues as a cosponsor of H. Con. Res. 42, which calls for the demilitarization of Cyprus. In addition, I am a cosponsor of H.R. 2223, the Freedom of Human Rights for the enclaved people of Cyprus Act. This legislation would establish and implement efforts to eliminate restrictions on the enclaved people of Cyprus. I urge my colleagues to join me as a cosponsor of these very important pieces of legislation.

The United States Government has always supported a just and lasting solution to the Cyprus problem. It is important for the Congress to continue to firmly support the people of Cyprus by pressing Turkey to end its illegal occupation and to work constructively for a resolution in accordance with the relevant U.N. Resolutions and agreements between the two sides. In addition, after the meeting with President Clerides of Cyprus on June 17 of this year, President Clinton promised to send his emissary, Richard Beattie to discuss issues involved in a comprehensive settlement, with special emphasis on security. I hope this planned discussion will bring closer a resolution to the issue of Turkish occupation in Cyprus.

A just and lasting solution to the problem will benefit both communities on Cyprus, stabilize the often tenuous relationship between Greece and Turkey, as well as constitute a significant step toward peace in the unstable eastern Mediterranean region.

It is my hope that this will be the last year Members must join to discuss the longstanding problems of the people of Cyprus and that next year we may join to celebrate the end of this conflict. Until that happens, the Turkish government must know we in the United States will continue to recognize this anniversary by speaking out for the rights of the missing.

Mr. MARTINEZ. Mr. Speaker, I would first like to commend the distinguished gentleman from Florida for organizing this special order on Cyprus. MIKE BILIRAKIS has truly been a tireless champion for the peaceful resolution of the Cypriot problem.

Mr. Speaker, I join my colleagues tonight in observing the 22d anniversary of Turkey's illegal invasion and continued occupation of the

island of Cyprus. On July 20, 1974, Turkey unleashed its army on the Cypriot people. Turkey's violent and bloody invasion of this Mediterranean island state has been rightfully condemned by the United Nations and all peace loving nations of the world.

This anniversary should weigh heavily on the conscience of all civilized people of the world who share in the belief that states must eschew the destructive path of naked aggression and abide by the rules of international law. It is time for the world to tell Turkey that the status quo in Cyprus is unacceptable.

Mr. Speaker, the status quo must be broken. The paralysis in U.N. sponsored negotiations must be broken. And the intercommunal strife that has torn Cypriots apart must be settled peacefully. But none of these worthy objectives can occur as long as Turkey continues to violate international law and flout U.N. resolutions condemning its oppressive occupation of one-third of Cypriot territory.

It is indeed a sad testament to the intransigence of Turkey's position that 22 years after its invasion of northern Cyprus, it still maintains over 30,000 troops on the island. The Ankara government must come to the realization that its troops in northern Cyprus stand as an obstacle to a just and permanent resolution of the Cypriot problem.

President Glafcos Clerides deserves to be commended for his honesty, flexibility and good faith efforts to broach the great divide that needlessly separates Greek Cypriots from Turkish Cypriots. I would also like to commend the efforts of our special Presidential envoy for Cyprus, Richard Beattie, who has actively been soliciting the good will and support of the international community to bring to an end what has thus far proven to be one of the most intractable problems in Europe.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. Speaker, I would like to applaud and express my gratitude to my fellow colleagues for conducting this special order to acknowledge the 22d anniversary of the Turkish occupation of Cyprus.

This year the Members of the House meet again to remember this sad day and to denounce the atrocities taking place in Cyprus. There are still 1,619 people missing as a result of the occupation. Five of these missing persons are American citizens. This is an outrage.

In the time since the Turks have taken over Cyprus the situation there has steadily worsened. The widespread violence and violations of human rights can not be ignored. Action must be taken to amend these horrible travesties.

For some time I have been interested in the situation in Cyprus. I have supported legislation which would require an investigation into the whereabouts of the United States citizens and others missing from Cyprus. Another bill I have supported would prohibit all United States military and economic assistance for Turkey until the Turkish Government takes responsibility for its actions in Cyprus and complies with its obligations under international law. I have also cosponsored a concurrent resolution supporting a settlement of the dispute regarding Cyprus. I hope there will soon be a resolution to the problems in Cyprus once and for all.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, the island of Cyprus was invaded by a foreign army on July 20, 1974.

As we remember this sad anniversary, we must renew our determination to do whatever

is in our power to achieve the restoration of a united Cyprus, free from foreign military control of one-third of its territory.

For 22 years now, the people of the Republic of Cyprus have lived with a foreign army in their country in violation of all international norms.

Two hundred thousand Greek Cypriots were forced from their homes in the northern third of the island by the invading army. The invaders engaged in massive violations of the human rights of the Cypriot people, including murder, rape, and looting, according to the European Human Rights Commission report in 1976.

The world community is in agreement that the State of Cyprus must remain a single sovereignty and international personality, with a single citizenship, and with its independence and territorial integrity preserved.

The continued presence of 30,000 foreign troops in Cyprus prevents the people of that island from reaching a settlement of these political differences.

These troops must be withdrawn as soon as possible.

Demilitarization of the Republic of Cyprus would meet the security concerns of all parties involved and would enhance prospects for a peaceful and lasting solution that would benefit all the people of Cyprus.

This can only be achieved if the invading army withdraws from Cyprus and returns to its own territory—where it belongs.

The great tragedy of the foreign invasion of Cyprus is that the people of that island have lived together for centuries, and can work out their differences as fellow Cypriots.

They did not need a foreign army and an outside government to come into their country and seek to impose a foreign solution to their problems.

A continuation of a divided Cyprus is not in the interest of any of the Cypriots.

Since the invasion and occupation of the northern third of the island in 1974, the people living in the free two-thirds have seen their economy soar and per capita incomes increase from \$1,500 in 1973 to over \$10,000 today. The free people of Cyprus are negotiating with the European Union to join the Union as full and respected members of modern European society.

Meanwhile, in the occupied territories, living standards have stagnated—an inevitable consequence of the lack of real freedom and justice.

That all Cypriots will one day again live in freedom under a just and democratic government, free from foreign military domination and control, is the goal that we must have.

Today, as we remember the events of 22d years ago, I reiterate my firm support for that goal.

Mr. FAZIO. Mr. Speaker, I am glad to have the opportunity to participate in the special order on Cyprus and I commend the gentleman from Florida [Mr. BILIRAKIS] for calling this special order.

This month marks the 22 year of Turkey's illegal invasion and occupation of the island of Cyprus. In an area that has seen the collapse of communism, the fall of the Berlin Wall, the dismantling of apartheid in South Africa, and even a tentative peace between Israel and its neighbors, the sovereign Republic of Cyprus continues to remain occupied by over 35,000 Turkish troops.

In my years in Congress, I have long supported an end to Turkey's violent occupation of Cyprus. In this Congress, I cosponsored a House resolution calling for an end to Turkey's occupation of Cyprus and for the demilitarization of the island. I am pleased that this resolution was passed by the House last September.

There can be no peaceful democratic settlement of the Cyprus question as long as Turkish troops continue their occupation. Moreover, the relationship between our NATO allies, Turkey and Greece, will not improve significantly as long as the Cyprus dispute continues. Turkey must withdraw its troops from Cyprus.

My colleagues, as Representative BILIRAKIS has eloquently demonstrated, Turkey's occupation of Cyprus represents over two decades of unanswered questions, over two decades of division, over two decades of human rights violations, and over two decades of cultural destruction.

The United States has not only a strategic interest in the eastern Mediterranean, but more importantly, we have a humanitarian interest in seeking peace in Cyprus. I look forward to continuing the dialog that we have shared tonight to ensure that peace in Cyprus is one day a reality.

Ms. FURSE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to address the need for a peaceful resolution of the situation in Cyprus.

The 18 percent Turkish-Cypriot and over 80 percent Greek-Cypriot population of [Cyprus] lived in harmony on Cyprus for centuries. Twenty-two years ago this month, Turkish troops invaded Cyprus and continue their occupation of the northern portion of Cyprus today. A barbed-wire fence cuts across the island separating thousands of Greek Cypriots from the towns and communities in which they and their families had previously lived for generations.

Last month, I was among the 91 Members of Congress signing letters to President Clinton expressing strong support for this administration's efforts to promote a just and viable solution to the long-standing Cyprus dispute.

A resolution calling for demilitarization in Cyprus had already been adopted by voice vote in the House. Our letter to President Clinton stated that this solution must be based on the principles adopted in United Nations Security Council Resolution 939 and in our Cyprus Demilitarization Resolution. Both state that a solution must be based on a State of Cyprus with a single sovereignty and international personality. It must comprise two politically equal communities in bicomunal and bizonal federation.

Meetings with high-level United States administration officials have taken place in Turkey, Greece, and Cyprus. In addition, President Clinton has met with the President of Turkey and the President and Prime Minister of Greece. I would also note the very important work that has been done by my friend, Ambassador John McDonald and Louise Diamond of the Institute for Multi-Track Diplomacy in facilitating numerous contacts between Cypriots on both sides of the dispute.

I believe we are in the process of solving this long-standing problem, and I stress the need to do so nonviolently. I look forward to continuing to work with my colleagues on this very important issue.

Mr. ZIMMER. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague, Mr. BILIRAKIS, for once again arranging this special order on Cyprus. I join my colleagues in calling for a swift and peaceful end to the illegal occupation of nearly 40 percent of Cyprus by Turkey.

That occupation has persisted since Turkey invaded Cyprus in July 1974. And, for 22 years, Turkey has ignored or rejected every effort to end that occupation and to resolve the agony it has created.

There are 1,614 Greek Cypriots who were abducted by Turkish troops in that 1974 invasion and who remain missing today. I was appalled by comments made by Turkish Cypriot leader Rauf Danktash that these people must be presumed dead, and that some were killed by vengeful Turkish Cypriot irregulars who were under command of none other than Danktash himself.

Given these revelations, the United Nations ought to conduct an immediate and thorough investigation to learn once and for all the fate of the persons reported as missing, including five Americans.

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join with my colleagues in marking the 22d year of Turkey's illegal invasion and partition of the Republic of Cyprus. I commend Mr. BILIRAKIS for his diligence on this issue and thank him for calling this special order.

This anniversary is not a happy occasion, Mr. Speaker, but it is one which serves to remind us of the continuing strife that the people of Cyprus have faced day-in and day-out for over two decades.

In 1974, using United States military equipment, Turkey invaded the Republic of Cyprus, killing 4,000 Greek Cypriots and capturing over 1,600 others, including 5 United States citizens. Though the Turkish Government has been condemned by this Congress and the international community time and time again, it has not halted its unjustified occupation. Today, Cyprus remains cruelly divided. A barbed-wire fence known as the green line cuts across the island separating thousands of Greek Cypriots from the towns and communities in which they and their families had previously lived for generations.

The human rights violations by the Turkish Government on the people of Cyprus also continue. The freedoms of religion and assembly are frequently stifled, and intimidation by the military is ongoing and ever present.

Mr. Speaker, it is appropriate today for us to reiterate our commitment to a resolution of the Cypriot situation, and to commend Greek Cypriots for their dedication to a peaceful settle-

ment of the island's armed conflict. A peaceful resolution of this conflict is long overdue.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. SAXTON (at the request of Mr. ARMEY) for today until 4 p.m., on account of family illness.

Mrs. COLLINS of Illinois (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT) for today and the balance of the week, on account of personal business.

Mr. FIELDS of Louisiana (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT) for today from 1 p.m. until 2:30 p.m., on account of illness.

SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

(The following members (at the request of Mr. PORTER) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. CLINGER, for 5 minutes each day, on July 25 and 29.

Mr. EHLERS, for 5 minutes each day, today and on July 24 and 25.

Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. SHAYS, for 5 minutes each day, today and on July 24.

Mr. LEACH, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. KINGSTON, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. RIGGS, for 5 minutes, on July 24 and 26.

(The following Member (at the request of Mr. KLINK) to revise and extend her remarks and include extraneous material:)

Ms. NORTON, for 5 minutes, today.

EXTENSION OF REMARKS

By unanimous consent, permission to revise and extend remarks was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. KLINK) and to include extraneous matter:)

Mr. SKELTON.

Mr. JACOBS.

Mr. CONDIT.

Mr. KENNEDY of Massachusetts.

Mr. LAFALCE.

Mr. MINK of Hawaii.

Mr. PALLONE.

Mr. DEUTSCH.

Mr. RAHALL.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. PORTER) and to include extraneous matter:)

Mr. LEWIS of California.

Mr. TALENT.

Mr. ROTH.

Mr. BUYER.

Mr. GEKAS.

Mr. GALLEGLY.

Mr. CLINGER.

Mr. SOLOMON.

Mr. GILMAN.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. BILIRAKIS) and to include extraneous matter:)

Mr. CONDIT.

Mr. KIM.

Mr. MORAN.

Mr. FILNER.

Mr. KLINK.

Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania.

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

Mr. THOMAS, from the Committee on House Oversight, reported that that committee had examined and found truly enrolled bills of the House of the following titles, which were thereupon signed by the Speaker:

H.R. 497. An act, to create the National Gambling Impact and Policy Commission.

H.R. 3161. An act to authorize the extension of nondiscriminatory treatment (most-favored-nation treatment) to the products of Romania.

H.R. 3107. An act to impose sanctions on persons making certain investments directly and significantly contributing to the enhancement of the ability of Iran or Libya to develop its petroleum resources, and on persons exporting certain items from enhance Libya's weapons or aviation capabilities or enhance Libya's ability to develop its petroleum resources, and for other purposes.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. HORN. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 11 o'clock and 23 minutes p.m.) the House adjourned until Wednesday, July 24, 1996, at 10 a.m.

EXPENDITURE REPORTS CONCERNING OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL

Reports concerning the foreign currencies and U.S. dollars utilized by various committees, House of Representatives, during the 1st and 2d quarters of 1996 in connection with official foreign travel, pursuant to Public Law 95-384, are as follows:

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON BANKING AND FINANCIAL SERVICES, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JAN. 1 AND MAR. 31, 1996

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
James McCormick	2/6	2/8	Hong Kong		0.00						0.00
	2/8	2/10	Thailand		434.00						434.00
	2/10	2/12	Malaysia		406.00						406.00
	2/12	2/14	Indonesia		450.00						450.00
	2/14	2/16	Singapore		506.00						506.00
	2/16	2/18	Cambodia		417.75		110.00				527.75