

public hearing standards that have been in place since 1982. Currently the Authority's public hearing practices are far broader than Federal guidelines and inhibits the ability of the Transit Authority to respond to market changes in an efficient businesslike manner.

Under the proposed amendments, the Authority will continue to be required to hold public hearings on proposals to raise fares or implement major service reductions. However, the Authority will not be required to hold public hearings for minor service changes, thus enabling WMATA to adjust to the needs of the riding public in a quick fashion.

The other major change to the WMATA compact is removal of compact language that currently limits WMATA's transit police to carrying their service weapon only when they are on duty or in direct transit to and from duty assignments. Consent to the proposal will allow the transit police to join every other police force in the region, including the Capitol Hill police, in authorizing its officers to carry weapons during off-duty hours.

As the former chairman of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, I can tell my colleagues that the transit police are among the best-trained forces in the region. They deserve to have the ability to defend themselves during off-duty hours. It is an unfortunate reality that the transit police are also dealing with a violence-prone criminal element who sometimes seek revenge after they have been apprehended. We need to respect the transit police, authorize them to carry their weapons that they have been trained to use, and trust that the extensive training that the transit police receive will serve them well if they are confronted during off-duty hours.

These amendments are important to the daily workings of the Washington Metropolitan Transit Authority and the safety of its police officers. I urge my colleagues to support this consent resolution.

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

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Virginia [Mr. MORAN].

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, the gentleman from Pennsylvania [Mr. GEKAS], the gentleman from New York [Mr. NADLER], as well as the distinguished gentleman from Virginia [Mr. DAVIS], who just spoke, have adequately described what this bill will do. So out of consideration for the pressing time demands of the gentleman from Pennsylvania [Mr. MURTHA], I will keep my remarks as brief as possible.

I will only say that this is a common-sense bill that will save time and money. It will improve customer service and security for those who use the Washington Metropolitan Transit system. I commend the gentleman from Virginia [Mr. DAVIS] for getting it on the consent calendar. I urge all of my colleagues to pass it unanimously.

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

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia [Ms. NORTON].

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from New York [Mr. NADLER] for yielding me the time.

I thank the gentleman from Pennsylvania [Mr. GEKAS] and the gentleman from New York [Mr. NADLER] for the way in which they have expeditiously moved this bill forward. I thank the gentleman from Virginia [Mr. DAVIS] for his bill.

The streamline procedures which this bill would provide are precisely the way to improve the efficiency of this vital regional facility. The provision that would allow Metro Transit officers to carry their weapons while off duty is a common-sense use to correct what is surely a waste of skilled person power when these officers are not allowed to carry their weapons with them off duty.

My own D.C. coordination bill would seek to in many ways do the same thing for other Federal officers. This is a high-efficiency bill. I urge all of my colleagues to support it.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania [Mr. GEKAS] that the House suspend the rules and pass the joint resolution, H.J. Res. 96.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the joint resolution was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 2159, FOREIGN OPERATIONS, EXPORT FINANCING, AND RELATED PROGRAMS APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1998

Mr. DIAZ-BALART, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 105-402) on the resolution (H. Res. 323) waiving points of order against the conference report to accompany the bill (H.R. 2159) making appropriations for foreign operations, export financing, and related programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1998, and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up H.R. 323 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

#### H. RES. 323

*Resolved*, That upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider the conference report to accompany the bill (H.R. 2159) making appropriations for foreign operations, export financing, and related programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1998, and for other purposes. All

points of order against the conference report and against its consideration are waived. The conference report shall be considered as read.

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The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CALVERT). The gentleman from Florida [Mr. DIAZ-BALART] is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from Ohio [Mr. HALL], pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

Mr. Speaker, House Resolution 323 is a standard rule for a conference report. It waives points of order against the conference report to accompany H.R. 2159, the foreign operations, commonly known as foreign aid, appropriations bill for fiscal year 1998 and against its consideration. In addition, the rule provides that the conference report shall be considered as read.

Mr. Speaker, many of our colleagues may remember this bill from July when it was considered on the House floor. We made every effort to allow for the consideration by the entire House of almost every amendment submitted to the Committee on Rules. I believe that we have a balanced product in this conference report, and I will defer to the gentleman from Alabama [Mr. CALLAHAN], the chairman of the Subcommittee on Foreign Operations, Export Financing and Related Programs, to answer questions about the details of the conference report we have before us and the compromises that have been reached to complete the conference report.

Some matters have been dropped from this legislation, Mr. Speaker, that I believe strongly should not have been dropped, but this is a must-pass bill that I believe we need to pass tonight, and I think it is a good piece of legislation on this critical area that we bring before the House. I thank the gentleman from Alabama [Mr. CALLAHAN], the chairman, and the gentlewoman from California [Ms. PELOSI], the ranking member, for their hard work on this important bill. I urge adoption of the rule and the conference report.

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

Mr. HALL of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from Florida [Mr. DIAZ-BALART] for yielding me the time, and I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H. Res. 323 is obviously a rule that provides for consideration of the conference report on H.R. 2159, which is the bill that makes appropriations for foreign operations, export financing, and related programs in the fiscal year 1998. As the gentleman from Florida described, this rule waives all points of order. It provides 1 hour of general debate equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations.

I want to thank the gentleman from Alabama [Mr. CALLAHAN] and the gentlewoman from California [Ms. PELOSI] for crafting this bipartisan legislation. In particular I thank both of them for supporting foreign assistance programs that benefit needy children.

The conference agreement appropriates about \$13 billion for foreign operations in 1998. It is an increase of about \$1 billion more than last year but less than the President's request. It also includes legislative provisions, including language which gives the President flexibility to negotiate in the Middle East.

Though I am pleased that the conference agreement is slightly more than the House level, I fear that it is inadequate to meet the global challenges facing the United States in its role as the sole superpower. Money spent wisely on foreign assistance is an investment in world security that directly benefits the United States and its citizens. Promoting world stability through foreign aid will help keep us out of more costly wars.

I am particularly pleased that the bill includes \$650 million for child survival and disease programs. These programs are really cost-effective, and they save the lives of children in the poorest countries of the world. This represents an increase of \$50 million for prevention of diseases such as tuberculosis, AIDS and malaria. The bill provides \$100 million for UNICEF, which is an outstanding program with a proven track record of helping the world's needy children.

The bill fully funds the Peace Corps at a level of \$225 million, which is an increase of \$14 million over last year's level. This is our country's people-to-people diplomatic corps that promotes American goodwill and gives Americans the opportunity to learn firsthand about other cultures while helping others. The bill also appropriates \$190 million for international disaster assistance, another high priority account, especially when we have 25 to 26 major humanitarian crises today in the world.

Mr. Speaker, we are a great and we are a wealthy Nation. We can do better than the funding levels in this bill. However, I recognize the fiscal constraints which Congress has imposed upon itself. Therefore, I support this rule.

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

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, I support this rule, and I urge my colleagues to support it.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time, and I move the previous question on the resolution.

The previous question was ordered.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Mr. CALLAHAN. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to the rule just adopted, I call up the conference report on the bill (H.R. 2159) making appropriations for foreign

operations, export financing, and related programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1998, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore [Mr. LAHOOD]. Pursuant to House Resolution 323, the conference report is considered as having been read.

(For conference report and statement, see prior proceedings of the House of today.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Alabama [Mr. CALLAHAN] and the gentlewoman from California [Ms. PELOSI] each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Alabama [Mr. CALLAHAN].

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CALLAHAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on the conference report to accompany H.R. 2159, and that I may include tabular and extraneous material.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. CALLAHAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume. We are going to be very brief, I think, at least on this side, and in talking with the other side, they too have indicated that we have already basically debated this bill. But we are considering H.R. 2159, the appropriation bill for foreign operations in 1998.

After adjusting for funds that are not scored against the subcommittee due to the budget resolution, the total in discretionary budget authority is \$12.787 billion, which is \$13 million below our allocation of \$12.8 billion.

With regard to funding for population planning assistance, the House and Senate leadership made valiant efforts to reach a compromise with the White House on the Mexico City policy language. Since a compromise was not forthcoming, at their direction we have frozen funding for population programs at \$385 million and apportioned funds on a monthly basis. That is a cut of \$58 million from the President's request and \$50 million from the Senate level. That means that if the Mexico City provisions can be enacted into law later this session or early next session, Mexico City policy will apply to most all of the funds made available for international family planning.

The conference agreement also includes a general provision which for the first time sets a cap on the amount of money in our bill for the Middle East. Last year the Middle East consumed \$5.4 billion, or 44 percent of our bill. The new provision in our bill sets a limit of \$5.4 billion on funds for the Middle East, thus reducing the Middle East to 42 percent of this year's total foreign operations bill. Israel is not affected. Our bill protects all the funds traditionally provided to Israel, as well as ensuring significant amounts

of money for Egypt and Jordan as well. Otherwise, the President can spend this money any way he wants, just as long as he stays under the overall \$5.4 billion cap. This important provision will help the President and the Congress to prudently manage our foreign aid dollars, even as it preserves our support for our friends and allies in the Middle East.

The conference report contains very strong language condemning Russia's increased cooperation with Iran in the nuclear and ballistic missile areas. Iran remains a terrorist state committed to both violence abroad and against its neighbors in the Middle East. Russia's irresponsible arms transfer policy to Iran can no longer be ignored, particularly press reports that Russia is providing Iran with sophisticated ballistic missile technology. When this is combined with Iran's already robust nuclear program, this can only be a formula for disaster.

In an effort to encourage peace and renewal in the southern Caucasus, we have provided up to \$250 million for that troubled region. Of that amount, \$12.5 million is reserved for the people of Nagorno-Karabakh, who have gone without direct American assistance. We have also opened the door to more trade and commercial activities, as well as prodemocracy activities in Azerbaijan.

In addition, the Senate agreed to our proposal to add \$50 million to the Child Survival Fund for infectious disease activities. This no doubt is one of the most popular programs that the Congress has enacted in this arena in many, many decades. Many Members of our subcommittee have supported this initiative, and I want to acknowledge their assistance. The gentleman from California [Mr. PACKARD] has been a strong supporter of child survival. In addition, the gentleman from New Jersey [Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN] made an important contribution in highlighting the importance of international efforts to combat tuberculosis. They and many Members from both sides of the aisle have written indicating their support for higher funding levels for child survival.

We have also recommended, in report language, the funding for Latin America and the Caribbean to be increased by a modest \$20 million. I strongly support additional assistance for the nations of our hemisphere, and fully expect the administration to respect this direction.

We also uphold the House position on the funding for the CAMPFIRE program. As in the House bill, no funds may be available for any activity in contravention to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species, but we refused to take the anti-hunting language that was in the Senate amendment.

There are a number of other provisions, Mr. Speaker, in the bill that are explained in the Statement of Managers. I only want to add that I very

much appreciate the support and input that was provided by all the members of the subcommittee, including the gentlewoman from California [Ms. PELOSI], our new ranking minority member. It has been a pleasure to deal

with her, as well as the gentleman from Wisconsin [Mr. OBEY], the ranking member of the full committee, on this very controversial and very difficult bill this year. I would also like the staff on both sides of the aisle to

know of my sincere appreciation for all of their assistance.

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

**FOREIGN OPERATIONS, EXPORT FINANCING, AND RELATED PROGRAMS APPROPRIATIONS BILL, 1998  
(H.R. 2159)**

	FY 1997 Enacted	FY 1998 Estimate	House	Senate	Conference	Conference compared with enacted
<b>TITLE I - EXPORT AND INVESTMENT ASSISTANCE</b>						
<b>EXPORT-IMPORT BANK OF THE UNITED STATES</b>						
Limitation on Program Activity:						
Subsidy appropriation.....	726,000,000	632,000,000	632,000,000	700,000,000	683,000,000	-43,000,000
(Direct loan authorization).....	(1,270,000)	(1,330,000,000)	(1,330,000,000)	(1,330,000,000)	(1,330,000,000)	(+ 1,328,730,000)
(Guaranteed loan authorization).....	(11,050,000,000)	(11,300,000,000)	(11,300,000,000)	(11,300,000,000)	(11,300,000,000)	(+ 250,000,000)
Administrative expenses.....	46,614,000	48,614,000	48,614,000	46,614,000	48,614,000	+ 2,000,000
(By transfer).....				(22,000,000)		
Negative subsidy.....	-58,000,000	-51,000,000	-51,000,000	-51,000,000	-51,000,000	+ 7,000,000
Total, Export-Import Bank of the United States.....	714,614,000	629,614,000	629,614,000	695,614,000	680,614,000	-34,000,000
<b>OVERSEAS PRIVATE INVESTMENT CORPORATION</b>						
Noncredit account:						
Administrative expenses.....	32,000,000	32,000,000	32,000,000	32,000,000	32,000,000	
Insurance fees and other offsetting collections.....	-224,000,000	-251,000,000	-251,000,000	-251,000,000	-251,000,000	-27,000,000
Direct loans:						
Loan subsidy.....	4,000,000	4,000,000		4,000,000	4,000,000	
(Loan authorization).....	(80,000,000)	(133,000,000)		(133,000,000)	(133,000,000)	(+ 53,000,000)
Guaranteed loans:						
Loan subsidy.....	68,000,000	56,000,000		56,000,000	56,000,000	-12,000,000
(Loan authorization).....	(1,360,000,000)	(1,800,000,000)		(1,800,000,000)	(1,800,000,000)	(+ 440,000,000)
Total, Overseas Private Investment Corporation.....	-120,000,000	-159,000,000	-219,000,000	-159,000,000	-159,000,000	-39,000,000
<b>FUNDS APPROPRIATED TO THE PRESIDENT</b>						
Trade and Development Agency						
Trade and development agency.....	40,000,000	43,000,000	40,000,000	43,000,000	41,500,000	+ 1,500,000
(By transfer).....	(5,000,000)					(-5,000,000)
Total, title I, Export and investment assistance.....	634,614,000	513,614,000	450,614,000	579,614,000	563,114,000	-71,500,000
(By transfer).....	(5,000,000)			(22,000,000)		(-5,000,000)
(Loan authorizations).....	(12,491,270,000)	(14,563,000,000)	(12,630,000,000)	(14,563,000,000)	(14,563,000,000)	(+ 2,071,730,000)
<b>TITLE II - BILATERAL ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE</b>						
<b>FUNDS APPROPRIATED TO THE PRESIDENT</b>						
Agency for International Development						
Child survival and disease programs fund.....	600,000,000		650,000,000		650,000,000	+ 50,000,000
Development assistance.....	1,181,500,000	998,000,000	1,167,000,000	1,358,093,020	1,210,000,000	+ 28,500,000
Population, Development assistance.....				435,000,000		
Development Fund for Africa.....		700,000,000				
International disaster assistance.....	190,000,000	190,000,000	190,000,000	195,000,000	190,000,000	
Debt restructuring.....	27,000,000	34,000,000	27,000,000	34,000,000	27,000,000	
Micro & Small Enterprise Development program account:						
Subsidy appropriations.....	1,500,000	1,500,000	1,500,000	1,500,000	1,500,000	
(By transfer).....				(8,000,000)		
(Direct loan authorization).....	(1,000,000)	(1,000,000)	(1,000,000)	(1,000,000)	(1,000,000)	
(Guaranteed loan authorization).....	(39,000,000)	(48,000,000)	(48,000,000)	(48,000,000)	(48,000,000)	(+ 9,000,000)
Administrative expenses.....	500,000	500,000	500,000	500,000	500,000	
Urban and environmental credit program account:						
Subsidy appropriations.....	3,500,000	3,000,000	3,000,000	3,000,000	3,000,000	-500,000
(Guaranteed loan authorization).....	(29,400,000)	(46,000,000)	(46,000,000)	(46,000,000)	(46,000,000)	(+ 16,600,000)
Administrative expenses.....	6,000,000	6,000,000	6,000,000	6,000,000	6,000,000	
Enhanced Credit Authority:						
Program account (by transfer).....				(8,000,000)		
Administrative expenses (by transfer).....				(2,000,000)		
Subtotal, development assistance.....	2,010,000,000	1,933,000,000	2,045,000,000	2,033,093,020	2,088,000,000	+ 78,000,000
Payment to the Foreign Service Retirement and Disability Fund.....						
Fund.....	43,826,000	44,208,000	44,208,000	44,208,000	44,208,000	+ 382,000
Operating expenses of the Agency for International Development.....						
Development.....	470,750,000	473,000,000	468,750,000	473,000,000	473,000,000	+ 2,250,000
Operating expenses of the Agency for International Development Office of Inspector General.....						
Development Office of Inspector General.....	30,000,000	29,047,000	29,047,000	29,047,000	29,047,000	-953,000
Subtotal, Agency for International Development.....	2,554,576,000	2,479,255,000	2,587,005,000	2,579,348,020	2,634,255,000	+ 79,679,000
<b>Other Bilateral Economic Assistance</b>						
Economic support fund:						
Camp David countries.....	2,015,000,000	2,015,000,000	2,015,000,000	2,015,000,000	2,015,000,000	
Other.....	328,000,000	482,800,000	360,000,000	526,150,000	385,000,000	+ 57,000,000
Subtotal, Economic support fund.....	2,343,000,000	2,497,800,000	2,375,000,000	2,541,150,000	2,400,000,000	+ 57,000,000
International fund for Ireland.....						
International fund for Ireland.....	19,600,000		19,600,000		19,600,000	
Assistance for Eastern Europe and the Baltic States.....						
Assistance for Eastern Europe and the Baltic States.....	475,000,000	492,000,000	470,000,000	485,000,000	485,000,000	+ 10,000,000

**FOREIGN OPERATIONS, EXPORT FINANCING, AND RELATED PROGRAMS APPROPRIATIONS BILL, 1998  
(H.R. 2159) — continued**

	FY 1997 Enacted	FY 1998 Estimate	House	Senate	Conference	Conference compared with enacted
<b>Assistance for the New Independent States of the former Soviet Union .....</b>	<b>625,000,000</b>	<b>900,000,000</b>	<b>625,000,000</b>	<b>800,000,000</b>	<b>770,000,000</b>	<b>+145,000,000</b>
U.S. Russian Investment Fund (by transfer) .....		(50,000,000)				
Subtotal, Other Bilateral Economic Assistance .....	3,462,600,000	3,889,600,000	3,489,600,000	3,826,150,000	3,674,600,000	+212,000,000
<b>Total, Agency for International Development .....</b>	<b>6,017,176,000</b>	<b>6,368,855,000</b>	<b>6,076,805,000</b>	<b>6,405,498,020</b>	<b>6,308,855,000</b>	<b>+291,679,000</b>
<b>INDEPENDENT AGENCIES</b>						
<b>Inter-American Foundation</b>						
Appropriations .....		22,000,000	20,000,000			
(By transfer) .....				(18,000,000)	(22,000,000)	(+22,000,000)
<b>African Development Foundation</b>						
Appropriations .....		14,000,000	11,500,000			
(By transfer) .....				(10,500,000)	(14,000,000)	(+14,000,000)
<b>Peace Corps</b>						
Appropriations .....	208,000,000	222,000,000	222,000,000	206,000,000	222,000,000	+14,000,000
(By transfer) .....	(12,000,000)			(14,000,000)		(-12,000,000)
<b>Department of State</b>						
International narcotics control .....	213,000,000	230,000,000	230,000,000	216,200,000	215,000,000	+2,000,000
Narcotics interdiction .....					15,000,000	+15,000,000
Migration and refugee assistance .....	650,000,000	650,000,000	650,000,000	650,000,000	650,000,000	
Refugee resettlement assistance .....	5,000,000		5,000,000		5,000,000	
United States Emergency Refugee and Migration Assistance Fund .....	50,000,000	50,000,000	50,000,000	50,000,000	50,000,000	
Anti-terrorism assistance .....		19,000,000				
Nonproliferation and Disarmament Fund .....		15,000,000				
Nonproliferation, anti-terrorism, demining and related programs .....	151,000,000		118,000,000	129,000,000	133,000,000	-18,000,000
<b>Total, Department of State .....</b>	<b>1,069,000,000</b>	<b>964,000,000</b>	<b>1,053,000,000</b>	<b>1,045,200,000</b>	<b>1,068,000,000</b>	<b>-1,000,000</b>
<b>Total, title II, Bilateral economic assistance .....</b>	<b>7,294,176,000</b>	<b>7,590,855,000</b>	<b>7,383,105,000</b>	<b>7,656,698,020</b>	<b>7,598,855,000</b>	<b>+304,679,000</b>
(By transfer) .....	(12,000,000)	(50,000,000)		(60,500,000)	(36,000,000)	(+24,000,000)
(Loan authorizations) .....	(69,400,000)	(95,000,000)	(95,000,000)	(95,000,000)	(95,000,000)	(+25,600,000)
<b>TITLE III - MILITARY ASSISTANCE</b>						
<b>FUNDS APPROPRIATED TO THE PRESIDENT</b>						
International Military Education and Training .....	43,475,000	50,000,000	50,000,000	47,000,000	50,000,000	+6,525,000
<b>Foreign Military Financing Program:</b>						
<b>Grants:</b>						
Camp David countries .....	3,100,000,000	3,100,000,000	3,100,000,000	3,100,000,000	3,100,000,000	
Other .....	124,000,000	174,250,000	159,250,000	208,950,000	196,550,000	+72,550,000
Subtotal, grants .....	3,224,000,000	3,274,250,000	3,259,250,000	3,308,950,000	3,296,550,000	+72,550,000
(Limitation on administrative expenses) .....	(23,250,000)	(23,250,000)	(23,250,000)	(23,250,000)	(23,250,000)	
<b>Direct concessional loans:</b>						
Subsidy appropriation .....	60,000,000	66,000,000	60,000,000	74,000,000	60,000,000	
(Loan authorization) .....	(540,000,000)	(699,500,000)	(657,000,000)	(759,500,000)	(657,000,000)	(+117,000,000)
FMF program level .....	(3,764,000,000)	(3,973,750,000)	(3,916,250,000)	(4,068,450,000)	(3,953,550,000)	(+189,550,000)
<b>Total, Foreign military assistance .....</b>	<b>3,284,000,000</b>	<b>3,340,250,000</b>	<b>3,319,250,000</b>	<b>3,382,950,000</b>	<b>3,356,550,000</b>	<b>+72,550,000</b>
<b>Special Defense Acquisition Fund:</b>						
Offsetting collections .....	-166,000,000	-106,000,000	-106,000,000	-106,000,000	-106,000,000	+60,000,000
Peacekeeping operations .....	65,000,000	90,000,000	77,500,000	75,000,000	77,500,000	+12,500,000
<b>Total, title III, Military assistance .....</b>	<b>3,226,475,000</b>	<b>3,374,250,000</b>	<b>3,340,750,000</b>	<b>3,398,950,000</b>	<b>3,378,050,000</b>	<b>+151,575,000</b>
(Limitation on administrative expenses) .....	(23,250,000)	(23,250,000)	(23,250,000)	(23,250,000)	(23,250,000)	
(Loan authorization) .....	(540,000,000)	(699,500,000)	(657,000,000)	(759,500,000)	(657,000,000)	(+117,000,000)
<b>TITLE IV - MULTILATERAL ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE</b>						
<b>FUNDS APPROPRIATED TO THE PRESIDENT</b>						
<b>International Financial Institutions</b>						
<b>World Bank Group</b>						
<b>Contribution to the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development:</b>						
Contribution to the International Finance Corporation .....	6,656,000					-6,656,000
Contribution to the Global Environment Facility .....	35,000,000	100,000,000	35,000,000	60,000,000	47,500,000	+12,500,000
Contribution to the International Development Association .....	700,000,000	1,034,504,000	606,000,000	1,034,500,000	1,034,503,100	+334,503,100
<b>Total, World Bank Group .....</b>	<b>741,656,000</b>	<b>1,134,504,000</b>	<b>641,000,000</b>	<b>1,094,500,000</b>	<b>1,082,003,100</b>	<b>+340,347,100</b>

**FOREIGN OPERATIONS, EXPORT FINANCING, AND RELATED PROGRAMS APPROPRIATIONS BILL, 1998  
(H.R. 2159) — continued**

	FY 1997 Enacted	FY 1998 Estimate	House	Senate	Conference	Conference compared with enacted
<b>Contribution to the Inter-American Development Bank:</b>						
Paid-in capital.....	25,610,667	25,610,667	25,610,667	25,610,667	25,610,667	.....
(Limitation on callable capital subscriptions).....	(1,503,718,910)	(1,503,718,910)	(1,503,718,910)	(1,503,718,910)	(1,503,718,910)	.....
Fund for special operations.....	10,000,000	20,835,000	20,835,000	20,835,000	20,835,000	+ 10,835,000
Contribution to the Enterprise for the Americas Multilateral Investment Fund.....	27,500,000	30,000,000	.....	30,000,000	30,000,000	+ 2,500,000
<b>Total, contribution to the Inter-American Development Bank.....</b>	<b>63,110,667</b>	<b>76,445,667</b>	<b>46,445,667</b>	<b>76,445,667</b>	<b>76,445,667</b>	<b>+ 13,335,000</b>
<b>Contribution to the Asian Development Bank:</b>						
Paid-in capital.....	13,221,596	13,221,596	13,221,596	13,221,596	13,221,596	.....
(Limitation on callable capital subscriptions).....	(647,858,204)	(647,858,204)	(647,858,204)	(647,858,204)	(647,858,204)	.....
Contribution to the Asian Development fund.....	100,000,000	150,000,000	100,000,000	150,000,000	150,000,000	+ 50,000,000
<b>Total, contribution to the Asian Development Bank.....</b>	<b>113,221,596</b>	<b>163,221,596</b>	<b>113,221,596</b>	<b>163,221,596</b>	<b>163,221,596</b>	<b>+ 50,000,000</b>
Contribution to the African Development Fund.....	.....	50,000,000	50,000,000	.....	45,000,000	+ 45,000,000
<b>Contribution to the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development:</b>						
Paid-in capital.....	11,916,447	35,778,717	35,778,717	35,778,717	35,778,717	+ 23,862,270
(Limitation on callable capital subscriptions).....	(27,805,043)	(123,237,803)	(123,237,803)	(123,237,803)	(123,237,803)	(+ 95,432,760)
<b>North American Development Bank:</b>						
Paid-in capital.....	56,000,000	56,500,000	56,500,000	56,500,000	56,500,000	+ 500,000
(Limitation on callable capital subscriptions).....	(318,750,000)	(318,750,000)	(318,750,000)	(318,750,000)	(318,750,000)	.....
Contribution to the Bank for Economic Cooperation and Development in the Middle East and North Africa:						
(By transfer).....	.....	(52,500,000)	.....	.....	.....	.....
(Limitation on callable capital subscriptions).....	.....	(157,500,500)	.....	.....	.....	.....
<b>International Monetary Fund</b>						
Contribution to the enhanced structural adjustment facility.....	.....	7,000,000	.....	.....	.....	.....
Loans to International Monetary Fund.....	.....	3,521,000,000	.....	3,521,000,000	.....	.....
<b>Total, International Financial Institutions.....</b>	<b>985,904,710</b>	<b>5,044,449,980</b>	<b>942,945,980</b>	<b>4,947,445,980</b>	<b>1,458,949,080</b>	<b>+ 473,044,370</b>
(Limitation on callable capital subscript).....	(2,498,132,157)	(2,751,065,417)	(2,593,564,917)	(2,593,564,917)	(2,593,564,917)	(+ 95,432,760)
<b>International Organizations and Programs</b>						
International organizations and programs.....	169,950,000	365,000,000	194,000,000	277,000,000	192,000,000	+ 22,050,000
(By transfer).....	(17,500,000)	.....	.....	(2,500,000)	(2,500,000)	(-15,000,000)
<b>Total, title IV, Multilateral economic assistance.....</b>	<b>1,155,854,710</b>	<b>5,409,449,980</b>	<b>1,136,945,980</b>	<b>5,224,445,980</b>	<b>1,650,949,080</b>	<b>+ 495,094,370</b>
(By transfer).....	(17,500,000)	(52,500,000)	.....	(2,500,000)	(2,500,000)	(-15,000,000)
(Limitation on callable capital subscript).....	(2,498,132,157)	(2,751,065,417)	(2,593,564,917)	(2,593,564,917)	(2,593,564,917)	(+ 95,432,760)
<b>Grand total.....</b>	<b>12,311,119,710</b>	<b>16,888,168,980</b>	<b>12,311,414,980</b>	<b>16,859,708,000</b>	<b>13,190,968,080</b>	<b>+ 879,848,370</b>
(By transfer).....	(34,500,000)	(102,500,000)	.....	(85,000,000)	(38,500,000)	(+ 4,000,000)
(Limitation on administrative expenses).....	(23,250,000)	(23,250,000)	(23,250,000)	(23,250,000)	(23,250,000)	.....
(Limitation on callable capital subscript).....	(2,498,132,157)	(2,751,065,417)	(2,593,564,917)	(2,593,564,917)	(2,593,564,917)	(+ 95,432,760)
(Loan authorizations).....	(13,100,670,000)	(15,357,500,000)	(13,382,000,000)	(15,417,500,000)	(15,315,000,000)	(+ 2,214,330,000)
<b>Total mandatory and discretionary.....</b>	<b>12,311,119,710</b>	<b>16,888,168,980</b>	<b>12,311,414,980</b>	<b>16,859,708,000</b>	<b>13,190,968,080</b>	<b>+ 879,848,370</b>
Mandatory.....	43,826,000	44,208,000	44,208,000	44,208,000	44,208,000	+ 382,000
Discretionary.....	12,267,293,710	16,843,960,980	12,267,206,980	16,815,500,000	13,146,760,080	+ 879,466,370

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the conference report and commend the gentleman from Alabama [Mr. CALLAHAN], our distinguished chairman, for his leadership in reaching consensus on this bill which has been controversial in the past. I commend also the gentleman from Louisiana [Mr. LIVINGSTON], the chairman of the full committee, and the gentleman from Wisconsin [Mr. OBEY], the ranking Democrat on the full committee, for their leadership in reaching resolution on some of these controversial issues.

As our chairman pointed out, all of the members of the committee, Democrat and Republican, fully participated in many of the issues before us. I believe that we have a good bill before us, and am pleased to point out some of the positive accomplishments in the bill as I join the gentleman from Alabama [Mr. CALLAHAN] in commending the staff of the subcommittee as well as the personal staffs of Members who worked so hard to bring us to this point.

Some of the positive accomplishments in the bill, Mr. Speaker, include retaining of the traditional amount of funding for the Middle East, with an additional \$225 million in assistance for Jordan and appropriate authorities that allow the administration the flexibility to negotiate in that region.

Full funding for the International Development Association, IDA, at \$1.034 billion which includes payment in full for our arrears package. The IDA program is the soft window of the World Bank that provides funding for the poorest of the poor countries and projects. I am very, very pleased with the dollar amount in the bill. Our chairman is a tough fiscal conservative and a strict disciplinarian. He watches every dollar spent. I think the priorities established in funding the IDA were important, and I commend him for supporting that increase.

There is \$650 million in a separate child survival account which I call the Callahan child survival account. It includes an increase of \$50 million for fighting infectious diseases, including tuberculosis, HIV/AIDS and malaria.

□ 2230

It includes full funding for the refugee assistance, disaster assistance, and full funding for the Peace Corps.

Our chairman has pointed out the creation of a new fund for assistance to the countries of the South Caucasus in the New Independent States. The fund would provide a total of \$250 million, with close to \$90 million each for Armenia and the country of Georgia. Additional assistance is made available for Nagorno-Karabagh, and there is additional money left in the fund when the Minsk process, I hope, brings peace to the region and is concluded successfully.

Our chairman has referenced, and I will too, the provisions for assistance to Russia expressing our concern about Russia's proliferation of missiles to Iran as well as our concern about freedom of religion in Russia. In cooperation with Senator SMITH in the Senate we were able to reach an appropriate compromise on that language.

We have added funds to the request for the Export-Import Bank and fully funded the Overseas Private Investment Corporation, OPIC. As my colleagues know, part of our function as the Subcommittee on Foreign Operations, Export Financing and Related Programs is to fund exports, the insurance and financing of exports, growing our economy by increasing our exports abroad. OPIC and Export-Import Bank are created for that purpose. We also fund the TDA, the Trade Development Agency, administration in this bill. Both of the promotion programs, Export-Import and OPIC, are therefore robustly funded and fully authorized.

Total funding in the bill is at \$12.8 billion plus \$300 million in international bank arrears, which is very close to the administration's request. Through the Congress working its will through the committee process, we were able to grow the funding that started out at a much lower figure in this House. I think we are at an appropriate level now.

As our chairman suggested, there is a compromise on the Mexico City language. The international family planning provisions of this legislation represent, I think, an appropriate compromise which enables us to reduce the number of abortions worldwide by providing the funding for international family planning with conditions which I consider onerous but acceptable; that is, monthly monitoring; I mean, excuse me, monthly metering of the funding. That is, in any given month, no more than 8.34 percent of the total amount is able to be obligated; that is, one-twelfth of the annual appropriation.

In addition to that, language requiring the full pursuit of war criminals in Bosnia and Croatia as a condition for further assistance to those countries was included. I thank our colleagues, the gentleman from Maryland [Mr. CARDIN] and the gentleman from Maryland [Mr. HOYER], for their leadership on these issues. And again, in addition, appropriate restrictions on aid to Cambodia and the Democratic Republic of the Congo are included.

I am concerned, however, Mr. Speaker, that the committee did not include funding and authorization for the New Arrangements to Borrow. The New Arrangements to Borrow, or NAB, is a set of emergency credit lines, a kind of reserve tank for use by the International Monetary Fund in the event of serious temporary threats to global financial stability.

The multilateral burden-sharing aspects of this new mechanism are impressive. The U.S.'s \$3.5 billion would leverage over \$20 billion in commit-

ments from 24 other countries. The \$3.5 billion in budget authority for the NAB is not scored as a budget outlay and thus neither increases the deficit nor crowds out other Federal programs.

Recent events in Southeast Asia illustrate the continuing risk to the stability of global financial markets and demonstrate the importance of the IMF to the American regional and global interest. The Asian crisis clearly highlights the need for sufficient emergency resources to safeguard stability and protect the financial system and the American economy from the damaging ripple effects of widespread shocks.

The NAB, the New Arrangements to Borrow, in other words known as NAB, is a necessary addition to these resources. Simply put, our national interests and global leadership insist that we support the authorization and the appropriation. However that provision is not in the legislation.

But all in all, I am very, very proud to join with our distinguished chairman, the gentleman from Alabama [Mr. CALLAHAN], in supporting this legislation and urge its passage and urge an aye vote from our colleagues.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, we just have a couple of speakers who are going to speak very briefly. We have already debated the bill. It is essentially the same bill that we passed through the House with a few Senate changes.

Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from New York [Mr. GILMAN], the chairman of the Committee on International Relations.

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

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I commend the gentleman from Alabama [Mr. CALLAHAN], the distinguished chairman of the Subcommittee on Foreign Operations, Export Financing and Related Programs of the Committee on Appropriations, for bringing this measure to the floor at this time.

However, Mr. Speaker, it is important during the debate to point out what is not being accomplished in this foreign operations appropriations conference, and while I will not oppose this measure, I did want to bring these factors to the attention of the House.

Mr. Speaker, last week the House and the Senate leadership made a proposal to attach four major portions of the foreign relations authorization bill to the foreign operations appropriations conference report, and those sections included the basic authorizations for the State Department and related accounts, the U.N. reform and arrears package, the European Security Act, and the foreign affairs agencies consolidation provisions. Those additions to the appropriations bill reflected the work of the authorization conference.

Regrettably, our conference was not completed because, like the appropriators, we were unable to resolve the Mexico City issue. We have now reached a cease-fire on the foreign operations bill as filed by the gentleman from Alabama [Mr. CALLAHAN], and in the final bill they dropped the Mexico City policy, they dropped the U.N. reform measure, they dropped the State authorization bill, they dropped the IMF new arrangements to borrow and the European Security Act; all of them dropped out of the foreign operations conference report, and that action resulted in other losses, including the deadbeat diplomat language and the diplomatic immunity measure, key reports on Cuban immigration and the Libertad Act, the Speaker's language increasing broadcasting to Communist China, and availability pay increases for our diplomatic security agents.

I urged the Committee on Rules and the House leadership to include the State Department authorization along with the European Security Act in the foreign operations conference report. Regrettably, that request was not accommodated, and we come to the end of this session without those important noncontroversial provisions taking effect.

As an authorizing committee chairman, we are frustrated by the actions taken that preserve the Committee on Appropriations at the price of the authorizing committees. This is also true in the case of the upcoming Commerce-Justice-State appropriations bill which is expected to carry a full year waiver of the requirement for an authorizing bill, a full year waiver for authorizations.

The CJS authorization waiver is like a noose around the neck of our authorizing committee and Senator HELMS' committee. As long as a waiver provision is in that bill, the administration is going to find excuses, any excuse, not to deal with us in a straightforward, forthright manner. The administration will always rely on the Committee on Appropriations to bail them out.

To avoid that kind of a problem, I recommend limiting the waiver of the authorization requirement to March 1, 1998, to give us the month of February to work things out under a hard deadline that both the Congress and the administration must meet. If the authorization waiver is not limited, I see little chance for our authorization bill to pass at a later date. That will jeopardize the elimination of ACDA, the consolidation of USIA, U.N. reforms and U.N. arrearages, the European Security Act, and dozens of others of foreign policy priorities that the Congress is concerned about.

I thank the gentleman for having yielded this time to me. As I stated before, I will support this measure. However, I wanted to call these problems to the attention of our colleagues.

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the distinguished gen-

tleman from Wisconsin [Mr. OBEY], the ranking member of the full committee; longtime chair of the Subcommittee on Foreign Operations, Export Financing and Related Programs; and I thank him for his leadership in helping us bring this consensus bill to the floor.

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for the time.

Mr. Speaker, let me simply say that I am supporting and inclined to support this bill, but I have serious concerns about it. One, Mr. Speaker, is that this bill has consistently, when it left the House, been relatively free of earmarks. But then it goes over to the Senate, and when it emerges from the Senate, it almost looks as though it is a document designed more to facilitate congressional fund-raising than it is to facilitate the promotion of the United States' national interest.

There are numerous earmarks which are added to the point where, for instance, in the portion of this bill which used to be focused on aid to Russia and former republics in the Soviet Union, so much has been earmarked that at this point one individual American, George Soros, will in the next 5 years be giving assistance to Russia which is more effective than that of the United States Government. I do not think that represents a rational allocation of resources on our part.

But I must also say that I think this bill has two serious gaps. What has happened evidently is that in retaliation for the fact that Mexico City language, desired by some Members of the House, is not contained in this bill, because of that fact, we now have in retaliation a determination to eliminate from this bill all funding for the IMF program that has been mentioned by the gentlewoman from California [Ms. PELOSI] and also to eliminate from the State-Justice-Commerce bill any provision providing for funding of our arrearages at the United Nations. I believe that that is definitely not in the interests of the United States.

On the first issue, we right now have seen the beginning effects of the exploding currency crisis in Asia. We saw our own stock market decline by around 500 points, in very large part triggered by the fact that Asian markets are extremely unstable and are likely to remain so for some time to come.

I think it is a grave omission for the Congress, bordering on irresponsibility, for this Congress not to provide at least some bridge authority for the administration to meet any additional currency crisis if it would occur in Asia.

We have three choices. If one occurs, we can either do nothing or we can try to foot the bill largely on our own in order to stabilize the currency situation, or we can try to rely on the multilateral approach which would reduce our own financial exposure. But the congressional majority has determined that that is not to be provided. I think that is a grave mistake.

Secondly, at this moment we are trying to marshal the most united approach possible in the United Nations in whatever action we choose or we find necessary to take against Saddam Hussein. We do not strengthen our leverage in getting effective United Nations action when we do not pay our bills. We have about \$900 million in arrearages owed to the United Nations.

It seems to me that at least to put ourselves in a better position to strengthen our leadership in that institution, we should at least provide the \$100 million that was requested this year as the down payment on finally ending that arrearage situation.

I find it troubling that we are going to follow a high-risk strategy in both the Asian currency situation and the Iraqi situation simply in order to engage in payback because certain people did not get the language they wanted with respect to Mexico City.

So, Mr. Speaker, I would simply rise to caution Members of the House that we are running a high-risk strategy and this country may pay a very high price for the omission that we are talking about here this evening.

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Mr. CALLAHAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Michigan [Mr. KNOLLENBERG].

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Alabama, Chairman CALLAHAN, for yielding me this time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of the conference report to H.R. 2159. Each member of this subcommittee in both the House and the Senate have worked very, very hard in a bipartisan fashion to craft a bill that reflects, I think, our Nation's international priorities, while maintaining the fiscal responsibility.

I commend the House and the Senate chairmen for continuing our strong commitment to the Middle East, and also to democracy in Russia, while addressing the grave concerns we have about Russia and their exports of nuclear ballistic missile technology to Iran. The conference report so stipulates that aid to Russia is contingent upon stopping the spread of any technology which would bolster Iran.

Finally, I am very pleased with provisions in the conference report dealing with the ongoing conflicts in the Caucasus. The conference report provides, and I think most importantly, to include a recommendation for \$12.5 million in aid to meet the pressing needs of the people in the Nagorno Karabagh. I commend the managers for recognizing the tremendous humanitarian aid that is needed in the Nagorno Karabagh and look forward to working with the body and administration to ensure that that vital funding is delivered promptly and in accordance with congressional intent.

Members of the subcommittee, I would like to thank all of them, and thank again.



The gentleman from Alabama, Chairman CALLAHAN, the ranking member, the gentlewoman from California [Ms. PELOSI], and all of those who contributed to the difficult decisions made to bring this bill to the floor. I believe the managers have united to craft a bill that will maintain U.S. leadership and strengthen our influence across the globe.

I ask for Members to support this conference report.

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from New York [Mrs. LOWEY], a distinguished member of the subcommittee.

(Mrs. LOWEY asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 2159. In deference to our chairman, I will be very brief.

I want to thank our distinguished chairman and the ranking minority member for the really outstanding work they did in bringing together a strong bipartisan bill. We appreciate their efforts. It has been long, and it has been hard, but we are glad that it is coming to conclusion, because this bill does strike a delicate balance on a number of very controversial issues. I thank them for their leadership.

This bill includes, Mr. Speaker, the full \$3 billion aid package for Israel, the critical \$80 million for refugee resettlement assistance. Although the development assistance account is lower than the administration requested, it does include a critical \$15 million increase for international microcredit programs. Microcredit is a critical tool in the fight to eradicate poverty worldwide, and it enjoys bipartisan support in the Congress and this administration.

Providing these small low-interest loans to the millions of low-income entrepreneurs around the world would be a major step toward the eradication of poverty. This is especially true among women, who are very often the heads of households and benefit tremendously from microcredit programs.

This is a critical time for microcredit. We have come a long way this year alone, but we must do more, and the increase in this bill will allow us to help thousands of people pull themselves out of poverty.

Mr. Speaker, I just want to say that I do remain concerned about several accounts in this bill. The critical population assistance account includes onerous restrictions, including monthly metering and a freeze at last year's level that I oppose. I know that our chairman and the chairman of the full committee have worked very hard to come to a satisfactory solution to this issue.

I am also concerned that the administration has not been given the critical new arrangements to borrow that it has sought for the International Monetary Fund. However, Mr. Speaker, on

the whole, this bill represents a good compromise between the gentleman from Alabama, Chairman CALLAHAN, the ranking member, the gentlewoman from California [Ms. PELOSI] and all the members of this subcommittee. Again, I want to thank them for the cooperation, and I strongly urge passage of the bill.

Mr. CALLAHAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from New Jersey [Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN], a member of the subcommittee.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the conference agreement and thank the gentleman from Alabama [Mr. CALLAHAN], for his leadership in bringing this bill to a conclusion.

In this conference report we provide the essential tools to promote and protect America's leadership and interests around the globe. With this bill we maintain our strong commitment to Israel and to the Middle East peace process, we provide critical funding for child survival programs, and we continue America's long-standing support for development assistance for the poorest of the poor, including international family planning programs. We provide support for the new democracies of Eastern Europe, and we place increased emphasis on important priorities in our own hemisphere.

Further, we have provided resources to help American companies enter new markets, to protect global environmental resources, and to combat threat of international narcotics and terrorism from reaching our shores. These investments are made, Mr. Speaker, for less than 1 percent of the overall Federal budget and within the framework of our balanced budget plan.

Again, Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the gentleman from Alabama [Mr. CALLAHAN] for all of his efforts.

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey [Mr. PALLONE], who has been a leader on the issue of the Caucasus region, particularly Armenia and Nagorno Karabagh.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I want to urge support for the bill that we are considering tonight. The conference report contains important provisions affecting Armenia and the Caucasus region, most of which I support. I do want to express my respect and gratitude for the gentleman from Alabama, Chairman CALLAHAN, for his willingness to listen to the concerns of the Armenian community, and particularly I want to salute the ranking member, the gentlewoman from California [Ms. PELOSI], and Members of the Subcommittee on Foreign Operations, particularly the gentleman from Illinois [Mr. PORTER] and the gentleman from Michigan [Mr. KNOLLENBERG] for their tireless efforts on behalf of Armenia, the Nagorno Karabagh, and the cause of peace and stability in the Caucasus, and I also want to thank the gentleman from New Jersey [Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN].

This bill provides an unprecedented \$12.5 million in humanitarian aid to Nagorno Karabagh. Despite relentless opposition from the administration, the lobbyists for Azerbaijan and Turkey, the bill provides, for the first time, an earmark of humanitarian assistance for the people of Karabagh.

These funds will help refugees, internally displaced persons and needy civilians in Nagorno Karabagh. This is the first time this has been approved by Congress and signifies the beginning of U.S.-administered assistance programs to Nagorno Karabagh.

Earlier this year, I became the first Member of the U.S. Congress to address the Parliament of Nagorno Karabagh, and I expressed regret that the United States had disengaged itself from the courageous people of Karabagh. But this legislation provides a welcome change.

In addition, the bill provides us with \$87.5 million for the Republic of Armenia, a former Soviet republic that is making huge strides in terms of democracy and market economy, but still needs our help.

While I am pleased that the bill retains the ban on government-to-government economic aid to Azerbaijan, I regret that the legislation carves out several major exemptions for OPIC, the Overseas Private Investment Corporation, to provide political risk insurance to U.S. companies investing in Azerbaijan, and for TDA, the Trade Development Agency, funding for feasibility studies and other related economic development projects.

The ban on direct aid to Azerbaijan, section 907 of the Freedom Support Act of 1997, is an important law, passed to encourage Azerbaijan to lift its blockades of Armenia and Nagorno Karabagh. Azerbaijan has not complied with the basic condition of section 907, lifting the blockades, so the sanctions should not be relaxed.

While I regret the exemptions to section 907 that have been carved out, I appreciate the fact that the conferees resisted the strong pressure to repeal section 907 outright.

I also want to express my appreciation to the conferees for the \$52.5 million discretionary fund established for the Caucasus to restore transportation, communication and other infrastructure between the States of the Caucasus, funds to which Azerbaijan is not entitled until it complies with section 907.

I also appreciate the fact that the House conferees held out for insisting that 50 percent of the aid to Turkey be provided through nongovernmental organizations to promote democracy and build a civil society. American taxpayers have contributed millions to Turkey. It is only right that we should expect that country to respect some of our American values.

Finally, I want to state for the record that I regret that the bill before us relaxes some sanctions on Pakistan

which were imposed because of concerns over Pakistan's nuclear proliferation activities. But I do want to thank the conferees for maintaining the prohibition on IMET assistance to Pakistan.

Overall, this is a good conference report, and I urge my colleagues to support it.

Mr. CALLAHAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Georgia, also a member of our subcommittee.

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, I just want to say, I think this bill has a lot of good things. It is a product of a great compromise and a lot of work.

One of the things I think is very significant and that is a debate we do not have much in our country is what is going on with the nuclear weapons stockpile in Russia. We often concentrate on a lot of issues, but we never ask ourselves as a country, as free people, what are they doing with all their nuclear arms? This bill starts to address that by withholding assistance to the Russian Government unless we know exactly what they are doing with their nuclear arsenal, and hopefully they are not selling it around the globe.

There are a lot of good things in here. It increases international narcotics control by \$17 million over last year, bringing the 1998 level to \$230 million.

But there are some things it does not do which have been addressed, and we look forward to working with the administration on that.

We want to address the issue of the U.N. arrearage. We think that the United Nations has taken too big of an assessment against the United States, and we want to work through that. We also want to work with this IMF funding to have stability in some of the developing countries.

We look forward to working with the administration on that and solving these problems, and we also hope the administration will work with us in making sure that none of this money goes to groups who choose to lobby for liberalization of abortion laws, and also groups who may tend to have some of their own moneys used to support abortion.

We think there are a lot of things we can get together with the administration on, and we look forward to that process. Hopefully the authorization bill that will come maybe as early as tomorrow will address this.

Mr. CALLAHAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Iowa [Mr. LEACH].

Mr. LEACH. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the distinguished chairman for yielding me time. Let me say I think his leadership on this issue has been nothing less than estimable, and I intend to support his bill, but I think all of us in this body have to understand that the intricacies of single-issue group politics is bedeviling our foreign policy at this time and jeopardizing the national interests of the United States.

If this Congress adjourns without passing fast track, without passing U.N. reform and arrearages, and if we do nothing about the IMF replenishment, there is a distinct possibility that tomorrow will not be the last day of this year's session. The last two issues are of vital significance this week, and we may well be called back into a special session. This Member would support it.

The fact of the matter is we need to address the U.N. at this time. We need to address international economic circumstances as implied in the IMF. I am hopeful we will do so.

□ 2300

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

I too want to associate myself with the remarks of the gentleman from Iowa [Mr. LEACH] in regard to the IMF replenishment and the U.N. arrearages. I hope that before this Congress adjourns, that those issues will be appropriately addressed and successfully addressed.

I believe that our chairman, the gentleman from Alabama [Mr. CALLAHAN], as I mentioned, has provided great leadership in this legislation, which is almost a match of the administration's request in terms of funding in order to promote U.S. global leadership, promote our exports, maintain the peace, alleviate poverty, and to maintain the peace, I think I said that twice, but it deserves mentioning more than one time.

Mr. Speaker, in the interests of time, we are not going to hear from all of the Democrats on the committee, but I want to acknowledge the distinguished service of the gentleman from Illinois [Mr. YATES] and the gentleman from California [Mr. TORRES], who did not speak, in addition to the gentleman from Wisconsin [Mr. OBEY] and the gentlewoman from New York [Mrs. LOWEY].

But I know I speak for them and our Republican colleagues on the committee when I extend our best wishes to the gentleman from Pennsylvania [Mr. FOGLIETTA], a member of our subcommittee who today left our committee and was sworn in as the U.S. Ambassador to Italy. I think every Member of this House is very proud of the service of Mr. FOGLIETTA here, wishes him much success in his new endeavor personally, and especially for our great country.

With that, I urge our colleagues to support this legislation.

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

Mr. CALLAHAN. Mr. Speaker, it is my intention in just a second to yield back, but I yield myself such time as I may consume to briefly explain that the President requested \$16.8 billion, and the House passed \$12.26 billion. The Senate sent us a message of \$16.8 billion, and the conference resolved it at \$13.1 billion, but the net appropriation is \$12.7 billion, very close to what we passed in the House.

Some of the remarks that were made about the IMF, as well as the U.N. problem, have great merit and I do not deny that. But once again, this is the foreign operations appropriation bill. We are cutting the President's request by \$4 billion. That is basically where we were. At this time, Mr. Speaker, I ask for a favorable vote.

Mr. FOX of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the Foreign Operations Appropriations bill for two main reasons.

First, the appropriation for Israel will help to insure the survival of this thriving democracy in the Middle East. No other country has greater ties to America.

Second, I am pleased that Armenia will benefit from this legislation by increased recognition of its importance to the United States and support by our country.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LAHOOD). Without objection, the previous question is ordered on the conference report.

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the conference report.

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XV, the yeas and nays are ordered.

Pursuant to clause 5 of rule I, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

#### REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 2777

Mr. GEJDENSON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to have my name removed as a cosponsor of H.R. 2777.

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

There was no objection.

#### DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1998

Mrs. MYRICK, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 105-403) on the resolution (H. Res. 324) providing for consideration of the Senate amendments to the bill (H.R. 2607) making appropriations for the government of the District of Columbia and other activities chargeable in whole or in part against the revenues of said District for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1998, and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

Mrs. MYRICK. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 324 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 324

*Resolved*, That upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to take from the Speaker's table the bill (H.R. 2607) making appropriations for the government of the District of Columbia and other activities chargeable in whole or in part against the revenues of said District for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1998, and for other purposes, with Senate amendments thereto, and