

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

There was no objection.

The Clerk read the Senate bill, as follows:

S. 476

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. 2,500 BOYS AND GIRLS CLUBS BEFORE 2000.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 401(a) of the Economic Espionage Act of 1996 (42 U.S.C. 13751 note) is amended by striking paragraph (2) and inserting the following:

“(2) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this section is to provide adequate resources in the form of seed money for the Boys and Girls Clubs of America to establish 1,000 additional local clubs where needed, with particular emphasis placed on establishing clubs in public housing projects and distressed areas, and to ensure that there are a total of not less than 2,500 Boys and Girls Clubs of America facilities in operation not later than December 31, 1999.”.

(b) ACCELERATED GRANTS.—Section 401 of the Economic Espionage Act of 1996 (42 U.S.C. 13751 note) is amended by striking subsection (c) and inserting the following:

“(c) ESTABLISHMENT.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—For each of the fiscal years 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, and 2001, the Director of the Bureau of Justice Assistance of the Department of Justice shall make a grant to the Boys and Girls Clubs of America for the purpose of establishing and extending Boys and Girls Clubs facilities where needed, with particular emphasis placed on establishing clubs in and extending services to public housing projects and distressed areas.

“(2) APPLICATIONS.—The Attorney General shall accept an application for a grant under this subsection if submitted by the Boys and Girls Clubs of America, and approve or deny the grant not later than 90 days after the date on which the application is submitted, if the application—

“(A) includes a long-term strategy to establish 1,000 additional Boys and Girls Clubs and detailed summary of those areas in which new facilities will be established, or in which existing facilities will be expanded to serve additional youths, during the next fiscal year;

“(B) includes a plan to ensure that there are a total of not less than 2,500 Boys and Girls Clubs of America facilities in operation before January 1, 2000;

“(C) certifies that there will be appropriate coordination with those communities where clubs will be located; and

“(D) explains the manner in which new facilities will operate without additional, direct Federal financial assistance to the Boys and Girls Clubs once assistance under this subsection is discontinued.”.

(c) ROLE MODEL GRANTS.—Section 401 of the Economic Espionage Act of 1996 (42 U.S.C. 13751 note) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(f) ROLE MODEL GRANTS.—Of amounts made available under subsection (e) for any fiscal year—

“(1) not more than 5 percent may be used to provide a grant to the Boys and Girls Clubs of America for administrative, travel, and other costs associated with a national role-model speaking tour program; and

“(2) no amount may be used to compensate speakers other than to reimburse speakers for reasonable travel and accommodation costs associated with the program described in paragraph (1).”.

MOTION OFFERED BY MR. MCCOLLUM

Mr. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I offer a motion.

The Clerk read as follows:

Mr. MCCOLLUM moves to strike out all after the enacting clause of Senate 476 and insert in lieu thereof the provisions of H.R. 1753, as passed by the House.

The motion was agreed to.

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

A similar House bill (H.R. 1753) was laid on the table.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF LEGISLATION TO BE CONSIDERED UNDER SUSPENSION OF THE RULES TODAY

Mr. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to H. Res. 314, the following suspensions are expected to be considered today:

H.R. 3034, the Customs User Fees;

H.R. 3037, Children of Vietnamese Rehabilitation Camp Internees;

And H.R. 2796, Reimbursing Bosnian Troops For Out-Of-Pocket Expenses.

CONGRATULATING ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH EAST ASIAN NATIONS ON ITS 30TH ANNIVERSARY

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 282) congratulating the Association of South East Asian Nations [ASEAN] on the occasion of its 30th anniversary.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 282

Whereas 1997 marks the 30th anniversary of the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN);

Whereas the emphasis of ASEAN on cooperation and the nonviolent settlement of disputes has helped to bring peace between the nations of the region which for decades had been characterized by instability and conflict;

Whereas the economies of the member nations of ASEAN have experienced significant economic growth benefiting the lives of many of their people;

Whereas ASEAN as a group is the 4th largest trading partner of the United States and constitutes a larger market for United States exports than the People's Republic of China, Taiwan, and Hong Kong combined;

Whereas ASEAN has successfully fostered a sense of community among its member nations despite differing interests, including the establishment of the region's only security forum, the Association of South East Asian Nations Regional Forum (ARF), and the Association of South East Asian Nations Free Trade Area (AFTA);

Whereas ASEAN has played a pivotal role in international efforts of global and regional concern, including securing the withdrawal of Vietnamese forces from Cambodia and diplomatic efforts to foster a political settlement to the civil war in Cambodia;

Whereas the United States relies on ASEAN as a partner in fostering regional stability, enhancing prosperity, and promoting peace; and

Whereas the 30th anniversary of the formation of ASEAN offers an opportunity for the United States and the nations of ASEAN to renew their commitment to international

cooperation on issues of mutual interest and concern: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) congratulates the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) and its member nations on the occasion of its 30th anniversary;

(2) looks forward to a broadening and deepening of friendship and cooperation with ASEAN in the years ahead for the benefit of the people of the United States and the nations of ASEAN;

(3) encourages progress by ASEAN members toward the further development of democracy, respect for human rights, enhancement of the rule of law, and the expansion of market economies; and

(4) recognizes the past achievements of ASEAN and pledges its support to work closely with ASEAN as both the United States and the nations of ASEAN face current and future regional and global challenges.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New York [Mr. GILMAN] and the gentleman from Florida [Mr. HASTINGS] each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York [Mr. GILMAN].

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 days within which to revise and extend their remarks on this measure.

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

There was no objection.

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

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

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to have had the opportunity to bring to the floor this measure congratulating the Association of South East Asian Nations, known as ASEAN, on the occasion of their 30th anniversary.

The ASEAN organization has a lot to be proud of. Its emphasis on cooperation and a nonviolent settlement of disputes has fostered peace among its members in a region of the world which has long been wrought with instability and conflict.

The United States has important strategic, economic, and political interests at stake in Southeast Asia. Maintaining stability remains an overriding U.S. security interest in the region. Instability would not only threaten significant U.S. economic interests but could also undermine important U.S. political relationships.

ASEAN's Regional Forum [ARF], the region's only security consultative platform, is a key partner of the United States in maintaining regional stability. The ASEAN countries provide our Nation with significant commercial opportunities. ASEAN as a group is the fourth largest trading partner of the United States and constitutes a larger market for U.S. exports than does the People's Republic of China, Taiwan, and Hong Kong combined.

The Congress rightfully has expressed its concern about the development of human rights and democracy in the nations of ASEAN but is pleased with the flourishing of democracy in Thailand and the Philippines. It is hoped these examples are going to encourage progress by the other nations of ASEAN and the furthering of democratic principles and practices, respect for human rights, and the enhancement of the rule of law.

The Congress looks forward to a broadening and deepening of friendship and cooperation with ASEAN in the years ahead for the mutual benefit of the people of the United States and the nations of ASEAN.

In closing, I want to thank for their support the distinguished ranking minority member, the gentleman from Indiana [Mr. HAMILTON]; the distinguished chairman of the Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific, the gentleman from Nebraska [Mr. BEREUTER]; and the subcommittee's ranking minority member, the gentleman from California [Mr. BERMAN]; as well as another gentleman who has had strong interest in this matter, the gentleman from American Samoa [Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA].

I urge all my colleagues to support this resolution.

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

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I would echo the remarks of the chairman, the gentleman from New York [Mr. GILMAN], particularly as it pertains to the gentleman from Nebraska [Mr. BEREUTER], the gentleman from California [Mr. BERMAN], the gentleman from American Samoa [Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA], and those of us that serve on the Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific.

Mr. Speaker, I am one of the authors of this resolution, as is the ranking member, the gentleman from Indiana [Mr. HAMILTON], and I urge my colleagues to join the gentleman from New York [Mr. GILMAN] and those of us on the Democratic side in supporting its adoption.

Some 32 years ago, a handful of underdeveloped and not very influential Southeast Asian countries banded together to create the Association of South East Asian Nations, or ASEAN. I dare say that at the time of ASEAN's founding in 1967, not even the most optimistic would have guessed how far the ASEAN nations would have traveled down the road of economic development.

It is true that in a number of instances political reform has lagged behind economic development, but I remain confident, as do my colleagues, that political pluralism and full-fledged democracy will one day prevail throughout the region.

Today, ASEAN has established itself as one of the premier regional groupings in the world. It has also shown itself to be a good friend of the

United States. It deserves our accommodation on its 30th anniversary, and I urge adoption of this resolution as a gesture of friendship and support.

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

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Nebraska [Mr. BEREUTER], the distinguished vice chairman of our committee.

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, I do rise as a cosponsor in strong support of H. Res. 282, a resolution congratulating ASEAN on the occasion of its 30th anniversary of creation.

I would, however, like to take a few minutes here or a part of a minute or so to speak extemporaneously on what took place on this floor just a minute or two ago when we were debating an Iraqi resolution. I would have requested time if I had known what was going to be said in some of the closing comments of that debate.

What we say and what we do on this floor on international relations does matter, and we ought to be careful with what we say to make sure it is accurate.

Now it was said a few minutes ago, in some hyperbole no doubt, that the U.S. taxpayer stands behind tens of billions of dollars of assistance to Indonesia. That is not factual. There is a standby allocation to assist with the financial problems and the currency exchange rates in Indonesia. The U.S. is willing to be a backup to the IMF, but it is nothing approaching that amount, and perhaps that backup will not be used.

We also heard a lot of rhetoric here about evenhandedness when it comes to Turkey and the Kurds and Iraq. Well, we also might have said we need evenhandedness when it comes to terrorist organizations like the PKK, and I think it is inappropriate for us to demonize countries unless the facts are on our side.

Now one of the gentleman here misunderstands the situation in East Timor. There are problems in East Timor, alleged human rights violations, and certainly there are human rights violations, and there has been violence on both sides on that issue. This has been a major source of contention and conflict since the Portuguese walked away from that colony of East Timor and the Indonesians came in.

But the problem is not that people cannot practice their religion in Indonesia. That is not the problem, as was suggested out here. So it is important that we not demonize countries for things that are not true. We should not be demonizing countries at all, and when we have a legitimate reason for criticism, we should exercise that criticism.

Now back to the ASEAN resolution. This Member would congratulate the distinguished chairman of the Committee on International Relations, the gentleman from New York [Mr. GILMAN], for his leadership demonstrated on recognizing the increasing significance

cance of this important multilateral organization. Through his authorship of the resolution as the chairman of the Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific, I was pleased to expedite consideration of this resolution.

Over the last three decades, ASEAN has emerged into a critically important security institution in Southeast Asia. Originally created as a means to respond to the threat of Vietnamese expansionism, it is now an umbrella organization where all of Southeast Asia, including Vietnam, can eventually work together to promote their common interests, and most of the countries now are members in Southeast Asia. Cambodia is not yet because of what happened there in what can only be called legitimately a coup.

ASEAN has had an important role in promoting a peaceful resolution to the Spratly Islands crisis and has brought significant pressure to bear regarding the ongoing crisis in Cambodia.

This Member would also note that the United States, Russia, the People's Republic of China, and other countries interested in Asian security, and I could have mentioned Japan, have been able to work constructively through the ASEAN Regional Forum, or the ARF. While ASEAN certainly has a significant challenge as authoritarian governments are brought into that organization, we can also hope and push for the Vietnamese, the Laotians, the Burmese. Their association with the ASEAN will have a democratizing effect on these one-party states.

While the State Department does not, as a rule, take a position on such nonbinding resolutions like this one, this Member would note the gentleman from New York worked very closely with the State Department and the minority to ensure unanimous support for H. Res. 282.

His success in this effort has been demonstrated by the fact that the distinguished ranking Democrat on the Committee on International Relations, the gentleman from Indiana [Mr. HAMILTON], and the distinguished ranking Democrat on the Subcommittee on the Asian Pacific, the gentleman from California [Mr. BERMAN], are cosponsors of this resolution, and it was unanimously approved by the Committee on International Relations on October 31, 1997. This Member is also pleased to be a cosponsor.

Mr. Speaker, this Member once again congratulates the gentleman from New York and urges adoption of H. Res. 282.

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

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, does the gentleman from Nebraska have additional speakers?

Mr. BEREUTER. I have one more speaker.

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

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from California [Mr. ROHRABACHER].

Mr. ROHRABACHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this amendment.

Mr. Speaker, ASEAN has proven a great example for developing countries around the world. It was not that long ago, in fact 30 years ago, when these same countries which we laud today for their 30th anniversary were the ultimate in developing countries. They were no different than the developing countries in Africa and in Latin America and elsewhere.

Yet these countries, through a strong support for the economic rights of their people, at the very least the economic rights of their people, have shown that free enterprise and a respect for property rights will indeed bring a fountain of wealth and well-being for the people of the societies that so respect those rights.

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ASEAN as well, I might add, has been a force for democracy, although the Members of ASEAN, all of the Members are not, of course, totally democratic. But let us take a look at the fact that the Philippines today has evolved from a country that was in a dictatorship for a number of decades, and now has a strong and vibrant economic situation where they are growing at 5 and 6 percent a year, as well as a strong democracy, along with Thailand whose democracy has been put to the maximum stress, but yet has maintained a slow but, yes, steady pace toward a more open and democratic society. These two countries serve as an example for all of Southeast Asia and, yes, serve as an example for all the countries in the developing world.

Today, many countries in ASEAN, especially Thailand, are going through, but as well as the other countries of ASEAN, are going through an economic crisis, a crisis dealing with their money system. They are learning a lot through this crisis. We would like this amendment today, our expression of good will toward the countries of ASEAN and congratulations, comes at a unique moment for the United States to let these countries know that we consider them our friends, we consider them our partners, we consider them to be people who in the future will have even stronger and closer ties to the United States of America.

So I rise in strong support and ask my colleagues to join me in support of this proposal and this amendment.

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from California for his timely and cogent remarks. I urge support for House Resolution 282.

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 New York [Mr. GILMAN] that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H.Res. 282.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof)

the rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

SHOWING COMMITMENT OF AMERICAN PEOPLE IN SUPPORT OF DEMOCRACY AND RELIGIOUS AND ECONOMIC FREEDOM FOR PEOPLE OF SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM

Mr. ROHRABACHER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 231) urging the President to make clear to the Government of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam the commitment of the American people in support of democracy and religious and economic freedom for the people of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 231

Whereas the Department of State Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 1996 notes that the Government of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam "denied citizens the right to change their government and significantly restricted freedom of speech, the press, assembly, association, privacy, and religion";

Whereas, since May 1997, non-violent demonstrations against corruption and abuse of power at the local level have occurred in Thai Binh Province and perhaps in Thanh Hoa, Hung Yen, Nghe An, and Bien Hoa provinces as well;

Whereas the criminal law of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam is used to punish individuals who are critical of the government, and on April 14, 1997, an administrative decree was signed into law granting enhanced judicial powers to the security forces to place under house arrest or subject to reeducation camps, for up to two years, any civilians expected of "endangering national security";

Whereas the leaders of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam are seeking to expand trade relations with the United States;

Whereas there is widespread discontent within the foreign business community in the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, with some companies pulling out entirely, others freezing new investments, and nearly all complaining about endemic corruption, intransigent bureaucracy, and a lack of clear commitment to legitimate economic reform;

Whereas, in August 1997, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) reported that child labor exploitation is on the rise in the Socialist Republic of Vietnam with tens of thousands of children under 15 years of age being exploited for labor; and

Whereas it is in the interest of the United States to promote political and economic freedom throughout the world: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved. That the House of Representatives—

(1) urges the Government of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam to release immediately and unconditionally all political prisoners, including Dr. Nguyen Dan Que, Prof. Doan Viet Hoat, Venerable Thich Quang Do, Reverend Pham Minh Tri, and evangelist To Dinh Trung, with full restoration of their civil and human rights;

(2) requests the President to make clear to the leadership of the Government of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam—

(A) the firm commitment of the American people to political and religious and eco-

nomic freedom for the people of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam; and

(B) the United States fully expects equal protection under the law to all Vietnamese, regardless of religious belief, political philosophy, or previous association; and

(3) urges the Government of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam—

(A) to permit all political organizations in the Socialist Republic of Vietnam to function without intimidation or harassment; and

(B) to announce a framework and timetable for free and fair elections that will allow the Vietnamese people to peacefully choose their local and national leaders.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California [Mr. ROHRABACHER] and the gentleman from Florida [Mr. HASTINGS] each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California [Mr. ROHRABACHER].

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ROHRABACHER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on H.Res. 231.

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

There was no objection.

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

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

Mr. ROHRABACHER. Mr. Speaker, this past Tuesday, on our Veterans Day, Vietnamese Communist Party officials in Hanoi confirmed that in the southern province of Dong Nai, 40 miles from Saigon, several thousand people have been involved with clashes, in clashes, with police. Hundreds of women and children have been demonstrating for freedom and human rights outside of government offices, despite a heavily armed police presence in the area.

By all accounts, including a report by the Human Rights Watch organization, the clashes started when the Communist Government intensified repression against the Catholic Church and the popular bishop of the Xuan Loc Diocese. In addition, land owned by the church has been confiscated and sold by corrupt Communist Party officials.

Demonstrations against the corrupt Communist regime have also been occurring in other areas of the country. In north Vietnam, beginning in May of this year, ongoing demonstrations in the Thai Binh Province and a number of other historic Communist Party strongholds show growing public dissatisfaction with the rampant corruption of that country and the lack of freedom of the Vietnamese people.

Recently, new directives and proclamations by the Communist Politburo have tightened State control of all other forms of media and have restricted access to foreign journalists and their translators. The Human Rights Watch/Asia report states, while