

years, the people of Mongolia have rejected one-party rule, elected a new President firmly established civilian control over the military, and gained economic freedom. This transition—conducted in a peaceful manner—has proven to be a rarity, especially in this area of the world.

Mongolians are very positively disposed towards the United States and have modeled many of their democratic reforms on the United States system. This past June, the new prime minister ran on a platform titled, "the Contract with the Mongolian Voter." The Mongolian Government considers their transition to be very similar to our settling of the West. The Mongolian nomads—which make up 40 percent of the population—are not unlike the American cowboys. They cherish their freedom but are eager to benefit from the economic reforms that are gradually being implemented.

The Mongolian Government places a high priority on its relationship with the United States and is eager to be our partner in Northern and Central Asia, an area where we democratic, free and stable partners are hard to find. Moreover, as Mongolia gains confidence in its own voice within the region, they are seeking to prove that democracy, freedom, and human rights are universal values, and that Asian countries can promote these values and economic growth at the same time. The United States could look for no better role model for the region, or no better partner in the region than a country which has committed itself to the values that we promote as a nation.

With this resolution, the United States is recognizing the Mongolian people and their government for their unparalleled achievements in establishing a democracy. We are also encouraging them to continue to follow through with many of the proposed reforms. The next 5 years will be a critical period in Mongolian as the social costs of economic and political reform begin to take a heavy toll on some segments of the population. We must help Mongolia to stay the course on democratic self-government and free market economics through the difficult times ahead.

As the Mongolian Government charges ahead with economic reforms, they have not neglected their environment. Because of their small population relative to their land mass, Mongolia consists of some of the most pristine ecosystems in the world. The Mongolian Government has recognized this tremendous asset and has approved many environmental regulations to continue to protect these ecosystems. Specifically, the previous regime pledged to preserve 30 percent of Mongolia as a national park under the Biodiversity Conservation Action Plan. While this pledge may prove difficult to keep while progressing with economic reforms, the new government has committed to adhere to this pledge. With this resolution, the United States applauds the Mongolian Government's foresight and encourages them to continue to promote economic development without sacrificing their rich environment.

Nestled between China and Russia, with a population the size of Philadelphia and a land mass one-third the size of the United States, Mongolia will continue to be an important global partner for the United States. In light of the tremendous reforms that have been achieved in the first 7 years, the United States congratulates Mongolia on its recent successes and looks forward to increasing cooperation with the Mongolian Government and people on democratic, economic, and environmental programs.

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. President, Mongolia is a shining beacon of hope for those people who are still living under repressive governments around the world. Mongolia is isolated, its population is small, its resources are limited but it has enthusiastically embraced political and economic reforms that would challenge any highly industrialized nation. Its government is also aggressively trying to preserve its environment and strengthen its parliamentary and judicial system.

We need to do all we can to ensure that Mongolia is successful and I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

I appreciate the efforts of our colleague from Illinois [Mr. PORTER] the sponsor of the bill and the distinguished cochairman of the Human Rights Caucus, and also thank the manager of the resolution, the distinguished Chairman of the Asia and the Pacific Subcommittee, the gentleman from Nebraska [Mr. BEREUTER] as well as his subcommittee's ranking member, the gentleman from California [Mr. BERMAN]. Accordingly, I again urge support for this resolution.

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

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, I urge support of the resolution, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Nebraska [Mr. BEREUTER] that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 172, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the concurrent resolution, as amended, was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

CONCERNING THE SITUATION IN KENYA

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 130) concerning the situation in Kenya.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. CON. RES. 130

Whereas on July 7, a large and violent confrontation occurred in Kenya when police stormed Nairobi's All-Saints Cathedral and attacked those present at a prayer meeting;

Whereas prodemocracy activists throughout Kenya have demonstrated in favor of reform of Kenya's constitution and the repeal of repressive colonial laws;

Whereas the bloody suppression of the constitutional reform rallies, the disruptive behavior of some demonstrators, and the recent ethnic confrontations in Kenya's Coast Province have jeopardized both the safety and the political rights of average Kenyans;

Whereas the Government of Kenya has continued to disrupt opposition rallies and meetings even after pledging to take a more tolerant approach to them in late July;

Whereas these events led to the consideration in early September of a package of democratic reforms by members of parliament representing the government and the opposition, but not including representatives of Kenyan civil society;

Whereas it remains unclear whether long-discussed political reforms can be effectively implemented in the time remaining before anticipated elections in 1997; and

Whereas colonial laws have given Kenyan President Daniel Arap Moi sweeping powers to suppress political opponents and thwart reform throughout his 19-year rule: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That the Congress—

(1) recognizes and commends those Kenyans who have demonstrated their love of peace, law, and order;

(2) condemns those who are inciting others to violence, looting, and destroying property;

(3) urges an immediate cessation to the violence in Kenya;

(4) urges the Government of Kenya to take all necessary and lawful steps to avoid more violence in the future;

(5) recognizes President Moi's response to domestic and international pressure to allow meaningful constitutional and legal electoral process reform through the current package of legislation agreed to by the ruling party and opposition party representatives;

(6) calls for the prodemocracy movement to remain unified in working toward implementing constitutional, statutory, and administrative reforms;

(7) urges rapid progress toward conducting free and fair elections; and

(8) urges the United States Government and the international community to continue to work with all parties to encourage the Government of Kenya to ensure a lasting and committed transition to democracy, including an immediate review of the propriety of the time of the next elections.

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

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

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on House Concurrent Resolution 130, the matter now under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, when the gentleman from Florida [Mr. HASTINGS] introduced this resolution last July, I felt it was timely and much needed, given the violence that prodemocracy demonstrators experienced at the hands of the Kenyan police. Since that time, after the Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific held a hearing, the gentleman from Florida [Mr. HASTINGS] updated this resolution so that it is relevant for the situation existing today. This includes the recent announcement that elections will be held in Kenya on December 28.

Despite the recent actions by the Kenyan Parliament to put in place legal reforms to the electoral process, there are serious doubts about the Government's willingness to honor its commitments. Last July, President Moi promised to allow opposition political party meetings without permits. Since then, even opposition events with permits have been disrupted. This reform is supposed to allow for political parties to be registered, but the Safina Party still has not been registered nearly 2 years after applying for approval.

In short, the Kenyan Government has shown little commitment to follow through on its promises to implement democratic reforms. This is why this resolution is so important. The U.S. Government must be on record as strongly encouraging genuine reform. We also must firmly oppose the violence threatened in advance of the December elections.

This resolution is balanced, and it will be noted in Kenya. The Kenyan Government takes notice of what the United States Government thinks about its actions. Kenya is too important to east Africa and too important to the continent for the United States to stand by without supporting true reform. If we do not stand firm in opposition to electoral violence and vote fraud, a bad election could produce chaos in what has been an island of stability in east Africa.

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 offer this resolution today in response to the ongoing violence in Kenya that has just been talked about by our distinguished Chair of the Subcommittee on Africa, the gentleman from California [Mr. ROYCE], and I want to thank the chair-

man of the Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific [Mr. BEREUTER], as well as other members, not only for their expeditious handling of this matter, but their conscientious and expeditious handling of matters as they have arisen on the African Continent.

In the absence of a genuine commitment to democracy, we have seen violence be established in Kenya. This resolution calls on President Moi, the ruling party, opposition leaders, and protestors, to immediately cease all violence and pursue the constitutional and legal reforms necessary to bring Kenya from a colonial outpost to a multiparty democracy.

On Monday, November 12, 1997, President Moi dissolved parliament after they passed three reform bills which would have paved the way for general elections, as spoken about a moment ago by the gentleman from California [Mr. ROYCE]. These reforms repeal laws restricting freedom of speech and assembly, give opposition parties greater representation on the electoral commission, and establish a multiparty commission to review the constitution after the elections.

Quite frankly, I am outraged that President Moi unilaterally dissolved the parliament because it was clearly moving in a direction he had found threatening. This action is unacceptable and must not be ignored by the international community.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to thank the ranking member of the Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific for his continuing diligence, not only with reference to this particular matter but others that will be spoken about later today, as well as on a continuing basis.

To sum up, my resolution lets the Kenyan people know that the United States is watching and expects progress from all quarters. Please join me in sending a message to all of the citizens of Kenya, especially those who have no voice in their governance, that their aspirations for democracy are attainable.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to my distinguished colleague, the gentleman from New Jersey [Mr. MENENDEZ].

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

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank first of all my colleague on the Subcommittee on Africa, the gentleman from Florida [Mr. HASTINGS]. He has been an articulate and thoughtful member of the committee and has added much to our debates, and I want to commend him on bringing this resolution, as well as the chairman, for all of the work we have done this year in a very bipartisan way, and to his credit, we commend him for the manner in which he has run the committee.

Mr. Speaker, Kenya is an important and strategic country in Africa, and it is unfortunate that our consideration of this resolution was prompted by the violence and political instability in Kenya. I am pleased to report that

since the Subcommittee on Africa held hearings on the situation in Kenya in July, the situation has improved considerably. Just this past week President Moi made noted constitutional changes to allow more room for his political opposition, and just today the date for presidential and parliamentary elections was announced: December 29.

It is crucial at this juncture that the international community insist on continued progress on constitutional and legal reforms, on improvements in human rights, and on free, fair, and democratic elections. We cannot allow this opening for reform to close without cementing substantive changes.

President Moi needs to know that the United States and the international community will continue to watch his administration, even now that the violence has subsided, and that we will continue to press for real reforms which guarantee the Kenyan people access to and participation in their government.

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That is what we are doing in this resolution. We are sending a message to President Moi, and on behalf of the Kenyan people, we hope that he is listening. I congratulate the gentleman from Florida [Mr. HASTINGS].

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

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to support this resolution, which makes an important statement on U.S. concern about possible violence in a country that has been and remains vital to American interests. It is particularly important for this House to make this statement now, since we are about to adjourn weeks before the Kenyan election will be held.

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the leadership of the gentleman from California, Mr. ROYCE, the subcommittee chairman, for managing this resolution.

I would like to thank Mr. HASTINGS for introducing this resolution and directing the House's attention to the situation in Kenya.

As we all know, Kenya is expecting to have elections later this year or early next year, and there has already been a high-level of violence in Kenya in the run-up to the election.

On a positive note, the Kenyan parliament recently adopted a number of important legal and constitutional reforms. This action was made possible by brave advocacy of human rights and democracy by activity Kenyans.

These reforms offer the promise of a significant expansion of political activity in Kenya.

It is important that the Congress continues to express solidarity with those in Kenya who advocate democratic reforms and respect for human rights and civil rights. This resolution is an appropriate method to do that. Accordingly I urge my colleagues to support it.

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

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SNOWBARGER). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from

California [Mr. ROYCE] that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, House Concurrent Resolution 130, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the concurrent resolution, as amended, was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

CONDEMNING MILITARY INTERVENTION BY THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF ANGOLA INTO THE REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 273) condemning the military intervention by the Government of the Republic of Angola into the Republic of the Congo, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 273

Whereas President Pascal Lissouba defeated former President Denis Sassou-Nguesso in a 1992 election in the Republic of the Congo that was determined to be free and fair;

Whereas in October 1997 troops of the Government of the Republic of Angola assisted in the capture of Pointe Noire, a city in the southern part of the Republic of the Congo;

Whereas the Government of Angola sent more than 1,000 troops into the Republic of the Congo from neighboring Cabinda, including a MiG-23 fighter and ground attack squadrons;

Whereas the Government of Angola provided military supplies and support to former President Denis Sassou-Nguesso to assist his efforts to unseat the democratically-elected President Pascal Lissouba;

Whereas the Lusaka Protocol of 1994 requires that the Government of Angola inform the United Nations Observer Mission in Angola (MONUA) of any troop movements;

Whereas the actions by Angola are a violation of Article 2 of the United Nations Charter which forbids member states from "the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any state";

Whereas the actions by Angola are a violation of Article III of the Organization of African Unity Charter which mandates "Respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of each State";

Whereas the United Nations Security Council has imposed travel and other sanctions on the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA) for making insufficient progress in its commitments under the Lusaka Protocol, including demobilization of UNITA soldiers, the forfeiture of weapons to the United Nations, and the extension of state administration to regions under UNITA control;

Whereas this action by the United Nations Security Council comes shortly after the Government of Angola participated in the overthrow of a democratically elected government in the Republic of the Congo; and

Whereas the United Nations Security Council has failed to condemn this action by the Government of Angola: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) condemns the military intervention by the Government of the Republic of Angola into the Republic of the Congo;

(2) calls on the Government of Angola to immediately withdraw all military troops, supplies, and other assistance from the Republic of the Congo;

(3) encourages the United States Government to condemn the military intervention by the Government of Angola into the Republic of the Congo and its violation of the Lusaka Protocol, the United Nations Charter, and the Organization of African Unity Charter;

(4) urges the United States Government to withhold any military training and assistance to Angola until it ceases all military activities in the Republic of the Congo;

(5) expresses concern that the United States Government has sought to strengthen military ties with the Government of Angola in advance of the full implementation of the Lusaka Protocol and the creation of a meaningful role for former members of the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA) in the Angolan military; and

(6) urges both the Government of Angola and UNITA to continue their commitments to the Lusaka Protocol and Angolan peace process despite the imposition of sanctions on UNITA by United Nations Security Council Resolutions 1127 (1997) and 1135 (1997).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California [Mr. ROYCE] and the gentleman from New Jersey [Mr. MENENDEZ] each will control 20 minutes.

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

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, this resolution concerns the troubling situation that is made worse by Angola's armed intervention in the civil war in Congo, Brazzaville. The introduction of Angolan troops, armor, and aircraft tipped the balance of that civil war in favor of former President Dennis Sassou-Nguesso, who was inaugurated recently, despite having received no popular mandate for his return as President.

The Angolan intervention has resulted in the overthrow of the Government of President Pascal Lissouba, who was elected in that country's first multi-party election in 1992. Despite the end of the fighting, Congo-Brazzaville is no more stable today because of the Angolan intervention, and, indeed, it may be facing more turmoil in the coming weeks because of the imposition of an unpopular dictator who was overwhelmingly voted out of office 5 years ago.

Certainly the Angolan soldiers made life more difficult for the Congo by pounding Pointe Noire with heavy artillery for days, and then looting that city. These are not the actions of genuine liberators. The Angolan intervention in Congo Brazzaville following the

Angolan intervention in what was then Zaire has led many observers to wonder if we are now in a newer era on the continent in which borders and democratic elections are meaningless.

The rationale by the Angolan government that Angolan forces operating in Congo Brazzaville posed a threat to their country does not justify its violation of international conventions, as cited in this resolution. President Lissouba testified last week before the Committee on International Relations that any UNITA presence in his country posed no danger whatsoever to Angola's sovereignty. However, this intervention likely will harm the peace process in Angola itself by further hardening relations between the Angolan government and UNITA.

Angolan government spokesmen talked of forcefully seizing territory that is supposed to be turned over by UNITA. Although the United Nations placed sanctions on UNITA, the U.N. acknowledged that extension of territorial administration has been moving forward over the last few months.

I support the resolution of the gentleman from New Jersey [Mr. MENENDEZ] as a timely and necessary response to this situation. I understand the Angolan government has announced its intention to withdraw its forces from Congo by November 15. This resolution lets that government know we expect them to fulfill that commitment.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, last month Mr. Sassou-Nguesso was sworn in as the President of the Republic of Congo after seizing power from the democratically elected government with the help of the Angolan military, and with virtually no opposition from the international community.

When President Lissouba testified before the Committee on International Relations last week, he made it very clear that the Angolan intervention was a decisive factor in the deposing of his government.

This resolution addresses three important issues: First, the Angolan government military's incursion into the Republic of Congo to help unseat the democratically elected government of Pascal Lissouba; second, the lackadaisical response from the international community, including the the United States government, to Angola's actions and the overthrow of the Congolese government; and third, the imposition of sanctions upon UNITA by the U.N. Security Council, without regard or mention of the Angolan government's violations of the Lusaka Protocol.

Unlike the situation in the former Zaire, where now President Kabila unseated longtime dictator Mbutu, Angola has helped to unseat a democratically elected President in the Republic