

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

of Congo. The United States' response has been woefully inadequate. The United States should be calling for the restoration of the democratically-elected government of Pascal Lissouba, but instead it is pursuing a policy of working with former dictator Nguesso as if he had a legitimate mandate from the Congolese people.

On October 30, the United States agreed to support the imposition of sanctions on UNITA for failure to comply with its obligations under the Lusaka Protocol. This decision was made despite the fact that UNITA has made significant progress in moving towards many of the benchmarks established by earlier Security Council resolutions.

But even more disconcerting is the fact that the decision was made despite the fact that the government of Angola violated the Lusaka Protocol, that is, invading the Congolese, not to mention the United Nations and Organization of African Unity charters, by overthrowing the freely-elected government of the Congo.

Moreover, during the month of October the government took several provocative military actions against UNITA, also in violation of the Lusaka Protocol, failed to honor a commitment to meet with Dr. Savimbi, and snubbed Ambassador Richardson on his visit to Angola, the purpose of which was to move the peace process forward.

It is disingenuous to sanction UNITA for noncompliance when the government itself has violated the Lusaka Protocol. I believe the United States needs to send a strong message to Angola by withholding further IMET assistance until Angola has fully withdrawn all troops and military assistance from the Republic of Congo.

We should also give serious consideration to whether or not it is appropriate to be extending military assistance and forging military-to-military contacts with a country which is engaged in cross-border military incursions. I seriously question if it is a responsible policy to be providing Angola with such assistance in advance of the full implementation of the Lusaka Protocol and creation of a meaningful role for former UNITA members in the Angolan military.

Finally, we are at a critical juncture in the Angolan peace process. The Angolan government's actions in the Republic of Congo and the U.N. Security Council's imposition of sanctions are likely to hinder rather than advance the timetable for peace in Angola. We hope that that in fact does not end up being the case, but we are seriously considering it.

I want to thank the chairman of the subcommittee for calling my resolution forward, which I believe is very timely. I want to thank my cosponsors.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Florida [Mr. HASTINGS].

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me the time.

Mr. Speaker, I commend the gentleman from New Jersey [Mr. MENENDEZ] for bringing this resolution forward. I also commend the gentleman from New York, Chairman GILMAN, and the gentleman from California, Mr. ROYCE, the chair of the subcommittee on Africa, for their work on the bill.

We have before us a meaningful and balanced resolution. The national community must forcefully speak against the overthrow of a democratically-elected President, especially when an outside power intervenes in a critical way. The Congress in this action goes on record as condemning Angola's intervention in the Republic of the Congo. Angola's actions could set a dangerous precedent in a volatile area, and the Congress here is working to avoid this kind of precedent.

The resolution also urges both sides in Angola to implement their commitments to the peace process. I would urge, and I believe the gentleman from Indiana [Mr. HAMILTON] would, as well, adoption of the resolution. I thank again the gentleman from New Jersey [Mr. MENENDEZ] and the gentleman from California [Mr. ROYCE] and the gentleman from New York [Mr. GILMAN], and the gentleman from California and the gentleman from New Jersey especially, since we traveled to this area and we all recognize its volatility, and the likelihood that unless stability is brought there, that it will cause a continuing explosion in that area of the world.

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

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New York [Mr. GILMAN], the distinguished 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 thank the gentleman for yielding me the time.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the chairman of the subcommittee on Africa, the distinguished gentleman from California [Mr. ROYCE] for his leadership in bringing this resolution before us, as well as the distinguished gentleman from New Jersey [Mr. MENENDEZ], who is our ranking member on the subcommittee of Africa, for introducing this important resolution.

This resolution condemns the actions by the government of Angola that contribute to the overthrow of a democratically-elected government and its neighbor, the Republic of the Congo. Our committee recently took testimony from President Pascal Lissouba of the Republic of Congo, who was ousted from his Nation last month by the Armed Forces of Angola, working in conjunction with Congolese rebel forces. President Lissouba was democratically elected by the Congolese people in 1992.

It must be made clear that the Angolan government, they must refrain

from intervening in the affairs of their neighbors, and continue to honor their commitments to the Lusaka protocol, which governs Angola's internal peace process. There are reasons to begin to suspect that Angola may become a rogue state, showing no restraints in its efforts to undermine its neighbors.

With the imposition of sanctions on UNITA by the U.N. Security Council, tensions in Angola right now are as high as they have been in the last 3 years, since the signing of the Lusaka protocol. It is imperative, therefore, that the Congress remind both sides that a return to war is unacceptable. Renewed hostilities would only result in the collapse of the peace process and the total isolation of the offending party. This resolution sends that kind of a message.

Accordingly, I urge my colleagues to fully support the resolution.

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to my colleague, the gentleman from Florida [Mr. SHAW].

Mr. SHAW. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me the time.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to say to my colleagues, within the last year I was in the Republic of the Congo. I went deep into the Ndoki forest, and saw what was going on; spent almost a full day with President Lissouba and got to know him, and know of the concern, the deep concern he had for his people and his country.

Sure, it is a fragile democracy. It was the only democracy that the Republic of the Congo has ever known. For it to be struck down in such a brutal way by not only the rebel forces from within the Republic of the Congo, but from the intervention from Angola, is inexcusable.

I think when we talk about what is our interest in that part of the world, we have to ask ourselves certain questions. Sure, there is oil there that is of great value and should be conserved. We would like for our American oil producers to have equal access to it. But there is much more than that.

In the Ndoki forest, traveling hours in dugout canoes, and going back and hiking hours through the swamp, and sleeping on the ground, we were able to actually see for the first time the silver-backed gorillas that are coming closer and closer to extinction. On the way we were able to see the results of what happens in clear-cutting the rain forest, which is going to have a lot to do with world climate.

We talked to President Lissouba and know of his concern, his cooperation with USAID and other organizations that are trying to conserve the forest, trying to conserve the rain forest elephant and the silver-backed gorilla, together with other endangered species.

If we care about this earth that we live in, if we care about the freedom of individuals, if we care about democracy, we must turn our attention to the struggling democracies in Africa, and ask ourselves exactly what course this Congress should take, what actions should the United States take,

what should our relations be with nations that would destroy cities such as the leveling of Brazzaville, and actually the illegal conduct of Angola and what it has been doing.

□ 1530

I want to compliment the gentleman from California [Mr. MENENDEZ] for bringing this to the floor and the gentleman from California [Mr. ROYCE] for his good leadership in this regard. And I urge a yes vote on this important resolution.

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey [Mr. PAYNE] on a related matter, since he was unavoidably detained on the Kenya resolution, but has just come back from a trip to the whole area as one of our outstanding members in the Subcommittee on Africa.

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

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, let me, first of all, commend the gentleman from New Jersey [Mr. MENENDEZ], the ranking member of the Subcommittee on Africa, for the outstanding work that he has done at the Subcommittee on Africa. I would like to stand here in support of the previous Concurrent Resolution 130, as has been indicated regarding Kenya.

As has been mentioned, I visited Kenya on a brief trip from July 4 to July 6. When I went there, it was to evaluate the situation there and to listen to what was going on. My mission had two principal objectives: First, to urge the President to meet with opposition and religious leaders to discuss opposition demands for constitutional reforms; and, second, encourage the government to create a level playing field for the upcoming election. I also delivered a letter from President Clinton.

Kenya is one of the most important countries in Africa, and I think today for many reasons we are seeing Kenya's unwavering commitment and leadership of IGAD. Starting on October 28 in Nairobi, President Moi, as chairman of IGAD, was instrumental in getting the SPLA and the National Islamic Front, NIF, to agree on a joint communique. Nelson Mandela concluded that Inter-Governmental Authority on Development remained the best forum, and President Moi was working hard to try to get those two groups together.

After much prodding, after the World Bank and the IMF suspended its loan program and the subsequent fall of the Kenya shilling, I suppose that Mr. Moi had no other option but to meet with the opposition party members in the Inter-Parties Parliamentary Group, IPPG. In all fairness, though, President Moi stated that the opposition was divided and fractionalized, and I think that was one of his reasons for ambiguity on the reform package that he presented.

I do not think that the people of Kenya can survive any more uprisings

and civil unrest like they had in 1995 and Saba Saba in July of this year, when 10 people were killed.

I also had an opportunity to meet with President Moi again last month on a Presidential mission with Ambassador Richardson. Let me say that President Moi has truly been responsive to the calls for reform. He is the promoter of a bill amending the Constitution. It sailed through its third reading in the Parliament on November 4. Shouts of triumph filled the chamber as members of different parties celebrated the bill's passage.

The political and constitutional reforms of November 7 that Mr. Moi signed into law will make Kenya a multiparty democracy and will allow residents greater freedom of speech. The reforms repeal laws restricting freedom of speech and assembly, give greater representation on the Electoral Commission to opposition parties, and establish a multipartisan commission to review the Constitution after general elections.

I do feel that President Moi should allow all political parties to become a part of the elections. There is still one party that has not been registered. I think that should be done. And, also, I think we need to take a look at the fact that there has been abolition of the Parliament. But I understand that, according to the procedures, that this happens right before elections.

So I would just like to once again thank the gentleman from Florida [Mr. HASTINGS] for this resolution. I support it, and I hope that Kenya can get on the right track of its election, have them fair and transparent so that that country that was great in the past can move forward in the future for all the people of Kenya.

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

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

I ask that my colleagues support this resolution, which sends an important message to the region. In 2 days, Angolan troops are supposed to be withdrawn from Congo-Brazzaville, and at this point it is unlikely that they will complete their withdrawal on time. Nevertheless, this is a key deadline. My colleagues' support of this resolution today will confirm American determination that this deadline must be kept, absent some good reason why it cannot be kept.

Since this is the last of 6 resolutions produced by the Subcommittee on Africa this session, let me take this opportunity to commend the gentleman from California [Mr. MENENDEZ], the ranking minority member, and all my subcommittee colleagues on both sides of the aisle for a very cooperative working relationship this year, including the gentleman from Florida [Mr. HASTINGS] and the gentleman from New Jersey [Mr. PAYNE], who have spoken on the last two resolutions. I look forward to a productive second session.

Mr. ROYCE. 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 California [Mr. ROYCE] that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 273, as amended.

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

The title of the resolution was amended so as to read: "Condemning the military intervention by the Government of the Republic of Angola into the Republic of the Congo, urging both the Government of Angola and the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (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), and for other purposes."

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### SENIOR CITIZEN HOME EQUITY PROTECTION ACT

Mr. LAZIO of New York. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 329) providing for the concurrence by the House with an amendment to the Senate amendment to the House amendments to S. 562.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 329

*Resolved*, That, upon the adoption of this resolution, the House shall be considered to have taken from the Speaker's table the bill S. 562, together with the Senate amendment to the House amendment to the text of the bill, and to have concurred in the Senate amendment with an amendment as follows:

In the matter proposed to be inserted by the Senate amendment, at the end of section 304 add the following new subsection:

(c) **APPLICABILITY.**—This section shall apply only during the period beginning on October 1, 1997, and ending at the end of March 31, 1998.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New York [Mr. LAZIO] and the gentleman from Massachusetts [Mr. KENNEDY] each will control 20 minutes.

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

Mr. LAZIO of New York. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Senior Citizens Home Equity Protection Act of 1997, which I introduced on April 10 as H.R. 1297, the Senior Homeowners Mortgage Protection Act. This House originally passed this bill under suspension on September 16, with an overwhelming vote of support, 422 to 1. That is the kind of margin I like to win my bills by, Mr. Speaker.

The core legislation was also included in the manager's amendment to H.R. 2, the Housing Opportunity and Responsibility Act of 1997, which passed the House on May 14. Although the Senate did not act upon this bill