

(2) DAMAGES.—Section 35(a) of the Trademark Act of 1946 (15 U.S.C. 1117(a)) is amended in the first sentence by striking “or a violation under section 43(a),” and inserting “a violation under section 43(a), or a willful violation under section 43(c).”

(3) DESTRUCTION OF ARTICLES.—Section 36 of the Trademark Act of 1946 (15 U.S.C. 1118) is amended in the first sentence—

(A) by striking “or a violation under section 43(a),” and inserting “a violation under section 43(a), or a willful violation under section 43(c),”; and

(B) by inserting after “in the case of a violation of section 43(a)” the following: “or a willful violation under section 43(c).”

SEC. 10. EFFECTIVE DATE.

This Act and the amendments made by this Act shall take effect—

(1) on the date that is 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, or

(2) upon the entry into force of the Trademark Law Treaty with respect to the United States, whichever occurs first.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from North Carolina [Mr. COBLE] and the gentleman from American Samoa [Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA] will each control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina [Mr. COBLE].

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. COBLE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks on the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

I rise in support of H.R. 1661, the Trademark Law Treaty Implementation Act. The Trademark Law Treaty Implementation Act, popularly known as TLT, sets a ceiling on certain filing and renewal requirements which its member nations may not exceed. Here in the United States, it removes some of the procedural hurdles to processing trademark applications and renewals thereby streamlining the process for the users.

Additionally, the bill we are considering today contains a minor house-keeping amendment which seeks to harmonize the remedy provisions passed last year as part of the trademark dilution statute, with the other remedy provisions of the Latham Act. There is no opposition to the bill as amended, and it is supported by the International Trademark Association and the American Intellectual Property Law Association.

I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of this bipartisan bill.

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

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I rise on behalf of the gentleman from New York [Mr. NADLER] and include his statement for the RECORD.

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 1661, the Trademark Law Treaty Implementation Act, a measure recently

passed out of the House Judiciary Committee with unanimous support.

This act, a long awaited implementation of a treaty entered into previously, is supported without objection. The import of this measure is that it would put the United States squarely behind the important goal of international uniformity of trademark registration requirements, a goal which, when achieved, will redound to the overwhelming benefit of Americans, who are by far lead producers of trademarks in the world.

I and the other Democrats on the Judiciary Committee strongly support this measure. I commend Chairman COBLE, ranking member BARNEY FRANK, and the other members and staff of the Intellectual Property Subcommittee for moving this legislation forward, and I urge its adoption today under suspension of the rules.

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

Mr. COBLE. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend from American Samoa [Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA], and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from North Carolina [Mr. COBLE] that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1661, as amended.

The question was taken.

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 5, rule I, and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

CALLING FOR UNITED STATES INITIATIVE SEEKING JUST AND PEACEFUL RESOLUTION OF SITUATION ON CYPRUS

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 81) calling for a United States initiative seeking a just and peaceful resolution of the situation on Cyprus, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. CON. RES. 81

Whereas the Republic of Cyprus has been divided and occupied by foreign forces since 1974 in violation of United Nations resolutions;

Whereas the international community, the Congress, and United States administrations have called for an end to the status quo on Cyprus, considering that it perpetuates an unacceptable violation of international law and fundamental human rights affecting all the people of Cyprus, and undermines significant United States interests in the Eastern Mediterranean region;

Whereas the international community and the United States Government have repeatedly called for the speedy withdrawal of all foreign forces from the territory of Cyprus;

Whereas there are internationally acceptable means, including the demilitarization of Cyprus and the establishment of a multinational force, to ensure the security of both communities in Cyprus;

Whereas the House of Representatives has endorsed the objective of the total demilitarization of Cyprus;

Whereas during the past year tensions on Cyprus have dramatically increased, with violent incidents occurring along ceasefire lines at a level not reached since 1974;

Whereas recent events in Cyprus have heightened the potential for armed conflict in the region involving two North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) allies, Greece and Turkey, which would threaten vital United States interests in the already volatile Eastern Mediterranean area and beyond;

Whereas a peaceful, just, and lasting solution to the Cyprus problem would greatly benefit the security, and the political, economic, and social well-being of all Cypriots, as well as contribute to improved relations between Greece and Turkey;

Whereas a lasting solution to the Cyprus problem would also strengthen peace and stability in the Eastern Mediterranean and serve important interests of the United States;

Whereas the United Nations has repeatedly stated the parameters for such a solution, most recently in United Nations Security Council Resolution 1092, adopted on December 23, 1996, with United States support;

Whereas the prospect of the accession by Cyprus to the European Union, which the United States has actively supported, could serve as a catalyst for a solution to the Cyprus problem;

Whereas President Bill Clinton has pledged that in 1997 the United States will “play a heightened role in promoting a resolution in Cyprus”; and

Whereas United States leadership will be a crucial factor in achieving a solution to the Cyprus problem, and increased United States involvement in the search for this solution will contribute to a reduction of tensions on Cyprus; Now, therefore, be it

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

(1) reaffirms its view that the status quo on Cyprus is unacceptable and detrimental to the interests of the United States in the Eastern Mediterranean and beyond;

(2) considers lasting peace and stability on Cyprus could be best secured by a process of complete demilitarization leading to the withdrawal of all foreign occupation forces, the cessation of foreign arms transfer to Cyprus, and providing for alternative internationally acceptable and effective security arrangements as negotiated by the parties;

(3) welcomes and supports the commitment by President Clinton to give increased attention to Cyprus and make the search for a solution a priority of United States foreign policy;

(4) encourages the President to launch an early substantive initiative, in close coordination with the United Nations, the European Union, and interested governments to promote a speedy resolution of the Cyprus problem on the basis of international law, the provisions of relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions, democratic principles, including respect for human rights, and in accordance with the norms and requirements for accession to the European Union;

(5) calls upon the parties to lend their full support and cooperation to such an initiative; and

(6) requests the President to report actions taken to give effect to the objectives set forth in paragraph (4) in the bimonthly report on Cyprus transmitted to the Congress.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New York [Mr. GILMAN] and the gentleman from American Samoa [Mr.

FALEOMAVAEGA] each will control 20 minutes.

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

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

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

Mr. Speaker, this past Sunday, we marked the 23d anniversary of the invasion and occupation of Cyprus. The Cyprus problem is a situation that cries out for just redress and an end to the occupation of Cyprus by foreign troops. Although the world has dramatically changed for the better during this decade, Cyprus remains as a pressing international problem. Indeed, Cyprus has almost become a code word for intractability in the realm of diplomacy.

I have been encouraged, nevertheless, by recent statements from high-level officials of the Clinton administration, including the President himself, that indicate that there may be new willingness on the part of our Government to exert its leadership in promoting a solution to the Cyprus problem.

Indeed, the President's appointment of Ambassador Richard Holbrooke as special envoy for Cyprus is a sign of a renewed commitment to finding a solution on the part of the administration. I strongly believe that our Government should invest some of our prestige in such an effort, because Americans have always supported justice and because we have significant interests that can be affected by instability in Cyprus. It is for these reasons that I introduced this resolution that is now before the House.

Over the past year, there have been a number of events and incidents that have increased tensions in Cyprus and in the eastern Mediterranean region. There is a distressing trend of increased militarization of the island, already one of the most highly militarized parts of the globe.

There are, however, also positive developments that could have the ability to catalyze a peaceful and just solution. One of these is the pending negotiation on Cyprus' accession to the European Union that may begin by the end of the year.

The Foreign Ministers in Greece and Turkey recently agreed on resolving disputes between them through peaceful means. There has been increased diplomatic activity in Europe and in the United Nations to bring the two sides together. In short, the risks of inaction far outweigh those of taking the initiative on Cyprus now.

This resolution points out the interests and developments regarding the Cyprus situation and urges the President to keep his pledge to give increased attention to Cyprus. I am pleased to be joined by a group of distinguished cosponsors, including the gentleman from Indiana [Mr. HAMILTON], our ranking minority member, the gentleman from Florida [Mr. BILIRAKIS], the gentleman from Illinois

[Mr. PORTER], the gentleman from New York [Mr. RANGEL], and the gentleman from New York [Mrs. MALONEY], and in excess of 50 other distinguished Members of the House who have shared an interest in Cyprus and their concern over what may arise from a continued stalemate on the island.

It is our hope that this resolution will help spur the resolve of the Clinton administration to indeed make 1997 the year of Cyprus. Accordingly, I urge my colleagues to help us send a signal of our commitment to resolving the Cyprus problem by adopting House Concurrent Resolution 81.

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

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of House Concurrent Resolution 81, calling for a United States initiative in seeking a just and peaceful resolution of the situation in Cyprus.

I am pleased to announce that the ranking Democratic member of the full Committee on International Relations is an original cosponsor of this important and timely resolution. I congratulate the gentleman from New York [Mr. GILMAN], our distinguished chairman, for his foresight and leadership in moving this legislation forward.

Earlier this year, Mr. Speaker, the Clinton administration announced that it intends to give high priority this year to move a settlement of Cyprus forward, easing Greek-Turkish relations. I agree with the administration that now is the time to try to move the peace process in Cyprus forward. That is why the gentleman from Indiana [Mr. HAMILTON] and the chairman are original cosponsors of House Concurrent Resolution 81, which puts the Congress firmly behind an energetic United States leadership role in seeking a realistic solution to the Cyprus situation.

In fact, Mr. Speaker, the emphasis in the resolutions is on the key role for United States' leadership on Cyprus and calls for an early substantive initiative by the administration to promote a Cyprus settlement. This tracks with longstanding congressional concerns that have been expressed to a series of administrations.

The violence in Cyprus last summer, and the problems this year as a result of arms acquisitions, have underscored the long-held view of the gentleman from Indiana [Mr. HAMILTON] that progress in Cyprus is long overdue and should be a high United States priority. It remains our hope and expectation that a firm, fair, and lasting settlement of the Cyprus dispute can be reached in the coming months.

I also want to applaud the Clinton administration's recent appointment of

Richard Holbrooke as United States special envoy for Cyprus. His appointment is the best signal yet that the Clinton administration intends to give high priority this year to a settlement on Cyprus and moving Greek-Turkish relations forward.

It has always been my firm belief, Mr. Speaker, that only high level sustained United States attention will convince all parties, and particularly the people of Turkey, to resolve the Cyprus issue. Substantively, Mr. Speaker, the outlines of a settlement have been on the table for some time, with the United Nations plan for a bicomunal, bizonal federation.

The floor consideration of this resolution, Mr. Speaker, is coming at a time of positive developments in the eastern Mediterranean region in Cyprus. Earlier this month, direct talks between Cyprus President Clerides and Turkish Cypriot leader Denktash, under the auspices of the U.N. Secretary General Annan, were held in New York. These were the first face-to-face talks in more than 2 years. A followup round of talks will hopefully be held in Geneva next month.

In addition, Mr. Speaker, in a recent NATO summit in Madrid, the Greek and Turkish Foreign Ministers at a meeting with Secretary of State Madeleine Albright undertook an explicit commitment to settle disputes by peaceful means without further use of force. Turkey remains the key to further progress, Mr. Speaker. Only Turkey can push Turkish Cypriot leader Denktash toward a settlement.

We must hope that a new government in Turkey under Prime Minister Yilmaz will be prepared to play a pivotal role in the process that other Turkish leaders have promised in the past. In the final analysis, it is in U.S. interests, as well as for the people in the region, that we find a just and lasting solution to treat these problems.

I believe, Mr. Speaker, that House Concurrent Resolution 81 will make a helpful contribution to this process. I urge my colleagues, Mr. Speaker, to support this resolution.

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

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Florida [Mr. BILIRAKIS].

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

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague from New York, Mr. GILMAN, for yielding to me. And of course I also wanted to commend the chairman, the gentleman from New York, Mr. GILMAN, for all the work that he has done on this important issue for many, many years. Mr. Speaker, we live in a world where regional conflicts of one sort or another are still prevalent. However, time and time again, we have seen the concepts of freedom and democracy triumph over tyranny and oppression.

Nowhere was this more profoundly demonstrated than with the change of

the Berlin Wall in late 1989 and with the withering of communism that followed. A divided city was reunited, families separated for decades enjoyed emotional unions. In the West, we congratulated ourselves because our persistence and way of life had finally prevailed. But Berlin was not the only divided city in the world, nor was Germany the only divided country. It is our sad duty to once again bring the plight of Cyprus to the attention of the American people.

□ 1500

In 1974, Turkey invaded the Island of Cyprus. Some 6,000 Turkish troops and over 100 tanks forcibly seized approximately 40 percent of the island, including half of the capital city, Nicosia. In the process, they displaced and divided thousands of Greek Cypriot families. To this day 1,619 people are still missing, including five U.S. citizens.

Today I rise in support of House Concurrent Resolution 81, which calls for a United States initiative seeking a just and peaceful resolution of the situation in Cyprus. For 23 years, the United Nations has stationed troops on the island to prevent the spread of violence, and yet the violence has not abated. Therefore, I do not believe that a lasting peace settlement can be negotiated without U.S. leadership.

Some wonder why we should involve ourselves in the problems of nations as distant as Cyprus. To them I would point out Cyprus is a vital strategic and economic importance to the United States. During the Persian Gulf war, Cyprus served as a major staging point for our military operations. In peacetime it serves as a critical listening post in the Middle East.

Cyprus is also close to the shipping lanes of the Aegean Sea and the Suez Canal, which is the gateway for oil and other materials. These shipping lanes are essential to the stability of the entire region and the rest of the world.

In the national archives here in Washington, DC, there is a piece of the Berlin Wall on display which was sent to former President Ronald Reagan by a young American. It is my sincere hope that someday in the near future we might be able to display a peace of the wall that marks the green line which divides Cyprus.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me and the gentleman from New York, Chairman GILMAN, in demonstrating our intentions with regards to Cyprus by unequivocally supporting this concurrent resolution. We must send a signal to the world that the division of a nation and the suppression of fundamental human rights are not to be tolerated. A just and peaceful resolution to the issue is a real possibility, but only with the leadership of the United States.

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume to thank the gentleman from Florida [Mr. BILIRAKIS] for his support and his remarks. He has been a longtime pro-

ponent of Cyprus and bringing peace to the region.

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from New Jersey [Mr. PALLONE].

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this concurrent resolution. I want to thank the gentleman from New York [Mr. GILMAN], the chairman of the committee, and also the gentleman from Indiana [Mr. HAMILTON], the ranking member, as well as the gentleman from Florida [Mr. BILIRAKIS], and others, the gentlewoman from New York [Mrs. MALONEY], other Members of the Congressional Caucus on Hellenic Issues that have been keeping this issue in the spotlight.

For almost a quarter of a century now the people of Cyprus have lived on a divided, militarized, and occupied island. On July 9 of this year high level negotiations between some of the key principals involved once again got underway, and we are very happy with that development. At the invitation of the Secretary General of the United Nations, the President of Cyprus and the Turkish Cypriot leader met face to face for the first time in 3 years. This is certainly a very positive development, as was the joint statement released by Greece and Turkey the day before the talks in New York began, in which the two countries vowed to "settle their disputes by peaceful means, based on mutual consent and without use of force or threat of force."

As everyone is aware by now, I know it has been mentioned that President Clinton recently signaled his commitment to resolving the problem in Cyprus by appointing Ambassador Richard Holbrooke, the architect of the Dayton peace accords, as the Special Emissary to Cyprus, and I want to congratulate the President for signaling his serious interest in the Cyprus issue through the appointment of Ambassador Holbrooke.

Because the Cyprus problem is clearly one of illegal invasion and occupation, there are a number of conditions I have mentioned before, and I want to stress again, that I believe the United States must pressure the Turkish Government to accept. The first of these concerns the issue of sovereignty. Any solution reached must be consistent with U.N. Resolution 750 of 1992, which states,

A Cyprus settlement must be based on a State of Cyprus with a single sovereignty and international personality and a single citizenship, with its independence and territorial integrity safeguarded.

To facilitate the goal of a State of Cyprus with a single sovereignty, I believe the United States should push for the establishment of a federation, with two federated states, one Greek Cypriot and one Turkish Cypriot, administered by a federal government. This would be much like the constitutional democracy of the United States, where the states receive their powers from a federal government. What I am saying

is a rotating Presidency and/or separate sovereignties for the Greek and Turkish communities should be viewed as completely unacceptable proposals.

Second, Mr. Speaker, any solution to the Cyprus problem must be based on internationally accepted standards of human rights. Simply stated, all Cypriots must be guaranteed three basic freedoms, freedom of movement, property and settlement.

Third, all foreign troops should be withdrawn from the island. In 1994, President Clerides proposed the demilitarization of the island as a precursor to meaningful negotiations. In 1995, this House went on record in support of this peaceful gesture when it passed the Cyprus Demilitarization Act.

The United States must use its influence with the Turkish government to facilitate the removal of the Turkish occupying force and the introduction of NATO or U.N. peacekeeping forces, if necessary, so negotiations can begin in earnest.

Last, I wanted to say, Mr. Speaker, that other matters, such as Cypriot accession to the European Union, must also be pursued. I know some of my colleagues have mentioned this. Integrating Cyprus into the framework of the European Union would demonstrate unequivocally to Turkey that its only real option is to accept a sovereign, independent Cyprus.

Mr. Speaker, the United States should embrace the opportunity to make progress, but we must not reach an agreement just for the sake of reaching an agreement. It is tragic that Cyprus has been divided for 23 years now. We will, however, wait as long as we must to bring true and lasting freedom to the Cypriot people.

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Rhode Island [Mr. WEYGAND].

Mr. WEYGAND. Mr. Speaker, I want to echo the comments of my fellow colleague, the gentleman from New Jersey [Mr. PALLONE], who spoke so eloquently about the situation.

Mr. Speaker, in July 1974 Turkish troops advanced into the Republic of Cyprus, and since then Cyprus has been divided. Over the past 23 years, there have been several instances where actions have led to increased tensions resulting in little progress toward resolving the conflict over Cyprus.

Cyprus remains divided today, at a time when we have seen significant progress in the proliferation of democracy throughout this great world. In the last 10 years we have seen the fall of the Berlin Wall, the lifting of the Iron Curtain, the advancement of the peace process in the Middle East, yet, as has been mentioned just recently, the green line still remains across the Island of Cyprus.

It is my hope that the green line will soon be erased and Cyprus will be added to the list of places where the conflict has been resolved and democracy flourishes. In light of the anticipated accession of Cyprus into the European Union, the appointment of

Richard Holbrooke as special envoy and renewed peace talks, I think the opportunity for progress has presented itself clearly before us now.

It is my hope that both sides will realize the economic and political importance of resolving their differences. With the cooperation of Ambassador Holbrooke, the United Nations and our President, I believe that the peace talks can reunify the Island of Cyprus. However, the agreement must abide by applicable international law, should include provisions for strengthening democracy, should protect human rights, and take into account the relevant United Nations security resolutions.

A unified Cyprus will result in economic and political stability. In the Middle East we have seen that kind of work be very fruitful. Here in Cyprus we want it to be the same.

Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleagues and applaud this resolution.

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey [Mr. PAPPAS].

Mr. PAPPAS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman of the Committee on International Relations for yielding me this time, and I rise in strong support of this resolution and urge its passage.

Twenty-three years ago Turkish troops invaded Cyprus and divided a nation and community. Today, 1,619 people remain missing, including 5 Americans. A barbed-wire fence divides the northern part of Cyprus from its southern portion, separating communities and families that had lived together in peace and harmony for generations. The longer the world waits, the harder it will be to reconcile these communities in the future. The time to act is now, the status quo is simply unacceptable.

In order to make progress, we will need to have willingness on all sides of this issue. The Republic of Cyprus has announced its willingness to delay the purchase of defensive missile systems pending advances in negotiations. I am hopeful that Turkey will also act in this manner and can begin by withdrawing its troops and by stopping the unhealthy rhetoric by its leaders toward Cyprus.

There are many players in the complicated issue of Cyprus. I am hopeful that this resolution being debated today will put pressure on all parties to roll up their sleeves and return stability to that part of the world.

The recent decision of the European Union to admit Cyprus to its ranks demonstrates the strength of its economy and democratic form of government and should be used to show Turkey that its occupation of the northern part of Cyprus is simply counterproductive to its own stated goal of joining the European Union. As such, the European Union, NATO, the United States, Cyprus, Turkey, Greece, and the United Nations all must actively search for common ground and create ways to restore the proud communities of Cyprus, to possibly demilitarize the

island, and take down the last wall in the world.

I believe the gentleman from New York [Mr. GILMAN] and the gentleman from Indiana [Mr. HAMILTON], the ranking member, are to be commended for their efforts for years to raise awareness of this issue, and I urge support and I urge a strong United States role in justly resolving the issue with Cyprus and our NATO partners, Turkey and Greece. Through this resolution and through this debate we are able to show the world that America still stands against armed aggression and supports peaceful resolutions of dispute.

As a new Member of Congress, it has been my honor to work with these gentlemen, the gentleman from Florida [Mr. BILIRAKIS], the gentlewoman from New York [Mrs. MALONEY], and many others on issues relating to southeastern Europe. As a freshman, I am optimistic that we can produce results now if the rest of the world community joins with this Congress in insisting on a just and peaceful resolution for the people of the Republic of Cyprus.

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from New York [Mr. NADLER].

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this resolution.

Twenty-three years of an armed occupation of Cyprus is too long. This should have been ended long ago. This resolution is reaffirmation that the status quo in Cyprus is unacceptable, that it is detrimental to the security interests of the United States, and it emphasizes that we can only get a true and just and lasting peace and stability in Cyprus through a process of demilitarization.

In view of the recent beginning of talks between Turkey and Greece, and in view of the administration's initiative, this is a good time to reemphasize these points and to encourage the President to launch the kind of initiative that has met with some success in other parts of the Middle East.

So I commend the sponsor of this resolution and I urge its strong support. And, Mr. Speaker, I wish to join as a sponsor of this resolution also.

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey [Mr. ROTHMAN].

Mr. ROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to add my voice to those of my colleagues who have today so eloquently spoken in support of House Concurrent Resolution 81.

For Cyprus, this proud island nation, the cause of peace, the cause of freedom, the pursuit of unity is more than sloganeering. For the people of Cyprus and the Cypriot Americans I am proud and honored to represent in Congress, when we talk about freedom, we talk about an important element of that nation's identity that was robbed from them in 1974. For the people of Cyprus and the Cypriot Americans in my district, when we talk about justice, we talk about an ideal unseen since the de

facto partition of that island nation in 1974. For the people of Cyprus and all those in America who believe in and cherish the value of peace, when we talk about Cyprus, we talk of an island where peace has been absent for 23 years. And that has been, in my estimation, 23 years too long.

So today I stand here as a Member of Congress, as a member of the House Committee on International Relations, as a cosponsor of House Concurrent Resolution 81 to say that I believe strongly in the following: I believe in freedom for Cyprus, I believe in a united Cyprus, and I believe that we must support the efforts of the parties to negotiate and secure a long-lasting and genuine peace for Cyprus.

As my colleagues know, in 1974 Cyprus was invaded by Turkey. It was an illegal invasion, illegal and against all international norms recognized then or now. And most important, we must recognize that this invasion cannot stand, just as we took that same position with regard to the invasion of Kuwait.

Some might argue that freedom for Cyprus might not be in the national interest of the United States. I wholeheartedly and emphatically disagree. Part of our makeup, part of our national history is founded on the simple belief that we are a people who believe in justice.

□ 1515

Mr. Speaker, the little nation of Cyprus has a big dream, to be free. It is a dream I support, it is a dream I will continue to fight for, and I am proud to be a cosponsor of House Concurrent Resolution 81.

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from New York [Mrs. MALONEY].

(Mrs. MALONEY of New York asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me this time. First, I would like to commend the gentleman from New York [Mr. GILMAN] for his leadership for peace and justice on Cyprus. This weekend we remembered the 23d anniversary of the illegal invasion of Cyprus and the horrible complications that have cost lives and stolen freedoms.

When one thinks of a people or a country as a whole, it is easy to gloss over the real tragedies. So I would like to remember two people who lost their lives 1 year ago this August. A 24-year-old protester, Tassos Isaac, was savagely beaten to death on August 11, 1996, by Turks, using rocks and iron poles. Three days later a group of mourners, people who were not even armed, became the targets of Turkish troop gunfire. The 26-year-old cousin of Tassos was gunned down, 11 others were injured.

Additionally, just 2 months after that, 58-year-old Petros Kakoullis was

out snail gathering with his son-in-law when he was gunned down as he assumed a position of surrender. Petros' only mistake was that he had wandered across the green line into the occupied area.

Our country must take an active role in stopping these abuses. The illegal occupation of Cyprus must end. The island must be demilitarized. Turkish troops must be forced off the island. The island must be unified, justice must be served, and the President of the United States must make it a foreign policy priority. I urge a vote in support of this resolution and in support of this island in crisis.

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to 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 express my strong support as cosponsor for this resolution and commend the gentleman from New York [Mr. GILMAN] and the gentleman from Indiana [Mr. HAMILTON] for their leadership in bringing it before the House.

On Sunday we commemorated the unhappy anniversary and tragic circumstances of 23 years of division on the island of Cyprus, which has been artificially divided following an invasion by Turkish troops on July 20, 1974. On that date, over 200,000 Greek Cypriots became refugees in their own country and to this date are denied return to their homes. Today, a full 37 percent of the island remains under occupation by Turkish troops which in defiance of United Nations resolutions, now number 35,000, making Cyprus one of the most militarized places in the world.

After 23 years, the people of Cyprus in both communities deserve a solution which will reunite the island, its communities, and its people. As Secretary of State Albright recently pointed out, "U.S.-Cyprus relations extend far beyond the so-called Cyprus problem. *** Cyprus is a valued partner against new global threats." A resolution would strengthen peace and stability in the volatile eastern Mediterranean and significantly advance U.S. national security interests in the region and beyond.

I recently sent a letter to President Clinton with 67 of my colleagues in the House. The letter outlines what we believe should be the parameters of any Cyprus solution. They are that Cyprus should be reunited with a strong federal government in which the federated states derive their powers from the federal constitution, a democratic constitution which would ensure the rights of all of its citizens and communities and which would guarantee the right to private property and free travel to all parts of the country. If Turkey is serious about its commitment to a permanent solution, then it must bring its views into conformity with the United Nations framework on issues of

sovereignty and political equality which they have refused to do.

Cyprus should not be a prisoner to Turkey's objections or threats. This is an opportunity for us to make a difference and the swift passage of this resolution sends a message of Congress' deep desire to see a settlement and the reunification of Cyprus for all of its people.

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as an original cosponsor of House Concurrent Resolution 81 to express my strong support for this resolution and to thank my friend from New York, the chairman of the International Relations Committee, for his leadership in bringing this important issue before the House.

For too long, the beautiful Mediterranean country of Cyprus has been politically and physically divided. Last week, a number of my colleagues, led by my good friend Mr. BILIRAKIS, marked the 23d anniversary of the division of Cyprus with a special order. The remarks which were delivered last Thursday clearly showed the commitment and interest that this body has in bringing an end to this deplorable situation. While we welcome the recent efforts undertaken by the Clinton administration, including the appointment of Richard Holbrooke as special envoy, we hope that this will not be just the latest in a long line of failed efforts which lacked the political will to find a just solution to the Cyprus problem. Over the past 20 years, there have been almost continual efforts by the United States and the international community, none of which has achieved the result we hope for.

In our efforts to resolve this problem, we must not forget the history of this issue and the strong feelings that it evokes. By the same token, we must realize that the world has changed dramatically in the past 23 years and the situation that created this division simply no longer exists. The legitimate Government of Cyprus is a thriving democracy with a robust economy and growing international prestige. Cyprus is a candidate to join the European Union in the near future.

Yet this prosperous, democratic country remains, in the north, occupied by 35,000 Turkish troops and divided by U.N. peacekeepers. In the past year, there have been tragic episodes of violence along the Green Line that divides Cyprus, resulting in needless loss of life and heightening of tensions. As you walk the streets of Nicosia, just steps from the pleasant pedestrian square filled with quaint shops and happy tourists you are confronted with U.N. peacekeepers, and beyond them, the forlorn-looking abandoned section of the city located in the buffer zone. This situation seems absurd on its face, and this should be the year that it ends. I hope that this resolution and the attention of the House to the matter will prompt a complete and far-reaching effort by the United States and the international community to demilitarize Cyprus and bring peace to this island once again.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my support for House Concurrent Resolution 81, a resolution calling for an early initiative to resolve the longstanding conflict on Cyprus.

Twenty-two years ago, Turkey invaded the sovereign Republic of Cyprus, capturing almost 40 percent of the island and driving more than 200,000 Cypriots from their land. Today, in one of the most heavily armed areas on Earth, more than 30,000 Turkish troops continue to occupy the northern part of the island.

Congress, further, still awaits a report by the President on the fate of 5 Americans and more than 1,500 others missing in the wake of the Turkish invasion. The Presidential investigation and upcoming report are being prepared pursuant to a bill I authored in the 103d Congress. Clearly, the status quo on Cyprus is unacceptable.

In 1995, the House of Representatives took an important step in the effort to promote a resolution of the long-standing Cypriot conflict. By passing a resolution which I sponsored calling for the demilitarization of Cyprus, Congress presented an option which would reduce tensions and help remove the oppressive Turkish troops.

Today, Congress is again taking a leading role. In the important resolution now under consideration, Congress urges the President to launch an initiative, in coordination with the United Nations, the European Union, and interested governments to promote a speedy resolution of the Cyprus problem.

President Clinton has already taken the first steps in this regard. By appointing former Assistant Secretary of State Richard Holbrooke, who negotiated the Dayton Accord on Bosnia, to the post of Special Envoy for Cyprus, the President has selected one of the most able negotiators to handle one of the world's most difficult disputes. With the hopeful entry of Cyprus into the European Union and the recent meeting in New York between Republic of Cyprus President Glafcos Clerides and Turkish Cypriot leader Rauf Denktash, it is my hope that a new, sustained effort to solve the Cyprus dispute will now help to bring this sad conflict to a just resolution.

I commend Chairman BEN GILMAN and Ranking Minority Member LEE HAMILTON of the International Relations Committee for their fine work on House Concurrent Resolution 81 and urge my colleagues to support the resolution.

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

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and 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 New York [Mr. GILMAN] that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, House Concurrent Resolution 81, as amended.

The question was taken.

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 5, rule I, and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

CONGRATULATING EL SALVADOR ON SUCCESSFUL ELECTIONS

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 88) congratulating the Government and the people of the Republic of El Salvador on successfully completing free