

The recently witnessed good will between the two countries will not continue if they do not continue to build a dialogue and foundation between the two countries.

After the earthquakes, there were meetings that took place between the foreign ministers, foreign minister George Papandreou and the Greek foreign minister, Mr. Cem, on the disputes in the Aegean, in the disputes over Cyprus. They have been trying to work together for some just resolution. We really want to applaud their work, and hope that they will build a better foundation for future relations.

The international community has seen the signs of these two countries working together, and we need to encourage them to continue this good will in resolving their ongoing differences in the ongoing talks they are having. We urge them to continue to resolve the conflicts between them. Once the dust settles from the earthquake, the problems of yesterday will still be there unless they build a lasting relationship.

I really feel very strongly about the possibility of reaching a solution based on the foundation that they are building. Both Greece and Turkey are important U.S. allies. It is important also because the President hopes to visit these two countries, and hopefully he can be part of an ongoing effort to resolve some of the disputes between them.

At this point I rise to applaud the two countries, and really to applaud my colleagues for bringing this issue to the floor.

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

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GILLMOR). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. CAMPBELL) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 188.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. CAMPBELL. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8, rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

URGING AN END OF THE WAR BETWEEN ERITREA AND ETHIOPIA

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 46) urging an end of the war between Eritrea and Ethiopia and calling on the United Nations Human Rights Commission and other human rights organizations to investigate human rights

abuses in connection with the Eritrean and Ethiopian conflict.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. CON. RES. 46

Whereas peace and stability existed between Eritrea and Ethiopia following the 1991 ouster of the Mengistu dictatorship and the independence of Eritrea in 1993;

Whereas on May 6, 1998, a military confrontation erupted between Eritrea and Ethiopia, resulting in the deaths of thousands of civilians and the reported forced detention or deportation of over 60,000 people;

Whereas hundreds of thousands of Eritreans and Ethiopians have been displaced from their homes as a result of this conflict;

Whereas the governments of the United States and Rwanda, the Organization of African Unity (OAU), as well as countries in the region, immediately put forth proposals for resolving the conflict;

Whereas on September 9, 1998, Congress passed H. Con. Res. 292 commending efforts by the United States facilitation team to resolve the crisis, including its success in brokering a moratorium on air raids, and calling on Eritrea and Ethiopia to end the conflict peacefully before it escalated into a full-scale war;

Whereas on December 17, 1998, the Central Organ Summit of the OAU approved a Framework Agreement in furtherance of its efforts to mediate the dispute between the 2 parties and provide an avenue for peace;

Whereas on January 29, 1999, the United Nations Security Council adopted Resolution 1226 expressing its strong support for the OAU Framework Agreement, and calling on both parties to work for a reduction in tensions by adopting policies leading to the restoration of confidence between the governments and peoples of Eritrea and Ethiopia, including urgent measures to improve the humanitarian situation and respect for human rights;

Whereas the Government of the United States, the OAU, and countries in the region have been engaged in an intensive effort to identify a peaceful solution to the conflict;

Whereas on February 6, 1999, while sustained diplomatic efforts by the international community were ongoing, the moratorium on air strikes was violated and war once again erupted between Eritrea and Ethiopia;

Whereas on February 10, 1999, the United Nations Security Council passed Resolution 1227 condemning the use of force by Eritrea and Ethiopia, stressing that the OAU Framework Agreement remains a viable and sound basis for peaceful resolution of the conflict, and calling once again on both countries to ensure the safety of the civilian population and respect for human rights and international humanitarian law;

Whereas the governments of Eritrea and Ethiopia have enjoyed warm relations with the United States and have stated their commitment to a peaceful resolution of the conflict based on the OAU Framework Agreement; and

Whereas the peoples of Eritrea and Ethiopia have suffered for decades due to war and manmade famines and do not deserve once again to suffer due to armed conflict, which could destabilize the entire subregion of Africa: Now, therefore, be it

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

(1) deplores the escalation of the conflict between Eritrea and Ethiopia which has resulted in the massive and senseless loss of life, as well as substantial economic hardship to the peoples of Eritrea and Ethiopia;

(2) strongly urges both Eritrea and Ethiopia immediately to bring an end to the violence between the 2 countries;

(3) commends the efforts of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) and former United States National Security Adviser Anthony Lake to mediate peace between Eritrea and Ethiopia;

(4) strongly affirms United States support for the OAU Framework Agreement; and

(5) calls on the United Nations Human Rights Commission and all human rights organizations to investigate human rights abuses in connection with the forced detentions, deportations, and displacements of populations caused by this conflict.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE) and the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PAYNE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE).

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

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

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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 measure.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, this resolution was authored by my colleague, the gentleman from California (Mr. CAMPBELL). It urges an end to the 17-month-long war between Eritrea and Ethiopia. That war has resulted in the loss of more than 70,000 lives. This resolution calls for an investigation of human rights abuses in connection with that conflict.

I want to share with the Members here today that both Ethiopia and Eritrea continue to obtain arms. They continue to train troops, they continue to mobilize, and they continue to engage in a furious propaganda war. Frankly, the conflict is spreading. It is spreading into Somalia. The international community, including those calling for debt relief, have to say at this point, enough. That is what the gentleman from California (Mr. CAMPBELL) attempts to do with this resolution.

□ 1415

Hopefully, this resolution will help to bring home to both sides in that conflict that Congress has lost patience with Eritrea and Congress has lost patience with Ethiopia. We have lost patience with the intransigence that keeps a war going that neither side can afford.

This resolution recognizes the OAU framework. It provides an equitable basis to end the devastating conflict.

I would like to commend not only the author, the gentleman from California (Mr. CAMPBELL), but the other members of the Subcommittee on Africa as well that worked on this resolution, and specifically the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PAYNE), the ranking member.

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

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

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

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Con. Res. 46 and would like to commend the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN), the chairman of the committee, and the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. GEJDENSON), the ranking member on the Committee on International Relations, for bringing this resolution swiftly to the floor of the House.

Let me also thank the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE), chairman of the committee, and the gentleman from California (Mr. CAMPBELL), the prime sponsor of this resolution, for their tireless work on behalf of the continent of Africa.

H. Con. Res. 46 says briefly that the Nations of Eritrea and Ethiopia should end their border war and that the United Nations Human Rights Commission and other human rights groups should investigate human rights abuses that have been perpetrated on the people of those two countries.

It also deplores the escalation of conflict between Ethiopia and Eritrea, which has resulted in massive loss of lives and substantial economic hardship. The resolution urges both countries immediately to bring an end to violence.

The resolution goes on to commend the Organization for African Unity and former U.S. National Security Advisor, Mr. Anthony Lake, and our Assistant Secretary for African affairs, Dr. Susan Rice, for their efforts to mediate this conflict along with the OAU and other world leaders.

This resolution strongly affirms the United States support of the OAU framework for peace and calls upon the UN Human Rights Commission and all human rights organizations to investigate human rights abuses in connection with the tensions, deportations, and displacement of the population.

This war has been going on for 1½ years and has gone on too long. I have known and do know both President Isaias of Eritrea and Prime Minister Meles of Ethiopia for some time. I have visited both of them in their countries on several occasions. They both are outstanding, bright leaders. So it makes no sense that two persons who have known each other, distantly related, can continue on with a war of this nature.

I had the privilege first to visit Ethiopia back under the rule of the former emperor of Ethiopia, His Excellency, Mr. Haile Selassie. It was the people like the Mengistu who took Ethiopia down the wrong path, but people like Meles and Isaias fought against the brutal dictator and dispelled him from the country. After successfully ousting Mengistu, Ethiopia gave Eritrea an opportunity to vote for its independence

in 1993, following an internationally monitored referendum.

As my colleagues may know, the original vote was supposed to occur in 1962, but was never called. But we give credit to Prime Minister Meles for allowing the vote to go forward, and Eritrea voted to separate itself.

So I would just hope that this war would end. I would like to encourage the Algerian government to continue its efforts as a mediator in the conflict. The former Prime Minister of Algeria is convening a meeting this week to once again attempt to bring both sides together.

Last week, I had an opportunity to speak with the Honorable Dawit Yohannes, Speaker of the House of the People's Republic of Ethiopia, and I encouraged his government to review again the OAU document, outlining a ceasefire and urged them to accept it.

Both Ethiopia and Eritrea have undermined their respective economic development gains by engaging in a war that has cost both sides over \$100 million, and some estimates claim that as many as 70,000 lives have been lost in this World War I type trench warfare. Civilian casualties are also very high, but the numbers are unknown.

The Ethiopian and Eritrean conflict has hindered the United States' effort and curtailed our efforts to try to work against the Islamic fundamentalist government in Sudan that have been dealing with terrorists from Yemen and has been destabilizing northern Kenya.

The IGAD peace process, chaired by Mr. Moi, has, as its members, both Ethiopia and Eritrea and Uganda, all embroiled in wars. So therefore peace cannot be negotiated in Sudan when these are conflicted themselves.

So this war must end. It has put an end to our ACRI, the African Crisis Response Initiative, which was being trained in Ethiopia, which will once again set back peacekeeping on the continent.

This war has taken a heavy toll on both sides of the conflict. It threatens to induce famine in Ethiopia and Eritrea and Sudan. Last year, the lack of adequate food put 2.6 million people in harm's way because of that.

In conclusion, let me say that I am pleased by the swift, quick, and decisive action taken, once again, by Tony Lake and Dr. Rice, and I encourage them to continue to promote a political settlement.

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

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from California (Mr. CAMPBELL), who has invested so much personal time and energy in attempting to resolve this conflict.

Mr. CAMPBELL. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE), chairman of the Subcommittee on Africa, for yielding me this time and for his complimentary words.

Mr. Speaker, I also recognize that, but for the subcommittee chair, we would not have this on the floor today. I once again recognize his depth of compassion and commitment to Africa as he has shown throughout this Congress.

I also begin with my recognition of the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PAYNE) in all that he has done to educate me and our other colleagues in the Congress on this very important issue.

Two years ago, my wife and I, with the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PAYNE) spent Thanksgiving in Asmara, Eritrea. We traveled to Keren, to Masawa. We traveled as widely as we could in Eritrea.

We stayed, then, for an additional week in Ethiopia. We visited, of course, the capital of Addis Ababa, but also Lalibela, Axum, Mekele, and went to the banks of Lake Tana.

We learned of a people that are remarkable, who have achieved so much, the people in Ethiopia who were never colonized, a people who were Christian from the time of the apostles, who have a patriarch, whose Orthodox Church is a powerful force within a country for compassion and respect for human rights.

Yet, these two countries have chosen to go to war, to spend what precious little treasure and human resources they have to kill each other. That is what war is, and that is what they have chosen to do.

I cannot fully express the sadness that comes to my heart and that of my wife as we reflect on the people that we met throughout Eritrea and Ethiopia. We were met at the remote airports by little children bringing flowers because a visit by a Member of the United States Congress is a rare occasion there. I wonder, were any of them killed? Did the bomb that fell on Mekele kill any of those little school children?

Then I think of the people in Ethiopia of Eritrean extraction who were herded together and put forcibly on buses and transported up to the border with Eritrea, where they had no means to take care of themselves. I wonder about the human rights conditions of those forcibly deported.

Then I hear of expressions on the radio that will sow the seeds of resentment for years to come, that will inflict wounds, that will prevent rapprochement following the end of this war.

To my colleagues in Congress, I can only offer my own sadness, my own words of severe disappointment. The gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PAYNE) and I know how hard it is to draw the attention of our colleagues in Congress to the sufferings of the people in Africa.

When something like this happens, it only plays into the hands of those who would look away, those who would say, well, that is just one African group going after another African group.

Would we ever say that about Europe, by the way? Would we ever describe World War I or World War II as

just one European tribe going after another European tribe? Of course we would not. Yet there are those who might say so about Africa and turn their back. We do not turn our back, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PAYNE) and I and the other members of the Committee on International Relations who bring this to the floor. I know that our colleagues taking part in this debate do not turn their back.

So that is the most important purpose of this resolution, to say that we do not turn our back. We are deeply troubled at the continuation of the war. We tell both countries, Mr. Speaker, that, as this war continues, the ability of those of goodwill who wish to see American help go to those most in need in Africa is compromised, is severely compromised by reason of this war.

I warn those whose interests are with those two countries that we will not be successful in the near term in augmenting interest and assistance because of the recollection of the war.

Second, this resolution calls for international human rights organizations to investigate the human rights abuses. By this, let me be specific. I was not heretofore, but today on the floor I wish to be specific. It is a human rights abuse for Ethiopia to round up Eritreans on the grossest use of stereotype that, because they are of Eritrean birth, they cannot be trusted, even though the two countries were one at the time of the birth of almost all of those individuals. These human rights abuses must be inspected.

This resolution calls upon the United Nations Human Rights Commission and all human rights organizations to investigate these human rights abuses. That is what Ethiopia has to account for because they have continued this war. My condemnation for that is serious.

I, of course, also mention Eritrea for having its role in the start of this war. I do not try to decide in these few moments who is most at fault. I simply observe with great sadness the difficulty that we have because of this war.

I conclude, Mr. Speaker, with a word of thanks again to the gentleman from New York (Chairman GILMAN), to the gentleman from California (Chairman ROYCE), to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PAYNE), and to the administration.

There have been occasions when I have had to express my opposition to the administration. This is not one. I have nothing but admiration for their work, particularly of Assistant Secretary of State Susan Rice.

I urge an end to this war so that, when my wife and I return to Asmara and Addis Ababa, we might see those children grown up, knowing something other than war.

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I yield as much time as he may consume to the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS).

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from New Jersey for yielding me this time.

Mr. Speaker, I will just take a minute of the body's time to express my strong support for the resolution as the Democratic cochair of the Congressional Human Rights Caucus. I want to associate myself with the remarks of the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PAYNE) and the gentleman from California (Mr. CAMPBELL).

I also want to take this occasion to pay tribute to both of these gentlemen for having devoted such an extraordinary portion of their personal and congressional time and energy to improving conditions in Africa. Both of them have been leaders in this field, and they deserve our highest commendation.

I know that the gentleman from California (Mr. CAMPBELL) and his wife have devoted untold numbers of days to dealing with problems of Africa, and they fully deserve our thanks and our commendation, as does the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PAYNE).

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

Mr. Speaker, this is an important resolution. My colleagues have spoken eloquently about this tragic conflict. I can ensure them that what the U.S. Congress says about this conflict matters.

□ 1430

Eritrea and Ethiopia are listening to our expression of enough is enough. Compromise is needed. And as my colleague, the gentleman from California (Mr. CAMPBELL), stated this conflict severely undermines U.S. support for these countries. With that in mind, I urge support of the resolution.

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

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. SNYDER).

Mr. SNYDER. Mr. Speaker, it was my privilege back in July to visit Africa, to visit both Eritrea and Ethiopia. This is an interest of mine that began back in 1985 when I worked as a doctor in a refugee camp on the Ethiopian, Eritrean, Sudanese border during the great drought and war that was going on at that time.

I am very much aware, Mr. Speaker, that there is nothing more dangerous than a Member of Congress who has read a book or made a trip; but if I might, let me make a few comments following that visit. First of all, this is a country of 65 million people. It is not a tiny nation. It is a very significant portion of the continent of Africa.

These two nations are in one of the poorest areas of the world, in the Horn of Africa, but there has been remarkable efforts made since 1991, the end of the civil war against the Marxist military dictatorship that ruled both Eritrea and Ethiopia, and I saw evidence of this development. New schools, new

industry, new colleges, community organizations working very hard on both sides on what they know to be their number one enemy, which is poverty. This has continued through 1993, and after 1993, when the peaceful separation of Eritrea from Ethiopia occurred and Eritrea achieved independence.

But then May of 1998 came along, and we had this horrific war. And let me repeat it is a horrific war that involves over 65 million people. It is entrenched warfare that has involved infantry assaults against fixed positions at a level not seen on this Earth in decades. There has been very, very high death rates among the wounded and there has been a high rate of wounded.

I visited the front one time, on one day for about an hour, on the Badime Plain. It was quiet then, as it has been now for several months. We could see remnants of burned-out tanks and were told that there were still corpses down below. But the problem will be what happens now that the rains are ending and the terrain is drying out. And that is the fear in those countries, but also the fear in Africa that this war will again renew itself.

I have visited with both Prime Minister Meles of Ethiopia and President Isaias in Eritrea. Both are patriots who care deeply about their countries, but so far they have been unsuccessful in their abilities to end this war together.

But it is interesting the amount of agreement on both sides. Both sides agree that this has been a horrific war with heavy losses on both sides. Both sides agree that this war has delayed development and delayed the fight against the ultimate enemy of the Horn of Africa, which is poverty. Both sides agree that eventually there will be an agreement, and both sides will work together once again on development together. Both sides agree that they want the world community to assist them in ending this war.

Now, that seems to me to be a lot of agreement and a lot of fertile ground for ending a war. But, unfortunately, to this date, it has not occurred.

This Congress does not have the specific answer on how to end this war. We are not diplomats. But this Congress and the American people do have great interest in seeing this terrible war end. I was optimistic at the end of July and August, and even into September, that progress was being made. Now I am not so optimistic, and I fear, as the rains have ended, that we may be seeing the signs of war renewing itself once again.

I hope the peacemakers will keep making peace. I hope the war fighters will hold off, even as the terrain dries. I support this resolution. One part of it I do disagree with, and perhaps it is an editing error, the resolution refers to thousands of civilian deaths. Personally, myself, I did not see evidence of thousands of civilian deaths. I saw evidence of thousands of internally displaced persons. But perhaps the resolution meant to say the deaths of thousands of soldiers.

But I support the underlying intent of this resolution, which is to encourage an end to this terrible war between Eritrea and Ethiopia and appreciate the interest of my colleagues in bringing the resolution here today.

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3½ minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. MEEKS), who has lent his voice in a very short and rapid time.

And let me once again thank the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. SNYDER) for the outstanding work he has done, being there on the line.

Mr. MEEKS of New York. Mr. Speaker, let me first thank the gentleman from California (Mr. CAMPBELL). In the short period of time that I have been privileged to be a Member of this House, I have seen his sincere commitment on the Committee on International Relations and particularly in reference to Africa. He has always been outspoken and always has had some concerns with reference to rectifying some of the human tragedies that have taken place, and I want to thank the gentleman for bringing this bill forward.

Let me also thank the Chair of the Subcommittee on Africa, the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE), for his diligence in bringing forth these issues of concern to the African continent.

And, finally, let me thank the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PAYNE), who is one whom I admired long before I entered the halls of Congress. I admired him and his wisdom and his knowledge of not only Africa but the entire globe, but in particular Africa. He is one that I have learned to respect and hold on to the hem of his garments with reference to the knowledge that he has, and I value him as a Member and as a friend.

Mr. Speaker, this war that is now raging on, I do not understand. For the life of me, I scratch my head perplexed. Generally, when there are sides that want to separate from each other or something of that nature, war takes place at that point. Here, we have two nations who separated peacefully, and yet once the separation took place, without any real articulated reasons, they are at war.

I have had the opportunity to speak with both the ambassadors from Eritrea and Ethiopia and, as said by my colleague, the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. SNYDER) before, it seemed to me they both wanted the same thing, yet war and tragedy continues. I ask, why do brothers and sisters fight one another? And for the life of me, I do not know.

But I say this, H. Con. Res. 46 gives us an opportunity to say to both nations, who want a decent relationship with this great Nation, that if they want to do so, we must have peace. And simply what it does is it reaffirms the OAU and the framework for peace which the OAU has set up. And it calls upon all of the human rights commissions and all human rights organiza-

tions to investigate human rights abuses in connection with the detentions, deportations, and displacements of their citizens.

If we do not urge these countries to end this war, it will continue to set both back to 10, 15 years ago, and affect their financial standing within the international community. This resolution sends a strong message that they can work cooperatively with the United States of America if they talk peace, and I urge my Members to support the passing of H. Con. Resolution 46.

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. WATT).

Mr. WATT of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from New Jersey for yielding me this time.

Like the gentleman from New York (Mr. MEEKS), it is hard for me to understand why this war continues. I have both Ethiopian and Eritrean residents who live in my congressional district; and when I talk to them, it is uncle against uncle, brother against brother, sister against sister, and yet the fighting continues. And superficially it seems like just a family feud, but the devastation and the deaths and the tragedy goes on and on.

So I want to rise in support of this resolution and applaud the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PAYNE) and the gentleman from California (Mr. CAMPBELL) for bringing the resolution to the floor in hopes that this could be some added incentive for these two nations to resolve their differences.

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume, and I urge support of H. Con. Res. 46.

I would also like to say that this conflict is starting to be felt here even in our Nation's capital between Ethiopians and Eritreans. I ask the Ethiopians and Eritreans here in our country to urge their governments to put down the weapons of war.

Ethiopia and Eritrea do not have the oil of Angola or Nigeria, nor the diamonds of the Congo or Sierra Leone, or the gold of South Africa or Botswana, and so the fight is really, unfortunately, a dispute that we believe can come to a solution.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Con. Res. 46, the resolution that urges Eritrea and Ethiopia to end the war between the both countries. H. Con. Res. 46 expresses the sense of Congress deploping the escalation of the conflict between Ethiopia and Eritrea which has resulted in the massive and senseless loss of life, as well as substantial economic hardship to the peoples of both nations. In addition, this resolution strongly urges both Eritrea and Ethiopia to immediately bring an end to the violence between the two countries and strongly affirms U.S. support for the Organization of African Unity (OAU) Framework Agreement. The resolution also calls on the UN Human Rights Commission and all human rights organizations to investigate human rights abuses in connection with the forced detentions, deportations, and displacements of populations caused by this conflict.

In 1952, former Italian colony Eritrea federated into Ethiopia and became one of its provinces. Forty years later, in 1993, Eritrea gained independence from Ethiopia peacefully, but no borders were clearly defined. Relations between the two countries remained peaceful and Ethiopian Prime Minister Meles Zenawi and Eritrean President Isaias Afwerki were deemed leaders who would help bring an African renaissance. However, the introduction of a new currency in Eritrea in 1997 spurred tension between the two nations as Eritrea started to distance itself from Ethiopia.

In May 1998 an area known as the Badme Triangle, administered by Ethiopia, became the first region to break out in fighting when Eritrean troops invaded the area, claiming it as their own. Fighting continued in the area, with both sides participating in bombings and forced detention of prisoners. The provocative act of aggression by Eritrea has attracted wide public attention since the Council of Ministers of the FDRE issued a statement on May 13 urging the Eritrean government to pull out its invading forces from the occupied territories of Ethiopia. It thus, seems, pertinent to give an overall view of the crises. The areas that have been occupied by the invading Eritrean force are the whole of Badme Woreda and part of Shiraro Woreda which are both located in Tigray State. These areas have never been part of Eritrea when Eritrea was under the occupation of Italian colonialists, the British protectorate and later under the Haile-Sellassie imperial administration. During the Derg regime, the residents of the two Woredas fought the military junta gallantly under the vanguard of the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF).

Despite the indisputable historical records on the disputed areas, the Eritrean government has for long raised territorial claims. It should also be clear that the Ethiopian government has territorial claims on some areas which have been unfairly incorporated into today's Eritrea. As a matter of fact, there may be nothing wrong in raising territorial claims. Taking that fact into account, the two countries had established a joint committee to resolve territorial disputes peacefully. Both governments had reached a common understanding:

(1) to resolve territorial claims through peaceful negotiations; and
(2) to respect their respective boundaries which both occupied at the time of the fall of the Derg. It was on this bases that the joint committee was active until recently.

While this was the case, however, an unexpected thing took place. The issue was that while the joint committee set up by the two governments had been working to peacefully settle the dispute based on the aforementioned understanding and while they had agreed to hold a meeting on Friday, 8, May 1998, the Eritrean forces touched off a clash in the north-western part of Ethiopia on Wednesday, 6 May 1998. In this regard, it seems that action was initially taken by the Ethiopian side; but this claim would not be sustainable for the simple fact that the locality where the clash broke out belonged to Ethiopia.

In November 1998, the OAU Central Organ for Conflict Resolution presented a peace proposal to the countries and although both countries verbally accepted the proposal, fighting continued throughout the Horn of Africa.

Mr. Speaker, we must speak out against this war and the human rights abuses associated with it. This is a war that has taken the

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lives of thousands of civilians and destroyed the economy of two growing countries. On Monday, October 11, of this year Eritrea accused Ethiopia of destroying six Eritrean villages in a border area which Ethiopia occupied during fighting between the two countries in February.

Administrators in the zone now report that forces from both countries have destroyed houses and villages and, in some cases, burned entire villages to the ground. Tens of thousands of soldiers have died during a vicious border war between the two Horn of Africa states in the last 17 months, and efforts by the Organization of African Unity (OAU) to resolve the dispute have so far failed.

In February the Ethiopian army forced Eritrea out of the disputed Badme area along the western end of their border after heavy fighting, and pushed into land which Eritrea says is unquestionably part of its country. Eritrea says around 4,000 Eritrean residents of the Gash Barka zone have since fled to displacement camps in the area.

Mr. Speaker, dear colleagues, I offer my full support for this resolution and urge that Eritrea and Ethiopia end the war between them.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GILLMOR). 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, H. Con. Res. 46.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

AUTHORIZING INVESTIGATION INTO DISAPPEARANCE OF ZACHARY BAUMEL

Mr. CAMPBELL. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendments to the bill (H.R. 1175) to locate and secure the return of Zachary Baumel, a United States citizen, and other Israeli soldiers missing in action.

The Clerk read as follows:

Senate amendments:

Page 3, strike out all after line 12, down to and including line 22 and insert:

(b) PROVISION OF ASSISTANCE TO CERTAIN GOVERNMENTS.—In deciding whether or not to provide United States assistance to any government or authority which the Secretary of State believes has information concerning the whereabouts of the soldiers described in subsection (a), and in formulating United States Policy towards such government or authority, the President should take into consideration the willingness of the government or authority to assist in locating and securing the return of such soldiers.

Page 4, line 8, after "additional" insert: "credible".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. CAMPBELL) and the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. CAMPBELL).

Mr. CAMPBELL. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on the bill, H.R. 1175, currently under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, the chairman of the full committee, the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN), has taken a personal interest in this resolution. He cannot be here at this moment due to a prior commitment. I would, accordingly, read his remarks. They are more eloquent than my own, and I would say that his words fully reflect my own views on the subject as well.

"The measure before us today, H.R. 1175, is one which the House adopted overwhelmingly earlier this year but which was slightly amended by the other body last summer. Hence our renewed consideration.

"I remind my colleagues this important humanitarian measure is on behalf of three Israeli MIAs, one of whom, Zachary Baumel, is a dual American-Israeli national.

"It has been 17 long years since these Israeli soldiers faced Syrian forces in Lebanon's Bekaa Valley on June 11, 1982. The men have been missing since that day, and all efforts since then, which have spanned the globe, have not brought them back to their families. These families deserve answers.

"H.R. 1175 will require the Department of State to raise the matter of Zachary Baumel, Yehuda Katz, and Avi Feldman with appropriate government officials of Syria, Lebanon, and the Palestinian authority.

"This measure also requires the United States to raise the issue with other governments which may be helpful in locating and securing the return of these soldiers and to report to Congress on all efforts.

"The other body made two minor technical changes after consulting with us, the sponsors, the State Department, and the Baumel family, and everyone concerned has agreed to these changes.

"Accordingly, I wish to thank again our committee colleague, the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS), for his continuing interest and commitment to this issue, and also urge our colleagues once again to express their strong support for H.R. 1175, as amended."

Mr. Speaker, that ends the prepared remarks of our chairman, the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN), and I would add only my very own few words.

This has been of great importance to our committee and to me, as well as to the chairman. I observe what this resolution does. It not only calls on the State Department to continue raising

this issue persistently, particularly with Syria, because it was in territory under Syria's actual control that these three individuals were taken prisoner—one of whom I emphasize is an American citizen as well as an Israeli citizen—but it also requests the State Department, in deciding which entities receive our aid, our taxpayers' money, that we take into account whether that entity or sovereign in question has assisted, has done all that it can, if it has basis for helping, to help with the resolution of these MIAs.

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I think that is exactly the right message to send. I applaud the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN), our chairman, for his leadership in this. And I note the extraordinary work of my good friend and my colleague from California (Mr. LANTOS), the co-chair of the Human Rights Caucus, a champion for individuals against the abuse of their human rights wherever they may be and of what nationality they may be.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, as my very good friend and colleague has pointed out, we approved this resolution in a slightly different form sometime back and we are now adopting it again because the Senate made some very useful, minor modifications.

My good friend, the gentleman from California (Mr. CAMPBELL), outlined the issue. I can only add one footnote.

At a time when the peace process is moving in the area, it is incumbent upon Yassir Arafat and the Syrian leadership and all those who have any influence over the government that holds these unfortunate prisoners of war for the last 17 years to exert every effort to have them finally released. This action is long overdue.

I urge all of my colleagues to join me in supporting this resolution.

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, today, for the second time this year, the House is considering H.R. 1175. This legislation, introduced by my distinguished colleague from California, Mr. LANTOS, would help to locate Zachary Baumel, an American citizen and other Israeli soldiers missing in action since 1982.

On June 22, 1999 the House sent a strong message by passing H.R. 1175 with 415 votes in support of the bill. Today, the House has a chance to pass this legislation—as amended by the Senate—and send it to the President for his signature.

I believe that the Administration is concerned about the fate of these brave soldiers. However, it has been five years since the Gaza-Jericho agreement, and Zachary Baumel, Zvi Feldman, Yehuda Katz and others are still missing. Passage of this legislation will ensure that the Department of State raises this case on an urgent basis with all appropriate governments and authorities.

Whenever American citizens or allies of the United States are taken during conflict, we