

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).

GENERAL LEAVE

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

must do everything possible to obtain their release or information as to their fate. My constituents agree. Over the past several months, I have received many letters and phone calls from individuals who are concerned about this issue, requesting that I do everything possible to ensure passage of this legislation. I urge all members to vote in support of this important measure.

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this time to voice my support for H.R. 1175, which would authorize an investigation into the disappearance of an American citizen, Zachary Baumel. It has been seventeen years since this young man, serving in the Israeli army, was captured along with the four other members of his tank battalion, in a battle with Palestinian and Syrian forces near the Lebanese town of Sultan Yaqub.

H.R. 1175 directs the Department of State to investigate the cases of Mr. Baumel, and two other soldiers, Yehuda Katz, and Zvi Feldman. The last known whereabouts of these soldiers was in Syrian-controlled territory, under the care of a Palestinian faction splintered from the PLO. As diplomatic efforts to secure the release of these men have been periodically unsuccessful to date, this legislation directs the State Department to discuss this matter on an urgent basis with officials of Syria, Lebanon, the Palestinian Authority, and other appropriate governments.

The bill makes a simple request of the President, that when he is considering whether or not to provide economic assistance to these countries, that he weigh and measure the willingness of these governments and authorities to assist in locating and securing the release of these men.

Mr. Speaker, the family of Zachary Baumel has been through incredible pain and uncertainty for these last seventeen years. Their hopes have been lifted in key times of negotiation, such as the Oslo Accords—yet to no avail.

It is time that our country take another real and substantive step in requesting action on behalf of these middle eastern governments. These young men and their families deserve no less.

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

Mr. CAMPBELL. Mr. Speaker, 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 concur in the Senate amendments to the bill, H.R. 1175.

The question was taken.

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

STATISTICAL EFFICIENCY ACT OF 1999

Mr. HORN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2885) to provide uniform safeguards for the confidentiality of infor-

mation acquired for exclusively statistical purposes, and to improve the efficiency and quality of the Federal statistics and Federal statistical programs by permitting limited sharing of records among designated agencies for statistical purposes under strong safeguards, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 2885

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Statistical Efficiency Act of 1999".

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

As used in this Act:

(1) The term "agency" means any entity that falls within the definition of the term "executive agency" as defined in section 102 of title 31, United States Code, or "agency", as defined in section 3502 of title 44, United States Code.

(2) The term "agent" means a person who—

(A) is designated by a Statistical Data Center (as designated in section 3) to perform exclusively statistical activities authorized by law under the supervision or control of an officer or employee of that Statistical Data Center; and

(B) has agreed in writing to comply with all provisions of law that affect information acquired by that Statistical Data Center.

(3) The term "identifiable form" means any representation of information that permits information concerning individual subjects to be reasonably inferred by either direct or indirect means.

(4) The term "nonstatistical purpose" means any purpose that is not a statistical purpose, and includes any administrative, regulatory, law enforcement, adjudicatory, or other purpose that affects the rights, privileges, or benefits of a particular identifiable respondent.

(5) The term "respondent" means a person who, or organization that, is requested or required to supply information to an agency, is the subject of information requested or required to be supplied to an agency, or who provides that information to an agency.

(6) The term "statistical activities"—

(A) means the collection, compilation, processing, or analysis of data for the purpose of describing or making estimates concerning the whole, or relevant groups or components within, the economy, society, or natural environment; and

(B) includes the development of methods or resources that support those activities, such as measurement methods, models, statistical classifications, or sampling frames.

(7) The term "statistical purpose"—

(A) means the description, estimation, or analysis of the characteristics of groups without regard to the identities of individuals or organizations that comprise such groups; and

(B) includes the development, implementation, or maintenance of methods, technical or administrative procedures, or information resources that support such purposes.

SEC. 3. DESIGNATION OF STATISTICAL DATA CENTERS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Each of the following is hereby designated as a Statistical Data Center:

(1) The Bureau of Economic Analysis in the Department of Commerce.

(2) The Bureau of the Census in the Department of Commerce.

(3) The Bureau of Labor Statistics in the Department of Labor.

(4) The National Agricultural Statistics Service in the Department of Agriculture.

(5) The National Center for Education Statistics in the Department of Education.

(6) The National Center for Health Statistics in the Department of Health and Human Services.

(7) The Energy Consumption Division of the Energy Information Administration in the Department of Energy.

(8) The Division of Science Resources Studies in the National Science Foundation.

(b) DESIGNATION.—In the case of a reorganization that eliminates, or substantially alters the mission or functions of, an agency or agency component listed in subsection (a), the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, after consultation with the head of the agency proposing the reorganization, may designate an agency or agency component that shall serve as a successor Statistical Data Center under the terms of this Act, if the Director determines that—

(1) the primary activities of the proposed Statistical Data Center are statistical activities specifically authorized by law;

(2) the proposed Statistical Data Center would participate in data sharing activities that significantly improve Federal statistical programs or products;

(3) the proposed Statistical Data Center has demonstrated its capability to protect the individual confidentiality of any shared data; and

(4) the laws that apply to the proposed Statistical Data Center are not inconsistent with this Act.

(c) NOTICE AND COMMENT.—The head of an agency seeking designation as a successor Statistical Data Center under this section shall, after consultation with the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, provide public notice and an opportunity to comment on the consequences of such designation and on those determinations upon which the designation is proposed to be based.

(d) PROHIBITION AGAINST INCREASE IN NUMBER OF CENTERS.—No action taken under this section shall increase the number of Statistical Data Centers authorized by this Act.

SEC. 4. STATISTICAL DATA CENTER RESPONSIBILITIES.

The Statistical Data Centers designated in section 3 shall—

(1) identify opportunities to eliminate duplication and otherwise reduce reporting burden and cost imposed on the public by sharing information for exclusively statistical purposes;

(2) enter into joint statistical projects to improve the quality and reduce the cost of statistical programs;

(3) safeguard the confidentiality of individually identifiable information acquired for statistical purposes by assuring its physical security and by controlling access to, and uses made of, such information; and

(4) respect the rights and privileges of the public by observing and promoting fair information practices.

SEC. 5. LIMITATIONS ON USE AND DISCLOSURE OF DATA AND INFORMATION BY STATISTICAL DATA CENTERS.

(a) USE OF STATISTICAL DATA OR INFORMATION.—Data or information acquired for exclusively statistical purposes shall be used by the Center only for statistical purposes.

(b) DISCLOSURE OF STATISTICAL DATA OR INFORMATION.—Data or information acquired for exclusively statistical purposes shall not be disclosed in identifiable form, for any purpose other than a statistical purpose, without the informed consent of the respondent.

(c) RULE FOR USE OF DATA OR INFORMATION FOR NONSTATISTICAL PURPOSES.—A Statistical Data Center shall clearly distinguish any data or information collected for nonstatistical purposes (as authorized by law) by the Statistical Data Center by a rule that provides that the respondent supplying the data or information is fully informed, before the data or information is collected, that the data or information will be used for nonstatistical purposes.