

Leone. Congressman Troy Hall and I visited Sierra Leone last December. We were horrified at the atrocities we saw. Throughout the country, rebel groups have tortured, killed, and maimed thousands of people to gain control of the country's diamond industry, fueling the trade in illicit "conflict diamonds." Across a broad spectrum, the conditions in Sierra Leone were among the worse I have ever seen in the many places I've visited in the world.

At the time of our visit, it was too early to determine the effectiveness of the Lome Peace Accord and the rebels' compliance with it. In my trip report, which I have enclosed for you, I outlined several recommendations about the developing situation in Sierra Leone and the prospective response and involvement of the United States and Europe in achieving peace and stability in the region. In light of the current situation in Sierra Leone, I want to reiterate those recommendations with you.

First, the flow of conflict diamonds from rebel held areas must stop. Reports indicate that rebel forces still control most of the diamond producing regions in Sierra Leone, suggesting that the trafficking of these diamonds is going to continue to fuel bloodshed upon the people of Sierra Leone. Reports indicate that an overwhelming majority of rebels have not disarmed and that they have control of most, if not all, of the diamond producing region. This condition cannot be tolerated by the U.S., Europe, ECOMOG, and the United Nations.

Congressman Hall has introduced legislation, H.R. 3188, to certify the country of origin of all diamonds. Thus a diamond buyer will know where a diamond has been mined and a purchaser can avoid buying conflict diamonds. Passage of Congressman Hall's bill will be a huge stride in ending this practice. Your support for this important legislation would be very helpful.

My report stated that every effort should be made to support the disarmament program in Sierra Leone. Reports include that not only are the rebels not disarming, but they have repeatedly confronted at gunpoint ECOMOG and U.N. peacekeepers and taken their weapons, ammunition, armored personnel carriers, etc. Bold action is needed from the Administration on this matter. I urge you to issue a statement and a fixed date, that you think is reasonable and helpful, to the rebels making clear when the rebels should be completely disarmed and what action the U.S. will take if they are not disarmed.

Promised U.S. action if the rebels do not comply with the conditions for disarmament should be:

They and their families will not be allowed entry into the U.S., Britain or any other country—no visas should be issued to rebels or their family members;

If the rebels have bank accounts in the U.S. and in Europe, they should be frozen and they should be denied access to these accounts and to future commerce with the U.S., bank accounts of rebel family members should be included in this prohibition too;

The rebel leaders should be declared war criminals by the U.S. and other Western countries and direct its intelligence and police agencies to actively pursue apprehending rebels who have not disarmed.

These same conditions should also be applied to Liberian Charles Taylor and all Liberians who have assisted the rebels in Sierra Leone. It has come to my attention that Taylor escaped from a Massachusetts prison and fled to Liberia. Taylor and many Liberians have blood on their hands from their support of these rebels. By being the primary conduit for trading the conflict diamonds mined by the rebels, and by reportedly sup-

plying the rebels with military assistance, Taylor and others have fueled the atrocities committed by the rebels upon the people of Sierra Leone. The U.S. should enact similar measures and conditions against Taylor and other Liberians as those I proposed for the rebels in Sierra Leone.

If the rebels are not disarmed and if Taylor and other Liberians continue to traffic in conflict diamonds and to provide the rebels with military assistance, Taylor and others should be named as war criminals and they should not be allowed to travel outside of their country. You should fix a date that you think is reasonable and helpful.

Lastly, I ask that the U.S. continue to bolster its efforts to bring belief, aid, and ultimately reconciliation to the region. U.S. leadership in helping the people of Sierra Leone recover from the brutality is integral in creating stability and peace in the region.

I do appreciate you taking the time to visit Sierra Leone. It was a good thing to do.

I would be happy to discuss with you in more detail my recommendations and observations. Thank you for your consideration.

Best wishes.

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, 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. GUTKNECHT). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3879, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

□

CONGRATULATING THE PEOPLE OF SENEGAL ON SUCCESS OF MULTI-PARTY ELECTORAL PROCESS

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 449) congratulating the people of Senegal on the success of the multi-party electoral process.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 449

Whereas the Republic of Senegal held free, fair, and transparent multi-party elections on March 19, 2000;

Whereas Senegalese President Abdou Diouf conceded defeat to longtime rival Abdoulaye Wade on Monday, March 20, 2000, after a hotly contested run-off election;

Whereas President Diouf's party, Parti Socialiste, has ruled in the West African country of Senegal since independence from France in 1960;

Whereas President-elect Abdoulaye Wade of the Parti Democratique Senegal (PDS) was voted into office by a majority of the electorate and is Senegal's third President;

Whereas the citizens of Dakar, Senegal, joyously welcomed the results of Senegal's free and fair elections;

Whereas on February 27, 2000, during the first round of voting, President Diouf amassed 41.3 percent of the vote to Wade's 31 percent;

Whereas President-elect Wade won 22 of the country's 31 districts and received 60 percent of the total 1,616,307 votes cast;

Whereas President-elect Wade's victory ends 40 years of uninterrupted rule by Mr. Diouf's Socialist Party;

Whereas President Diouf telephoned Mr. Wade to congratulate him on winning the elections;

Whereas President-elect Wade campaigned on the principles of "probity, good work, and involvement of the youth" in the construction of Senegal;

Whereas Mr. Wade received the endorsement of five leading opposition candidates after the second round of voting, including Mr. Moustapha Niasse, a former foreign minister in President Diouf's party;

Whereas Mr. Niasse said the new government's first task would be to re-establish the country's equilibrium and fight corruption;

Whereas the newly elected President Wade first ran for the presidency in 1978 against ex-President Leopold Senghor and ran in four subsequent polls;

Whereas this West African country of 10 million people has remained relatively stable and prosperous;

Whereas Senegalese President Diouf took office 19 years ago and served as prime minister for 10 years;

Whereas his predecessor and mentor, poet and politician Leopold Sedar Senghor, surprised the country in 1980 by voluntarily stepping down and turning over power to President Diouf, as prescribed by Senegal's constitution;

Whereas Senegal has a free press and judiciary;

Whereas Senegal is a recipient of the African Crisis Responsive Initiative;

Whereas Mr. Wade's history symbolizes a triumph for a country which has long been considered a model of African democracy although ruled by one party; and

Whereas this election marks a contribution to a paradigm shift of a new political system on the West African coast: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) commends the people of the Republic of Senegal for voting in this historic Presidential election;

(2) congratulates President Diouf for stepping down before the results were officially announced and upholding democracy and good governance;

(3) encourages the Administration to send a Presidential delegation to the West African Country of Senegal to welcome President Wade into office;

(4) strongly urges the Economic Community Of West African States (ECOWAS) to follow Senegal's lead and make efforts to promote democratic reforms and prevent future conflicts;

(5) calls upon the newly elected President to involve all Senegalese to accept the election results and move the country forward;

(6) calls on all factions within the Secessionist Movement of Democratic Forces in the Casamance (MFDC) rebel group in Casamance to commit to a cessation of hostilities and create stability for its people;

(7) strongly urges newly elected President Wade to continue the peace initiative started by former President Diouf with the Secessionist Movement of Democratic Forces in the Casamance (MFDC);

(8) urges President-elect Wade to dialogue with the MFDC to settle the Casamance conflict through political negotiations and urges prompt initiation of peace talks; and

(9) recognizes Senegal as one of the first African states to adopt a multi-party system in the early 1980's and a nation that has been a longtime beacon of democracy on a continent of one-party states and military dictatorships.

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GILMAN. 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 New York?

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I support this resolution introduced by our friend and colleague, the gentleman from New Jersey, (Mr. PAYNE). In a region afflicted by military coups, authoritarian leaders and one-party states, Senegal has been be a model of a stable and pluralist society.

As a matter of fact, later today I will introduce a resolution on Zimbabwe, along with the gentleman from New Jersey, a country whose leadership could learn much from Senegal's example.

The people of Senegal voted for a change in leadership and the president stepped down. It sounds simple, and it is something that we in our 224-year-old republic have come to take for granted, but it is anything but the norm in many other parts of the world, and in this region in particular.

Accordingly, I urge passage of House Resolution 449.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Res. 449. Let me thank the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN), the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. GEJDENSON), and the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE) for helping to bring this bill to the floor.

As it has been noted, Senegal held free and fair elections on May 19, and it was recognized as an election that all democratic governments should follow when there is a possible shift in regimes.

Senegal held these fair and free elections. The recent multi-party elections were peaceful; however, there was an attempt in the southern part to disrupt the voting in that region. But the people decided that they wanted to have fair and free elections and persisted.

I would like to extend my best wishes to President-elect Wade. I had the privilege of meeting in my New Jersey office with then-candidate Wade who indicated that he felt that he had a very good chance to win the election. He just wanted to alert me and our committee and our government that he was going to insist that the election be fair and free. We were very pleased that it did happen to be that way.

We would like to recognize the composure of President Diouf in his honorable defeat as an example of the true spirit of democracy. It is apparent that President Diouf respects the

democratic process, which sends a signal to the people of Sierra Leone to respect the democratic process as well as to embrace change. They can have change without having disruption and military action.

President-elect Wade has made a noble gesture to bridge the divide between his party and the other multi-parties by endorsing five leading opposition candidates after the second round of voting, including Mr. Niasse, who is the former foreign minister of President Diouf's party. This is merely another example of Senegal's respectable democratic system, adding to the willing resignation of former President Leopold Senghor in 1980 when power was turned over to President Diouf, adhering to the Senegal constitution.

Senegal should be internationally recognized for their action and should be treated with equal respect given to all functioning governments worldwide.

On our trip to Africa with the President when he made a historic six-country, 12-day trip, the final country that we visited was Senegal, visiting Goree Island, the place where slaves came. It is estimated close to 6 million may have perished, it is estimated, over the 600, 700 years that slavery was legal. And so Senegal has a tremendous place in the heart of African Americans and Africans in general, and Americans in general.

Mr. Speaker, once again, we are very pleased that this transition of government was done in a most noble way. With that, I urge my colleagues to support the resolution.

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

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I do not have further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. 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 resolution, H. Res. 449.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

□

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will now put the question on each motion to suspend the rules on which further proceedings were postponed earlier today, and on yesterday, in the order in which that motion was entertained.

Votes will be taken in the following order:

H. Con. Res. 295, by the yeas and nays;

H. Con. Res. 304, by the yeas and nays;

S. 1744, by the yeas and nays;

H.R. 1509, by the yeas and nays;

H. Con. Res. 310, by the yeas and nays.

The Chair will reduce to 5 minutes the time for any electronic vote after the first such vote in this series.

□

RELATING TO CONTINUING HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS AND POLITICAL OPPRESSION IN SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The pending business is the question of suspending the rules and agreeing to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 295, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. 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, H. Con. Res. 295, as amended, on which the yeas and nays are ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 415, nays 3, not voting 16, as follows:

[Roll No. 133]

YEAS—415

Abercrombie	Cannon	Etheridge
Ackerman	Capps	Evans
Aderholt	Capuano	Everett
Allen	Cardin	Ewing
Andrews	Carson	Farr
Archer	Castle	Fattah
Armey	Chabot	Filner
Baca	Chambliss	Fletcher
Bachus	Clay	Foley
Baird	Clayton	Forbes
Baker	Clement	Ford
Baldacci	Clyburn	Fossella
Baldwin	Coble	Fowler
Ballenger	Collins	Frank (MA)
Barcia	Combest	Franks (NJ)
Barr	Condit	Frelinghuysen
Barrett (NE)	Conyers	Frost
Barrett (WI)	Cooksey	Gallegly
Bartlett	Costello	Ganske
Barton	Cox	Gejdenson
Bass	Coyne	Gekas
Bateman	Cramer	Gephardt
Becerra	Crane	Gibbons
Bentsen	Crowley	Gilchrest
Bereuter	Cubin	Gilman
Berkley	Cummings	Gonzalez
Berman	Cunningham	Goode
Berry	Danner	Goodlatte
Biggert	Davis (FL)	Goodling
Bilbray	Davis (IL)	Gordon
Bilirakis	Davis (VA)	Goss
Bishop	Deal	Graham
Blagojevich	DeFazio	Granger
Bliley	DeGette	Green (TX)
Blumenauer	Delahunt	Green (WI)
Blunt	DeLauro	Greenwood
Boehlert	DeLay	Gutknecht
Boehner	DeMint	Hall (OH)
Bonilla	Deutsch	Hall (TX)
Bonior	Diaz-Balart	Hansen
Bono	Dickey	Hastings (FL)
Borski	Dicks	Hastings (WA)
Boswell	Dingell	Hayes
Boucher	Dixon	Hayworth
Boyd	Doggett	Hefley
Brady (PA)	Dooley	Herger
Brady (TX)	Doolittle	Hill (MT)
Brown (FL)	Doyle	Hilleary
Brown (OH)	Dreier	Hilliard
Bryant	Duncan	Hinchey
Burr	Dunn	Hinojosa
Burton	Edwards	Hobson
Buyer	Ehlers	Hoeffel
Callahan	Ehrlich	Hoekstra
Calvert	Emerson	Holden
Camp	Engel	Holt
Campbell	English	Hooley
Canady	Eshoo	Horn