

Northern Europe is an area that once pulsed with activity, long before the Cold War divided this region. It is a place where my parents came from—from modern day Lithuania and Belarus. These cross-border projects can take a small step to build back the trust and cooperation that flourished before dictators and armies split people apart.

This legislation has been endorsed by proliferation and environmental watchdog groups with expertise in this area including Monterey Institute of International Studies, the Bellona Institute, the Sierra Club and the Union of Concerned Scientists.

One of the leading U.S. experts on the Russian Submarine issue, Dr. James Clay Moltz, Director of the NIS Nonproliferation Project at the Monterey Institute, said in support of this legislation:

The presence of large numbers of decommissioned but not defueled attack submarines in the Russian Northern Fleet poses serious environmental, proliferation-related, and security threats. These vessels are vulnerable to nuclear accidents from the ongoing theft of materials and control systems by impoverished sailors, the sinking of corroded vessels, and periodic electrical outages at Russian naval facilities. Given that many of these submarines were designed to carry nuclear-tipped cruise missiles and torpedoes, it is in U.S. interests to dismantle them as soon as possible.

My legislation states clearly that it is Europeans who must continue to take the lead. It is not necessary for the United States to spend large sums of money on these projects, but it is in our national interest to provide leadership and expertise on submarine dismantlement efforts. This is a case where our unparalleled experience in this field makes us the indispensable nation.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

Ms. LEE. 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. LATOURETTE). 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. 4249, 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.

COMMENDING THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA FOR CONDUCT OF ITS PARLIAMENTARY AND PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 251) commending the Republic of Croatia for the conduct of its parliamentary and presidential elections, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. CON. RES. 251

Whereas the fourth Croatian parliamentary elections, held on January 3, 2000, marked Croatia's progress toward meeting

its commitments as a participating state of the Organization on Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and as a member of the Council of Europe;

Whereas Croatia's third presidential elections were conducted smoothly and professionally and concluded on February 7, 2000, with the landslide election of Stipe Mesic as the new President of the Republic of Croatia;

Whereas the free and fair elections in Croatia, and the following peaceful and orderly transfer of power from the old government to the new, is an example of democracy to the people of other nations in the region and a major contribution to the democratic development of southeastern Europe; and

Whereas the people of Croatia have made clear that they want Croatia to take its rightful place in the family of European democracies and to develop a closer and more constructive relationship with the Euro-Atlantic community of democratic nations: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That it is the sense of the Congress that—

(1) the people of the Republic of Croatia are to be congratulated on the successful elections and the outgoing Government of Croatia is to be commended for the democratic standards with which it managed the elections;

(2) the United States should support the efforts of the new Government of Croatia to increase its work on refugee return, privatization reform, accession to the World Trade Organization, media reform, and further cooperation with the International Criminal Tribunal for Former Yugoslavia (ICTY) to set an example to other countries in the region;

(3) the Congress strongly supports Croatia's commitment to western democratic standards and will give its full support to the new Government of Croatia to fully implement democratic reforms;

(4) the United States continues to promote Croatian-American economic, political, and military relations and welcomes Croatia as a partner in the cause of stability and democratization in south central Europe;

(5) the United States and the Republic of Croatia should work to establish a strategic partnership to include Croatia's entry into the North Atlantic Treaty Organization's Partnership for Peace; and

(6) the countries of the European Union should develop closer relations with Croatia and, in particular, should help to expedite Croatia's accession into global and regional trade organizations, including the World Trade Organization.

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

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

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

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

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, this resolution, House Concurrent Resolution 251, was introduced by our colleague, the gentleman from California (Mr. RADANOVICH). It is timely and appropriate. The people of Croatia have suffered through too many years of warfare, destruction, ethnic strife, and economic stagnation.

As this resolution points out, the elections held recently from the Croatian parliament and the Croatian presidency were indeed conducted in a fair, free, and Democratic manner, by all accounts that we have received. Just as important, however, is the fact that those elections brought to power a government that appears intent on moving Croatia forward in all respects.

I therefore believe and agree with the sponsor of the resolution that it would be worthwhile for the Congress to show its support at this time for the new government in the form of this resolution. The new Croatian government will face challenges in opening up its economy and in finding ways to make certain that its support for ethnic Croats in neighboring Bosnia does not lead Croatia to undermine the sovereignty of that state.

It is going to face serious challenges in other areas as well. This resolution will make it clear that the success in meeting those challenges should be met by American and European support for Croatia's full entry into the Pan American and trans-Atlantic community of nations.

I am pleased to note that Croatia has been invited just last week, Mr. Speaker, to join NATO's Partnership for Peace program. In that manner, the new Croatian government's good intentions are receiving important recognition.

This resolution will serve as another important signal of our support as Croatia's new government moves to fulfill its intentions, and will serve to highlight our hopes for Croatia's future success. I am optimistic that Croatia's days of warfare and destruction are over. We are hopeful that Croatia will now enter a stage of stability and prosperity.

Now is the time for Croatia to build its new democratic future. This resolution points to that fact and congratulates the Croatian people for so clearly choosing the path of democracy in their recent elections.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the adoption of this important resolution.

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

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

I rise in strong support of this resolution, Mr. Speaker. Just as the committee takes the time to criticize the outcome of election results that produce controversial governments, it also produces resolutions which commend the results of positive elections, such as the recent elections in Croatia in February.

The results of recent elections in Croatia have been described as some of the best news to emerge from the Balkans since the Dayton accords were signed 4 years ago.

The first elections to follow the death of Croatia's longtime leader saw Croatians turn out in large numbers to elect reformers promising to steer Croatia towards a more moderate internationalist path.

United States policymakers are optimistic that positive ripples from the wake of this election will bode well for American interests throughout the region. A new reform-minded, Western-leaning coalition scored a comprehensive victory on the January 3 parliamentary elections, securing 71 seats while the HDZ won just 40.

On the heels of the parliamentary election, the February 7 race for president saw a battle of two reformers. During the campaign, the newly-elected president promised that he would be the opposite of his predecessor in everything. He said, "Where he was autocratic, I will be democratic; where he was nationalistic, I will be pro-European."

It is important to note that the United States' pro-democracy assistance to Croatia helped lay the foundation for this historic election. USAID's 5-year commitment to strengthening a broad spectrum of political parties and advocacy groups culminated in a 148-NGO coalition of trade unions and small business groups teamed for a wide-scale "get out the vote" campaign of media and face-to-face citizen outreach.

I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

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

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. RADANOVICH), the sponsor of this resolution.

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding time to me and allowing me to speak on this important resolution before the House today.

On June 15 of this year, I introduced House Concurrent Resolution 251, commending the Republic of Croatia for the successful conduct of its parliamentary and presidential elections.

The free and fair elections in Croatia and the beautiful and orderly transfer of power from the old to the new government is an example of democracy to the people of other nations in the region, and a major contribution to the democratic development of Southeastern Europe.

President Mesic has pledged to bring his country into the European Union in 5 years. Even if this is an ambitious goal, he is to be commended. President Mesic has promised and has in fact undertaken concrete steps to end interference in Bosnia, to welcome returning Serb refugees, and to cooperate with the international court in pursuing alleged Croatian war criminals.

He has also promised further privatization and media reform.

Although president Mesic and his new government face many many difficulties, I am very optimistic that Croatia is on a new path. I am hopeful we will do our utmost to encourage them on this path.

My resolution also calls for U.S. support and facilitation of Croatia's goals for membership in NATO's Partnership for Peace program and its accession to the World Trade Organization. I firmly believe that by supporting Croatia's membership in PfP and its accession to the WTO, we will not only be making a sound investment in the future security of Southeast Europe, but we will also be sending a clear message to other countries in the region of the benefits that come from choosing a democratic path.

Croatia was a tremendous ally to us last year during the Kosovo conflict, and as far as I am concerned, they have more than demonstrated their loyalty to the United States.

In my opinion, their membership in the Partnership for Peace program has already been earned and is long overdue. There is no question that we need a trustworthy ally in Southeast Europe, where we have spent an exorbitant amount of time and money. Croatia is that trustworthy ally, and I want to honor this country, its leaders, and its people here today.

I believe this is a very important resolution, and I urge my colleagues to vote favorably.

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

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. BEREUTER), the distinguished chairman of our Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific.

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

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, I will begin by thanking the gentleman from New York (Chairman GILMAN) for yielding time to me. I am pleased that he expedited the consideration of this important resolution which I rise to support.

This resolution, offered by our distinguished colleague from California (Mr. RADANOVICH), certainly deserves our full support, for it recognizes what the Republic of Croatia has done in the conduct of its recent parliamentary and presidential elections.

Since the fall of communism in 1991, Croatia has now completed its fourth parliamentary election and its third presidential election. I would also give note of what the gentleman from New York (Chairman GILMAN) has mentioned, that on May 9 the North Atlantic Council extended an invitation to Croatia to become the 26th member of NATO's Partnership for Peace.

The Partnership for Peace, or PfP, serves as an important program for fostering security and stability in Europe through military cooperation.

I also serve as the chairman of the House delegation to the NATO Parliamentary Assembly, and I would mention that the NATO Parliamentary Assembly has noted the progress in Croatia in its turn towards democracy. It is my expectation that Croatia will soon be offered associate membership status because of that action.

This Member believes that Croatia rightfully earned the invitation to PfP as that country has served as an important ally to NATO, as demonstrated during the recent conflict in Kosovo.

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Croatia provided crucial airspace and port access during the NATO operations. Croatia's commitment to stability in southeastern Europe is further demonstrated by the active cooperation it has provided in enforcing the Dayton Accord and in implementing the International Criminal Tribunal for former Yugoslavia.

Perhaps Croatia's most important contribution, however, has been contribution to stability in this volatile neighborhood by the example that it set in its successful transfer of political power through democratic means, such as the recent elections.

Mr. Speaker, as this Member concludes, I would say, again, I want to commend the distinguished gentleman from California (Mr. RADANOVICH) for his initiative in offering this timely resolution which recognizes the very significant and welcome progress in Croatia, which should serve to encourage Croatia on this path.

I urge strong support for H. Con. Res. 251.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, as Chairman of the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe—the Helsinki Commission—I fully support this resolution.

Ten years ago, a waive of political pluralism swept East-Central Europe, including Croatia and the other republics of the former Yugoslavia. Multi-party elections and open expression of political views allowed those unhappy with the existing Yugoslav federation to work for change in their government. Unfortunately but not unexpectedly, nationalism was a strong part of this effort, in part to enhance the power of certain leaders and the ruling circles around them. That is exactly what Franjo Tudjman and his Croatian Democratic Community, or HDZ, did in Croatia.

The people of Croatia wanted change, including independence, and they had to endure hardships for it. First, the 1991 conflict left thousands dead and hundreds of thousands displaced as Serb militants occupied major portions of the country. The retaking of this territory in 1995 led to further displacements. Subsequently, until 1999 those in power in Croatia fanned the flames of nationalism, evident not only in the unwillingness to allow Serbs from Croatia to return, but in the efforts, sometimes violent, to form a Croatian enclave in neighboring Bosnia-Herzegovina. For Those who disagree with this nationalist approach, the authorities marginalized them with controls on society, especially in the media.

As Croatian citizens grew confident in their country's independence and stability, however,

they opted not for nationalism, isolation and corruption, but for democracy, tolerance and economic progress. They had enough of the past; they wanted to move forward. This was reflected in the strong turnout for the parliamentary and presidential elections held earlier this year, and in the results of those elections.

Croatia has now been accepted as a member of NATO's Partnership for Peace. It is moving forward in its quest to be integrated fully into European affairs. The prospects for the return of displaced Serbs originally from Croatia has increased, along with cooperation with the International Tribunal prosecuting war crimes and the international community's regional efforts as a whole.

As I have been critical of developments in Croatia in the past, now I must join those who welcome the progress that has fully been made. We should, of course, monitor the situation closely, to make sure the promises made by the new Croatian leadership are kept. At the same time, we should also encourage Croatia by acknowledging positive movement when we see it.

Mr. GEJDENSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Con. Res. 251, a resolution commending the Republic of Croatia for the conduct of its Parliamentary and Presidential elections, introduced by my colleague on the International Relations Committee, Mr. RADANOVICH of California. I am proud to be a cosponsor of this important resolution.

This resolution commends the Republic of Croatia for the conduct of its recent parliamentary and presidential elections and calls for the United States to support Croatian efforts on compliance with the Dayton Peace Accords. It also supports membership for Croatia in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization's Partnership for Peace (PFP) program and its accession into the World Trade Organization.

Recent developments regarding Croatia's membership in PFP underscore the good timing of this resolution. Last Wednesday, NATO approved Croatia's bid to join the PFP program, a move strongly supported by the United States. NATO Secretary General Lord Robertson explained "Croatia has now become an example for its neighbors and an inspiration for moderate forces throughout the region. By promoting peace and stability in the Balkans, Croatia has won its place in the Euro-Atlantic family."

The results of recent elections in Croatia have been described as some of the best news to emerge from the Balkans since the Dayton Accords were signed four years ago. The first elections to follow the death of longtime leader Franco Tudjman saw Croatians turn out in large numbers to elect reformers promising to steer Croatia towards a more moderate, internationalist path. U.S. policymakers are optimistic that positive ripples from the wake of this election will bode well for American interests throughout the region.

Many observers saw the elections as a measuring stick as to how weary Croatians had grown with economic stagnation, authoritarian leadership, and perceived corruption within the hardline ruling party, the HDZ. Nonetheless, the sweeping change of the political landscape surprised even many of those who has expressed optimism in advance of elections. A new reform-minded, western-leaning coalition headed by Ivica Racan scored a comprehensive victory in the January 3rd par-

liamentary elections—securing 71 seats while the HDZ won just 40. On the heels of the parliamentary election, the February 7th race for President saw Stipe Mesic prevail in a battle of two reformers. During the campaign, Mesic had promised that he would "be the opposite of Tudjman in everything. Where he was autocratic I shall be democratic. Where he was nationalist, I'll be pro European."

It is now apparent that many Croats who had supported Tudjman's unyielding leadership after the dissolution of the former Yugoslavia and the fierce battle between Croatia and Serbia that ensued, now voted to signal the end of that era. Fueling this need for change was a growing resentment among the Croatian people towards a corrupt HDZ party perceived to be more interested in patronage and insider deals than managing an economy where export had stagnated and a \$9 billion external debt had accumulated.

In addition to an improving bilateral climate with Zagreb, we hope that the change of government in Croatia may create a dynamic for change in the region. On the issue of Bosnia Herzegovina, both major candidates for President campaigned for reducing political and economic support for ethnic Croats in Bosnia. Recalcitrant Bosnian Croats, sustained by HDZ hardliners in Zagreb, both reflected and reinforced hostility in the Serb and Bosnian communities. This change in outlook from Zagreb, coupled with a more independent Republika Srpska drifting from a financially strapped Belgrade and growing international pressure on the Bosnian Muslim government to reform may combine to create a dynamic in Bosnia where the definition of progress is not simply the absence of war but active trust and cooperation between ethnic groups.

This resolution has support from a broad bipartisan coalition, from the Administration, and from leading Croatian-American groups such as the National Federation of Croatian Americans.

I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

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. PEASE). 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. 251, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

CONGRESSIONAL OVERSIGHT OF NUCLEAR TRANSFERS TO NORTH KOREA ACT OF 2000

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4251) to amend the North Korea Threat Reduction Act of 1999 to enhance congressional oversight of nuclear transfers to North Korea, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 4251

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 "Congressional Oversight of Nuclear Transfers to North Korea Act of 2000".

SEC. 2. ENHANCEMENT OF CONGRESSIONAL OVERSIGHT OF NUCLEAR TRANSFERS TO NORTH KOREA.

(a) ESTABLISHING REQUIREMENT FOR CONGRESSIONAL ACTION BY JOINT RESOLUTION.—The North Korea Threat Reduction Act of 1999 (subtitle B of title VIII of division A of H.R. 3427, as enacted into law by section 1000(a)(7) of Public Law 106-113, and as contained in appendix G to such Public Law) is amended in section 822(a)—

(1) by redesignating paragraphs (1) through (7) as subparagraphs (A) through (G), respectively, and by indenting each such subparagraph 2 ems to the right;

(2) by striking "until the President" and inserting "until—

"(1) the President"; and

(3) at the end of subparagraph (G) (as redesignated in paragraph (1)) by striking the period and inserting "; and

"(2) a joint resolution described in section 823 is enacted into law pursuant to the provisions of such section."

(b) DESCRIPTION AND PROCEDURES FOR JOINT RESOLUTION.—The North Korea Threat Reduction Act of 1999 is amended—

(1) by redesignating section 823 as section 824; and

(2) by inserting after section 822 the following new section:

"SEC. 823. JOINT RESOLUTION PURSUANT TO SECTION 822(a)(2).

"(a) TERMS OF JOINT RESOLUTION.—For purposes of section 822(a)(2), the term 'joint resolution' means only a joint resolution of the two Houses of Congress—

"(1) the matter after the resolving clause of which is as follows: 'That the Congress hereby concurs in the determination and report of the President relating to compliance by North Korea with certain international obligations transmitted pursuant to section 822(a)(1) of the North Korea Threat Reduction Act of 1999.';

"(2) which does not have a preamble; and

"(3) the title of which is as follows: 'Joint Resolution relating to compliance by North Korea with certain international obligations pursuant to the North Korea Threat Reduction Act of 1999.'"

"(b) CONGRESSIONAL REVIEW PROCEDURES.—

"(1) RULEMAKING.—The provisions of this section are enacted by the Congress—

"(A) as an exercise of the rulemaking power of the House of Representatives and the Senate, respectively, and, as such, shall be considered as part of the rules of either House and shall supersede other rules only to the extent they are inconsistent therewith; and

"(B) with full recognition of the constitutional right of either House to change the rules so far as they relate to the procedures of that House at any time, in the same manner, and to the same extent as in the case of any other rule of that House.

"(2) INTRODUCTION AND REFERRAL.—

"(A) INTRODUCTION.—A joint resolution described in subsection (a)—

"(i) shall be introduced in the House of Representatives by the majority leader or minority leader or by a Member of the House of Representatives designated by the majority leader or minority leader; and

"(ii) shall be introduced in the Senate by the majority leader or minority leader or a Member of the Senate designated by the majority leader or minority leader.