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House of Representatives

The House met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. GUTKNECHT).

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DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
July 18, 2000.

I hereby appoint the Honorable GIL GUTKNECHT to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

J. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

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MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Mr. Lundregan, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate agreed to the following resolution:

S. RES. 337

Resolved, That the Senate has heard with profound sorrow and deep regret the announcement of the death of the Honorable John O. Pastore, formerly a Senator from the State of Rhode Island.

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Senate communicate these resolutions to the House of Representatives and transmit an enrolled copy thereof to the family of the deceased.

Resolved, That when the Senate adjourns today, it stand adjourned as a further mark of respect to the memory of the deceased Senator.

The message also announced that the Senate has passed with amendments in which the concurrence of the House is requested, a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 4516. An act making appropriations for the Legislative Branch for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2001, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the Senate insists upon its amendments to the bill (H.R. 4516) "An Act making appropriations for the Legislative Branch for the fiscal year ending September 30,

2001, and for other purposes," requests a conference with the House on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses thereon, and appoints Mr. BENNETT, Mr. STEVENS, Mr. CRAIG, Mr. COCHRAN, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. DURBIN, and Mr. BYRD, to be the conferees on the part of the Senate.

The message also announced that the Senate has passed bills of the following titles in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 2550. An act to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2001 for military activities of the Department of Defense, to prescribe personnel strengths for such fiscal year for the Armed Forces, and for other purposes.

S. 2551. An act to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2001 for military construction, and for other purposes.

S. 2552. An act to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2001 for defense activities of the Department of Energy, and for other purposes.

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MORNING HOUR DEBATES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 19, 1999, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning hour debates. The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to not to exceed 25 minutes, and each Member, except the majority leader, the minority leader, or the minority whip, limited to not to exceed 5 minutes, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 9:50 a.m.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS) for 5 minutes.

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CYPRUS BELONGS TO ALL CYPRIOTS

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, as I have done every year I rise again today to declare my fierce objection to the 26-year occupation of the Island of Cy-

prus by Turkish troops and to express my grave concern for the future of the area.

In July of 1974 Turkish troops invaded Cyprus, seized 37 percent of the island, killed 5,000 people and brutally expelled 200,000 Greek Cypriots from their homes. A quarter of a century later, 1,400 of these people, including 4 Americans, still remain unaccounted for.

For the past 26 years, Cyprus has been divided by the green line, a 113 mile barbed wire fence that runs across the island. Greek Cypriots are prohibited from visiting the towns and communities where their families have lived for generations. With 35,000 Turkish troops illegally stationed on the island, it is one of the most militarized areas in the world.

The illegal nature of the Turkish aggression and the brutality with which it was conducted aroused the indignation of the entire international community. The self-proclaimed Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus remains a pariah in the international community with no nation, except Turkey, recognizing its legitimacy.

Today, the Cyprus problem continues to be one of the most critical in the international arena. In his 2000 State of the Union address, the President labeled it one of his key foreign policy concerns. Numerous attempts have been made to find a peaceful resolution to the issue but so far all have foundered because of the irrational intransigence of Turkey.

Relations with the European Union have also been affected by this dispute.

Cyprus is in the group of applicants that are furthest down the path to entry into the European Union. While it recognizes the legitimate government of Cyprus, the EU has refused to negotiate with Northern Cyprus as a separate entity. They have also stated that Cyprus' accession is not contingent on a resolution of the territorial

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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dispute. If the dispute over Cyprus is not resolved, Cyprus will accede into the European Union and Northern Cyprus will see the great economic disparity that already exists between the two regions widened.

Throughout the occupation, the United Nations has been trying to encourage a solution to the Cyprus problem. U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan has sponsored proximity talks between the President of Cyprus, Glafcos Clerides, and Rauf Denktash, the self-proclaimed leader of the Turkish part of Cyprus. The third round of talks started this month. For these talks to be successful, there will have to be significant movement on the part of the Turkish Cypriots.

The solution that has been endorsed by the United Nations, by the European Community and by the United States is the formation of a bizonal, bicomunal federation. Unification with Turkey is not an option and neither is the status quo.

Two weeks ago, I wrote a letter to President Clinton co-signed by 231 of my colleagues and 81 Senators encouraging him to give his utmost attention and involvement to the third round of proximity talks. I hope that the President and the administration will give these talks the close attention they deserve.

Cyprus, Mr. Speaker, belongs to all Cypriots, whether they are of Turkish or Greek descent. America has a duty to the people of Cyprus and to itself to push for a peaceful and permanent resolution to the Cyprus problem. I hope it is a duty that we will discharge to the very fullest of our ability.

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COMMEMORATION OF THE 26TH ANNIVERSARY OF TURKISH INVASION OF CYPRUS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 19, 1999, the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. Maloney) is recognized during morning hour debates for 4 minutes.

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, once again, as I have every year that I have been a Member of Congress, it is my distinct honor and privilege to commemorate the 26th anniversary of the 1974 illegal Turkish invasion of Cyprus. Over 77 members of the Hellenic Caucus join me in the spirit of remembering this important illegal date.

The continued presence of Turkish troops represents a gross violation of human rights and international law. Although the President has only a little more than 6 months remaining in office, he has a golden opportunity to once and for all help resolve the problem of reuniting Cyprus.

Since their invasion of Cyprus in July of 1974, Turkish troops have continued to occupy 37 percent of Cyprus. This is in direct defiance of numerous nations' resolutions and has been a major source of instability in the east-

ern Mediterranean, but recent events have created an atmosphere where there is now no valid excuse for not resolving this long-standing, thorny problem. However, this cannot happen without the committed and sustained U.S. leadership.

More than 20 years ago, in 1977 and 1979, the leaders of the Greek and Turkish Cypriot communities agreed to work together to establish a bicomunal, bizonal federation to replace the unitary government created under the 1960 constitution. Even though this agreement was codified in U.N. Security Council resolution 939 of July 14, 1994, there has been no action on the Turkish side to fill in the details and once and for all have a final agreement. Instead, for the last 26 years, there has been a Turkish Cypriot leader presiding over a regime recognized only by Turkey. It has also meant the financial decline of the once rich northern part of Cyprus to just one quarter of its former earnings.

As my colleagues know, this conflict reached a low point after the European Union summit of December 1997 when Cyprus was invited to participate in accession negotiations while Turkey was deemed not yet ready. But since then, we have seen several positive steps towards peace. First in December, the European Union formally invited Turkey to become a candidate. Then President Clinton made it clear, and he made a clear statement to Turkish President Ecevit that a resolution of the Cyprus problem could not involve a return to pre-1974 conditions. Most recently, we saw a thawing in Greek-Turkish relations resulting from the earthquake diplomacy in which each country gave assistance to the other during the tragic earthquakes last August and September.

With these developments, there is now no valid reason for the Turkish side to resist direct and serious negotiations on all issues during the continuation of meetings in Geneva. The U.S., the EU, Greece and Cyprus have all acted to accommodate Turkish concerns but it remains to be seen whether Turkey will put pressure on Denktash to bargain in good faith. And make no mistake about it, if Turkey wants the Cyprus problem resolved, it will not let Denktash stand in the way. We cannot let one person dictate Turkish Cypriot policy.

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REMEMBERING THE KOREAN WAR

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 19, 1999, the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. BEREUTER) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, 50 years ago this month, without warning or provocation, hundreds of thousands of North Korean troops invaded South Korea, pouring across the 38th parallel and precipitating the Korean War. Unprepared South Korean, or ROK, forces

and the handful of Americans on the ground were incapable of halting this swift and brutal assault. In a matter of days, the badly battered U.S. and ROK units had been pushed back to a tiny toe-hold on the southern tip of the Korean Peninsula.

It was only with determination and unbelievable courage that American forces, together with South Korean and allied troops, were able to push back the attacking North Korean Army. The break-out of the Pusan perimeter, the Inchon landing, battles like Pork Chop Hill and Heartbreak Ridge, the terrible fight against overwhelming odds at the frozen Chosin Reservoir, on these and countless other unnamed battlefields we beat back the invaders.

The Korean conflict reflected the absolute determination of the United States to halt the spread of tyranny and totalitarianism, but the cost was high. The war that North Korea started resulted in 39,000 U.S. deaths and over 100,000 wounded and severely undermined U.S. relations with Russia and China. It took decades for our South Korean ally to recover.

In the so-called Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the DPRK, there is certainly a very different and distorted interpretation of the events that occurred 50 years ago. Incredibly, according to the North Korean news agency, quote, "the U.S. instigated the ROK Army to start a surprise armed invasion of North Korea on June 25, 1950. It was commanded by the U.S. military advisory group," end of quote.

The newscast goes on to explain that in precipitating this unprovoked attack, the U.S. supposedly indiscriminately carpet bombed throughout North Korea.

Mr. Speaker, these lies from North Korea newscasts are not from some ancient historical record. No, this was the broadcast in the last several weeks. It is worth noting, Mr. Speaker, that this slanderous pack of lies was broadcast right after the recent historic meeting between South Korean President Kim Dae Jung and North Korean leader Kim Jong Il. It was broadcast the day after the United States had announced the delivery to North Korea of an additional 50,000 tons of grain. And about the same time that North Korea was reinventing history, Secretary of State Albright was announcing that North Korea is not a terrorist state or even a rogue state, but merely a state of concern.

This member points this out because of the recent changes in perception regarding North Korea. On the verge of collapse, the hermit kingdom is at least attempting to give the impression that it is reaching out to South Korea and to the West. If North Korea is in fact sincere in its peaceful overtures, that certainly would be a dramatic, positive development. However, it would be premature to assume that the DPRK has irrevocably reformed its behavior. It would be naive in the extreme to believe that a few gestures