

in Iran. Baha'is cannot teach or practice their faith or maintain contacts with their coreligionists abroad.

Mr. Speaker, I could go on listing the abuses and atrocities to which the Baha'i in Iran are subjected, but these obvious violations of the most basic of human rights are a clear indication of the magnitude of the abuses that Baha'is in Iran face daily. I strongly support this resolution, which highlights these abuses and calls on the Government of Iran to emancipate the Baha'i community. I urge my colleagues to support this resolution, and I call on the Government of Iran to recognize the rights of Baha'is and afford them the rights by other Iranian citizens.

Mr. HILLIARD. 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. LINDER). 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. 257.

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.

RWANDAN WAR CRIMES WITNESS REWARD PROGRAM AUTHORIZATION

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill (S. 2460) to authorize the payment of rewards to individuals furnishing information relating to persons subject to indictment for serious violations of international humanitarian law in Rwanda, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read as follows:

S. 2460

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

SECTION 1. EXPANSION OF REWARDS PROGRAM TO INCLUDE RWANDA.

Section 102 of the Act of October 30, 1998 (Public Law 105-323) is amended—

(1) in the section heading, by inserting "or Rwanda" after "Yugoslavia";

(2) in subsection (a)(2), by inserting "**OR THE INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL TRIBUNAL FOR RWANDA**" after "**YUGOSLAVIA**"; and

(3) in subsection (c)—

(A) by inserting "(1)" immediately after "REFERENCE.—"; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

"(2) For the purposes of subsection (a), the statute of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda means the statute contained in the annex to Security Council Resolution 955 of November 8, 1994."

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN) and the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. HILLIARD) 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 S. 2460.

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

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, on April 6, 1994, a massive genocide began in Rwanda. There was no mention of Rwanda in any of our papers on that day, but soon horrific accounts of a bloody and well-planned massacre filled the pages of our newspapers. A month later, 200,000 were dead and more were being killed each and every day, but White House spokesmen still quibbled with reporters about the definition of genocide.

Too many of the masterminds of that ugly chapter in human history are still at large. An international criminal tribunal for Rwanda exists, but it has failed to bring to justice all of the leaders. Rwanda needs reconciliation, but without accountability there will be no reconciliation.

Congress extended the rewards program to those providing information leading to the indictment of Yugoslavian war criminals 2 years ago. It is now time to place a generous bounty in U.S. dollars on the heads of all who seek power through extermination. The killers have fled to Paris, to Brussels, to Kinshasa and else where. With the passage of this measure, their havens will be less safe and their sleep will be less easy.

Accordingly, I urge my colleagues to fully support this measure.

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

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

Mr. Speaker I rise in strong support of this bill. First of all, let me commend the chairman in moving this bill through the Committee on International Relations and bringing it to the floor today. Rwanda is one of the great humanitarian disasters of this century. An estimated 800,000 people were slaughtered there earlier this decade, and only because of their ethnic identity. Expanding the State Department's reward program to persons having information leading to the conviction of persons responsible for the atrocities in Rwanda will enhance the prospect for justice for the victims.

I commend Senator FEINGOLD for moving this bill forward in the other body, and I urge my colleagues to support Senate bill 2460.

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

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

Mr. HILLIARD. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands (Mrs. CHRISTENSEN).

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague from Alabama (Mr. HILLIARD) for yielding me this time.

Mr. Speaker, I want to commend the chairman and my colleague for rising to introduce this bill, S. 2460, which would authorize the payments of rewards to individuals furnishing information relating to persons subject to indictment for serious violations of international humanitarian law in Rwanda. I commend them both for presenting that bill today.

Mr. HILLIARD. 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. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill, S. 2460.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

SUPPORT FOR OVERSEAS COOPERATIVE DEVELOPMENT ACT

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4673) to assist in the enhancement of the development and expansion of international economic assistance programs that utilize cooperatives and credit unions, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 4673

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 "Support for Overseas Cooperative Development Act".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS

The Congress makes the following findings:

(1) It is in the mutual economic interest of the United States and peoples in developing and transitional countries to promote cooperatives and credit unions.

(2) Self-help institutions, including cooperatives and credit unions, provide enhanced opportunities for people to participate directly in democratic decision-making for their economic and social benefit through ownership and control of business enterprises and through the mobilization of local capital and savings and such organizations should be fully utilized in fostering free market principles and the adoption of self-help approaches to development.

(3) The United States seeks to encourage broad-based economic and social development by creating and supporting—

(A) agricultural cooperatives that provide a means to lift low income farmers and rural people out of poverty and to better integrate them into national economies;

(B) credit union networks that serve people of limited means through safe savings and by extending credit to families and microenterprises;

(C) electric and telephone cooperatives that provide rural customers with power and telecommunications services essential to economic development;

(D) housing and community-based cooperatives that provide low income shelter and work opportunities for the urban poor; and

(E) mutual and cooperative insurance companies that provide risk protection for life and property to under-served populations often through group policies.

SEC. 3. GENERAL PROVISIONS.

(a) DECLARATIONS OF POLICY.—The Congress supports the development and expansion of economic assistance programs that fully utilize cooperatives and credit unions, particularly those programs committed to—

(1) international cooperative principles, democratic governance and involvement of women and ethnic minorities for economic and social development;

(2) self-help mobilization of member savings and equity, retention of profits in the community, except those programs that are dependent on donor financing;

(3) market-oriented and value-added activities with the potential to reach large numbers of low income people and help them enter into the mainstream economy;

(4) strengthening the participation of rural and urban poor to contribute to their country's economic development; and

(5) utilization of technical assistance and training to better serve the member-owners.

(b) DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES.—Section 111 of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2151i) is amended by adding at the end the following: "In meeting the requirement of the preceding sentence, specific priority shall be given to the following:

"(1) AGRICULTURE.—Technical assistance to low income farmers who form and develop member-owned cooperatives for farm supplies, marketing and value-added processing.

"(2) FINANCIAL SYSTEMS.—The promotion of national credit union systems through credit union-to-credit union technical assistance that strengthens the ability of low income people and micro-entrepreneurs to save and to have access to credit for their own economic advancement.

"(3) INFRASTRUCTURE.—The establishment of rural electric and telecommunication cooperatives for universal access for rural people and villages that lack reliable electric and telecommunications services.

"(4) HOUSING AND COMMUNITY SERVICES.—The promotion of community-based cooperatives which provide employment opportunities and important services such as health clinics, self-help shelter, environmental improvements, group-owned businesses, and other activities."

SEC. 4. REPORT.

Not later than 6 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development, in consultation with the heads of other appropriate agencies, shall prepare and submit to Congress a report on the implementation of section 111 of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2151i), as amended by section 3 of this Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. BEREUTER) and the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. HILLIARD) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. BEREUTER).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on H.R. 4673.

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

There was no objection.

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

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

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, this Member rises in support of H.R. 4673, the Support for Overseas Cooperative Development Act. This Member introduced H.R. 4673, along with the distinguished Member from North Dakota (Mr. POMEROY), to recognize the importance of and the strengthened support for cooperatives as an international development tool.

This Member would also like to thank the distinguished gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. GEJDESON), the ranking member of the Committee on International Relations; the distinguished gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS), the ranking member of the Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific; the distinguished gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. ENGLISH); the distinguished gentleman from Ohio (Mr. HALL); the distinguished gentleman from Ohio (Mr. GILLMOR); and the distinguished gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. BURR), for their cosponsorship of this measure.

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Indeed, this measure is a bipartisan effort and it certainly enjoys bipartisan interest and support.

Finally and very importantly, this Member wants to thank the chairman of the Committee on International Relations, the distinguished gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN), for cooperating in the advancements of H.R. 4673 through the committee and for his support.

Mr. Speaker, this legislation enhances language currently provided in Section 111 of the Foreign Assistance Act which authorizes the use of cooperatives in international development programs.

Specifically, this bill will give priority to funding overseas cooperatives working in the following areas: agriculture, financial systems, rural electric and telecommunications infrastructure, housing, and health. Importantly, H.R. 4673 does not provide for additional appropriations. While the administration does not routinely take positions on such matters, the Agency for International Development has not raised any objections to H.R. 4673 and I believe it is quite supportive and sympathetic.

Mr. Speaker, as we all know, cooperatives are voluntary organizations formed to share the mutual economic and self-help interests of their members. In the United States, cooperatives have existed, of course, for many years and in many forms, including agriculturally based cooperatives, electrical cooperatives, and credit unions. The common thread among all cooperatives is that they allow their members who, for a variety of reasons, might not otherwise be served by traditional institutions, to mobilize resources available to them, and to reap the benefits of association.

Since the 1960s, overseas cooperative projects have proven successful in providing assistance and compassionate assistance, I might emphasize, to low-income people in developing and transitional countries. Today, people in 60 countries are benefiting from U.S. cooperatives working abroad through projects which can be completed at very little cost to U.S. taxpayers. The low costs are possible because the money used for the projects is spent on technical and managerial expertise, not on extensive bureaucracy and direct foreign assistance payments.

Mr. Speaker, the benefits of cooperatives as a development tool are numerous. This Member would like to mention examples of democratic and economic results from the fostering of cooperatives working overseas.

Building economic infrastructure is a key role of overseas development cooperatives. Through representatives from the U.S. cooperatives, people who have traditionally been underserved in their countries, especially in rural areas and especially women, receive technical training never before available to them. Such training in accounting, marketing, entrepreneurialship and strategic planning prepares them to effectively compete for the first time in their country's economy.

For example, agricultural cooperatives in El Salvador helped to rebuild the once war-ravaged country by providing a venue for farmers to pool their scarce resources and scarce experience in capitalism so that they can market and sell the fruits and vegetables they grow.

In rural Macedonia, a small country whose neighbors are immersed in ethnic conflict, credit unions provide their members a way to build lines of credit and savings for the future.

In rural Bangladesh during the early 1990s, cooperative members bought equipment for an electrification project which now supplies 5 million people with electrical power. Cooperatives lay the foundation then for future economic stability.

Mr. Speaker, when reviewing the impact of overseas cooperatives, one simply cannot ignore the impact they have had in assisting people in transitional countries to build democratic habits and traditions. In supporting cooperatives, people who have had no previous experience with democracy create an opportunity to routinely vote for leadership, to set goals, to write policies and to implement those policies. Cooperative members learn to expect results from their decisions and that their decisions can and do, in fact, have an impact on their lives.

In conclusion, this Member would like to thank the Overseas Cooperative Development Council, the ODCD, for its contributions to this measure. The ODCD represents eight cooperative development organizations which have been very active in building cooperatives worldwide. The Credit Union National Association, CUNA, has been

very supportive of this legislation and, as a member of the World Council on Credit Unions, has contributed technical assistance to aid the growth of credit unions in key transitional countries such as the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Bolivia.

Again, Mr. Speaker, overseas cooperative projects are simply a good investment towards building good economic stability and democratic habits in developing countries, and this Member urges his colleagues in this body to support H.R. 4673.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this bill. I would first like to commend the gentleman from Nevada (Mr. BEREUTER), the subcommittee chairman, for introducing this important piece of legislation, and the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN), the chairman of the committee, for moving it through the legislative process so quickly.

Mr. Speaker, credit unions and cooperatives give people more opportunity to help themselves. By promoting business enterprises and financial institutions which operate through a democratic decisionmaking process, the Congress can play a critical role in encouraging broad-based economic and social development, both at home and abroad.

The legislation before the House today will ensure that our foreign aid money adequately promotes credit unions and cooperatives overseas. The legislation states that priority must be given first to technical assistance to local-income farmers who farm, who form and develop cooperatives for farm supplies, marketing and value-added processing; the promotion of national credit union systems that strengthen the ability of low-income people and small businesses to have access to credit. It also establishes a rural electric and telecommunications cooperative for universal access for rural people and villages; and, finally, the promotion of community-based cooperatives which provide employment opportunities and other important services.

Also, Mr. Speaker, the legislation requires the Agency for International Development to report to Congress every 6 months on the implementation of this important program.

Mr. Speaker, cooperatives and credit unions allow communities to pool their financial resources, spread risk, and keep money in local circulation for the economic well-being of the constituency and localities they serve. This legislation, by promoting cooperatives and credit unions overseas, will ensure that Americans get the most bang for their buck in foreign aid money.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 4673.

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

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, in conclusion, I want to again express my appreciation to the distinguished gentleman from North Dakota (Mr. POMEROY) for his outstanding cooperation, his assistance, and for being a full partner in drafting this legislation. I appreciate his effort. With that said, I urge support of the resolution.

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

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, H.R. 4673, a bill introduced by our Committee Members, Mr. BEREUTER, the gentleman from Nebraska, and cosponsored by Mr. POMEROY, the gentleman from North Dakota, would serve to enhance and expand international economic assistance programs that utilize cooperatives and credit unions. This bill encourages the formation of credit unions and grassroots financial institutions as a way to promote democratic decision-making while concurrently fostering free market principles and self-help approaches to development in some of the world's poorest and neediest countries.

The bill's purpose is multi-faceted. It encourages the creation of agricultural and urban cooperatives in the electrical, telecommunications, and housing fields as well as the establishment of base-level credit unions. By doing so, the bill also promotes the adoption of international cooperative principles and practices in our foreign assistance programs and encourages the incorporation of market-oriented principles into these programs. By ensuring that small businessmen and women as well as small-scale farmers have access to credit, and also a stake in their own financial institutions, the United States will foster the key values of self-reliance, community participation, and democratic decision-making in programs that directly affect their lives.

The bill amends Section 111 of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, the section of the Act that concerns the development and promotion of cooperatives, by adding specific language that promotes agricultural cooperatives, the establishment of credit unions and financial systems, and the creation of rural electric and telecommunications and housing cooperatives. The bill lists these increasingly critical areas of development as priorities for foreign assistance programs and requires the Administrator of the Agency for International Development to prepare and submit a report to the Congress on the implementation of Section 111 of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 as amended.

I commend my colleagues for drafting this bill that also strengthens the intent and spirit of H.R. 1143, the Microenterprise for Self-Reliance Act of 1999 that the International Relations Committee reported and the House passed last year. Although strides have been made to increase access to credit for those who need it most, it is clear to me that much more needs to be done to enhance micro credit institutions and credit unions as well as agricultural cooperatives in the developing world to ensure that sound fiscal practices are applied in both rural and urban areas of the world's poorest countries.

I commend the bill's sponsors for their efforts to promote the formation of more and better managed cooperatives as well as the establishment of credit unions that are managed by the poor themselves to address agricultural, housing, and health care needs.

Accordingly, I urge passage of this worthy measure.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LINDER). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. BEREUTER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4673.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

FRANK R. LAUTENBERG POST OFFICE AND COURTHOUSE

Mr. BARR of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4975) to designate the post office and courthouse located at 2 Federal Square, Newark, New Jersey, as the "Frank R. Lautenberg Post Office and Courthouse".

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 4975

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

SECTION 1. DESIGNATION OF FRANK R. LAUTENBERG POST OFFICE AND COURTHOUSE.

The post office and courthouse located at 2 Federal Square, Newark, New Jersey, shall be known and designated as the "Frank R. Lautenberg Post Office and Courthouse".

SEC. 2. REFERENCES.

Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the post office and courthouse referred to in section 1 shall be deemed to be a reference to the Frank R. Lautenberg Post Office and Courthouse.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. BARR) and the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. FATTAH) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. BARR).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BARR of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on H.R. 4975.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. BARR of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, the bill before us, H.R. 4975, was introduced by our distinguished colleague, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. LOBIONDO) and was originally cosponsored by all members of the House delegation of the State of New Jersey on July 26, this year. This legislation designates the Post Office and courthouse located at 2 Federal Square in Newark, New Jersey as the FRANK R. LAUTENBERG Post Office and Courthouse.

This legislation was referred to the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. The committee then discharged the bill and it was subsequently rereferred to the House Committee on Government Reform. The