

Since September 22nd when she was again placed under house arrest, her telephone lines have been cut, and she has been denied all communication. Presently, it is not only Suu Kyi being suppressed, other members of the NLD's central executive committee are either in detention or being kept incommunicado under virtual house arrest, with approximately one hundred NLD members, including members of the NLD women's group having been arrested by the military in recent days.

I commend the statements in recent days from the international community, condemning the SPDC. Switzerland announced last week that it would impose sanctions on Burma, similar to those imposed by the European Union, which include freezing assets, visa bans and an arms embargo. Although these sanctions are not as strong as current U.S. sanctions, slowly the international community is coming together to demonstrate that we will not do business or work with these egregious violators of human rights.

We must stand together as one, against those who, when they violate the rights of one of us, violate the rights of all.

The United States is seen as a beacon of light and of hope around the world. We must remember what our country stands for: democracy, the rule of law, freedom of speech and free and fair elections. The Burmese can not exercise any of these basic human rights.

I hope that all of my colleagues will join me in standing with our fellow duly-elected representatives in Burma and join their call to take their rightful places in parliament.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PEASE). Does the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. BEREUTER) yield to the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN) to control the time?

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN) and ask unanimous consent that he be permitted to control the time.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask the Chair how much time we have remaining.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN) has 4 minutes remaining.

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, this measure recognizes the 10th anniversary of the freedom and fair elections in Burma and the urgent need to improve the democratic and human rights of the people of Burma. Aung San Suu Kyi and members of the parliament who were elected in 1990 have not been able to establish a government inside of Burma. Many of her supporters have been and still are in prison. Thousands have been tortured and murdered.

The government relies heavily on slave and forced labor for construction projects. The International Labor Organization, the ILO, has even banned it from participating in any ILO meetings.

The government of Burma is indifferent to the illicit drug trade and was recently decertified for not fully cooperating to our Nation. It has provided a safe haven to notorious Burmese drug dealer Khun Saw. It was just reported that Secretary of Defense Cohen was in Thailand 2 days ago and that the Thai are now asking for 50 helicopters to fight against the drug traffickers.

The Thai military has estimated that some 600 million amphetamine pills flooded Thailand just last year from across the border with Burma. Thai community leaders have frequently accused Burma of destroying Thai youth, warning that drug addiction was reaching crisis proportions in Thailand with more than 600,000 young people reportedly hooked on amphetamines.

On September 19, Secretary Cohen said, "We understand now that there is a serious problem concerning Thailand by virtue of methamphetamine being produced and distributed from Burma. The drug problem will be high on the agenda of the commander of the U.S. forces in the Pacific, who is due to visit Thailand next week."

On September 21, Aung San Suu Kyi was prevented from boarding a train to leave Rangoon, and many of her supporters were arrested. Since that time, diplomats and friends have been prevented from seeing her, and no one knows the whereabouts of her arrested colleagues.

Just 2 days ago, Mr. Speaker, the government-run newspaper in Rangoon issued a statement by officials stating, "Anyone confronting the military government in Myanmar is committing what amounts to high treason."

Mr. Speaker, the only way for the drug production to end in Burma is for our Nation and for the world to take a stronger stand against the illegal Burmese government so that it steps down and hands over the reigns of power to the democratically elected government of Aung San Suu Kyi.

Accordingly, Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this measure.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I would truly be remiss, and it will probably be the last opportunity I have before we adjourn, if I did not express my personal sense of appreciation and gratitude to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. PORTER), not only as cochairman of our Human Rights Caucus, but certainly for his outstanding leadership and service that he has rendered to our Nation.

I want the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. PORTER) to know how much I really appreciate his friendship over the years that I have got to know him.

Mr. Speaker, I have no additional speakers, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. BEREUTER) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 328, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

CALLING FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE OF MR. EDMOND POPE FROM PRISON IN RUSSIAN FEDERATION

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 404) calling for the immediate release of Mr. Edmond Pope from prison in the Russian Federation for humanitarian reasons, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. CON. RES. 404

Whereas Mr. Edmond Pope of State College, Pennsylvania, is a husband, father, grandfather, son, and United States businessman;

Whereas Edmond Pope has visited the Russian Federation 27 times in order to foster better business and university-based research relationships;

Whereas Edmond Pope traveled to the Russian Federation in late March 2000 in order to purchase commercially advertised underwater propulsion technology, as stated in his visa approved by the Government of the Russian Federation;

Whereas Edmond Pope was arrested on April 3, 2000, in Moscow, imprisoned in Lefortovo, and charged with espionage;

Whereas the Russian who allegedly committed an act of treason by aiding Edmond Pope was released and has been living with his family;

Whereas Edmond Pope has been treated for hemangiopericytoma, a rare form of cancer, that was in remission prior to his travel;

Whereas Edmond Pope's father is dying of multiple myeloma, a type of bone cancer that can be hereditary;

Whereas Edmond Pope should receive routine medical care by a qualified, trained professional in order to monitor the possibility of a recurrence of cancer due to his high-risk potential;

Whereas Edmond Pope has missed his annual monitoring visit resulting in a 14 month lapse since his last visit;

Whereas Edmond Pope's prison conditions have caused a dramatic loss in weight and his physical stature has deteriorated;

Whereas Edmond Pope has been denied the basic human right of proper medical attention deserving of an individual in his condition;

Whereas two Americans have died in the past few months within prisons in the Russian Federation and another individual has recently died in Lefortovo;

Whereas Edmond Pope has been unjustly arrested and detained for more than 5 months, preventing him from celebrating his 30th wedding anniversary and the marriage of his son, and during which time his mother-in-law passed away;

Whereas recent events have shown that trials in the Russian Federation involving alleged violations in the area of national security can take several years;

Whereas it is unlikely that Edmond Pope would survive a lengthy trial; and

Whereas United States business and academic interests with the Russian Federation are beginning to be detrimentally impacted by this event: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That—

(1) the Congress calls on the Russian Federation, under the leadership of President Vladimir Putin, to immediately release Mr. Edmond Pope of State College, Pennsylvania, and to ensure that proper and qualified medical attention is provided to him in order to ensure that another loss of life does not occur in a prison in the Russian Federation;

(2) it is the sense of Congress that if Edmond Pope is not released immediately the President should continue all efforts afforded to the administration to secure his release, including the consideration of—

(A) terminating all assistance to the Government of the Russian Federation under the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 and the annual Foreign Operations, Export Financing, and Related Programs Appropriations Act for purposes of preparing the Russian Federation's entrance or accession to the World Trade Organization (WTO); and

(B) opposing any further debt relief of obligations owed to the United States Government from the Government of the Russian Federation; and

(3) the President should increase efforts to secure appropriate medical attention for Edmond Pope.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN) and the gentleman from American Samoa (Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA) 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 H. Con. Res. 404.

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, this resolution, House Concurrent Resolution 404, introduced by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PETERSON), supports Mr. Edmond Pope, an American citizen who has been jailed by the Russian government for several months on the charge of espionage that, by all accounts, is based on extremely dubious evidence. I commend the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PETERSON) for his tireless work on behalf of one of his constituents, Mr. Pope.

This resolution calls on the Russian government to immediately release Mr. Pope and to ensure that he is provided proper medical attention for the rare form of cancer with which he is afflicted.

Let me point out to my colleagues that Mr. Pope is a businessman and that he has been to Russia many times

over the past few years on business trips.

I simply do not believe that the Russian government has proved its case, particularly in light of the fact that a Russian citizen who supposedly worked with Mr. Pope in the alleged espionage case has already been released by the Russian government.

This resolution makes it abundantly clear that, if Mr. Pope is not released, the President of the United States should continue to seek his release and should consider terminating all assistance that our Nation provides to the Russian government under our Foreign Assistance Act for purposes of preparing Russia to enter the World Trade Organization.

2030

It also calls on our President to refuse further debt relief for the Russian Government if it does not release Mr. Pope.

My colleagues, the actions of the Russian Government in this case do not appear to be those of a country interested in proper treatment of businessmen and investors. I believe it is, therefore, appropriate to send this message in the form of a nonbinding resolution that we expect a nation that wants to be part of an international trade organization, that wants debt relief, and that wants more American investment to treat our American businessmen appropriately.

I would point out to my colleagues that over the past few years our government has reportedly arrested several Russian spies here in our Nation, some under diplomatic cover and others operating without it. I understand we have allowed those Russian spies in recent years to return home to Russia, even when our FBI believed them to be career members of the Russian intelligence agencies. Even when a Russian espionage device was found in our State Department headquarters itself, we sent the so-called diplomat back home.

We are all aware of the reports that Russian spying conducted here in our Nation and from espionage facilities, such as the one at Lourdes, Cuba, is today at record levels. It is ironic, Mr. Speaker, that Russia would arrest and imprison for months an American businessman who may very well be innocent, all the while conducting espionage against us at records that exceed those of the Cold War.

Mr. Speaker, I support this nonbinding resolution and I urge my colleagues to adopt it.

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

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

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

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this resolution.

Mr. Pope was arrested in Russia on April 3, 2000, while negotiating the purchase of an underwater propulsion technology which was advertised for commercial use. Mr. Speaker, I submit Mr. Pope is not a spy. His Russian visa states that the purpose of the trip to Russia was to acquire such technology.

It is outrageous, Mr. Speaker, that Mr. Pope has been languishing at the Lefortovo prison, the former KGB stronghold, for nearly 6 months now. Mr. Pope has been diagnosed with a rare form of bone cancer which requires annual screening and which he has missed this past August because of his arrest.

His health may be getting worse, but the Russians refuse access to him by a qualified Western oncologist. The Russian authorities have said that the Russian doctors are capable of examining Mr. Pope, and based on that examination, they supposedly say he is fit to stand trial.

Mr. Speaker, this case has been discussed at the highest levels of the American and Russian governments. Our own President, President Clinton, has raised this issue with President Putin several times now, most recently at the U.N. Millennium Summit in New York City. At every opportunity, the Russians have been told the charges against Mr. Pope are groundless and they must let him come home to his family.

I share some of the State Department concerns about the call in the resolution for cutting all foreign assistance to Russia, which includes denuclearization assistance and support for democratic institutions and independent media. I would hope that the administration could effectively utilize policy levers short of this drastic step to achieve Mr. Pope's release.

We should at least commend our good friend and colleague, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PETERSON), for doing such a fantastic job supporting Mr. Pope's family in support of this resolution, and I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

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

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 6 minutes to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PETERSON).

Mr. PETERSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the chairman for yielding me this time. I appreciate the very strong support we have had from the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN); the ranking member, the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. GEJDENSON); as well as the gentleman from American Samoa (Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA), who has been such a good friend; and I want to thank the staff who have worked so hard on this issue. I also want to thank the leadership and the majority leader, who have personally helped me at every turn.

Mr. Speaker, this has been one of the most difficult issues I have ever dealt with. Let us just think about it for a moment. For 11 days, Edmund Pope

has been in a Russian prison. If my colleagues have not been in a Russian prison, I was there a few months ago. It is no place to be.

He went over there in March on his 27th trip to do business. He was arrested on April 3 and thrown in prison. For 13 weeks, his wife never received a note from him, a phone call from him or any word. He never received one of her letters that she sent daily. Between two countries that have normal relations in business, a prisoner never heard from his family or was allowed to communicate with his family for 13 weeks.

In June, Cheri Pope, his wife, and two of my staff went to Russia. They found out he did not have a competent lawyer, a 73-year-old lawyer that was not considered good; and so they were able to hire him a good lawyer who has been very helpful and who started to build a case. It was not long before he found out that there was no real case against Edmund Pope. In fact, the Russians had never even told us what the case was about; it was just that he had committed espionage.

On August 5, his son was married in State College without his father. Then a little later, in August, Cheri Pope, his wife, and I and two of my staff returned to Russia. We were able to elevate this issue to an international issue. Before that it had not been well covered by the press. It was obvious then. And after we arrived there and made it an issue, the Russians finally responded and said, well, he was purchasing this Squall technology, which had been advertised for sale in 1996 and had been sold to other countries, we are told.

The FSB, who finally gave these details, is like combining our FBI, our Secret Service, our CIA, and whatever else, and all combined into one. It is the most powerful agency in Russia, and they have been in control. This was Ed's 27th visit there. He had had many business partnerships there. He had brought many scientists from Russia to Pennsylvania, to Penn State. Had taken many groups of scientists to Russia to help them in their trying to build a free economic system. He loved the Russians, told all his neighbors and friends that I have talked to. He was very fond of the Russians and wanted them to have economic opportunity like we have here.

For 17 months, Ed Pope has not had adequate health screenings. Edmund Pope, a number of years ago, was diagnosed with bone cancer. It has been arrested. He should, from the cancer experts we have talked to, have MRI and CT scan screenings every 6 months. It has been 17 months now since he has had any screenings.

In August we had a hearing; and in September we had a hearing on a health-related release, and he was turned down. They had the appeal to the hearing and asked for him to be seen by an American doctor and have the appropriate test and again was

turned down. It is now approaching mid-October and Edmund Pope has still not had the health screenings that he needs.

If we get Edmund Pope out tomorrow, he may have reactivated cancer and he will have a very shortened life. We are still asking every day for routine cancer screening. It is available 7 miles from his prison in a Russian facility with adequate doctors to read the scans, and we again ask for that.

We know that from talking to his attorney and others there, the FSB-appointed judge will find him guilty whenever this trial is held. They will be given a predetermined verdict. I do not think we in America realize how a jury trial and the chance to defend ourselves is so basic a fundamental to the rule of law. In Russia, we are told the FSB knows how to frame people, but they do not know how to convict people. If it was a jury trial, his lawyer says, he would be innocent in a moment. As soon as the trial was held, he would be declared innocent and proven that he is innocent. But Edmund Pope will not get that chance.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the Congress today for their support of this resolution and sending a strong message to this administration to continue every effort they can put forward. Edmund Pope needs to have health screenings so that we know his cancer is still in arrest. We need to know that he has not contracted TB, which is prevalent in Russian prisons. He has had a cough every time we have spoken to him. We are asking for health care first and then his timely release. It is time to get Ed Pope home.

I guess just in conclusion, Mr. Speaker, Edmund Pope is a good man, a great American, served his country valiantly, been a good businessman, and been good for the Russians; been good for economic relationships with them; helped them partner in many business deals and commercialize other kinds of technologies they had and helped do some partnerships that helped in health care and opticals. Russia should have a lot of Ed Popes helping them to build their economy and become part of the global economy.

They need to resolve this issue so we can become friends, work together, and not be enemies.

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume to compliment again my colleague from Pennsylvania. I think it is a good example of a demonstration of what every Member should be doing for their constituents, and I want to commend him for that.

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

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH), our distinguished chairman of our Subcommittee on International Operations and Human Rights.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me this time.

First of all, I rise in very strong support of the Peterson resolution, H. Con. Res. 404, calling for the immediate release of Edmund Pope from prison in the Russian Federation based on humanitarian reasons.

I think it is very important that the chairman of the House Committee on International Relations and the ranking member, the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN) and the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. GEJDENSON), have moved very quickly on this resolution to bring it to the floor and before our colleagues because this is a very, very important resolution of humanitarian concern.

This resolution calls for the immediate release of Mr. Pope, an American citizen arrested for allegedly spying in Russia and, as we know, in prison now in Moscow since early April of this year. Mr. Pope has been arrested for trying to purchase so-called secret technology that had already been advertised for commercial sale.

Mr. Speaker, I would be the first to agree that countries are entitled to protect sensitive information or state secrets; but the case against Mr. Pope is without merit. When we consider that the Russian Government has already released the alleged co-conspirator in this case, it is difficult to understand why Mr. Pope is considered such a danger.

As the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PETERSON) so passionately and eloquently pointed out, Mr. Pope is seriously ill and the Russian Government has not permitted an American physician to even visit him, which one might expect on simple humanitarian grounds.

Mr. Speaker, the Russian Government recently announced that the Pope case has been turned over to the court. This may look like progress, but experience tells us otherwise. When we look at the long drawn out case of Alexandr Nikitin, for whom it took 4½ years to prove his innocence on trumped-up charges of espionage, I believe it is unlikely Mr. Pope would survive a lengthy judicial process.

Mr. Speaker, the U.S. Government has repeatedly raised this case with the Russian Government. Why are they not listening? At a recent hearing of our Committee on International Relations, our Secretary of State, Madeleine Albright, reiterated her conviction this case should be resolved quickly in Mr. Pope's favor.

Finally, I would note that in connection with this case, a Moscow radio station stated that the Russian security service often considers principles of humanity in deciding whom to release. It seems no other person in Russia today fits that definition. This man is sick, he is innocent, and he needs to be released.

Again, I want to thank the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PETERSON) for his great leadership on this case.

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. WALDEN), and I want to also thank the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH) for his eloquent response to this important issue.

Mr. WALDEN of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from yielding me this time, and I thank both the chairman and the subcommittee chairman for their work in bringing this measure forward; and to my colleague, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PETERSON), I thank him for his tireless efforts in trying to seek Mr. Pope's release.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge support for H. Con. Res. 404 and make clear our message to the Russian Government. Edmund Pope must be released from prison, and he must be released immediately. Mr. Pope's deteriorating health simply will not wait for the Russian Government to accept what we in this country have long known: that Ed does not deserve his imprisonment and that the Russian Government cannot justify holding him one day longer.

For 191 days, Ed Pope has been denied his freedom. For 191 days, he has been denied regular contact with his wife of 30 years and his children. And for 191 days, he has been denied access to basic medical care, despite grave threats to his health.

2045

In an age when the access to adequate shelter and medical care is correctly viewed as humanity at its most fundamental level, Ed has been forced to endure deprivations that are downright abysmal.

The prison where Mr. Pope is being held is a grim reminder of a system of government that for too long has subordinated human rights. Ed Pope's harsh imprisonment illustrates Russia's continued hostility to the West, despite its repeated assurances that Russia wants to join the ranks of the world's civilized nations.

I am dismayed by President Putin's squandering of an opportunity to demonstrate to the nations of the world that a new Russia has indeed risen from the ashes of the old Soviet Union, a nation that values human rights and the rule of international law. But until Mr. Pope is released and the judicial system in Russia improves, this transformation will be incomplete.

If the question of Mr. Pope's guilt or innocence is to be debated, it must only be after he is allowed access to the medical care his condition demands. With the release of Ed Pope, President Putin can demonstrate that he is serious about eliminating the distrust and hesitation that has characterized U.S. and Russian relations for decades. Or he can continue to prolong Ed's unjust captivity and reinforce the

negative image of Russia, that of a secretive, enigmatic state whose journey to first world status remains long.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote for H.Con.Res. 404 and declare in no uncertain terms that the United States does not tolerate the treatment of its citizens in this manner.

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

Mr. Speaker, I want to commend the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PETERSON) and the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. WALDEN) for their diligent efforts on behalf of Mr. Pope. We are pleased to join with them.

Mr. Speaker, 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. 404.

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.

CALLING FOR LASTING PEACE, JUSTICE, AND STABILITY IN KOSOVO

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 451) calling for lasting peace, justice, and stability in Kosovo, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 451

Whereas on June 10, 1999, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) military air operation in the former Yugoslavia victoriously concluded with the withdrawal of all Serbian police, paramilitary, and military forces from Kosovo;

Whereas after the NATO victory, the international community mobilized assistance that helped feed and house more than 1,000,000 Kosovo refugees before the first post-war winter;

Whereas nearly 1,000,000 refugees and hundreds of thousands of internally displaced persons attempted to return to their homes in Kosovo in the belief that a peaceful, stable, and just society would be created through their diligent efforts, supported by the international community;

Whereas United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244 (June 10, 1999) established the United Nations Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) as the sole administration of the province until such time as its political status is decided;

Whereas some 2,000 citizens were illegally detained and kidnapped to Serbia by Serbian forces as they withdrew from Kosovo in violation of the Geneva Conventions and international humanitarian law;

Whereas an additional 5,000 Kosovo citizens are believed to be detained in Serbian prisons;

Whereas the international mission in Kosovo successfully negotiated an agreement with the Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA) to disband and publicly hand over its weapons;

Whereas hundreds of Kosovo Albanian citizens have been prevented from returning to their homes in the divided city of Mitrovica

by Serb Kosova citizens who are believed to be assisted by Serb paramilitaries who have illegally re-entered Kosova;

Whereas although the initiation of the recent operation between the NATO-led peacekeeping force in Kosova (KFOR) and UNMIK to confirm international authority throughout northern Kosova is welcomed, KFOR and UNMIK must fully implement their plan and take appropriate action to ensure that all residents are able to return to their homes;

Whereas the United Nations and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) have set the date for local municipal elections in Kosova for October 28, 2000;

Whereas the assertion of authority over the Trepca mining complex by UNMIK is welcomed and an assessment of its environmental hazards and financial viability should proceed as quickly as possible in order to maximize employment for Kosovar citizens;

Whereas although daily life in Kosova in the summer of 2000 is significantly improved in comparison to the violence, devastation, and chaos that plagued the region during armed conflict in 1999, more must be done to develop a self-sustaining economy that discourages the rise of criminal elements;

Whereas, in view of the disproportionate share of the military costs borne by the United States during the NATO operation, the European Union has agreed that it will undertake the major share of the costs for economic reconstruction in Kosova;

Whereas the European Commission and the World Bank have estimated the costs for the reconstruction of Kosova over the next 4 to 5 years at \$2,300,000,000, with nearly half that amount available to be spent by the end of 2001; and

Whereas the Foreign Operations, Export Financing, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 2000 (as enacted by section 1000(a)(2) of Public Law 106-113) capped United States pledges of assistance for Kosova at the subsequent Kosova donors conference at 15 percent of the total resources pledged by all donors: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That—

(1) the European Union should continue to bear the primary responsibility and costs for the economic reconstruction of Kosova, and take all necessary steps to ensure that its future budgets provide the required resources in a timely fashion;

(2) the administration of all baseline services such as police, sanitation, water, telecommunications, and electrical supply should be put into the hands of the people of Kosova at the earliest possible date;

(3) the strategy for economic reconstruction in Kosova should be focused on utilizing private investment and empowerment of the people of Kosova to take charge of their livelihoods;

(4) the United States Government should make it a priority to promote noncorrupt government and business practices in Kosova by providing judicial training and technical advice and assistance to police, border police, and customs officers;

(5) the United Nations Security Council should demand the immediate and unconditional return of all Kosova prisoners from Serbia;

(6) the international peacekeeping force in Mitrovica should take immediate measures to ensure that all the residents are able to return in security to their homes;

(7) all the citizens of Kosova should avail themselves of the opportunity to democratically express their political preferences by participating in the elections on October 28, 2000;