

southeast Europe to build a community of cooperating democracies and growing free market economies.

Again I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

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

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from American Samoa for his support of this resolution.

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 resolution, House Resolution 451, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

HONORING UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 577) to honor the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) for its role as a protector of the world's refugees, to celebrate UNHCR's 50th anniversary, and to praise the High Commissioner Sadako Ogata for her work with UNHCR for the past 10 years, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 577

Whereas since the founding of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in December 1950, it has become one of the world's principal humanitarian agencies with 244 offices in 118 countries and helps nearly 22,000,000 people in more than 140 countries;

Whereas on December 14, 2000, UNHCR marks a half-century of helping millions of the world's most vulnerable and courageous people;

Whereas UNHCR continues to fulfill its mandate, as adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on December 14, 1950, to provide international protection to refugees and persons seeking asylum and to seek durable solutions to their problems;

Whereas UNHCR has worked to ensure respect of refugees' basic human rights and adherence to the principle of nonrefoulement, which prohibits the expulsion and return of refugees to countries or territories where their lives or freedom would be threatened;

Whereas the United States and its citizens have long welcomed refugees to our shores;

Whereas, although UNHCR's responsibilities under its original mandate do not include internally displaced persons, it plays a critical role in assisting and protecting internally displaced populations in many situations, particularly where refugee and internally displaced populations are mixed;

Whereas the heart of UNHCR's mandate is protection, and UNHCR must continue to emphasize protection in choosing durable solutions for refugees, including voluntary re-

turn, local integration in countries of first asylum, and resettlement;

Whereas vulnerable refugees, particularly women, children, and the elderly, face special protection and assistance needs and UNHCR must continue to emphasize their needs in its policy and program efforts;

Whereas, in collaboration with other international agencies and nongovernmental organizations, UNHCR has shaped policies on which the international community can agree to move forward on peacefully resolving refugee situations;

Whereas under the leadership of High Commissioner Sadako Ogata and her predecessors, UNHCR has made invaluable contributions for humanity by helping to promote peace and respect for human rights for all uprooted peoples; and

Whereas UNHCR has twice been awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for its service to humanity: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the United States House of Representatives—

(1) recognizes and honors the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) on the occasion of its 50th anniversary for its contributions on behalf of the world's refugees;

(2) expresses its support for the continued efforts of UNHCR;

(3) affirms its support for international protection for the victims of persecution and human rights violations and for the achievement of durable solutions for refugees; and

(4) calls on the international community to work together with UNHCR in efforts to ensure that host countries uphold humanitarian principles and the human rights of refugees, to lessen the impact of refugees on host countries, and to promote the safe voluntary repatriation, local integration, or resettlement of refugees.

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 this measure.

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

There was no objection.

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

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

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Res. 577, in observation of the 50th anniversary of the establishment of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. This measure honors the excellent service that the UNHCR has provided the international community since 1950.

This comparatively small agency of the U.N., since its inception, has helped ameliorate and, in many instances, resolve the plight of millions of victims of persecution and abuse. I would like to commend our colleague the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. HALL) for his diligence in making certain that this

Congress is able to record its immense respect for the UNHCR on the occasion of this important milestone.

We should also note that H. Res. 577 pays fitting tribute to our current High Commissioner, Dr. Sadako Ogata, who is stepping down after completing a meritorious 10-year tour of duty in this vital international post. During her tenure, Commissioner Ogata has seen the case load of refugees and persons of concern to her office rise to a total of some 22 million. These millions are indicative of the increase in wars, internal conflicts and natural disasters that have produced a tide of human suffering that has only been paralleled in the past by our most serious global conflicts.

The UNHCR has also had to exceed the terms of its own mandate as laid out in the statutes that created the office of high commissioner some 50 years ago by providing invaluable assistance to those vulnerable individuals who are internally displaced within the borders of their home nations but are also victims of persecution or human rights abuses.

As global events have become more complex, Mr. Speaker, the UNHCR has been able to adapt itself to meeting the new challenges these situations have presented. It is hoped, therefore, that this resolution, by calling attention to the good work performed by the UNHCR and by the staff of that office, will increase the support by American citizens and others around the world of the effort spearheaded by the UNHCR.

Accordingly, Mr. Speaker, I urge our colleagues to support H. Res. 577.

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, again I want to compliment the chief sponsor of this bill the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. HALL) and our chairman of the Committee on International Relations, the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN), and also the ranking member of our committee, the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. GEJDENSON).

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this resolution. House Resolution 577 honors and recognizes the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees on the occasion of its 50th anniversary for its contributions on behalf of the world's refugees. On December 14 of this year, the UNHCR will mark a half century of helping millions of the world's most vulnerable people.

As I said earlier, I want to commend the gentleman from Ohio for introducing this legislation on behalf of many of the hungry and homeless people around the world. The UNHCR, Mr. Speaker, has been mandated by the United Nations to lead and coordinate international action for the worldwide

protection of refugees and the resolution of refugee problems. It is one of the world's principal humanitarian organizations helping some 23 million people in more than 140 countries.

Mrs. Sadako Ogata has served as the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees now for nearly 10 years. It is one of the toughest jobs and she has done a magnificent and superb job of bringing both professionalism and compassion to the organization over her decade of service not only to the United Nations but certainly to the people of the world.

This resolution also calls on the international community to bring together with UNHCR an effort to reassure that host countries uphold humanitarian and human rights principles for refugees, to lessen the impact of refugees on host countries, and to promote the safe and voluntary repatriation, local integration or resettlement of these refugees.

While the resolution before the House does not deal with the refugee situation in West Timor, Indonesia, it is important, however, to remember the recent killing of three UNHCR workers who were helping East Timorese refugees. These UNHCR employees, including one American, were trying to bring order to the refugee camps and create a situation where the East Timorese refugees could return home. Their killing by the militias was deplorable. We must always remember the dangerous conditions which these workers are exposed to.

I would be remiss, Mr. Speaker, if I did not also offer my compliments and commendation to Ms. Kathleen Mazed who is the staff consultant on this side of the aisle of our committee for the superb job that she has done not only to this piece of legislation but three other pieces of legislation. I want to thank her and recognize her services for doing this.

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

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 5 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH), chairman of the Subcommittee on International Operations and Human Rights.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me this time. I am very proud to be a cosponsor of this resolution introduced by my good friend, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. HALL), whose commitment to human rights and humanitarian principles is well known. The resolution celebrates the 50th anniversary of the office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the UNHCR. It commends the UNHCR on its good work over the years and congratulates the present High Commissioner, Dr. Ogata, who will be retiring in December. The Subcommittee on International Operations and Human Rights made minor technical changes to the legislation and reported it favorably to the full committee which reported it out last week.

As the resolution rightly points out, it is important that the UNHCR never forget that the heart of its mandate is protection. Donor countries including a major donor, the United States, often forget this. Our own contribution to refugee protection around the world is about 20 percent lower than it was just 5 years ago and most other countries have done even worse. Moreover, countries of first asylum, to which refugees have fled from persecution or the fear of persecution, often wish they would go away. And sometimes the brutal regimes from which they fled are only all too happy to get them back. So there is always pressure on the UNHCR to pretend that mass repatriation would be safe when, in fact, it is dangerous or to pretend that repatriation is voluntary when, in fact, the refugees and asylum seekers are given no choice.

Mr. Speaker, we are the subcommittee of jurisdiction on refugee protection. We have had numerous hearings on many parts of the world, including Africa, the Great Lakes region, Rwanda, and I take a back seat to no one and my very good friend the ranking member, the gentlewoman from Georgia (Ms. MCKINNEY), has likewise been there and the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS) who was the ranker 2 years ago in raising concerns about people being forced back when they had a real fear of persecution and many of those people when forced back have come to a very untimely and unfortunate fate. Occasionally, as in the so-called comprehensive plan of action, for example, asylum seekers from Indochina, the UNHCR in that case yielded to pressure. On these occasions, I and other Members as I have pointed out were among UNHCR's strongest critics. However, on many, many other occasions, the UNHCR has stood for the principle of protection, even at great risk to its own institutional interests. This resolution celebrates those instances of courage, those instances of compassion over the last 50 years and particularly during the stewardship of Dr. Ogata.

I support this resolution and urge my colleagues to support it.

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH) for his strong advocacy of this measure.

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

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

I want to say, Mr. Speaker, if there is ever a champion and someone anywhere in the four corners of the world that I will travel as someone to attend with me when we talk about human rights is none other than the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH). I want to commend him for that. I know that the situation in West Papua, New Guinea now is burning up to a situation given the fact that some 300,000 West Papains were murdered, tortured, and killed by the Indonesian military since 1963.

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We can go on, but I want to thank the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH); and I thank the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN) also for his outstanding leadership when it comes to the issue of human rights.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from American Samoa (Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA) for his leadership on these measures we have had before us at this late hour, and I want to thank the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH) for his advocacy.

Mr. HALL of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I also want to thank Chairman GILMAN and SAM GEJDENSON and CHRIS SMITH for their leadership in moving this resolution through Committee and for their strong support of the bill.

I am proud to be the sponsor of H. Res. 577 which honors and recognizes the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) on the occasion of its 50th anniversary for its contributions on behalf of the world's refugees. On December 14, 2000, UNHCR will mark a half-century of helping millions of the world's most vulnerable people.

UNHCR has been mandated by the United Nations to lead and coordinate international action for the world-wide protection of refugees and the resolution of refugee problems. It is one of the world's principal humanitarian organizations helping 23 million people in more than 140 countries.

Madam Sadako Ogata has served as the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees now for nearly ten years. It is a tough job, and Madam Ogata has performed superbly, bringing both professionalism and compassion to the organization over her decade of service.

This resolution also calls on the international community to work together with UNHCR in efforts to ensure that host countries uphold humanitarian and human rights principles for refugees, to lessen the impact of refugees on host countries, and to promote the safe voluntary repatriation, local integration, or resettlement of refugees.

I would urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

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 resolution, H. Res. 577, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PROVIDING FOR VOTING IN MILITARY INSTALLATIONS

Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5174) to amend