

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

(1) congratulates the Republic of Armenia on the occasion of the 1700th anniversary of the acceptance of Christianity in Armenia;

(2) welcomes His Holiness Karekin II, Supreme Patriarch and Catholicos of All Armenians, on his visit to the United States; and

(3) joins with the people of Armenia, the Armenian Church in America, and His Holiness Karekin II in celebrating the ideals and values they share with the people of the United States.

The concurrent resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. WICKER. 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. 139.

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

There was no objection.

ADDITIONAL MEASURES WITH RESPECT TO PROHIBITING THE IMPORTATION OF ROUGH DIAMONDS FROM SIERRA LEONE—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 107-75)

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, without objection, referred to the Committee on International Relations and ordered to be printed:

To the Congress of the United States:

Pursuant to section 204(b) of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, 50 U.S.C. 1703(b) (IEEPA), and section 301 of the National Emergencies Act, 50 U.S.C. 1631, I hereby report that I have exercised my statutory authority to expand the scope of an existing national emergency in response to the unusual and extraordinary threat posed to the foreign policy of the United States by the Government of Liberia's complicity in the illicit trade in diamonds from Sierra Leone by the insurgent Revolutionary United Front of Sierra Leone (RUF) and by the Government of Liberia's other forms of support for the RUF. I also have exercised my statutory authority to issue an Executive Order that prohibits the importation into the United States of all rough diamonds from Liberia, whether or not such diamonds originated in Liberia. These actions are mandated in part by United Nations Security Council Resolution 1343 of March 7, 2001.

The Secretary of the Treasury, in consultation with the Secretary of State, is authorized to issue regulations in exercise of my authorities under the IEEPA and the United Nations Participation Act, 22 U.S.C. 287c,

to implement this prohibition. All Federal agencies are also directed to take actions within their authority to carry out the provisions of the Executive Order.

I am enclosing a copy of the Executive Order I have issued. The Order was effective at 12:01 a.m. eastern daylight time on May 23, 2001.

I have authorized these measures in furtherance of Executive Order 13194 of January 18, 2001, and in response to the Government of Liberia's continuing facilitation of and participation in the RUF's illicit trade in diamonds from Sierra Leone and its other forms of support for the RUF. The Government of Liberia's actions in this regard constitute an unusual and extraordinary threat to the foreign policy of the United States because they directly challenge United States foreign policy objectives in the region and the rule-based international order that is crucial to the peace and prosperity of the United States.

In Executive Order 13194, President Clinton responded to the RUF's illicit arms-for-diamonds trade that fuels the brutal, decade-long civil war in Sierra Leone by declaring a national emergency and, consistent with United Nations Security Council Resolution 1306, by prohibiting the importation into the United States of all rough diamonds from Sierra Leone except for those importations controlled through the certificate of origin regime of the Government of Sierra Leone. In a report issued on December 14, 2000, the United Nations Panel of Experts established pursuant to resolution 1306 found that diamonds represent a major and primary source of income for the RUF to sustain and advance its military activities; that the bulk of the RUF diamonds leaves Sierra Leone through Liberia; and that such illicit trade cannot be conducted without the permission and involvement of Liberian government officials at the highest levels. The Panel recommended, among other things, a complete embargo on all diamonds from Liberia until Liberia demonstrates convincingly that it is no longer involved in the trafficking of arms to, or diamonds from, Sierra Leone.

On March 7, 2001, the Security Council unanimously adopted resolution 1343 to impose sanctions against the Government of Liberia. The resolution determined that the Government of Liberia's active support for the RUF in Sierra Leone and other armed rebel groups in neighboring countries constitutes a threat to international peace and security in the region and decided that all states shall impose an immediate arms embargo on Liberia and also shall impose travel and diamond bans on Liberia on May 7, 2001, unless the Council determined before that date that the Government of Liberia had ceased its support for the RUF and for other armed rebel groups and, in particular, had taken a number of concrete steps identified in the resolution.

In furtherance of this resolution, the Secretaries of State, Commerce, and Defense have taken steps, under their respective authorities, to implement the arms embargo.

With regard to the travel ban and diamond embargo, the Government of Liberia has failed, notwithstanding the two-month implementation period granted by resolution 1343, to honor its commitments to cease its support for the RUF and other armed rebel groups. As a result, the Security Council did not determine that Liberia has complied with the demands of the Council.

In Proclamation 7359 of October 10, 2000, President Clinton suspended the entry as immigrants and nonimmigrants of persons who plan, engage in, or benefit from activities that support the RUF or that otherwise impede the peace process in Sierra Leone. The application of that Proclamation implements the travel ban imposed by resolution 1343.

Finally, for the reasons discussed above and in the enclosed Executive Order, I also have found that the Government of Liberia's continuing facilitation of and participation in the RUF's illicit trade in diamonds from Sierra Leone and its other forms of support for the RUF contribute to the unusual and extraordinary threat to the foreign policy of the United States described in Executive Order 13194 with respect to which the President declared a national emergency. In order to deal with that threat, and consistent with resolution 1343 and this finding, I have taken action to prohibit the importation into the United States of all rough diamonds from Liberia, whether or not such diamonds originated there, in order to contribute to the international effort to bring a prompt end to the illicit arms-for-diamonds trade by which the RUF perpetuates the tragic conflict in Sierra Leone. This action, as well as those discussed above, also expresses our outrage at the Government of Liberia's ongoing contribution to human suffering in Sierra Leone and other neighboring countries, as well as its continuing failure to abide by international norms and the rule of law.

GEORGE W. BUSH.
THE WHITE HOUSE, May 23, 2001.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2001, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

A LOOK BACK AT THE BATTLE OF IWO JIMA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, everybody knows about Iwo Jima and the horrible battle that took place there back in 1945.

This weekend an organization called Freedom Alliance is going to have a number of specials on this on the Fox News Channel, and I hope all of my colleagues have a chance to see this.

The Freedom Alliance founder and Honorary Chairman, Lieutenant Colonel Oliver North, will be hosting a 60-minute documentary this weekend on the Fox News channel outlining the bloody battle, Iwo Jima during World War II.

He will interview survivors from Iwo Jima and Marines who played crucial roles in the pivotal battle in the Pacific for the special which is entitled War Stories with Oliver North.

This will air three times on the Fox News channel over Memorial Day weekend. I urge all of my colleagues to watch. The times and dates are as follows: on Saturday, May 26 at 10 p.m. Eastern; 7 p.m. Pacific it will be on; Sunday, May 27, 8 p.m. Eastern; 5 p.m. Pacific; and Monday, May 28, noon Eastern, 9 a.m. Pacific.

The battle for Iwo Jima which was fought during February and March of 1945 was one of the bloodiest battles of World War II, nearly 7,000 U.S. military personnel lost their lives and 16,000 were wounded. Most of them were Marines.

Mr. Speaker, when the island was secured on February 23, 1945, five Marines and one Navy Corpsman raised the Stars and Stripes on Mt. Suribachi, the highest point on the island. Associated Press photographer Joe Rosenthal captured the historic moment on film and the Marines Corps War Memorial, which now stands at the north end of Arlington National Cemetery in Washington, was sculpted from that famous photograph.

This fascinating and informative television special this weekend is worth all of our time. I hope my colleagues will watch it.

On this Memorial Day, Oliver North and the Freedom Alliance salute all the men and women of our Armed Forces whose lives were taken in the defense of America's liberty. We continue to pray also for the safety of our soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines who serve today.

Mr. Speaker, I hope all of my colleagues will take the time this weekend to watch this very important.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. CAPITO). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. LIPINSKI) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. LIPINSKI addressed the House. His remarks will appear here after in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. SCHAFFER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. SCHAFFER addressed the House. His remarks will appear here after in the Extensions of Remarks.)

REBUTTING ARGUMENTS OF MOTION TO INSTRUCT ON H.R. 1836

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Mr. SHERMAN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SHERMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise to use these 5 minutes to rebut some of the recent comments of the gentleman from California (Mr. THOMAS), chairman of the Committee on Ways and Means.

He stood here and he urged that the House not vote for the motion to instruct put forward by the Democratic side. His argument was that that motion committed this House to provide for alternative minimum tax relief, marriage penalty relief, R&D credit extension, and that the Democratic tax alternative had not provided for each of those items.

Let me put it into context. The Democrats came here with an alternative that provided only \$750 billion. It sounds odd, only \$750 billion, but that is a much smaller sum than the \$1.35 trillion that the Republican tax bill provides.

My colleagues can be certain that if we Democrats had thought the country could afford a \$1.35 trillion tax cut, that we would not have left out AMT relief, and we would never come to this floor and give with the right hand income tax relief and then take it back with the alternative minimum tax, the portions of the Internal Revenue Code that do not apply to many Americans today, but will apply under the tax bill brought forward by the majority.

We Democrats would not come with a \$1.35 trillion tax cut that left out pension reform or left out the R&D tax credit. A number of Republicans did not vote for that motion to instruct, but I urge them to work behind the scenes to make sure that the conference follows those instructions, otherwise that conference will be tempted to put virtually all of that \$1.35 trillion in tax relief in the hands of the wealthiest 1 percent of Americans and to leave out pension reform, to leave the IRAs at a mere 2K instead of the \$5,000 that should be allowed.

That conference committee will be tempted to leave out marriage penalty relief or to leave ordinary working families subject to an alternative minimum tax that was never designed to apply to them. That conference committee may be tempted to do so because they will believe that they can provide \$1.35 trillion in tax relief to the very wealthy and then come back again with another tax cut bill for the AMT and another tax cut bill to extend the R&D tax credit, but beware, the Senate may be in other hands very soon.

We may have a majority leader who says that \$1.35 trillion is all the tax relief that America can afford. We may have 41 Senators not willing to end debate on any bill that expands that tax cut to way beyond what is prudent. So the tax bill my colleagues vote for

today or tomorrow or at the end of this week may be the only tax relief bill you vote for. If that bill provides only huge cuts to the very wealthy and does not deal with the AMT and the R&D tax credit, does not provide any estate tax relief, although I think my colleagues can be pretty sure it will in that one area, if that one bill leaves the IRA at a mere 2K, then my colleagues' constituents will say we heard about the big tax cut, where is ours?

My colleagues will have to say I did not vote for the Democratic motion to instruct, and we ended up with a \$1.3 trillion tax cut that left you out. I could have done something about it, but I did not because I wanted to stick with my party.

We may only have one tax cut bill this year. We may have only one tax cut bill this Congress, and I hope that those on the other side will work behind the scenes, will have access to the unipartisan conference that is really drawing the tax bill, and will say do not leave these critical elements out and do not assume that you can feast on appetizers now and eat the meal later.

The diet only provides for \$1.35 trillion in tax cuts, but then the gentleman from Kern County went on to make some statements not about the motion to recommit but rather about the energy crisis in California. And I am sure he will be here tomorrow to explain or retract his remarks, but he said that California should not get any relief because our wounds are self-inflicted.

Do not join the California haters, allow California to regulate the wholesale price of electricity and do not say that our people should suffer on the theory that our wounds are self-inflicted. We will be back an hour from now to detail this energy crisis and explain how the wounds of California are inflicted upon us by mega-corporations based in Texas and the only mistake we made was to trust, to trust those companies who are now taking advantage of this situation.

□ 2130

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. CAPITO). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. DEFAZIO addressed the House. His remarks will appear here after in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New York (Mr. ENGEL) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. ENGEL addressed the House. His remarks will appear here after in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. RUSH) is recognized for 5 minutes.