

Wisconsin (Mr. GREEN) and the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. GREEN).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GREEN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H. Res. 264.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. GREEN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS) for bringing H. Res. 264, expressing sympathy for the victims of the devastating earthquake that struck Algeria on May 21, 2003, before us today.

As many of you know, on May 21, an earthquake registering 6.8 on the Richter scale struck northern Algeria, 45 miles east of the capital of Algiers. This was followed with a series of aftershocks, five with magnitudes greater than 5.0, and at least 19 with magnitudes ranging between 4.0 and 4.9. These were the worst quakes to strike Algeria since 1980.

The impact was devastating. 2,268 Algerians were killed, making this deadlier than all of the other earthquakes in the world over the past 2 years combined, including the 2002 earthquake in Afghanistan which killed 1,000.

Thousands of buildings have been destroyed, and health services, water supplies, electricity and telecommunications have been severely disrupted. Confidence in the government has also been shaken as press reports link the high death toll with poor building construction and mismanagement of the housing sector.

The international response to this disaster has been vigorous. The U.S. contribution to the relief effort is currently valued at \$1.6 million, including \$827,107 in grants and relief supplies from the U.S. Agency for International Development Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance; \$424,000 in relief supplies from the Department of Defense/Defense Security Cooperation Agency; and \$368,000 in relief supplies from the Department of Defense/U.S. European Command. For other donors, the United Nations Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs and the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies are taking the lead.

Through this robust response, major catastrophes have been diverted, including cholera outbreaks. However, there is still a long way to go on the path towards recovery. Thousands of homes need to be rebuilt, and structures able to withstand earthquakes will need to be erected.

The great American educator, Catherine Beecher, said, "The delicate and

infirm go for sympathy, not to the well and buoyant, but to those who have suffered like themselves." Unfortunately, we Americans are no strangers to tragedy and loss.

Mr. Speaker, the people of Algeria and their government stood with us after our own tragedy of September 11, 2001. They have been stalwart allies in our war on terrorism, and now it is our turn to aid our friends in a time of great need. It is with this in mind that we now express our solidarity with and our sympathy for those who have suffered in Algeria.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this resolution, which I had the privilege of writing.

Mr. Speaker, I want to express at the outset my appreciation to my able assistant, Robin Roizman, for working on this resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I want to express my thanks to my colleagues, the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. GREEN); the distinguished chairman of our committee, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HYDE); the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. PENCE); and the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PITTS), for joining me in introducing this important resolution.

Mr. Speaker, H. Res. 264 expresses the deepest sympathy of the American people and of this Congress for the victims of the devastating earthquake that struck Algeria on May 21, 2003. This was the most tragic earthquake to hit that country in almost a quarter century. With a Richter scale reading of 6.8, the earthquake devastated the country, severely disrupted its health services, water supply, electricity and telecommunications.

The earthquake and its aftershocks have killed over 2,000 innocent people of Algeria, injured over 10,000, and left over 200,000 Algerian citizens homeless.

We immediately responded to this disaster by providing emergency humanitarian supplies. My resolution encourages our administration to continue providing assistance to the people of Algeria in this very difficult time.

The resolution expresses our sympathy for the Algerian people and calls on our administration to monitor conditions there and to continue providing all necessary assistance to the government and people of Algeria.

I want to note, Mr. Speaker, that we have in the gallery the distinguished Ambassador from Algeria, and I want to express to him personally our deep support and commitment to help in these difficult days for his country.

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I urge all of my colleagues to support H. Res. 264.

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

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. ADERHOLT). All Members are reminded

not to introduce or refer to people in the balcony.

Mr. GREEN of Wisconsin. 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 Wisconsin (Mr. GREEN) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 264.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds of those present have voted in the affirmative.

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

COMMENDING PEOPLE OF THE REPUBLIC OF KENYA FOR CONDUCTING FREE AND FAIR ELECTIONS AND PEACEFUL AND ORDERLY TRANSFER OF POWER

Mr. GREEN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 177) commending the people of the Republic of Kenya for conducting free and fair elections, for the peaceful and orderly transfer of power in their government, and for the continued success of democracy in their nation since that transition, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 177

Whereas on December 27, 2002, the Republic of Kenya successfully held presidential, parliamentary, and local elections;

Whereas these elections were widely praised by objective international observers as free and fair;

Whereas the Department of State stated that with these elections the Kenyan people "have made a strong demonstration of their democratic commitment and established an important example for the region and for the world";

Whereas the European Union stated that "the overall conduct of the elections constitutes an example for other countries in the region";

Whereas these elections signal a major step forward for Kenyan democracy, particularly when compared with other elections held in Kenya since it became an independent state in 1963;

Whereas the transition of power put in motion by these elections culminated on December 30, 2002, when former President Daniel Toroitich arap Moi peaceably transferred the Kenyan presidency to President Mwai Kibaki; and

Whereas these elections and the subsequent transfer of power from leader to leader represent the birth of a successful new democracy in Kenya: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) commends the people of the Republic of Kenya for conducting free and fair elections, and the Government of Kenya for its successful completion of a peaceful and orderly transition of power;

(2) expresses its desire to see this new democracy in Kenya continue to thrive, as it has in the months following the 2002 elections;

(3) urges other African countries to look to Kenya as an example of a working democracy in action and to follow the example set by the people of Kenya during this recent election process;

(4) reaffirms the friendship that exists between the people of the United States and people of Kenya, as two nations bound together by the shared values of democracy;

(5) offers its commitment to working to ensure democracy is able to grow and flourish as Kenya moves into the challenging future that lies ahead; and

(6) commends the Government of Kenya for its commitment and concrete steps taken—

(A) to strengthen democracy, human rights and the rule of law;

(B) to combat corruption;

(C) to provide free and universal primary education;

(D) to fight against HIV/AIDS; and

(E) to support the United States in the war on terrorism.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. GREEN) and the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. GREEN).

Mr. GREEN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, there are many reasons for us to agree to this resolution and to commend the people and the Government of Kenya. First and foremost, just months ago Kenya conducted historic national elections. Historic because they were nonviolent and free and fair. People of Kenya rose up and rejected a trend of unfair antidemocratic elections that have marred not just Kenya but far too many countries and elections on that continent.

As a firsthand observer of those elections, I can testify to the determination that so many Kenyans and so many nongovernmental organizations showed in building a process for voter registration and voter education and ballot security that is commendable. Secondly, Mr. Speaker, we should commend Kenya for what those elections were all about. The now president, recently elected President Mwai Kibaki and his party won the presidency and the majority of the Kenya Parliament on a platform of rooting out corruption and reforming the government process and just as importantly offering the nation and the Kenyan people free primary school education. This platform was not only popular, obviously, but it was the right thing to do. It is a crucial part of a prescription for a brighter future for a country and a people of enormous potential. And while the new administration is young, it seems determined to follow through on its pledges.

The third reason, Kenya is a crucial ally and a good friend to America. We have a military access agreement with the government of Kenya. Kenya is a staunch ally and friend even though it is located in a troubled region; and as

we all know vividly and tragically, Kenya has been the site of horrible and deadly acts of terrorism aimed at Western interests. Just last week we praised and thanked Kenya for its handling of the many refugees who have fled from Kenya's troubled neighbors.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that we commend Kenya for its successful elections and its announced plans to attack corruption and its plans to extend basic education. I ask that we thank Kenya for its commitment to fighting terrorism shoulder to shoulder with the United States, and I ask that we encourage Kenya to follow through in its promising first steps since the administration took over. The future can be right, it can be bright, and it can be uplifting if they follow through on what they have started.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this resolution. First, I want to thank the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. GREEN), my good friend and colleague, a distinguished member of the Committee on International Relations who has brought special expertise on Africa to our committee, for introducing this resolution which draws attention to the highly successful elections held recently in Kenya.

Kenya, Mr. Speaker, has traveled a bumpy road as an emerging democracy and has struggled with corruption, ethnic politics and questionable elections. It sounds like some other countries we know. Yet throughout its 40 years of independence, the Kenyan people have kept the dream of democracy alive, strived to build strong civic institutions, and upheld the ideals of democracy; and now this has paid off.

Mr. Speaker, Kenya is one of our strongest allies in our global war against terrorism, and it has paid a very high price. Many civilian lives were taken in the attacks on our embassy in Nairobi and a major tourist hotel. May I mention parenthetically, Mr. Speaker, that just this past weekend we were again forced to close our embassy in Nairobi, our new embassy because of terrorist threats.

The Kenyan economy, which is so heavily based on tourism, has suffered enormously. Yet the government of Kenya remains a staunch ally in our global fight against terrorism, a democracy in the face of this vulnerability.

Mr. Speaker, our resolution puts the U.S. Congress on record, supporting the people and the leaders of Kenya as they strive to build their democracy. They are on the right track. I hope, Mr. Speaker, that congressional support does not end with this resolution. Kenya continues to need our assistance in consolidating its democracy. The country needs our help in preventing future terrorist attacks and in rebuilding their tourism industry. I urge all of our colleagues to support H. Res. 177.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 177 which commends the people of the Republic of Kenya for conducting fair elections and maintaining a civil democracy.

Kenya, once a nation ripe with political corruption and intertribal conflict, has now established itself as an embodiment of democratic principle. Prior to the elections held in 2002, Kenya's system of government was used primarily as a means through which to achieve personal gain rather than the development of policies designed for the public good. The retirement of Daniel Arap Moi, after serving as president for two decades, ushered in a new beginning for Kenya's quest for political stability and overall sustainability. While intense power struggles and backroom deals among various political affiliations once permeated Kenya's government, the fair election of President Kibaki has given way to nation of openness and tolerance of different political ideologies within the scope of a diverse nation.

The peaceful transition of power has enabled Kenya to take on a more prominent position in the global community. Kenya has served an important role in fostering regional stability in the Horn of Africa. Kenya has invested a great deal of energy and resources in supporting the ongoing negotiations aimed at putting an end to the seemingly endless civil war being waged in Sudan. As the third largest economy in sub-Saharan Africa, Kenya has the potential to become one of the most influential countries in Africa.

Today Kenya remains a high priority for U.S. foreign policy interests. Kenya has remained a consistent supporter of U.S. efforts to combat terrorism on a global scale. However the U.S. should not simply reduce its partnership with Kenya to that of military and security concerns. Rather we should use this time of political calm to expand our range of interest to issues of human rights, democratization, and economic accountability. International donor agencies continue to fund a wide range of programs throughout the country as it is seen as nation of great possibility for economic growth and development. Research institutions, like the Center for Disease Control & Prevention, have made considerable investments in Kenya's public health system. Kenya's peaceful democratic transition has served as a humanitarian platform that other countries may be able to emulate. This point in time is a particularly critical juncture for Kenya. It will be important for Kenya to maintain its newfound sense of democracy as it attempts to sustain both its political as well as its economic stability.

Therefore I stand in solidarity with my colleagues in support of H. Res. 177 in hopes that Kenya continues along the path toward a peaceful democratic state.

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

Mr. GREEN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, first I would like to thank the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS) for his gracious and kind words.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. GREEN) that the House suspend the

rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 177, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds of those present have voted in the affirmative.

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

COMMENDING THE SIGNING OF THE UNITED STATES-ADRIATIC CHARTER

Mr. GREEN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 209) commending the signing of the United States-Adriatic Charter, a charter of partnership among the United States, Albania, Croatia, and Macedonia, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. CON. RES. 209

Whereas the United States has an enduring interest in the independence, territorial integrity, and security of Albania, Croatia, and The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and supports their full integration in the community of democratic Euro-Atlantic states;

Whereas Albania, Croatia, and Macedonia have taken clear and positive steps to advance their integration into Europe by establishing close cooperative relations among themselves and with their neighbors, as well as their promotion of regional cooperation;

Whereas Albania, Croatia, and Macedonia have already contributed to European security and to the peace and security of southeast Europe through the resolution of conflicts in the region and their regional cooperation in the Southeast Europe Defense Ministerial;

Whereas on May 2, 2003, the United States-Adriatic Charter was signed in Tirana, Albania, by Secretary of State Colin Powell, Albanian Foreign Minister Ilir Meta, Croatian Foreign Minister Tonino Picula, and Macedonian Foreign Minister Ilinka Mitreva;

Whereas the Adriatic Charter affirms the commitment of Albania, Croatia, and Macedonia to the values and principles of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and to joining the Alliance at the earliest possible time;

Whereas Secretary of State Powell stated that the Adriatic Charter "reaffirms our partners' dedication to work individually, with each other, and with their neighbors to build a region of strong democracies powered by free market economies . . . [i]t underscores the importance we place on their eventual full integration into NATO and other European institutions . . . [a]nd most importantly, the Charter promises to strengthen the ties that bind the peoples of the region to the United States, to one another, and to a common future within the Euro-Atlantic family"; and

Whereas 75 Albanian special forces troops were sent to Iraq as part of the coalition forces during Operation Iraqi Freedom, 29 Macedonian special forces troops were sent to Iraq as part of the postwar stabilization force, and Albania, Croatia, and Macedonia all contributed to the stabilization forces in

Afghanistan, as signs of their commitment to promote international freedom and security: Now, therefore, be it

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

(1) strongly supports the United States-Adriatic Charter and commends Albania, Croatia, and Macedonia for their continued efforts to become full-fledged members of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and the European Union;

(2) urges NATO to invite Albania, Croatia, and Macedonia to join NATO as soon as each of these countries respectively demonstrates the ability to assume the responsibilities of NATO membership through the Membership Action Plan;

(3) welcomes and supports the aspirations of Albania, Croatia, and Macedonia to join the European Union at the earliest opportunity;

(4) recognizes that Albania, Croatia, and Macedonia are making important strides to bring their economic, military, and political institutions into conformance with the standards of NATO and other Euro-Atlantic institutions; and

(5) commends Secretary of State Powell for his personal support of the Adriatic Charter.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. GREEN) and the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. GREEN).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GREEN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on the concurrent resolution under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. GREEN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, the concurrent resolution before us expresses the support of the Congress for the Adriatic Charter, as it was reported favorably by the Committee on International Relations on June 12.

The charter was signed on May 2 in the Albanian capital of Tirana by Secretary of State Powell and the foreign ministers of Albania, Croatia, and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, the three remaining NATO-aspirant nations.

The Adriatic Charter pledges the United States to support efforts by Albania, Croatia, and Macedonia to join Euro-Atlantic institutions like NATO and the European Union. In this agreement, the three aspirant nations commit themselves to accelerate their democratic reforms, protect human rights, implement market-oriented economic policies, and enhance their mutual cooperation. Under the Adriatic Charter, the United States and these three countries pledge to consult whenever the security of one of them is threatened. For their part, the aspirant countries promise to continue defense

reforms and to undertake steps to enhance border security so they can contribute to regional stability.

Mr. Speaker, this Member urges the House to agree to this concurrent resolution.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this resolution. First, I want to commend the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. BEREUTER) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. ENGEL) and the gentleman from Florida (Mr. WEXLER) for their leadership on this important resolution, and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HYDE), our chairman, for moving it forward so expeditiously.

Our resolution celebrates cooperation and forward-thinking among the nations of the Balkans, a region that just a few years ago was engulfed in ethnic violence and strife. Our Nation, Mr. Speaker, has an enduring interest in the independence, territorial integrity, and security of Albania, Croatia, and Macedonia and supports their full integration in the community of democratic Euro-Atlantic states. The Adriatic Charter affirms the commitment of Albania, Croatia, and Macedonia to the values and principles of NATO and to their joining the Atlantic Alliance at the earliest practical time.

Albania, Croatia, and Macedonia have taken positive steps to advance their integration into Europe and have already contributed to European security and to the peace and security of southeast Europe through the resolution of severe conflicts in the region.

Mr. Speaker, I commend all of my colleagues who have worked on this concurrent resolution. I urge every Member of this House to support its passage.

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

Mr. GREEN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. BEREUTER), the chairman of the Europe Subcommittee.

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

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. GREEN) for handling this concurrent resolution and for the support of the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS), as well, on this very important resolution.

I want to begin by of course expressing my strong support for the resolution and thanking the distinguished gentleman from New York (Mr. ENGEL), one of our colleagues on the Committee on International Relations, for authoring the legislation and for working with the staff of the subcommittee and the full committee. He has long been a champion of Albania in the House, and I am pleased to be a cosponsor of this resolution.

As mentioned by the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. GREEN), this is a pledge