

land, and real poverty reduction requires that special attention be paid to poor farmers and to women who bare a disproportionate burden under poverty.

Mr. Speaker, Congress granted the executive branch unprecedented flexibility in how the MCA funds were to be expended, because the executive branch promised us that it would make it easier to achieve the program's objectives. Poverty reduction is one of the primary goals of the MCA. Early signs indicate that the administration may be squandering its opportunity to meet this goal. It may erode bipartisan congressional support for the program. I hope that this is not the case and that Presidential support for my legislation will allay these concerns. I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 4660.

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

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HENSARLING). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. LEACH) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4660, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

CELEBRATING 10 YEARS OF MAJORITY RULE IN REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Mr. LEACH. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 436) celebrating 10 years of majority rule in the Republic of South Africa and recognizing the momentous social and economic achievements of South Africa since the institution of democracy in that country, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. CON. RES. 436

Whereas the Republic of South Africa peacefully and successfully held democratic elections and transitioned to a democratic, nonracial form of government in 1994;

Whereas South Africa helped initiate and frame the New Partnership for Africa's Development as a new partnership between Africa and the rest of the world in order to place the continent of Africa on the path to sustainable development and to further the values of democracy and economic reform throughout Africa;

Whereas South Africa actively supports the South African Development Community, which promotes regional economic cooperation and higher standards of living in Southern Africa;

Whereas South Africa has made significant advances in housing by constructing 1,600,000 houses for the poor of South Africa;

Whereas, since 1994, 9,000,000 people in South Africa have gained access to clean water;

Whereas, before 1994, 22,000,000 people in South Africa did not have access to adequate sanitation, but 63 percent of households in South Africa now have access to adequate sanitation;

Whereas, before 1994, 60 percent of people in South Africa did not have electricity, but more than 70 percent of households in South Africa now have electricity;

Whereas, from 1994 to 2004, secondary school enrollment in South Africa increased from 70 percent to 85 percent, and students in South Africa now learn in a racially integrated school system;

Whereas the Government of South Africa has established nutritional and educational programs to benefit the youngest and poorest people in South Africa;

Whereas South Africa is experiencing the longest period of consistent positive growth, as measured by its gross domestic product (GDP), since growth in GDP was properly recorded in the 1940s;

Whereas F.W. de Klerk and Nelson Mandela share a Nobel Peace Prize for their work in ending apartheid in South Africa and establishing a representative government;

Whereas Desmond Tutu led the Truth and Reconciliation Commission to repair injustices among South Africans and improve race relations in the country, and was awarded a Nobel Peace Prize for his efforts;

Whereas South Africa has contributed troops to peacekeeping efforts in Burundi, Liberia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, and Eritrea;

Whereas South Africa President Thabo Mbeki has forged a relationship with President George W. Bush, making three state visits to the United States and hosting President Bush during his visit to Pretoria, South Africa;

Whereas South Africa has served as an inspiration for other African nations striving for democracy and the peaceful cooperation of many ethnic groups;

Whereas, after being isolated for many years because of the odious system of apartheid, South Africa has since 1994 become a premier location for large international conferences, a leading tourist destination, and the locale for numerous films; and

Whereas, in 1993, the Government of South Africa voluntarily halted its biological, chemical, and nuclear weapons programs and, in 1994, hosted the first conference in Africa on the implementation of the Convention on the Prohibition on the Development, Production, Stockpiling, and Use of Chemical Weapons and On Their Destruction, with annexes, done at Paris January 13, 1993, and entered into force April 29, 1997: Now, therefore, be it

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

(1) applauds the Republic of South Africa for the remarkable transition to a democratic government and the tremendous progress achieved during 10 years of majority rule;

(2) looks forward to a continued partnership with South Africa focused on a sustained commitment to the health of South Africans; and

(3) anticipates continued social development and economic growth in South Africa.

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. LEACH).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LEACH. 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. Con. Res. 436.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PAYNE) for bringing before us this resolution, celebrating 10 years of majority rule in the Republic of South Africa and recognizing the momentous social and economic achievements of South Africa since the institution of democracy in that country.

In April 1994, nearly 19 million South Africans went to the polls to elect South Africa's first democratic government. The African National Congress, or ANC, which had led the struggle against white majority rule in the apartheid system of state-enforced racial segregation, won control of the national assembly and elected Nelson Mandela, who had been in prison for 27 years for the crime of advocating democracy, president.

President Mandela was succeeded by Deputy President Thabo Mbeki in June 1999, and Mr. Mbeki was re-elected in April 2004.

Since the end of apartheid, South African leaders have faced the daunting task of meeting the great expectations of the black electorate while fulfilling the economic potential of the country. Half a century of apartheid and years of sanctions have decimated the economy and left most black South Africans poor and undereducated. High rates of unemployment and crime, as well as the specter of HIV/AIDS, continue to pose significant challenges. Still, South Africa's transition has been remarkable and serves as an example to all nations striving for democracy, reconciliation, and development.

This is a bipartisan resolution which has been given full consideration during a hearing and a markup by the Committee on International Relations, and I urge the support of this body.

But, again, before yielding to the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS), let me thank the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PAYNE) for his prominent leadership on this and so many other issues; and I would also like to recognize a former Member, Mr. Ron Dellums, for his leadership in Congress on antiapartheid efforts. And there are few Members in my career that I have been prouder to stand behind on an issue of such fundamental human rights significance.

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

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

I strongly support this resolution, and I urge all of my colleagues to do so as well.

When I first came to the Congress in 1981, the nation of South Africa suffered under the yoke of the brutal apartheid system. Few things in modern history were as palpably evil as

apartheid, an appalling system of racial discrimination. Under apartheid policies, 3.5 million African people, let me repeat this, Mr. Speaker, 3.5 million African people were removed forcibly from their land and from their homes between 1960 and 1983. Under one removal program called the Black Spot Removal Policy, 475,000 blacks living on their own farms in rural communities were robbed of their land, forcibly relocated, and reconstituted as a vast cheap labor pool for commercial farms.

Mr. Speaker, what a difference 10 years make. Today, South Africa has made a truly historic transition from the hateful and racist apartheid regime to a multiracial and peaceful democracy. In South Africa today, citizens of all races, all cultures, and all religions live and work together in peace.

In 1994, thanks to decades of internal resistance and comprehensive sanctions by the responsible segments of the international community, the apartheid regime ended; and it was replaced by a vibrant and peaceful democracy. We in Congress fought for 2 decades to turn our government's policies away from supporting segregation in South Africa towards democracy and freedom.

Throughout the 1980s, many Members of this Congress introduced legislation denouncing apartheid and offering sanctuary to both its black victims and to white citizens of conscience who refused to serve in the military and security forces of an apartheid regime.

In 1986, Congress passed the apartheid sanctions bill and overrode the administration's veto of that critically important legislation. With this historic congressional override, we put our Nation on the side of freedom and justice for all the people of South Africa.

I am proud to have been a cosponsor of that legislation and many other bills that kept Congress focused on the travesty of racial discrimination.

Mr. Speaker, with the passage of our resolution, we recognize the difficult path to freedom taken by South Africa's people. Unlike today where terrorists seek to change political regimes and social order with barbaric attacks on civilians, South Africa's liberation movements condemn violence directed at civilians.

The African National Congress led by their imprisoned leader Nelson Mandela, Walter Sisulu, Helen Joseph, and others understood that a future of peace could not be built on a foundation of terror, hatred, and fear. Instead, they fought through the pain of apartheid, embraced the ideals and values of democracy, and in the end shook hands with the enemy whose founding ideology defined them as less than human beings.

Mr. Speaker, South Africa stands today as a strong democratic ally of the United States and is strategically important to Africa's political and economic future.

We must do all we can to solidify further relations between our two nations and to continue our joint quest to bring justice, prosperity, and freedom to all of Africa.

On a personal note, Mr. Speaker, my wife, Annette, and I had the privilege of visiting South Africa during the crucial weeks when the apartheid regime collapsed, and it was a joy to meet and work with and see the leaders on both sides who were ready to build a new, peaceful multiracial society.

I urge all of my colleagues to support this resolution. I want to congratulate my friend and colleague, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PAYNE), for his leadership on this matter and our former colleague Ron Dellums, my neighbor in California, for his leadership on this issue.

Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PAYNE), the leader of this legislation and this whole concept, and my good friend.

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

□ 1930

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS) for the outstanding work he has done as the ranking member of the Committee on International Relations. I stand very proudly today to urge my colleagues to support H. Con. Res. 436, commending a decade of democracy and majority rule in the Republic of South Africa.

I did not believe when I visited South Africa in the 1970s that we would see a transformation of that apartheid-run racist government transformed by peaceful means. When the first elections were held 10 years ago, I recall the lines of people who waited for hours and hours in order to vote.

Let me say that South Africa has transformed from an apartheid state to a nonracial, peaceful and democratic form of government. The country successfully held democratic elections in 1994 to elect its first democratically elected president.

After being imprisoned for 27 years, Nelson Mandela became South Africa's first democratically elected president. As the first democratically elected president, Mr. Mandela laid the foundation for more reliable government and an economically viable country and is seen not only as a leader in Africa, but as we all know, as a world leader.

Before 1994, only 40 percent of the people in South Africa had electricity; now more than 70 percent of the households in South Africa have electricity. South Africa has made a significant advance in housing by constructing 1,600,000 houses for the poor in South Africa, a remarkable, remarkable feat.

From 1994 to 2004, secondary school enrollment in South Africa increased from 70 percent to 85 percent and students in South Africa now learn in a racially integrated school system.

Also, during this time, 9 million people in South Africa have gained access to clean water. In addition, the Government of South Africa has established nutritional and educational programs to benefit the youngest and the poorest.

As the world's leading democracy, we should applaud the Government of South Africa for the reforms it has substituted to better serve its people. South Africa has served as an inspiration for other African nations striving for democracy and peaceful cooperation through their many ethnic groups in their individual countries and look to South Africa as the example.

The 1990s saw the spread of democracy across the continent of Africa, once dominated by military dictators and authoritarian leaders. Nigeria held its second multiparty election this month, and despite reported irregularities, the elections were largely peaceful. The world also witnessed the end of white minority rule and subsequent democratic elections in South Africa, as we talked about. And Mr. Mandela has taken his leadership to try to find prospects for peace in Burundi.

Now Mr. Thabo Mbeki is leading that cause. Mr. Mbeki has done an outstanding job as the president, following Mr. Mandela, and his leadership is second to none on the continent. So it is a pleasure for me to join with my colleagues to say that the example set by Mr. Nelson Mandela serving one term and stepping down, I think, is an example we are all proud of.

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS).

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, like thousands of others across the world, I was involved actively in the efforts to free South Africa. I attended many rallies, participated in demonstrations, walked picket lines, raised money and was very pleased as a member of the Chicago City Council to introduce the anti-apartheid ordinance that we passed, which prohibited the city from doing business with the Government of South Africa until such time as their policies changed.

So I am pleased to rise in strong support of H. Con. Res. 436, celebrating 10 years of majority rule in the Republic of South Africa and recognizing the momentous social and economic achievements of South Africa since the institution of democracy in that country.

Ten years ago the people of South Africa were given hope for the redresses of injustices in the past. When they held their first nonracial democratic elections to parliament in 1994, many South Africans were poor, hungry, sick and homeless. But today the people of South Africa and the world can say that progress has been made to improve the lives of South Africans and the conditions of the country.

Before 1994, 22 million South Africans did not have access to adequate sanitation. Now approximately 63 percent of

the households do. Also, more than 70 percent of households in South Africa now have electricity compared to 60 percent before 1994. Since 1994, 9 million people in South Africa have gained access to clean water, 1.6 million houses have been built for the poor people of South Africa, secondary school enrollment increased from 70 percent to 85 percent, and students now learn in a racially integrated school system.

Furthermore, to help the poor and to improve the educational system of the country, the Government of South Africa established nutritional and educational programs to benefit the youngest and poorest individuals in the country. And while we cannot say that all of the problems have been solved or all of the needs have been met, we can say with assurance that the quality of life for people in South Africa, for the masses of people, has indeed changed and that is a tribute to democracy. It is also a tribute to all of the struggles of the people who helped to make it happen.

I commend the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PAYNE) for his introduction of this resolution. I thank the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS) for yielding me time.

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CONYERS), the distinguished ranking member of the Committee on the Judiciary. I want to pay tribute to the gentleman and his leadership on all these important issues.

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS) and the members of the committee. I am delighted to join with all of them in celebration of 10 years of rule in a democratic way in the Republic of South Africa.

I can remember the days in Congress when the question of sanctions consumed, as the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS) and the others here remember, a couple of years' worth of rather fierce debate as to whether they were appropriate or not. I think fondly of our former colleagues, Ron Dellums of California, Bill Gray of Pennsylvania, and those of us that are here with us now, including the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS) and many others.

The fact of the matter is that the turning point toward this 10 years of celebration of a democratic Republic of South Africa occurred because it was finally determined that the time had come that we would impose sanctions, that we would not approve of doing business or continuing relationships with a country whose government was so one-sided, so unfair, so oppressive to the majority of its citizens. And so it is in that remembrance and out of those memories of the struggle that I am so happy to join this evening in this decade celebration of how far they have come.

Obviously, all the problems are not solved. How could they be in 10 years

after the long reign of oppression that occurred there? But this was the finest hour of this Congress and our country to have played this leading role in making it clear to all of the nations of the world that we can no longer sit by and silently suffer that kind of rule.

The same situation regrettably still may apply and leave us with the same responsibilities now as applied then. I think now of the Congo. I think of the Sudan. I think of Haiti, all countries who are desperately in need of the continued support of this country. And that makes our foreign policy and the decisions we make in the committee that control foreign policy legislation so incredibly important.

I congratulate the authors of this very important resolution.

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

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my good friend and distinguished colleague for his thoughtful observations. Let me just say that occasionally, when we are downcast with respect to international developments, we must remember that there are lots of things we were justly proud of in recent decades, one clearly is the ending of racial discrimination, of apartheid in South Africa. And the second is the collapse of the Soviet system and its replacement in large part by democratic and free societies.

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

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HENSARLING). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. LEACH) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 436, 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.

RECOGNIZING IMPORTANCE IN HISTORY OF 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF ESTABLISHMENT OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS BETWEEN UNITED STATES AND JAPAN

Mr. LEACH. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 418) recognizing the importance in history of the 150th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the United States and Japan.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. CON. RES. 418

Whereas over the past 150 years, the United States and Japan have developed a strong,

multifaceted relationship based on shared democratic values and mutual interest in Asian and global stability and development;

Whereas the bilateral relationship between the United States and Japan was opened by a visit by Commodore Matthew Perry to Japan in 1853, the goal of which was to convince Japan to establish commercial and diplomatic relations;

Whereas the first bilateral treaty between the 2 nations, the Treaty of Peace and Amity between Japan and the United States, was signed by Commodore Perry and Japanese representatives on March 31, 1854, in Yokohama, Japan;

Whereas the Treaty of Peace and Amity signaled the end of Japan's long isolation as a feudal society and set the stage for the Meiji Restoration and for Japan's transformation into a modern industrial nation;

Whereas with the direct assistance of President Theodore Roosevelt, the Portsmouth Peace Treaty was signed in 1905, ending the Russo-Japanese War and earning President Roosevelt the 1906 Nobel Peace Prize;

Whereas as a symbol of friendship, Japan presented the United States with 3,020 cherry trees in 1912, which continue to blossom each year on the National Mall in Washington, District of Columbia;

Whereas the people of the United States and Japan worked together after World War II to reconstruct Japan and to ensure the post war emergence of Japan as a beacon of democracy and economic liberalization in the Asia-Pacific region;

Whereas the allied security relationship between the United States and Japan was launched with the signing of the Security Treaty of 1951 and further solidified with the signing of the Treaty of Mutual Cooperation and Security in 1960;

Whereas the United States and Japan, despite ongoing bilateral trade disputes, have long sought to promote economic cooperation and an open global trading system, and both nations serve as important and powerful markets for each other with over \$170,000,000,000 in bilateral trade in 2003;

Whereas the Government of Japan strongly condemned the terrorist attacks against the United States that occurred on September 11, 2001, provided logistical support to United States military operations against Al Qaeda and the Taliban in Afghanistan, and has been a leading donor for the relief and reconstruction of Afghanistan;

Whereas the Government of Japan enacted special legislation to allow the deployment to Iraq of Japanese Self Defense Force personnel to carry out humanitarian aid and reconstruction activities, and committed to providing \$5,000,000,000 in assistance to Iraq;

Whereas increased tourism and educational and business exchanges between the people of Japan and the United States have dramatically increased mutual appreciation of Japanese and American culture;

Whereas Japanese-American relations are further cemented by the enormous contributions to American economic, political, and cultural life by nearly 1,000,000 Japanese-Americans;

Whereas Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi stated at the ceremony commemorating the 150th anniversary of the Japan-United States relationship that the bilateral friendship "is as solid as it is because our countries share fundamental values like freedom, democracy, and free market economy . . . [w]e are a prime example to the world that people of different races and beliefs can share the same values and be true friends"; and

Whereas generations of American and Japanese leaders have steered the bilateral relationship between the two nations from the