

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

humble beginnings of the visit to Japan by Commodore Matthew Perry to the current status of Japan as the strongest ally of the United States in the Asia-Pacific region: Now, therefore be it—

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

(1) recognizes the importance in history of the 150th anniversary of diplomatic relations between the United States and Japan; and

(2) calls for expanded political, economic, strategic, and cultural ties between the Japanese and American people and their respective governments.

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. 418.

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 rise today to express my strong support for this resolution which was originally introduced by our good friend, the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS), the distinguished ranking member of the committee.

As my colleagues may know, this year marks the 150th anniversary of the beginning of relations between Japan and the United States. Even at that time, the middle of the 19th century, the United States saw itself as an emerging Pacific power and recognized the need for relations with Japan as a nation of profound significance in Asia and beyond.

Despite a 250-year history of isolationist policy under the Tokokawa shogunate, Japan's leadership was also becoming aware of vast changes taking place across the world and that the need to adapt as a matter of national leadership as well as economic viability.

The Treaty of Peace and Amity between our nations, signed 150 years ago, symbolizes the deep and abiding bond between our two peoples.

□ 1945

As Deputy Secretary of State Richard Armitage noted recently, "the Treaty of Peace and Amity was a document viewed in its time with both hope as well as apprehension; and indeed, over the years, this coming together of our countries, the collision of our cultures, it has changed us both, greatly enriched the lives of our peoples, and at times brought us turbulence and even tragedy."

The bonds between our two countries have stood the test of time, even surviving the crucible of war. They are bonds which are brought to the atten-

tion of Washingtonians every spring when those enduring symbols of Japanese-American friendship, the cherry blossoms, a gift from the people of Japan in 1912, bloom along the Tidal Basin. They are bonds that have been strengthened by our joint resolve during the Cold War, in our determination to foster peace and reconciliation on a nuclear-free Korean peninsula, and in the reconstruction of Iraq and Afghanistan.

Today, Japan and the United States enjoy a unique partnership of peace rooted not only in common interests but common democratic values. Our relations have never been stronger. These bilateral bonds are critical not only to the peace and security of northeast Asia but to the larger world community.

As former Senate majority leader Mike Mansfield noted upon assuming the position of U.S. Ambassador to Tokyo, the U.S.-Japanese relationship is "the most important bilateral relationship in the world, bar none." It is that relationship and the enduring bonds between our two great countries and our two peoples which we honor here today through this resolution.

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 urge all of my colleagues to do so.

This year, the United States and Japan are celebrating the 150th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between our two great Nations. My resolution commemorates this important event in our bilateral relationship, and it recognizes the significant political security and economic ties between the people of the United States and Japan.

Mr. Speaker, the first bilateral treaty between our two countries was signed by Commodore Matthew Perry and Japanese representatives in 1854 in the city of Yokohama, Japan. This treaty signaled the end of Japan's long isolation as a feudal society and set the stage for Japan's transformation into a modern industrial nation.

From the humble beginnings of the visit to Japan by Commodore Perry, the United States and Japan have developed a strong, multifaceted relationship based on shared democratic values and mutual interests in Asian and global stability and economic development.

After generations of close security and political ties between Japanese and American leaders, Japan has emerged as our strongest ally in Asia. Japan has been a leading donor to the relief and reconstruction efforts in Afghanistan. The Japanese government enacted special legislation to allow the deployment to Iraq of Japanese self-defense forces so they may carry out humanitarian and reconstruction activities.

Increased tourism and educational and business exchanges between the people of Japan and the United States

have increased mutual and reciprocal appreciation of Japanese and American culture.

The bilateral relationship has been further cemented by the enormous contributions to American economic political and cultural life made by nearly 1 million Japanese-Americans, many of whom live in my home State of California.

Mr. Speaker, the United States and Japan have developed a strong, mutually beneficial relationship over the past century and a half, which is now anchored on democracy, security, and respect for human rights.

As my colleague mentioned, each spring thousands of cherry trees given to the United States by the people of Japan blossom here in Washington, D.C., to the delight of both residents and visitors to our capital. The connections between the United States and Japan will similarly continue to blossom and to grow, and we will certainly do so for many generations to come.

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

Mr. CASE. Mr. Speaker, the signing 150 years ago of the U.S.-Japan Treaty of Peace and Amity, also known as the Treaty of Kanagawa, marked the beginning of a remarkable relationship between two great nations. It also represented a milestone in the history of each nation.

For Japan, which was emerging from two-and-a-half centuries of self-imposed isolation, the treaty marked the moment that it began its ascent to the ranks of the world's great powers. For the United States, which began as a small colony on the North Atlantic seaboard with deep roots in Europe, the treaty represented its emergence as a Pacific nation.

The Treaty of Kanagawa was signed in large part because the leadership of the United States recognized the importance of establishing a formal relationship with Japan, a nation that, in spite of its long period of isolation, was widely known to have a stable government as well as cultural and literary traditions that were highly evolved and refined.

While we all acknowledge that the U.S.-Japan relationship has had periods of difficulty, particularly the tragedy of the Second World War, it has, on the whole, been close, sturdy, vital, and mutually beneficial. The relationship continues to flourish today because both nations share a belief in democratic institutions, the rule of law, and economic prosperity. Both nations also believe strongly in building a foundation for both regional and global cooperation throughout Asia and the world.

We in Hawai'i have long had an especial relationship with Japan. Today, nearly 300,000 residents of our state (19 percent of our population) are descended from Japanese immigrants who first begin arriving in Hawai'i—then the Kingdom of Hawai'i—in 1868 to work as field laborers on our sugar plantations. Hawai'i's Japanese community has since played a central role in establishing modern Hawai'i's tradition of ethnic and social diversity.

Over the course of this commemorative year, I am hopeful that all Americans and Japanese will reacquire themselves with the

depth and value of the relationship that was established between our two great nations 150 years ago.

Mr. LANTOS. 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 agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 418.

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.

CONDEMNING ATTACK ON AMIA JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER IN BUENOS AIRES, ARGENTINA, IN JULY 1994

Mr. LEACH. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 469) condemning the attack on the AMIA Jewish Community Center in Buenos Aires, Argentina, in July 1994 and expressing the concern of the United States regarding the continuing, decade-long delay in the resolution of this case.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. CON. RES. 469

Whereas on July 18, 1994, 85 innocent people were killed and 300 were wounded when the Argentine Jewish Mutual Association (AMIA) was bombed in Buenos Aires, Argentina;

Whereas that attack showed the same cowardice and utter disregard for human life as the attacks on the United States on September 11, 2001;

Whereas the United States welcomes Argentine President Nestor Kirchner's political will to pursue the investigation of the AMIA bombing, as demonstrated by his executive order opening the archives of Argentina's Secretariat for State Intelligence (SIDE), for raising the AMIA cause to national status, and for emphasizing that there is no statute of limitations on those responsible for this attack;

Whereas it is reported that considerable evidence links the attacks to the terrorist group Hizballah, which is based in Lebanon, supported by Syria, and sponsored by Iran;

Whereas the decade since the bombing has been marked by efforts to minimize the international connection to this terrorist attack;

Whereas in March 2003 an Argentine judge issued arrest warrants for four Iranian government officials who are believed to have been involved in planning or carrying out the attack against AMIA and requested that the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) apprehend them;

Whereas the four indicted Iranians are Ali Fallahian, a former minister of security and

intelligence; Mohsen Rabbani, a former cultural attache at the Iranian Embassy in Buenos Aires; Ali Balesh-Abadi, an Iranian diplomat; and Ali Akbar Parvaresh, a former minister of education;

Whereas Hadi Soleimanpour, Iran's ambassador to Argentina in the 1990's, also has an international arrest warrant pending against him by Argentine authorities for his suspected primary role in the AMIA bombing;

Whereas it is reported that suicide bomber Ibrahim Hussein Berro, a Lebanese citizen, carried out the attack on AMIA;

Whereas it has been reported that contact was made by the Iranian embassy in Buenos Aires to Ibrahim Hussein Berro, who lived in a mosque in Canelas, Argentina, in the days before the AMIA bombing;

Whereas Argentine officials have acknowledged that there was negligence in the initial phases of the investigation into the 1994 bombing, including the destruction or disappearance of material evidence;

Whereas the first major criminal trial regarding the bombing did not begin until September 2001, and those who are currently on trial are former policemen and civilians who are accused of playing roles only in the procurement and delivery of the vehicle which was used in the bombing attack;

Whereas the judge who had presided since 2001 over the investigation and trial related to the AMIA bombing was removed in December 2003 due to charges that he bribed a key witness in the AMIA case;

Whereas the new trial judge, Rodolfo Canicoba Corral, deals with many other important cases and has few supporting staff;

Whereas on March 17, 1992, terrorists bombed the Embassy of Israel in Buenos Aires, Argentina, killing 29 people and injuring over 200, and the perpetrators of the attack also remain at large;

Whereas the inability to extradite suspected Islamic militants and Iranian officials has debilitated the efforts of the Argentine government to prosecute masterminds and planners of the 1994 AMIA bombing;

Whereas evidence indicates that the Tri-Border area where the borders of Argentina, Paraguay, and Brazil meet is suspected of harboring organizations which support terrorism, engage in drug and arms smuggling and an assorted array of other illicit, revenue-raising activities;

Whereas the Government of Argentina supports—

(1) the 1996 Declaration of Lima to Prevent, Combat and Eliminate Terrorism, which refers to terrorism as a "serious form of organized and systematic violence that is intended to generate chaos and fear among the population, results in death and destruction, and is a reprehensible criminal activity"; and

(2) the 1998 Commitment of Mar del Plata which calls terrorist acts "serious common crimes that erode peaceful and civilized coexistence, affect the rule of law and the exercise of democracy, and endanger the stability of democratically elected constitutional governments and their socioeconomic development of our countries";

Whereas the Government of Argentina actively supports the development of the "Three Plus One" (3+1) Counterterrorism Dialogue with Brazil, Paraguay, and the United States;

Whereas the Government of Argentina was successful in enacting a law on cooperation from defendants in terrorist matters, a law that will be helpful in pursuing full prosecution in this and other terrorist cases; and

Whereas the Second Specialized Conference on Terrorism held in Mar del Plata, Argentina on November 23 and 24, 1998, concluded with the adoption of the Commitment of Mar del Plata, calling for the establishment with-

in the Organization of American States (OAS) of an Inter-American Committee Against Terrorism (CICTE); Now, therefore, be it—

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

(1) reiterates its strongest condemnation of the 1994 attack on the AMIA Jewish Community Center in Buenos Aires, Argentina, and honors the victims of this heinous act;

(2) expresses its sympathy to the relatives of the victims, who have waited ten years without justice for the loss of their loved ones, and may have to wait even longer for justice to be served;

(3) underscores the concern of the United States regarding the continuing, decade-long delay in the proper resolution of this case;

(4) strongly urges the Government of Argentina to continue to dedicate and provide the resources necessary for its judicial system and intelligence agencies to investigate all areas of the AMIA case, including by implementing Argentine President Nestor Kirchner's executive order mandating the opening of the archives of Argentina's Secretariat for State Intelligence (SIDE), and to prosecute with due haste those who are responsible for the bombing;

(5) calls upon the international community to cooperate fully with the investigation, including by making information, witnesses, and suspects available for review and questioning by the appropriate Argentine authorities;

(6) encourages the President to direct United States law enforcement agencies to provide support and cooperation to the Government of Argentina, if requested, for the purposes of deepening and expanding the investigation into this bombing and suspected activities in support of terrorism in the Tri-Border area where the borders of Argentina, Paraguay, and Brazil meet;

(7) encourages the President to direct the United States Representative to the Organization of American States (OAS) to—

(A) seek support from OAS member countries for the creation of a special task force of the Inter-American Committee Against Terrorism to assist, as requested by the Government of Argentina, in the investigation of all aspects of the 1994 AMIA terrorist attack; and

(B) urge OAS member countries to designate Hizballah as a terrorist organization if they have not already done so;

(8) stresses the need for international pressure on Iran and Syria to extradite for trial individuals and government officials who are accused of planning or perpetrating the AMIA attack, and to immediately, unconditionally, and permanently cease any and all assistance to terrorists; and

(9) desires a lasting, warm relationship between the United States and Argentina which is built, in part, on mutual abhorrence of terrorism and commitments to peace, stability, and democracy in the Western Hemisphere.

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. 469, the resolution under consideration.