

Daily newspaper for daring to report on the July 1 pro-democracy demonstrations. This industry has always been the largest ad buyer for the paper. Pro-democracy legislative candidate Alex Ho was detained under suspicious circumstances on a business trip to the mainland in early August. He was accused of consorting with a prostitute and sentenced to 6 months without a trial. According to Asian media outlets, Hong Kong media moguls who steered their outlets towards Beijing's wishes in the run-up to yesterday's elections have been rewarded with political titles and easier mainland China market access.

In mid May, numerous Hong Kong voters called in to local radio shows to report that they were pressured to vote for Beijing's preferred candidates. Several callers reported being contacted by relatives on the mainland and told that if they did not vote for pro-Beijing candidates, their relatives on the mainland would face severe consequences. Human Rights Watch has recounted in a 42-page report on September 9 that one caller reported, quote, a senior staff member of my company asked me to vote for pro-Beijing candidates instead of pro-democracy candidates. To make sure I have done that, he told me to take pictures of my completed ballot with my mobile phone camera.

As the PRC learned to counter potential freedom through the Internet, so has it learned to twist the freedom of wireless communication into just another tool of oppression. On May 19, the office of legislator Leung Yiu-chung was defaced with excrement. This vandalism closely followed Leung's support in the legislature for a pro-democracy resolution. In June, vandals set fire to election posters in the office of pro-democracy legislator Emily Lau and wrote, quote, Chinese traitors must die on the wall outside.

In July, Hong Kong's Independent Commission Against Corruption, an anticorruption body admired worldwide, became just another blunt instrument of Communist rule, raiding the offices of local newspapers, including the South China Morning Post, Apple Daily, Oriental Daily News, the Sun, and Sing Tao. Even the ostensibly pro-Communist Ta Kung Pao newspaper was not spared. Some investigators remained on the scene for up to 10 hours. Journalists' homes were searched and many were not so cordially invited for further questioning. Since the commission is answerable to Hong Kong's unelected chief executive, C.H. Tung, it is unlikely that orders came anywhere but from the top.

All these examples constitute a strange melding of criminal elements. The director of the Hong Kong Human Rights Monitor, Law Yuk-kai, has said, quote, we believe the Ministry of State Security and Hong Kong triads are collaborating in this political violence and intimidation. Yet this campaign of intimidation and harassment had a goal more important than simply win-

ning yesterday's elections. It was about the PRC making Hong Kong voters understand that supporting democratic forces carries a heavy price. Despite the very real threats from the Communist regime, the people of Hong Kong still went to the polls in record numbers and they returned a near totality of the democratically elected seats in the LegCo. The people of Hong Kong have shown that they will not be intimidated or silenced.

Stephen Vines wrote in the Hong Kong Standard on August 4, 2004, "Those of us who work in the media have been accused of crying wolf far too often, but maybe we have not cried wolf often enough." According to Vines, the way to prevent such erosions of freedom is not to wait for dramatic events like editors being murdered in Russia or newspapers being forcibly closed in mainland China. "If we need to wait for the worst before speaking out," he said, "we will have waited too long."

More than 400 academics declared in an advertisement in the Apple Daily newspaper on May 27 that, quote, in the face of autocratic and political pressure, we will not be silent. The people of Hong Kong know that they must defend their democracy and their way of life against Communist oppression. Now it is up to us to remind them that the American people stand with them.

This House demands that Beijing guarantee all revisions of Hong Kong law reflect the wishes of the people of Hong Kong as expressed through a fully democratically elected legislature and chief executive. A high degree of autonomy is what was promised to the people of Hong Kong in the 1984 Sino-British Joint Declaration. Hong Kong's Basic Law stipulates that Beijing has authority over defense and foreign affairs but that Hong Kong itself should have autonomy for most domestic affairs, driven by an independent electoral democracy. Beijing's attempts this year, as in the past, constitute a blatant violation of the rights of the people of Hong Kong, of the Basic Law and of the People's Republic of China's treaty obligations.

An act of this Congress, the U.S.-Hong Kong Policy Act, directly ties our commercial interests in Hong Kong to the freedom of Hong Kong's people. The President of the United States has the authority under the act to suspend many of the special treatments we extend to the territory in areas including export controls, customs, air service and cultural and educational exchange because Beijing's ham-fisted violation of the Hong Kong autonomy violates that act. The Communists were caught off guard by the massive popular demonstrations in July, both this year and last. For ages, Beijing has maintained the belief that any complaints about autonomy and democracy were really veiled economic frustrations, that the people of Hong Kong could be satisfied with some economic sweeteners. Now perhaps the Communist regime may

begin to understand. Business interests can be purchased and bureaucratic machinery can be controlled, but the hearts and minds of the people of Hong Kong are not for sale.

Mr. Speaker, yesterday's elections were part of a broader fight for the soul of Hong Kong and ultimately the future of China. We believe that Communist China must follow Hong Kong's example of freedom, not the other way around. Hong Kong's 7 million people remain the best hope for freedom and democracy for billions of other people in China and throughout Asia.

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Res. 667. H. Res. 667 comes to us today after an unprecedented turnout in Hong Kong's election, which were held on Sunday, September 12, 2004. Democracy-oriented candidates benefited from a record voter turnout in an election viewed widely as a symbolic clash between the differing value systems of communist China and Hong Kong. This turnout is an important next step for the citizens of Hong Kong and their ability to choose their leaders in future elections. H. Res. 667 seeks to continue toward the path of a democratic elected legislature and calls upon the People's Republic of China to honor their obligations to Hong Kong. I urge my colleagues to support this resolution and support the people of Hong Kong in their quest toward freedom from the captivity of the People's Republic of China.

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

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the gentleman from California (Mr. COX) for his resolution.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. ADERHOLT). The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 667.

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 TERRORIST ATTACKS AGAINST RUSSIAN FEDERATION

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 760) condemning the series of terrorist attacks against the Russian Federation that occurred in late August and early September 2004.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 760

Whereas on August 24, 2004, 2 Russian passenger airliners, Sibir Airlines Flight 1047

and Volga-Avia Express Flight 1303, exploded nearly simultaneously from bombs believed to have been carried aboard by passengers, killing 90 people;

Whereas on August 31, 2004, a suicide bomber attacked the Rizhskaya subway station in Moscow, killing 10 people and injuring 51;

Whereas on September 1, 2004, a group of approximately 30 terrorists seized Middle School No. 1 in Beslan, Russia, on the first day of school;

Whereas more than 1,180 parents, teachers, and children were held hostage for 52 hours with no food or water;

Whereas this act of terrorism resulted in more than 335 dead, including 156 children, hundreds wounded and 190 still unaccounted for;

Whereas terrorist actions during the standoff were grotesque and cruel;

Whereas this attack parallels tactics used by terrorist groups around the world, including extensive preparations, the simultaneity of attacks requiring coordination, and the use of suicide bombers;

Whereas the terrorists possessed sophisticated weapons and training, including camouflage, gas masks, trained dogs, specialized sniper cartridges, and grenade launchers;

Whereas the attacks were reportedly planned by Shamil Basayev, a Chechen rebel commander, and financed by Abu Omar as-Seyf, a radical Islamic Wahabite, believed to be associated with al-Qaeda;

Whereas these 3 attacks represent an unparalleled level of barbarity against the Russian Federation;

Whereas the United States has provided medical supplies, medicine, and other equipment to help doctors cope with the injured in these attacks;

Whereas terrorism in the 21st century flows across national borders; and

Whereas the school children and people of Beslan, Russia have now joined the people of New York City, Moscow, Karachi, Jerusalem, Madrid, Bali, and many other places around the globe as victims of international terrorism: Now, therefore, be it—

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) deplores the series of terrorist attacks against the Russian Federation that occurred in late August and early September 2004;

(2) expresses its heartfelt condolences to the families of the individuals murdered in the terrorist attacks, expresses its sympathies to the individuals injured in the attacks, and conveys its hope for the rapid and complete recovery of all such injured individuals; and

(3) stands in solidarity with the Russian people in efforts to combat terrorism throughout the world.

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include any extraneous material on this resolution under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this resolution. I would like to begin by thanking the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HYDE) and the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS) for their support of this resolution.

Mr. Speaker, in recent weeks, the Russian people have suffered greatly from terrorism.

□ 1500

They have seen two airplanes blown out of the sky, killing all on board. They have seen bombs explode in subway tunnels, killing people who were just going home or just going to work. And then they saw the tragedy in a town called Beslan, in southern Russia.

And in Russia the first day of school is known there as “the day of knowledge.” For Middle School No. 1 in Beslan, it turned into a day of terror. As students and teachers and parents gathered for that first day, 30 terrorists stormed the school, and they took 1,180 occupants as hostage. They herded the group of children and teachers and parents into the school gymnasium, and they rigged it with explosives. And those who did not obey orders on the spot were executed on that site. And there they sat the hostages in the sweltering gymnasium for 52 hours with no food, with no water. Hostages stripped off their clothes from relief of the heat and did what they could to save themselves and try to stay hydrated.

These attacks were planned in meticulous detail with a cache of weapons and other equipment hidden underneath the school’s library wooden floor for weeks before the attack. The terrorists were well trained. They were very well equipped. They possessed gas masks and hand-held radios and specialized weaponry. They even possessed two sentry dogs as expertly trained as the attackers themselves. This attack reflects the tactics used by Islamist terrorist groups around the world, including extensive preparation, simultaneous attacks requiring coordination, and the use of suicide bombers in the attack itself. It was no amateur operation.

The end of the seizure resulted in more than 330 dead, half of them children. Hundreds were wounded, and still more were unaccounted for after the bomb blasts. Children were shot in the back as they tried to escape.

The bombed-out school leaves an unimaginable scene, desks littered with bullet holes, bloody handprints on tiles, body parts of suicide bombers litter the floor and the ceiling of the classroom, and on the chalkboard one can see in the film that the teacher had prepared an arithmetic lesson four plus two equals six.

In Beslan last week, caskets, many of them child-sized, were carried one by one for burial. A patch of land about the size of a football field had to be prepared for more graves because the town’s cemetery was not big enough to hold all the bodies.

Mr. Speaker, September 1 is Russia’s 9/11. The world has expressed its sym-

pathy for the people of Beslan. At the Russian Embassy here in Washington, D.C., hundreds have lined up to sign condolence books, including Secretary Powell and President Bush. Secretary Powell wrote: “As a parent, my heart and my prayers go out to those who lost children. The United States stands firmly and with solidarity with Russia in fighting all forms of terrorism. This tragedy will serve to energize our efforts.”

As Americans are now sending their children back to school across the country, this calamity has moved many Americans. Many have commented on the Russian government’s response to this war and to its policies in Chechnya and its anti-democratic actions in Chechnya. This deserves debate in appropriate forums. However, one thing is clear: nothing can justify this deliberate targeting of innocent children. The use of children as targets by these trained terrorists is reprehensible. These are children, again, that were specifically targeted. This resolution rightly condemns this establishment.

Mr. Speaker, the unfortunate reality is that today’s terrorism knows no borders. This killing has spread and apparently will continue to spread. The children and people of Beslan, Russia, have now joined the people of New York and Bali and Moscow and Karachi and Jerusalem and Madrid and many other places around the globe as victims of international terrorism.

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 express my appreciation to the distinguished gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE), my good friend, for introducing this most important resolution and to the gentleman from Illinois (Chairman HYDE) for facilitating its expeditious consideration on the floor.

Mr. Speaker, September 1 is usually a very happy day for Russian families. It is the traditional first day of the school year, when parents accompany their children to school. And at School No. 1 in the town of Beslan in southern Russia, September 1, 2004, began in a joyous and celebratory manner. Children were dressed in their best clothes, busily catching up with their young friends and with their teachers after the summer break. Festive music played for this important and happy occasion in the lives of these carefree children and their parents.

Suddenly dozens of masked, armed terrorists stormed the school, causing mass chaos and fright, and forcing hundreds of students and parents into the gymnasium of the school. It sickens all of us to read the eyewitness accounts of the school seizure or to watch the video which was shot by the terrorists documenting their bloody and barbaric actions.

Mr. Speaker, there is no need to re-live today the violent and despicable

acts which followed. The entire world has seen them on television in all too graphic detail. But we now know that for the town of Beslan, and indeed for all of Russia, September 1, 2004, will hereafter be remembered as a day of horrible tragedy and unspeakable crime.

September 1, 2004, Mr. Speaker, will be remembered in Russia as we in the United States remember September 11, the day when we recognized our vulnerability to the brutality of Islamic terrorism and committed ourselves to a global battle against those who perpetrate these dastardly acts.

The Beslan attack was not Russia's first encounter with Islamic terrorists. Just days before, these same people brought down two commercial airliners in Russia, killing nearly a hundred civilians; and the suicide bombers struck in Moscow at a subway station, causing grief and suffering to families across Russia. Our hearts go out to the families of those who died or were injured in these tragic disasters.

Confronting, resisting, and defeating Islamic terrorism must be a global effort. The most meaningful contribution that we in Congress can make is to continue our commitment to carry on this battle until final victory. Today, as we remember the innocent victims of Beslan, the passengers of Sibir Airlines Flight 1047 and Volga-Avia Express 1303 and commuters and bystanders at the Rizhskaya subway station in Moscow, I want to offer the most heartfelt condolences of the American people to the Russian people and especially to the relatives and friends of the victims of Islamic terrorism.

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

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

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH), the vice chairman of the Committee on International Relations.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, first of all, let me thank and commend the gentleman from California (Chairman ROYCE) for his authorship of this very important and necessary resolution, and I am very pleased to join as a co-sponsor of H. Res. 760; and I join in the chorus of the Americans who stand in solidarity with the Russian people in their grief for those who have been murdered by terrorist actions. No words can adequately express the shock and sorrow that we feel at the events in Beslan. Our hearts go out to the people of Beslan as they bury their children and their neighbors. They have our deepest sympathy, and they have our prayers. Our hearts go out to the wounded and disabled, especially the young, who will bear the scars of terrorism for the rest of their lives.

This resolution properly deplores the terrorist attacks against Russia and expresses condolences to the families

of the victims. Their grief is our grief. Their anger is our anger. Their loss is our loss.

Mr. Speaker, there is ample reason to criticize Russia's military operations in Chechnya. I continue to believe that Moscow's strategy in that tortured region has been brutal, ill-advised, and self-defeating. As chairman of the Helsinki Commission, I have met numerous times with Russian leaders to protest their policy in Chechnya and have held a number of hearings, including with people like Elena Bonner, to protest what is going on there.

But let me make it very clear that there is no justification, no justification whatsoever, for the bloody violence that was perpetrated by cowardly terrorists who use innocent children to achieve political ends. If the terrorists thought they were helping the people of Chechnya by killing innocent people in North Ossetia, they were tragically in error. The people of Chechnya seek a respite from war. They and many in Russia want a just peace, not more carnage. Slaughtering children and traumatizing many more betrays the cause of peace.

Mr. Speaker, I trust this resolution reflects not only the sentiments of this House but also of millions of Americans that we represent. We mourn the tragic loss, the wanton loss of innocent lives.

And again I want to commend my colleagues, especially the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE); the gentleman from Illinois (Chairman HYDE); and the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS), ranking member, for their leadership on this important resolution.

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. WELDON), who will soon travel to Beslan, Russia.

(Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague and friend for yielding me this time and for his leadership on this issue. I thank the gentleman from California for his leadership.

I rise as a co-author and co-sponsor of this important resolution to send a clear, unequivocal statement to the people and leaders of Russia that we are with them, that we are one in their fight against terrorism.

Mr. Speaker, later on this week I will make my 38th or 39th trip to Moscow. This will be the most solemn trip that I will have made in my career as I extend the sympathy and the concern and the personal feelings of all of our colleagues on both sides of the aisle to our friends in Russia.

Mr. Speaker, it is outrageous that we have witnessed the kinds of actions not just in the school in Beslan but as has been described here today, the terrorist attacks on airlines, the terrorist attacks in hotels where many of us have stayed. In fact, many of us have stayed

at the National Hotel in downtown Moscow right across from the Duma headquarters.

□ 1515

That was bombed earlier this year.

The people of Russia have suffered much. Now is not the time for us to criticize, although all of us have differences of opinion with the Russian leadership on various aspects of our bilateral relations. Now is the time to come together unequivocally standing one-on-one with the Russian people as they did with us on September 11.

I would remind our colleagues, Mr. Speaker, that it was Vladimir Putin who was the first foreign leader to telephone President Bush after 9/11. It was not the leader of Great Britain or Canada or Australia; it was President Putin, who expressed his solidarity with the people of America during our darkest hour.

There were scores of Russian Duma deputies, many friends of people in this body and the other body, who were contacted personally as they expressed to us their outrage and their feelings of horror and shock and grief as America came under attack on September 11.

In fact, Mr. Speaker, I was in Moscow shortly after the attack and had a chance to ride by our embassy in downtown Moscow. You could not see the front gate of the American embassy in Moscow for the literally thousands and thousands of flowers and personal notes that literally thousands of Russian ordinary citizens had come to place by our embassy in Moscow expressing their grief and concern with what happened to us.

So it is appropriate that we take this time to stand up and let the world know that today we are standing shoulder to shoulder with the people of Russia. We are supporting their efforts to rid their country of terrorism, and we stand with them to fully investigate the details of the outrageous act that occurred at the school in Beslan, as well as the other terrorist activities that have taken place in that nation.

Mr. Speaker, we have come a long way in the last 12 and 13 years since Russia threw off communism. It has been a rough road. There are those who say that perhaps Russia has not done enough, there are those that say we have not done enough. But now is not the time for us to debate differences, now is the time for us to stand together, shoulder-to-shoulder, and let the people of the world know that in the fight against terrorism we are one and the same.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank our colleagues for their leadership. It was just 4 short years ago that I hosted the current Speaker of the Duma, my friend Boris Gryzlov, at the Republican National Convention for 6 days. He stayed with me. At the time he was the First Deputy Speaker of the Duma. He went on to become the Minister of Interior. He is one of President Putin's best friends. In fact, he ran President Putin's reelection campaign.

Boris Gryzlov reached out to me as soon as that attack occurred. In words that I can only describe as overtly emotional, he said Congressman WELDON, all of us in Russia share the grief that is being shared by the people of your Nation.

So to our friend Boris Gryzlov, who stands today as the Speaker of the Russian Duma, a close adviser to President Putin, and to President Putin himself, representing all of the people of Russia, America stands ready to pass this resolution, I hope with overwhelming support of both parties, because leadership comes from the most distinguished leaders on foreign affairs issues of this body, that we rise up and let the people of Russia know that they are truly our brothers and sisters.

We pray for those victims, we pray for those families, we pray for those young children. As a teacher myself, I cannot believe on the first day of school, which is a great day in Russia, as my friend and chairman outlined in his opening statement, that they would attack young Russian children, the most vulnerable of their society.

So, Mr. Speaker, I thank our colleagues, I look forward to working to pass this resolution, and, more importantly, I look forward to delivering this message in person when I arrive in Moscow before the end this week.

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

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, this tragedy brings the world's attention to a region of the globe that has been perhaps overlooked for too long, but it has also spurred debate about the next steps in an escalating conflict that transcends borders.

It should also galvanize debate about the threat that the world faces. As the bipartisan 9/11 Commission states, "The catastrophic threat at this moment in history is the threat posed by Islamic terrorism, especially the al Qaeda network and its affiliates and its ideology."

I believe this is what we are seeing in southern Russia. These are not criminals united by happenstance, but by militant Islam, united by ideology, doctrine and practice, its adherence drawn from Africa to Southeast Asia, from the Middle East to the Caucasus.

Al Qaeda's interest in the Caucasus is undisputed. Chechnya's lawless period of independence produced the conditions ripe for fomenting global jihad. Fighters, weapons, cash and ideology, much of it Saudi Wahabism, poured in from abroad.

Like al Qaeda, Chechen fighters have used front charities to secure funds. Benevolence International Foundation, whose assets were blocked by the U.S. Government for supporting al Qaeda, has also been found to support jihadists in Chechnya. In fact, evidence seized from Benevolence International indicates that it spent over 40 percent of its budget on Chechnya.

The bipartisan 9/11 Commission exposes other links, noting that several of the 9/11 hijackers, including Mohammed Atta, were headed to Chechnya to fight against the Russians. Only a chance meeting on that train in Germany with another terrorist caused the group to make the decision to travel to Afghanistan instead.

Several Chechens, including Shamil Basayev, believed to be the master mind of this school attack, received training in Afghan terror camps. Perhaps most telling, Afghanistan's Taliban was the only regime in the world to recognize Chechnya's independence in January of 2000 and to pledge it help in its fight against Russia.

Mr. Speaker, I could go on, but it is important to recognize these facts. It is important to recognize that this is the enemy that faces Russia, that faces the United States and that faces the world.

As I said earlier, many have commented on the Russian government's response to this war, to its policies in Chechnya and its anti-democratic actions. This is a debate we should have, but we should have this debate with a clear understanding of what the Russian people and what we are up against.

I urge the passage of this resolution.

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this resolution and would like to thank my friend from California for introducing it. Just over a week ago, the civilized world agonized over the massacre of more than 300 Russian school children who were returning to school after summer vacation when Islamic terrorists took them hostage and ultimately, took their lives. This cowardly and inhumane act occurred just days after two other vile acts of terror—the bombing of two Russian airliners, which killed 89 innocent men, women, and children, and the Moscow subway bombing that killed nine.

Mr. Speaker, there is no denying that the situation in Chechnya is a complicated one. Despite the mutually destructive history of Russian-Chechen relations, the acts of terror that have been unleashed upon the Russian people are inexcusable, inhumane, and are representative of the evil that we face today in the War on Terror. The fact that those who carried out these brutal acts purposely picked children as their primary targets further illuminates their utter disregard for the rules of law and the norms of human conduct.

Today, as we express our solidarity with the Russian people, let us take time to remember the fact that the War on Terror is a transnational conflict that requires strong alliances among nations both large and small. The people of Russia have a friend in the United States of America. It is my strong belief, that the murderers who took the lives of children in Beslan share ties with others who seek to wreak havoc within our own borders. Let those who wish us ill know that the United States, Russia and our allies will stop at nothing to destroy the global network of Islamic fundamentalism and all other forms of terrorism.

As the United States House of Representatives expresses its solidarity with the Russian people, I would like to remind my colleagues

of the other victims of terrorism that the world has lost in recent years. People have mourned the losses of loved ones in Bali, Jerusalem, Madrid, Jakarta, New York, Washington, Baghdad, Kabul and various other places. May their memories and those of the children of Beslan, the passengers on the two aircraft and the people on the subway be the rallying cry for our ongoing struggle against terrorism.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PETRI). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 760.

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.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES AND RECORDS ADMINISTRATION EFFICIENCY ACT OF 2004

Mr. PUTNAM. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3478) to amend title 44, United States Code, to improve the efficiency of operations by the National Archives and Records Administration, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 3478

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "National Archives and Records Administration Efficiency Act of 2004".

SEC. 2. EXTENSION OF RECORDS RETENTION PERIODS.

(a) EXTENSION OF RECORDS RETENTION PERIODS BY REGULATION.—Section 2909 of title 44, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by striking "upon the submission of evidence of need,";

(2) by striking "and, in accordance with regulations promulgated by him," and inserting "and"; and

(3) by adding at the end the following: "The Archivist shall promulgate regulations in accordance with section 2104(a) of this title to implement this section."

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Subsection (d) of section 3303a of title 44, United States Code, is amended by striking the second sentence.

SEC. 3. AUTHORITY FOR RECORDS CENTER REVOLVING FUND TO BE USED FOR THE PURCHASE AND CARE OF UNIFORMS FOR RECORDS CENTERS EMPLOYEES.

Subsection (a) under the heading "RECORDS CENTER REVOLVING FUND" in title IV of the Independent Agencies Appropriations Act, 2000 (Public Law 106-58; 113 Stat. 460; 44 U.S.C. 2901 note), is amended by inserting after "expenses" in the first sentence the following: "(including expenses for uniforms or