

humanitarian goods and agricultural or medical products. The U.S. Executive Directors of the international financial institutions would be encouraged to vote against financial assistance to the Government of Belarus except for loans and assistance that serve humanitarian needs. This bill also requires reports from the President concerning the sale or delivery of weapons or weapons-related technologies from Belarus to rogue states and on the personal assets and wealth of Lukashenka and other senior leadership in Belarus.

I hope that the Belarus Democracy Act will help support those who desire a genuinely independent, democratic Belarus and serve as a catalyst to facilitate Belarus' integration into democratic Europe. The measure is designed to be a counterweight to the pattern of clear, gross and uncorrected human rights violations by the Lukashenka regime. The Belarusian people—who have suffered so much both under past and present dictatorships—deserve to live in a society where democratic principles and human rights are respected. We must stand firmly on the side of those who long for freedom.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my support for H.R. 854, the Belarus Democracy Act of 2003. This important piece of legislation will take significant steps toward the democratization of Belarus and offer support for those living in the country and seeking a democratic process in fundamental areas such as elections, media and human rights. If passed, this bill will ensure that a fair and free electoral process will exist in the former Soviet state. In addition, this bill will work toward the development of a media that is non-state controlled and independent. Furthermore, this bill will establish training programs and methods of international exchange for the individuals that will advance the development of a democratic and civil society.

By placing specific economic sanctions on Belarus, the United States will send a clear message that major democratic reforms must take place in order for the country to become an independent state that is integrated into Europe. I am in full support of H.R. 854, and I urge my fellow colleagues to vote in favor of this vital piece of legislation, which will go very far in assisting the democratization process in Belarus.

Mr. HYDE. Mr. Speaker, I submit for the RECORD an exchange of letters concerning the bill H.R. 854 between the Chairman of the Committee on International Relations and the Chairman of the Committee on the Judiciary.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
COMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS,

Washington, DC, July 13, 2004.

Hon. F. JAMES SENSENBRENNER, JR.,
Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you for your letter concerning H.R. 854, the "Belarus Democracy Act of 2003," which was referred primarily to the Committee on International Relations and additionally to the Committees on the Judiciary and Financial Services. This Committee ordered the bill reported favorably on February 25, 2004.

I concur that the referral to the Committee on the Judiciary was based on §5(c), a sense of Congress provision that the President should use his powers under the Immigration and Nationality Act to deny entry to the United States to the senior leadership of the Government of Belarus. The manager's

amendment which the Committee will call up does not include §5(c) or any other provisions that fall within the Rule X jurisdiction of the Committee on the Judiciary.

I appreciate your willingness to waive further consideration of the bill in the Committee on the Judiciary so that the bill may proceed expeditiously to the floor. I concur, that in taking this action, your Committee's jurisdiction over the bill is in no way diminished or altered. I will, as you request, include this exchange of letters in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD during consideration of the legislation on the House floor.

I appreciate your cooperation in this matter.

Sincerely,

HENRY J. HYDE,
Chairman.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY,
Washington, DC, July 13, 2004.

Hon. HENRY HYDE,
Chairman, Committee on International Relations,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN HYDE: I am writing regarding H.R. 854, the "Belarus Democracy Act of 2003" which was referred primarily to the Committee on International Relations and additionally to the Committees on the Judiciary and Financial Services. The Committee on International Relations ordered the bill reported favorably on February 25, 2004, but as of this time has not filed a report.

The referral to the Committee on the Judiciary was based on §5(c), a sense of Congress provision that the President should use his powers under the Immigration and Nationality Act to deny entry to the United States to the senior leadership of the Government of Belarus. I understand that you have indicated your willingness to take the bill to the floor under suspension of the rules with a manager's amendment that does not include §5(c) or any other provisions that fall within the Rule X jurisdiction of the Committee on the Judiciary.

Based on your willingness to follow this course, I am willing to waive further consideration of the bill in the Committee on the Judiciary so that the bill may proceed expeditiously to the floor. The Committee on the Judiciary takes this action with the understanding that the Committee's jurisdiction over the bill is in no way diminished or altered. I would appreciate your including this letter and your response in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD during consideration of the legislation on the House floor.

I appreciate your cooperation in this matter.

Sincerely,

F. JAMES SENSENBRENNER, JR.,
Chairman.

Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia. 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 gentlewoman from Virginia (Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 854, 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.

□ 1945

COMMENDING PEOPLE AND GOVERNMENT OF GREECE FOR SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF 2004 SUMMER OLYMPIC GAMES

Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 774) commending the people and Government of Greece for the successful completion of the 2004 Summer Olympic Games.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 774

Whereas in August 2004, the Summer Olympic Games returned to Greece, their ancient birthplace and the land of the Acropolis, Homer, and Plato, reminding all of the origin of democracy;

Whereas the people and Government of Greece, through extraordinary diligence, energy, and imagination, hosted a successful 2004 Summer Olympic Games in Athens;

Whereas Greece demonstrated an extraordinary ability to accommodate more than 10,000 athletes from 202 countries, along with hundreds of thousands of spectators, foreign dignitaries, and journalists, and did so efficiently, securely, and with hospitality;

Whereas the 2004 Summer Olympic Games hosted by Greece proudly displayed the ideals of the Olympic movement, promoting mutual understanding, friendship, and peace among nations through noble athletic competition;

Whereas close cooperation between Greece and the United States on several aspects of the Olympic Games, including security, was consistent with the longtime friendship and alliance between two nations that have stood side by side in defense of a shared commitment to freedom and democracy for more than 100 years;

Whereas Greece provided the world with the unique experience of seeing the Olympics framed by ancient wonders such as the Parthenon on the Acropolis and the stadium in Olympia;

Whereas Greece displayed its modern achievements through extraordinary Olympic venues, world-class infrastructure, and breathtaking and high-tech opening and closing ceremonies; and

Whereas following completion of the games, United States Olympic Committee Chairman Peter Ueberroth stated that "history will record these Games as among the greatest, if not the greatest, of all time": Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) commends the people of Greece for the successful completion of the 2004 Summer Olympic Games; and

(2) agrees with United States Olympic Committee Chairman Peter Ueberroth that "history will record these Games as among the greatest, if not the greatest, of all time".

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MURPHY). Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Virginia (Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS) and the gentleman from Florida (Mr. WEXLER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Virginia (Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia. 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. 774, the resolution under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I might consume.

I rise in strong support of H. Res. 774 commending the people and government of Greece for the successful completion of the 2004 Summer Olympic Games, and I want to commend our colleagues, the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MEEHAN), the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS), and the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. MALONEY) for introducing this legislation.

For 17 glorious days this summer, with the spectacular setting of the ancient Parthenon and Acropolis as background, the Nation of Greece hosted the world to what has been referred to by some as one of the greatest games of all times.

As we followed the progress of the preparations, we realized it surely was not easy to accomplish. The costs were high, and the tensions associated with providing security for 10,000 athletes and hundreds of thousands of visitors and spectators placed great pressure on the government of Greece. But in the end, the world-class venues and infrastructure provided, the breathtaking opening and closing ceremonies and, of course, the competition itself afforded the world an unparalleled look at the energy, diligence, hospitality and imagination of the people of Greece.

All of Greece has a right to be proud of what was accomplished this summer. This resolution reaffirms that recognition.

I urge adoption of this resolution.

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

Mr. WEXLER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume, and I rise in strong support of this resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I would first like to commend our colleague, the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MEEHAN), for introducing this important resolution.

The 2004 Olympic Games in Athens recently unfolded before the eyes of hundreds of millions of people around the world, some watching in person, but many more on television. It is fair to say, Mr. Speaker, that the Athens games were an unqualified success.

Despite fears of terrorism or that key Olympic venues would not be ready, Athens was more than prepared to receive tens of thousands of athletes and officials from around the world, and the Olympic spirit thrived as athletes lived out their dreams.

These were truly historic games. The Summer Olympic Games returned to Greece, their ancient birthplace, for the first time. The games brought together people from all over the world; 202 countries participated in the Ath-

ens Olympics, including athletes from Afghanistan and Iraq.

The Greek people and the government of Greece, through extraordinary diligence, energy and enthusiasm, hosted over 10,000 athletes with efficiency and security. The Greek officials developed transportation infrastructure to ensure that athletes and spectators could easily get to all Olympic venues and practice facilities.

The United States and the government of Greece cooperated closely on several aspects of the Olympic games, including security. This cooperation solidified the long-standing alliance and friendship between our two Nations which stand side-by-side in defense of a shared commitment to freedom and democracy.

The 2004 Olympics in Greece showed us the best combination of a modern, world-class infrastructure and high-tech innovation, framed by the ancient wonders of Greece, the birthplace of Western culture and democracy.

Mr. Speaker, I want to join the sponsors of this resolution in agreeing with the United States Committee Chairman Peter Ueberroth that "history will record these Games as among the greatest, if not the greatest, of all time."

I strongly support this resolution and urge its unanimous passage.

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Res. 774, commending the people of Greece for hosting a successful and safe Olympics.

As co-chair of the Congressional Caucus on Hellenic Issues, it is my great honor to recognize Greece for its recent achievements.

I am very fortunate and privileged to represent Astoria, Queens—one of the largest and most vibrant communities of Greek Americans in this country.

I never had any doubts that Greece would be an excellent host for the 2004 Olympic Games, truly one of the greatest ever to be held.

For three weeks in August, the people of Greece welcomed the world to participate in an event which allows countries to set aside their political differences for a brief time to come together in the spirit of peace and sportsmanship.

Thousands of athletes from around the world returned to the birthplace of the Olympics to determine the fastest, the strongest, the best in each competition.

From the swimming pool to the volleyball courts to the track and field arena, moments of perseverance and victory will be etched in our memories forever.

As gracious hosts, the people of Greece showed the visiting delegations its beautiful historic and natural treasures, ensuring that they would remember their time in Greece for more than only their events.

We heard much talk in the months leading up to the Games that the Greeks would not be ready.

But they proved everyone wrong.

The venues were completed and were the sites of some of the most exciting Olympic competitions ever.

The opening and closing ceremonies were unbelievable.

The volunteers were phenomenal, and the transportation was efficient.

And most importantly, the outstanding security preparations taken in advance of the Games resulted in the safety of both the athletes and visitors.

The 2004 Games have set an example for how future host cities will prepare for this magnificent event.

The dollars and time spent on security were well worth the investment.

I am tremendously proud of Greece for what it has accomplished.

I am hopeful that its economy will benefit from the Games for years to come.

I am confident that millions of tourists are planning vacations as we speak to Greece so that they can see for themselves the ancient ruins and its gorgeous coastline.

And so that they can meet for themselves Greece's greatest treasure . . . its people.

I would like to thank my good friend Representative MEEHAN for introducing this resolution, and I urge my colleagues to support it.

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the distinguished Chairman and Ranking Member of the International Relations Committee for bringing this resolution to the floor.

I rise today in strong support of H. Res. 774, to pay tribute to the people and Government of Greece for hosting an unforgettable 2004 Summer Olympic Games.

This summer, the Olympic Games returned to their ancient birthplace. The people of Greece proudly displayed the ideals of the Olympic movement, promoting mutual understanding, friendship, and peace among nations through noble athletic competition.

Greece overcame daunting security challenges and safely accommodated more than 10,000 athletes from 202 countries, along with hundreds of thousands of spectators, foreign dignitaries, and journalists.

These visitors and the Olympics' television viewers worldwide experienced the games much as they must have been played originally, framed by ancient wonders such as the Parthenon on the Acropolis and the stadium in Olympia.

Greece also displayed its modern achievements such as extraordinary Olympic venues and breathtakingly high-tech opening and closing ceremonies.

In the words of United States Olympic Committee Chairman Peter Ueberroth, "history will record these Games as among the greatest, if not the greatest, of all time."

The United States and Greece have long enjoyed a deep friendship that grew from a shared commitment to freedom and democracy more than 100 years ago.

We were proud to work in close cooperation with Greece this year to ensure the safety and success of this summer's games.

I therefore join in commending the people of Greece for hosting an extraordinary 2004 Summer Olympic Games, and urge the House to pass this resolution. Zeto Ellas!

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my highest praise and congratulations for the magnificent way Greece hosted the 2004 Summer Olympics. I strongly support H. Res. 774, a resolution which commends the people and government of Greece for the superb Olympic Games held this summer in Athens.

The task of hosting the modern Olympic Games is filled with honor, but also presents

a colossal challenge. With dedication, commitment to hard work, and inspirational leadership, Greece met the challenge while proudly showcasing the ideals of the Olympics and promoting friendship and peace among nations.

As the host to the biggest sporting event in the world, Athens rose magnificently to the challenge and demonstrated the pride and honor that comes with such an occasion. The leadership shown by the government of Greece, and more specifically, the Prime Minister of Greece, Costas Karamanlis, inspired Athens to a great celebration of commitment, dedication, and human endeavor. The mayor of Athens, Dora Bakoyianni, was responsible for presenting the Olympics not only as a modern sporting occasion, but also as an ancient tradition with superb new modern facilities surrounded by historic and architectural wonder.

The Olympic Games left behind not only a memory of great athletic competition, but a legacy of peace, nobility, and honor that should be at the forefront of all international occasions. The Athens Olympic Organizing Committee, under the direction of Gianna Dasklaki-Angelopoulou, presented such a colossal event which surpassed all expectations. She and her staff succeeded in showcasing all that Athens has to offer, old and new, as the birthplace of the Olympics and a frontrunner in modern development. With Athens being the birthplace of the modern Olympics games and containing so many beautiful ancient monuments, there could not have been a more perfect setting for a truly wonderful celebration of athleticism.

The citizens and government of Greece put on a show that made Hellenes from around the world proud. As a Greek-American, I am most proud. I commend Greece for ensuring that the 2004 Summer Olympic Games would not be forgotten. I encourage my colleagues to support H. Res. 774.

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

Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia. 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 gentlewoman from Virginia (Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 774.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

EXPRESSING SENSE OF CONGRESS REGARDING OPPRESSION BY CHINA OF FALUN GONG IN UNITED STATES AND CHINA

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 304) expressing the sense of Congress regarding oppression by the Government of the People's Republic of China of Falun Gong in the United States and in China.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. CON. RES. 304

Whereas Falun Gong is a peaceful spiritual movement that originated in the People's Republic of China but has grown in popularity worldwide and is now accepted and practiced by thousands in the United States;

Whereas demonstrations by Falun Gong practitioners in the People's Republic of China and the United States have been peaceful, meditative sessions;

Whereas the Constitution of the People's Republic of China provides to the citizens of that country freedom of speech, assembly, association, and religious belief;

Whereas members of the Falun Gong spiritual movement, members of Chinese pro-democracy groups, and advocates of human rights reform in the People's Republic of China have been harassed, libeled, imprisoned, and beaten for demonstrating peacefully inside that country;

Whereas the Chinese Government has also attempted to silence the Falun Gong movement and Chinese prodemocracy groups inside the United States;

Whereas on June 12, 2003, 38 Members of Congress filed an Amended Brief of Amicus Curiae in support of the Falun Gong at the United States District Court, Northeastern District of Illinois, Eastern Division;

Whereas Chinese consular officials have pressured local elected officials in the United States to refuse or withdraw support for the Falun Gong spiritual group;

Whereas Dr. Charles Lee, a United States citizen, has reportedly been mentally and physically tortured since being detained by Chinese authorities in early 2003;

Whereas the apartment of Ms. Gail Rachlin, the Falun Gong spokeswoman in the United States, has been broken into 5 times by agents of the Chinese regime since the regime banned Falun Gong in 1999 in China;

Whereas over the past 5 years China's diplomatic corps has been actively involved in harassing and persecuting Falun Gong practitioners in the United States;

Whereas on June 23, 2003, Falun Gong practitioners were attacked outside a Chinese restaurant in New York City by local United States-based individuals with reported ties to the Chinese Government;

Whereas 5 Falun Gong practitioners were assaulted outside of the Chinese Consulate in Chicago on September 7, 2001, while exercising their constitutionally protected rights to free speech, leading to battery convictions in Cook County Criminal Court of Jiming Zheng on November 13, 2002, and Yujun Weng on December 5, 2002, both assailants being members of a Chinese-American organization in Chicago, the Mid-USA Fujian Township Association, which maintains close ties with the Chinese Consulate;

Whereas individuals that physically harassed Falun Gong practitioners in San Francisco on October 22, 2000, were later seen at anti-Falun Gong meetings and the Chinese Consulate in San Francisco;

Whereas San Francisco City Supervisor Chris Daly, after receiving complaints that Chinese officials were intimidating his constituents, authored a resolution condemning human rights violations and persecution of Falun Gong members by the Chinese Government;

Whereas Mr. Daly and the other members of the San Francisco City Council subsequently received a letter from the Chinese Consul General in San Francisco, claiming that Falun Gong was an "evil cult" that was undermining the "normal social order" in the People's Republic of China, and that Mr. Daly's resolution should therefore be rejected, which it subsequently was;

Whereas in November 2000, the former Mayor of Saratoga, California, Stan

Bogosian, issued a proclamation honoring the contributions of Falun Gong practitioners to the Saratoga community, which prompted the Chinese Consulate in San Francisco to write to Mr. Bogosian urging him to retract his support for local Falun Gong activities;

Whereas many local and national media organizations have reported that other local officials across the United States, including the mayors of several major cities, have been pressured by Chinese consular officials to recant statements of support for the Falun Gong;

Whereas journalists have cited fear of hurting trade relationships as the motivation for some local United States officials to recant their support for Falun Gong after receiving pressure from Chinese consular officials; and

Whereas the Constitution of the United States guarantees freedom of religion, the right to assemble, and the right to speak freely, and the people of the United States strongly value protecting the ability of all people to live without fear and in accordance with their personal beliefs: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That it is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the Government of the People's Republic of China should—

(A) immediately stop interfering in the exercise of religious and political freedoms within the United States, such as the right to practice Falun Gong, that are guaranteed by the United States Constitution;

(B) cease using the diplomatic missions in the United States to spread falsehoods about the nature of Falun Gong;

(C) release from detention all prisoners of conscience, including practitioners of Falun Gong, who have been incarcerated in violation of their rights as expressed in the Constitution of the People's Republic of China;

(D) immediately end the harassment, detention, physical abuse, and imprisonment of individuals who are exercising their legitimate rights to freedom of religion, including the practices of Falun Gong, freedom of expression, and freedom of association as stated in the Constitution of the People's Republic of China; and

(E) demonstrate its willingness to abide by international standards of freedom of belief, expression, and association by ceasing to restrict those freedoms in the People's Republic of China;

(2) the President should, in accordance with section 401(a)(1)(B) of the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6401(a)(1)(B)), and with the intention of dissuading the Chinese Government from attempting to stifle religious freedom in the People's Republic of China and the United States, take action such as—

(A) issuing an official public demarche, a formal protest, to the Chinese Foreign Ministry in response to the repeated violations by the Chinese Government of basic human rights protected in international covenants to which the People's Republic of China is a signatory; and

(B) working more closely with Chinese human rights activists to identify Chinese authorities who have been personally responsible for acts of violence and persecution in the People's Republic of China;

(3) the Attorney General should investigate reports that Chinese consular officials in the United States have committed illegal acts while attempting to intimidate or inappropriately influence Falun Gong practitioners or local elected officials, and, in consultation with the Secretary of State, determine an appropriate legal response; and