

Third, the bill makes discretionary the convening of an Accountability Review Board in the case of an incident involving serious injury, loss of life or significant destruction of property at or related to a U.S. Government mission in Afghanistan or Iraq. In lieu of such a board, the Secretary of State may conduct an inquiry and submit a report on the incident to the House International Relations and Senate Foreign Relations Committees.

Lastly, the bill amends section 904 of the Foreign Service Act of 1980 to enable the State Department to retain medical insurance reimbursements in the year in which they are collected, strengthening the Department's management tools and ability to provide emergency medical services for its employees abroad.

In conclusion, I urge my colleagues to support this bill. It gives our diplomatic service the resources it needs in this post-9/11 environment to promote U.S. interests and values abroad and to protect American citizens right here at home.

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

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume, and I rise in support of this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, this simple and straightforward bill amends certain authorities of the Department of State so that the Secretary can better manage that global institution.

Many of the provisions have already passed the House in one form or another. One provision of note is the authority for the United States to become a member of the Regional Emerging Diseases Intervention Center which is being established in Singapore. This regional institution, originally designed to address the threat of SARS that was recognized at the end of 2003, now can be a focal point for addressing issues arising out of the avian flu outbreaks that we have seen earlier this year.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to support this legislation.

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

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, to conclude, before yielding back, I do want to thank Chairman DAVIS from the Government Reform Committee for his cooperation because there were some issues of jurisdiction, and he acted in a very cooperative and collegial way to help make this legislation possible.

I would also like to thank Kristen Gilley for her fine work in working on this legislation, and to my good friend and colleague Mr. LANTOS as well.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr.

SMITH) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4436, 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.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 4436.

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

There was no objection.

#### SENSE OF CONGRESS REGARDING NICARAGUA

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 252) expressing the sense of Congress that the Government of the United States should actively support the aspirations of the democratic political and social forces in the Republic of Nicaragua toward an immediate and full restoration of functioning democracy in that country, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

#### H. CON. RES. 252

Whereas the United States is strongly committed to promoting democracy and the rule of law through the democratically elected government and the civil society of Nicaragua;

Whereas the Democratic Charter of the Organization of American States, of which the United States and Nicaragua are signatories, stipulates that “[t]he peoples of the Americas have a right to democracy and their governments have an obligation to promote and defend it”;

Whereas after experiencing a revolution, loss of personal liberties, destruction of property, and economic instability a quarter century ago, the people of Nicaragua are committed to maintaining a democratic form of government that functions democratically and whose branches of government respect the rule of law and human rights;

Whereas in November 2001, during the last national election, approximately 90 percent of voters in Nicaragua turned out to vote, indicating a strong commitment to a free electoral process and self determination;

Whereas international observers, including representatives from the National Democratic Institute, the International Republican Institute, the Carter Center, and the Organization of American States, monitored the Nicaraguan elections of November 2001 and determined that the elections met minimum international standards and that the outcome reflected the will of the Nicaraguan people;

Whereas ex-President Arnoldo Aleman and Sandinista Liberation Front (FSLN) leader Daniel Ortega entered into an agreement, which is widely known throughout Nic-

agua as “the Pact,” to exploit the legislative powers of the National Assembly to undermine the Nicaraguan Constitution, the Presidency of Enrique Bolaños Geyer, and key institutions of representative democratic governance;

Whereas polls indicate that an overwhelming percentage of Nicaraguans oppose the Aleman-Ortega Pact, and tens of thousands of Nicaraguans have taken to the streets in the past year to call for an end to the Pact;

Whereas in September 2005, the Secretary General of the Organization of American States warned that the attempt by the Nicaraguan national legislature to strip President Enrique Bolaños Geyer’s ministers and other senior government officials of their official immunity had created circumstances that would have made the country ungovernable and generated endless conflict;

Whereas with regard to the attempt by the National Assembly through the operation of the Aleman-Ortega Pact to undermine the privileges of the Nicaraguan executive branch, the Organization of American States urged, in the strongest possible terms, that “the parties concerned enter into a broad and constructive dialogue, free of pressures and threats” and that the parties “respect the mandate freely conferred upon President Enrique Bolaños Geyer and the other elected officials by the Nicaraguan people”;

Whereas the National Assembly, in reaction to pressure from the international community, in October 2005, voted unanimously to delay until after the term of President Enrique Bolaños Geyer expires in January 2007, the enactment of these constitutional amendments by approving the Framework Law for the Stability and Governability of the Country (Framework Law);

Whereas, although the enactment and implementation of the Framework Law has reduced the political tensions in Nicaragua, the practical effect of the Pact remains largely intact as Arnoldo Aleman and Daniel Ortega continue to wield near total control over the National Assembly, the Supreme Court, the Electoral Council, and the Comptroller’s Office, and the Human Rights ombudsman’s office;

Whereas free, fair, transparent, and inclusive electoral processes, in conjunction with strong adherence to the constitution and democratic institutions, are the bulwark against anti-democratic forces;

Whereas presidential and legislative elections in Nicaragua are scheduled to be held in October 2006; and

Whereas the prerequisites for free, fair, transparent, and inclusive elections have not yet been met, including securing a sufficient number of credible national and international observers, completing the distribution of voter identification cards, and ensuring that all qualified and willing candidates are permitted to contest the elections: Now, therefore, be it

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

##### (1) Congress—

(A) condemns the continued operation of the Aleman-Ortega Pact as detrimental to democracy in the Republic of Nicaragua, the future of democracy in Nicaragua, and the stability of the entire region;

(B) denounces the previous attempts by the National Assembly to encroach unconstitutionally upon the powers of the executive branch, undermine the governability of the country, and advance the personal ambitions of some of its current and former members;

(C) applauds the diplomatic efforts of the Organization of American States (OAS) and

the Secretary-General of the OAS for demonstrating the viability of the Inter-American Charter as an increasingly effective instrument in the Western Hemisphere for overcoming obstacles that impede institutions, whether such institutions are executive, legislative, or judicial in nature, from governing democratically;

(D) concurs with the convening of a broad National Dialogue to address the challenges that confront the Nicaraguan people as they attempt to build a more effective democracy; and

(E) supports the efforts of the Government of Nicaragua and civil society to create the necessary conditions for free, fair, transparent, and inclusive elections in 2006, including by having effective and robust monitoring missions by the Organization of American States and other international observers, supporting the training of domestic election observers, assisting in the auditing of voter rolls to ensure accuracy, promoting the complete distribution without discrimination of proper voter identification documents, and encouraging the lawful inclusion of all qualified candidates in the electoral contests; and

(2) it is the sense of Congress that—

(A) it should be the policy of the United States to support democracy, the rule of law, and human rights in Nicaragua and work cooperatively with regional and international organizations to bolster Nicaraguan efforts to establish the requisite conditions for free, fair, transparent, and inclusive presidential and legislative elections in 2006;

(B) it should be the policy of the United States to work through the Organization of American States and other regional and international organizations to encourage political elements within Nicaragua to preserve, protect, and defend the letter and spirit of that country's constitution; and

(C) to the extent that electoral or democracy and governance assistance is provided, the President of the United States should ensure that such assistance is provided only for the purposes of training election observers and ensuring the integrity of the electoral process as requested by the President of Nicaragua, that such assistance be provided through nongovernmental organizations on a non-partisan basis in the United States and Nicaragua, and that the details of such assistance be made public on a timely basis to promote transparency and accountability in both countries.

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Indiana.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative in which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on the resolution under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume, and I rise today in strong support of this concurrent resolution that expresses the sense of Congress that the United States should actively support efforts in Nicaragua to move

that country towards an immediate and full restoration of a functioning democracy.

Further, the resolution calls on the United States and the international community, including the Organization of American States, to actively support the government of Nicaragua and civil society as they work to establish the necessary conditions to ensure a free, fair and transparent electoral process.

Throughout the 1980s and the 1990s, Latin America and the Caribbean, with the notable exception of Cuba, made remarkable progress towards democracy. I believe much of the credit for this progress is due to the courageous leadership of many democracy-minded people in the region who grew weary of the brutal dictatorships, but also the dedication of people like former President Ronald Reagan and others in the U.S. and elsewhere who invested in the future of these countries by helping to plant the seeds of democracy and nurturing them over time.

That investment is paying off, but we should be under no illusions that the work is complete. The truth is that, 15 years after the Managua Spring, democracy and freedom in Nicaragua are being eroded. While democracy is still holding on, it is not without its opponents, and in Nicaragua, the alarm bells are ringing.

Right now in Nicaragua, the hard left and the corrupted right are making common cause in attempting to bring down the democratically elected government of Enrique Bolanos. Sandinista leader Daniel Ortega in alliance with convicted former president Arnoldo Aleman has entered into an arrangement known as the Pact that poses a real and present danger to every democratic institution in that country, from the national assembly, the national electoral council, to the supreme court right on down.

For example, the Pact, through its control of the National Assembly of Nicaragua, tried to strip President Bolanos of his constitutional powers through what is known as the Stability and Governability of the Country Law. In October, however, the assembly, under pressure from the international community and perhaps the introduction of this resolution, voted to postpone this law until after President Bolanos leaves office in January of 2007.

Delaying the governability law has allowed Nicaragua to avoid an immediate constitutional crisis. But as President Bolanos said quite clearly during a recent visit with members of our subcommittee here in Washington, which I chair, the future of Nicaraguan democracy remains under threat and that the United States needs to pay attention before it is too late.

I believe that we must do what we can to ensure that the upcoming elections in Nicaragua are free and fair. Passage of this resolution will send a loud and clear message to the political elements that are attempting to sub-

vert Nicaraguan democracy that the United States does not abandon friends who have stood so strong for the value of democracy.

□ 2115

While the recent actions of the Ortega-Aleman Pact indicate they may have abandoned their immediate efforts to overthrow President Bolanos, we should be under no illusion that they have given up their longer-term goal of returning Nicaragua to the days of oppression and dictatorship. So many Nicaraguans died during the years of violence and civil war for the dream of a free and democratic Nicaragua. Their sacrifice should not be in vain. We must work with the democratic forces of Nicaragua to ensure that Nicaragua continues to thrive and benefit for the people of that nation.

The resolution before us sets out a path which I believe and many of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle believe will ensure that democracy remains viable in Nicaragua. I urge my colleagues to show their support for democracy in Nicaragua by supporting this resolution.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this important resolution, and I want to commend my good friend from Indiana for submitting this very important piece of legislation.

Mr. Speaker, although Nicaragua narrowly averted a political and constitutional crisis recently, the country remains gripped by an epic struggle to maintain its democratic form of government and its respect for the rule of law and civil society.

Former Nicaraguan President Arnoldo Aleman and former communist dictator Daniel Ortega conspired to subvert the administration of the democratically elected President Enrique Bolanos to their perverse interpretation of Chinese water torture.

Through their control of the National Assembly in Nicaragua, Aleman and Ortega slowly, but methodically, packed the Supreme Court, the Electoral Council, the comptroller's office, and other institutions with their stooges.

They then planned to carve away key revenue-raising administrative offices, like TelCor, the agency in charge of telecommunications in Nicaragua, and place them under legislative control. The last step for the unholy Aleman-Ortega alliance was to begin the process of removing several members of Bolanos' cabinet and other senior officials from their government positions on very questionable grounds.

Mr. Speaker, the dubious legal proceedings against President Bolanos' government sparked a resounding and near universal international outcry. From the Organization of American States to the Central American Court, to members of this body, led by my

friend and colleague, Mr. BURTON, chairman of the Western Hemisphere Subcommittee, a cacophony of respected voices reiterated their unwavering support for true democracy and the rule of law in Nicaragua and their determined opposition to the return of corrupt caudilloism.

Undoubtedly feeling the intense pressure, Sandinista leader Ortega broke ranks with former President Aleman and entered into a new agreement with President Bolanos that postponed the most onerous constitutional and administrative changes until after the end of Bolanos' presidential term in 2007.

Mr. Speaker, while the new agreement between Bolanos and Ortega defused a volatile confrontation between the executive and the other branches of Nicaragua's government, it did not remove Aleman or Ortega loyalists from their government positions, at least to the extent that the Aleman-Ortega Pact still remains in place.

Under normal circumstances, the influence that Aleman and Ortega are able to continue to wield, either individually or jointly over the operation of Nicaragua's government, would be troublesome enough. With presidential and legislative elections scheduled to be held within a year's time in Nicaragua, their influence over the electoral process threatens to undermine the prospects for free, fair, transparent, and inclusive elections next October.

Mr. Speaker, President Bolanos visited us last week and spoke of the many tasks that remain. ID cards need to be distributed to all eligible voters without discrimination based upon political affiliation. All willing and qualified candidates must be allowed to contest the elections. Perhaps most importantly, credible international observers from the Organization of American States and other institutions must be invited and encouraged to monitor the electoral process as soon as possible.

Mr. Speaker, it is my hope that, through international interventions like the resolution before us today, Aleman and Ortega will recognize the destructive folly of their previous acts, maintain Nicaragua on the path of economic and political liberalization, and once again permit the Nicaraguan people to express their choice for the future in next year's elections. I strongly urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. KUCINICH).

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

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, H. Con. Res. 252 expresses the sense of Congress that the Government of the United States should actively support the aspirations of the democratic, political, and social forces in the Republic of Nicaragua. I want to say it is possible that my good friend, Mr. BURTON, may have already achieved the results that were intended in this resolution.

This bill was crafted to address a pact formed by Arnoldo Aleman, former president of Nicaragua of the LCP Party, who had been sentenced to 20 years of house arrest for looting state coffers of \$100 million. The pact was with Mr. Aleman and Daniel Ortega, former president of the Sandinista Party.

The Aleman-Ortega Pact passed so-called constitutional reforms that weakened the power of the Bolanos presidency. It was in this context, I believe, that H. Con. Res. 252 was introduced.

However, I believe the context, perhaps the mere introduction of the bill, helped to bring about a change of the context. In October, days after Nicaragua received a threat from U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Robert Zoellick that Nicaragua risked losing \$175 million in U.S. aid if President Bolanos were toppled, Bolanos and Ortega agreed to postpone the constitutional reforms until the next president's term begins in 2007.

So, again, this may be an example where the mere introduction of a bill helped to bring about the desired change, and I think that Mr. BURTON and everybody who has been involved in the introduction of the bill should be commended for their work.

H. Con. Res. 252, expressing the sense of Congress that the Government of the United States should actively support the aspirations of the democratic political and social forces in the Republic of Nicaragua may have already achieved its aims and may not be necessary.

This bill was crafted to address a pact formed by Arnoldo Aleman, former President of Nicaragua of the Liberal Constitutional Party, who had been sentenced to 20 years of house arrest for looting state coffers of \$100 million, with Daniel Ortega, former President of the Sandinista Party.

The Aleman-Ortega pact passed constitutional reforms that weakened the power of the Bolanos Presidency. It was in this context that H. Con. Res. 252 was introduced.

However, the context has since changed.

In October, days after Nicaragua received a threat from U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Robert Zoellick that Nicaragua risked losing \$175 million in U.S. aid if President Bolanos were toppled. Consequently, the members of the pact agreed to postpone the constitutional reforms until the next president's term begins in 2007.

I commend the sponsors of the legislation but would suggest that since the resolution has achieved its ends, it should be withdrawn.

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I am delighted to yield 5 minutes to my good friend and distinguished colleague, the gentleman from New York (Mr. SERRANO).

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me this time.

Let me start by saying that I support, like everyone else, a free and fair electoral process in Nicaragua in the coming year. And I support democracy in Nicaragua, the separation of powers, the independence of the judiciary, and other institutions.

What I am opposed to is the typical U.S. interference in Latin America. Our foreign policy traditionally, historically, has been to ignore Latin America, and then every once in a while to take some action that is so out of touch with reality in Latin America, and foolish, as this resolution is tonight.

What we are doing on the floor of the House today is a clear example of this warped, nonexistent policy. If U.S. history in Nicaragua were one of supporting elections without taking sides and supporting checks and balances and independent institutions, I would feel differently about a resolution like this. But we have little credibility in Nicaragua today because the U.S. is perceived as having such a strong animosity to Daniel Ortega, my brother from California just called him a communist and I thought that had ended awhile ago, and the FSLN, that any actions we take are viewed as biased and certainly not objective or impartial.

While I can go through sentences in this text that I have differences with, that is not what is driving me to speak on the House floor today. Would we not be providing a better example to the democratic movement in Nicaragua if we led by example and instead of voting on this resolution today, we stayed away from anything that appeared to show the United States taking sides and interfering yet again in Nicaragua?

Given our long and troubled history in this country, we need to be careful not to interfere. Instead, let us support the OAS's effort and not take positions on internal Nicaragua elections.

Let me also take a moment to comment on one line of the resolution that states: "Congress condemns the continued operation of the Aleman-Ortega Pact," which no longer exists, "as detrimental to democracy in the Republic of Nicaragua, the future of democracy in Nicaragua, and the stability of the entire region."

Of course this is right on top of the fact that we now claim that Venezuela is the danger to the region so they have been replaced tonight by Nicaragua as the main danger to the region. I simply have to take issue with the "stability of the entire region" comment. I think what undermines the stability of Latin America is the total lack of attention on an ongoing basis to the concerns of Latin America and then kinds of efforts like this resolution that show up every so often.

If this were coming to a vote, I would vote against this because I know what this is about. This is a little different than the Chavez-Venezuela issue. On that one we did not like the results, and the results are the fact that either through his coalition, through pushing back and attempted coup, which has our fingerprints all over it, President Chavez and his coalition have been elected and reelected eight times. We do not like the results, so we do not like him.

Here we suspect, like the rest of Latin America, that the result may be

one we do not like so we are anticipating that by suggesting that they better get their act together, meaning let anybody win except the opposition because that obviously would be undemocratic.

Mr. Speaker, there has to be a reason why Latin America went from military dictatorships to so-called democracies to again electing leftist leaders. Either something is in the water of Latin America or people are fed up with conditions. So what do we do? Instead of saying they are electing leftist governments and we should find out why and support the elected leaders in their desire to bring up the poor, we say beware Chavez, beware Bolivia, beware Peru, beware Chile, beware everybody, and especially beware Nicaragua: we did it to you once; we can do it to you again. If you do not elect the kind of government we want, you are in deep trouble with us and you are not democratic. That is not democracy.

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. WELLER), vice chairman of the Western Hemisphere Subcommittee.

Mr. WELLER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Indiana for bringing this resolution to the floor. I am a strong supporter of this resolution.

Democracy in Nicaragua has been and continues to be under threat from something known as "the pact." The pact is an agreement based on corruption and desire for power between two men: former President Aleman and former dictator Ortega, known locally as the party caudillos, strongmen, party bosses; and they are both corrupt.

Let us be clear: the pact today controls the Supreme Court of Nicaragua, the pact controls the Supreme Electoral Council, the pact controls the National Controllers Board, and the public prosecutor's office. These two corrupt caudillos have divided up power so they control it for themselves.

□ 2130

The Pact is alive and well. A side agreement to weaken President Bolanos failed largely because of civil society, but control of the country's institutions, those I named, still continue. So democracy continues to be threatened in Nicaragua. What is the goal of the Pact? To manipulate the 2006 elections for their benefit, for the benefit of former dictator Ortega and former President Aleman, to feed their corruption. The Pact wants to stay in power, including through controlling the supreme electoral council. Now, what type of people make up the supreme electoral council? I would note that two out of seven of the members have had their visas permanently revoked by the United States. And according to a survey published September 19 of this year by La Prensa, the leading newspaper, three-fourths, 74 percent of Nicaraguans believe that the supreme electoral council is capa-

ble of fraud. Evidence points to possible fraud by the supreme electoral council in the most recent election, the 2004 municipal election. Now the supreme court, controlled by Roberto Rivas, is extremely corrupt and influenced by the Ortega side of the Pact. Fully three members of the supreme court of Nicaragua have had their U.S. visas permanently revoked. And the court recently suffered the embezzlement of over \$600,000 in confiscated narco-trafficking funds allegedly by Sandinista officials of the court.

Democracy is indeed in danger in Nicaragua, but I am pleased to see that efforts of civil society, groups like the Movimiento de Democracia and other groups, particularly the government of Nicaragua under President Bolanos to create free and fair and transparent elections continues to push for true democracy. The United States must actively support democracy. The United States must actively support the rule of law and human rights in Nicaragua and to work with international organizations, especially the Organization of American States, to ensure the conditions exist for democracy and to ensure the integrity of the election process. I am particularly pleased that the International Democratic Institute and the International Republican Institute are both involved, and I hope the Organization of American States becomes fully engaged now, sooner rather than later, in ensuring a transparent and fair election process.

Mr. Chairman, I commend you for bringing this important resolution to the floor before us today. Democracy has had a good start in Nicaragua. It is under threat because of the Ortega-Aleman Pact. We must do everything we can to support true democracy and ensure free, fair and transparent elections, and that is why I strongly support this resolution and urge bipartisan support.

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. KUCINICH).

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from California.

I want to say that I was greatly concerned hearing the comments of my colleague from New York who raises some valid points about the United States' interventions in Latin America. Now, I think that, you know, on one hand, the sponsors of the legislation have already achieved their ends, and I just wonder if the gentleman from Indiana would yield to a question.

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I will be happy to yield to my colleague.

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Chairman, you have sponsored a resolution here that, as I indicated earlier, the sponsorship moved some policy change. In light of that, would you have any interest in withdrawing the resolution and declaring victory?

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. I do not think so at this time. I think this reso-

lution sends a very strong message, and I think we need to pass it.

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

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Let me just end by saying, thank you to Mr. LANTOS, my very good friend, for his leadership and his hard work on this and a lot of other legislation. Let me just say that Mr. LANTOS and I were both here back in the 1980s when the war took place in Nicaragua and El Salvador, and we saw the horrible result of dictatorships. We saw the horrible result of civil war, and democracy has changed that whole region down there. And we think it is extremely important that we do everything we can to support democratic institutions so that we do not have the bloodshed that we saw back in the 1980s and we do not see the massive flight of people leaving that region to get to the United States and elsewhere to get away from those wars. So I think this resolution sends a strong message. Once again, I thank Mr. LANTOS.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CONAWAY). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 252, as amended.

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

The title of the concurrent resolution was amended so as to read: "Expressing the sense of Congress that the Government of the United States should support democracy, the rule of law, and human rights in the Republic of Nicaragua and work cooperatively with regional and international organizations to bolster Nicaraguan efforts to establish the requisite conditions for free, fair, transparent, and inclusive presidential and legislative elections in 2006."

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

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REMEMBERING AND COMMEMORATING THE LIVES AND WORK OF UNITED STATES CHURCH-WOMEN EXECUTED IN EL SALVADOR IN 1980

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 458) remembering and commemorating the lives and work of Maryknoll Sisters Maura Clarke and Ita Ford, Ursuline Sister Dorothy Kazel, and Cleveland Lay Mission Team Member Jean Donovan, who were executed by members of the armed forces of El Salvador on December 2, 1980, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows: