

the United States to become more familiar with both State and Federal legislative institutions and practices.

We are working closely, and will continue to work closely, with USAID, the National Democratic Institute, and the International Republican Institute to coordinate the delivery of equipment and other related material assistance where the Commission identifies particular needs.

Mr. Speaker, this is an exciting endeavor, and one that I am looking forward to helping move forward. I hope that many of my colleagues will agree and find some way to contribute to the work of the Commission, to help support the spread and consolidation of democracy around the world.

□ 1600

The passage of H. Res. 135 is the essential first step, and I urge its adoption.

Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. McCOTTER), a member of the Committee on International Relations.

Mr. McCOTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of House Resolution 135, for within its wisdom rests the realization a nation's democracy is never more imperiled than in its infancy. This realization and the extension of protections to emerging democracies are vital to our ensuring these newborn nations' first breaths of freedom burgeon into the full fruit of liberty.

Mr. Speaker, especially as we watch the ominous portents emanating from Russia's experiment in representative governments, we must ever remember the inception of a democracy is not an end. It is a beginning. And let us ever stand ready to assist those of our fellow human beings who are fitfully and finally breathing free.

I urge the adoption of this resolution.

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

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MURPHY). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. BARRETT) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 135.

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.

#### URGING ADDITION OF HEZBOLLAH TO EUROPEAN UNION'S TERRORIST ORGANIZATION LIST

Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 101) urging the European Union to add Hezbollah to the European Union's wide-ranging list of terrorist organizations, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

##### H. RES. 101

Whereas Hezbollah is a Lebanon-based radical organization with terrorist cells based in Europe, Africa, North America, South America, Asia, and elsewhere, receiving financial, training, weapons, and political and organizational aid from Iran and Syria;

Whereas Hezbollah has led a 23-year global campaign of terror targeting American, German, French, British, Italian, Israeli, Kuwaiti, Saudi Arabian, Argentinean, Thai, Singaporean, and Russian civilians, among others;

Whereas former Director of Central Intelligence George Tenet called Hezbollah "an organization with the capability and worldwide presence [equal to] al Qaeda, equal if not far more [of a] capable organization . . . [t]hey're a notch above in many respects . . . which puts them in a state sponsored category with a potential for lethality that's quite great";

Whereas Hezbollah has been suspected of numerous terrorist acts against Americans, including the suicide truck bombing of the United States Embassy and Marine Barracks in Beirut in October 1983 and the Embassy annex in Beirut in September 1984;

Whereas the French unit of the Multinational Force in Beirut was also targeted in the October 1983 attack, in which 241 United States Marines and 58 French paratroopers were killed;

Whereas Hezbollah has attacked Israeli and Jewish targets in South America in the mid-1990s, including the Israeli Embassy in Buenos Aires, Argentina, in March 1992 and the AMIA Jewish Cultural Center in Buenos Aires in July 1994;

Whereas Hezbollah has claimed responsibility for kidnappings of United States and Israeli civilians and French, British, German, and Russian diplomats, among others;

Whereas even after Israel's compliance with United Nations Security Council Resolution 425 (1978) by withdrawing from Lebanon, Hezbollah has continued to carry out attacks against Israel and its citizens;

Whereas Hezbollah has expanded its operations in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, providing training, financing and weapons to Palestinian terrorist organizations on the European Union terrorist list, including the Al Aqsa Martyrs Brigade, Hamas, the Palestinian Islamic Jihad, and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine;

Whereas in 2004 Hezbollah instigated, financed, or played a role in implementing a significant number of Palestinian terrorist attacks against Israeli targets;

Whereas the European Union agreed by consensus to classify Hamas as a terrorist organization for purposes of prohibiting funding from the European Union to Hamas;

Whereas the Syria Accountability and Lebanese Sovereignty Restoration Act of 2003 (Public Law 108-175) urges the Government of Lebanon to assert the sovereignty of the Lebanese state over all of its territory and to evict all terrorist and foreign forces from southern Lebanon, including Hezbollah and the Iranian Revolutionary Guards;

Whereas, although the European Union has included Imad Fayiz Mughniyah, a key oper-

ations and intelligence officer of Hezbollah, on its terrorist list, it has not included his organization on the list;

Whereas the United States, Canada, and Australia have all classified Hezbollah as a terrorist organization and the United Kingdom has placed the Hezbollah External Security Organization on its terrorist list;

Whereas leaders of Hezbollah have made statements denouncing any distinction between its "political and military" operations, such as Hezbollah's representative in the Lebanese Parliament, Mohammad Raad, who stated in 2001 that "Hezbollah is a military resistance party, and it is our task to fight the occupation of our land. . . . There is no separation between politics and resistance.";

Whereas in a book recently published by the deputy secretary-general of Hezbollah, Sheikh Naim Qassem, entitled "Hezbollah -- the Approach, the Experience, the Future", Qassem writes "Hezbollah is a jihad organization whose aim, first and foremost, is jihad against the Zionist enemy, while the political, pure and sensible effort can serve as a prop and a means of support for jihad";

Whereas United Nations Security Council resolution 1559 (2004), jointly sponsored by the United States and France, calls upon all remaining foreign forces to withdraw from Lebanon and for the disbanding and disarmament of all Lebanese and non-Lebanese militias;

Whereas in December 2004 the Department of State placed Al-Manar, Hezbollah's satellite television network, on the Terrorist Exclusion List, and in December 2004 the French Council of State banned the broadcasting of Al-Manar in France

Whereas France, Germany, and Great Britain, with the support of the High Representative of the European Union, have created a working group with Iran to discuss regional security concerns, including the influence of terror perpetuated by Hezbollah and other extremist organizations;

Whereas on March 10, 2005, the European Parliament voted overwhelmingly to adopt a resolution that stated "Parliament considers that clear evidence exists of terrorist activities on the part of Hezbollah and that the [EU] Council should take all necessary steps to curtail them."; and

Whereas cooperation between the United States and the European Union regarding efforts to combat international terrorism is essential to the promotion of global security and peace; Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

(1) urges the European Union to classify Hezbollah as a terrorist organization for purposes of prohibiting funding from the European Union to Hezbollah and recognizing it as a threat to international security;

(2) condemns the continuous terrorist attacks perpetrated by Hezbollah; and

(3) condemns Hezbollah's continuous support of Palestinian terrorist organizations on the European Union terrorist list, such as the Al Aqsa Martyrs Brigade, Hamas, the Palestinian Islamic Jihad, and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine.

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. BARRETT).

##### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina. 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. 101.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H. Res. 101 urges the European Union to add Hezbollah to its terrorist list. I strongly support this measure, which was passed by voice vote during a subcommittee mark-up and by unanimous consent before the full Committee on International Relations.

Hezbollah is a Lebanon-based extremist organization that has a network of cells located throughout the world. Its primary sources of political, financial, and organizational support stem from Iran and Syria. According to the most recent State Department "Patterns of Global Terrorism Report," Hezbollah is dedicated to the elimination of Israel and the establishment of an Islamic theocracy in Lebanon. Hezbollah is also a strong supporter of the Syrian presence in that country, a position clearly at odds with both the desires of the international community and the Lebanese people.

Hezbollah has been known or suspected to have been involved in numerous terrorist attacks against Americans, including the suicide truck bombing of the United States Embassy and the Marine barracks in Beirut in 1983 and the embassy annex in Beirut in 1984. Three members of Hezbollah are on the FBI's list of the 22 most wanted persons for the hijacking of a TWA flight in which an American Navy diver was killed. Elements of the terrorist organization have also been involved in the kidnapping of Americans and other Westerners.

In past years, Hezbollah has increasingly supported groups that have already been designated by the EU as terrorist organizations. It defies logic that the EU would classify these other groups as terrorist organizations and not include Hezbollah, a group that is among the most lethal terrorist organizations in the world.

The manager's amendment includes changes based on comments received on the resolution from the State Department and some changes communicated to me by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. WEXLER), the ranking member on the Subcommittee on Europe of the House Committee on International Relations. The amendment is designed to clarify some of the language contained in H. Res. 101. In addition, the amendment adds a clause recognizing that the European Parliament voted on March 10 on a resolution that stated that "clear evidence exists of terrorist activities on the part of Hezbollah" and that the Council of the EU "should take all the necessary steps to curtail them."

Mr. Speaker, I would like to commend the gentleman from New Jersey

(Mr. SAXTON) for introducing H. Res. 101. This legislation has strong bipartisan support with over 70 co-sponsors. I urge the passage of this important legislation.

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. Mr. Speaker, the resolution before the House condemns the ongoing terrorism perpetrated by Hezbollah and urges the European Union to classify Hezbollah as a terrorist organization.

Last session, after the introduction of House Resolution 285 urging the European Union to classify Hamas as a terrorist organization and thus prohibiting the channeling of funds from the territory from the European Union to Hamas, the Union agreed by consensus to add Hamas to its terrorist list. It is our hope that this resolution about Hezbollah will have similar results. The inclusion of Hezbollah on the European Union's list of terrorist organizations is long overdue.

As we all know, Mr. Speaker, Hezbollah is a Lebanon-based extremist organization with terrorist cells throughout the globe. Its primary sources of political, financial, and organizational support come from Iran and Syria. Not surprisingly, Hezbollah is the only significant Lebanese organization that supports the continued occupation of Lebanon by Syria.

As the master of possibly the most widespread network of terror in the world, Hezbollah has led a 23-year global campaign of terror targeting American, European, and Israeli civilians. In fact, Hezbollah perpetrated its terror on nearly every continent on this planet, including the 1983 bombing of the Marine barracks in Beirut. Parenthetically, Mr. Speaker, several of us visited with these wonderful Marines just weeks before Hezbollah terrorist activity destroyed their lives.

Among the most notorious examples of Hezbollah crimes outside the Middle East are its attacks on the Israeli Embassy in Buenos Aires in March 1992 and the Jewish Cultural Center in Buenos Aires in 1994.

Most recently, both Israeli and Palestinian officials have complained about an alarming increase in Hezbollah support for terrorism in the Palestinian territories. Israeli officials say that about one-fifth of Israeli casualties from terrorism last year were caused by Hezbollah-backed terrorist cells.

Hezbollah even terrorizes the Lebanese Government itself, perpetuating its occupation of southern Lebanon in defiance of the international community's demands that it be disarmed.

Mr. Speaker, given Hezbollah's bloody record, the charges against Hezbollah made by both Israelis and Palestinians and the European Union's frequent protestations of its commitment to Middle East peace, it is very odd, indeed, that the European Union

continues to omit Hezbollah from its list of terrorist organizations. But it is completely stupefying that this omission continues while Hezbollah trains and equips many of the very groups already on the European Union's terrorism list, such as Islamic Jihad, al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigade, and Hamas. The logic of the European Union's decision-making on this matter is at best baffling.

Europeans sometimes point out in their defense that Hezbollah holds seats in the Lebanese Parliament. Let me point out, Mr. Speaker, that Hitler's Nazi Party held seats in a democratically elected German Parliament before the onset of World War II. Furthermore, Hezbollah's limited electoral success does nothing to revive the victims of terrorism. Europeans, of all people, should know that when terrorists succeed at the polls, they do not become moderate. They merely exploit their elected parliamentary positions to serve their terrorist aims.

Other Hezbollah apologists cite the group's domestic social programs within Lebanon as reason that it should not be considered strictly terrorist. But the credibility of those programs in Lebanon is mocked by Hezbollah's merciless disregard for human life in all of its other operations. The Bolshevik Party of the Soviet Union similarly provided social programs. Yet it had a devastating impact on generations of Soviet citizens.

By simply declaring the transparently obvious, that Hezbollah is a terrorist organization, Europe could deprive Hezbollah of access to millions of dollars in European banks and other financial institutions, while making an enormous contribution to Middle Eastern stability and saving hundreds of lives that will otherwise be Hezbollah's future victims. That is why I strongly support this resolution and urge all of my colleagues to join me in that support.

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

Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SAXTON), the author of the legislation.

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. BARRETT) for yielding me time. I would also like to thank the chairman and ranking member and other members of the committee that made it possible for this resolution to come to the floor on a strictly bipartisan basis.

I would also just like to say that during the consideration of the previous resolution, it was pointed out by the gentleman from California (Mr. DREIER) and others how encouraging it is to see democracy springing up around the world, particularly in the Middle East. This is a trend which is tremendous for us to see, and certainly it should be the policy of the House of Representatives and our government

generally to do whatever we can to help promote the trend which is so well under way. And of course at the same time it, would be good if we could help remove obstacles that may stand in the way of democracy being successful in places like Lebanon and the trend which is under way perhaps in Egypt and Iraq and Afghanistan and many other places.

So let us be clear on this subject of Hezbollah. Hezbollah is a radical terrorist organization, and this resolution simply asks the European Union to officially list it as such.

□ 1615

Its core beliefs are based on a perverse doctrine of anti-Westernism and anti-Semitism. Hezbollah has led a 23-year campaign targeting American, German, French, British, Italian, Israeli, Kuwaiti and countless other civilians from a variety of other countries.

Whether it is the bombing of the Marine barracks in Beirut in 1983 where 241 Americans were killed, the deadly attacks against Jewish targets in South America during the 1990s or any other atrocious acts of tyranny perpetuated by this organization, there is one thing clear: Hezbollah represents a clear and present danger to the national security of the United States, to the progress of countries that are in the process of democratizing and to many others around the world.

Mr. Speaker, there is no denying the fact some of us in this Chamber disagree from time to time on tactics, on techniques and procedures that are needed to win the war on terror. However, we all agree, beyond a shadow of a doubt, that organizations that openly call for the death of innocent civilians have no constructive role to play.

H. Res. 101 was not introduced for the purpose of angering our allies on the other side of the Atlantic. It is no secret that without the assistance of various European intelligence services and the steadfast support of many of our allies there would be more terrorists at large today and more threats to our national security than there is at this time.

However, it is with these thoughts in mind that I urge our European friends to ponder the following facts:

The main reason that France has led the efforts to block the European Union from placing Hezbollah on the list of terrorist organizations is due to the fact that the French believe that the military and political wings of the organizations are separate and, therefore, must be judged in that way. My question is simple: How can one separate the political and military wings of an organization if members of that organization, of the organization in question, have made statements contrary to that very fact?

For example, Mohammad Raad, a member of the Lebanese Parliament from Hezbollah, stated very plainly, "Hezbollah is a military resistance

party and its task is to fight the occupation of our land. There is no separation between politics and resistance."

In a book recently published by another member of Hezbollah, Sheikh Naim Qassem, Hezbollah's deputy secretary, he states, "Hezbollah is a jihad organization whose aim, first and foremost, is jihad against the Zionist enemy, while the political, pure and sensible effort can serve as a prop and a means of support for jihad."

Mr. Speaker, after hearing these statements stated by members of Hezbollah, how can anyone, European or American, deny the simple fact that the ideological fabric of Hezbollah is based on the ideals of radical Islam and the central purpose of the organization is to kill innocent human beings?

I have been concerned during the last several days about constant references in the media that seem to indicate that at the behest of our European allies, our government in the United States is ready to accept Hezbollah as a legitimate political force in Lebanon.

Despite the disconcerting statements being perpetuated by the media, just yesterday Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice declared in the clearest of terms that the United States still regards Hezbollah as a terrorist organization, and I was encouraged last Thursday when our colleagues in the European Parliament passed a resolution that was mentioned just a few minutes ago by my friend from California that the EU Parliament has passed a resolution urging the European Union leadership and the governments there to list Hezbollah as a terrorist entity. The resolution stated the simple fact that there are "irrefutable proofs of Hezbollah's terrorist actions." It is my sincere hope that the EU leadership will follow the advice of their own parliament.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to pass this important piece of legislation and send a message to the European Union that in order to secure a peaceful future for the people of Lebanon, the greater Middle East, and the world, organizations such as Hezbollah must not be tolerated.

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I continue to reserve our time.

Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. MCCOTTER), a member of the Committee on International Relations.

Mr. MCCOTTER. Mr. Speaker, I will not reiterate House Resolution 101's litany of why Hezbollah is a terrorist organization, for the resolution's authors and my colleagues before me have given a full and fair accounting of this therein.

I rise then to urge the European Union's acknowledgement of this resolution's list of terrorist particulars on Hezbollah's part, and in doing so, I further urge the European Union's addition of Hezbollah to the EU's terrorist list.

Indeed, since the Coalition's liberation of Iraq from the inhuman rule of

Saddam Hussein, from some EU quarters has come a strident call on the U.S. and its allies to diminish reliance upon force; i.e., hard power, and increase utilization of diplomatic means; i.e., soft power, within our war on terror.

Now, here rests the opportunity for those strident voices in the EU to put their morality where their mouth is, for if despite all the evidence and the consequences of Hezbollah's terrorist activities, the European Union refuses to place Hezbollah on its terrorist list, then we will be left but to conclude some in Europe's insistence upon a sophisticated, soft power diplomacy in pursuit of stability, at the expense of liberty, is in reality no less than a disingenuous, shortsighted exercise in craven accommodation.

The choice is theirs, but this vote is ours, and I urge adoption of the resolution.

Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. SHAYS), chairman of the Subcommittee on National Security, Emerging Threats and International Relations of the Committee on Government Reform.

Mr. SHAYS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me the time, and I thank the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SAXTON) and the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS) for their involvement in this important legislation.

I think the thing that is most refreshing about President Bush's administration is the effort to have an honest dialogue with our allies about what is happening around the world. And we need to have this honest dialogue.

The bottom line is Hezbollah is a terrorist organization through and through. It may have a political arm, it may have a public relations arm as the gentleman from California (Ranking Member LANTOS) pointed out, but so did the Nazi Party. This is a terrorist organization and to use a phrase that Congressman LANTOS uses quite often, it "boggles the mind" that they would not be included as a terrorist organization within the European Union.

When we look at the resolution, there are 20 whereases, and each one is powerful

Whereas Hezbollah is a Lebanon-based radical organization with terrorist cells based in Europe, Africa, North America, South America, Asia, and elsewhere, receiving financial, training, weapons, and political and organizational aid from Iran and Syria;

Whereas Hezbollah has led a 23-year global campaign of terror targeting American, German, French, British, Italian, Israeli, Kuwaiti, Saudi Arabian, Argentinean, Thai, Singaporean, and Russian civilians, among other . . .

and it goes on.

I cannot believe frankly that if our colleagues from Europe read this resolution they will not readily agree that they need to take this action. Once again I thank my colleague for yielding me time, and I hope we pass this with a resounding "yes."

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

In closing, let me just say that the European Union calls into question its own appropriateness in serving on the quartet, attempting to bring some stability and peace to the Middle East. This is such a clearcut case. We are dealing with a global terrorist organization which has cold-bloodedly massacred large numbers of civilians of many nationalities. There is no earthly reason to continue the defiance of common sense by the European Union in failing to put Hezbollah on the terrorist list.

The European Parliament itself a few days ago called on the union to list Hezbollah as a terrorist organization, and at long last it is our hope that they will do so.

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

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MURPHY). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. BARRETT) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 101, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds of those present have voted in the affirmative.

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

**TWO-YEAR EXTENSION OF NAZI WAR CRIMES AND JAPANESE IMPERIAL GOVERNMENT RECORDS INTERAGENCY WORKING GROUP**

Mr. SHAYS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill (S. 384) to extend the existence of the Nazi War Crimes and Japanese Imperial Government Records Interagency Working Group for 2 years.

The Clerk read as follows:

S. 384

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

**SECTION 1. TWO-YEAR EXTENSION OF WORKING GROUP.**

Section 802(b)(1) of the Japanese Imperial Government Disclosure Act of 2000 (Public Law 106-567; 114 Stat. 2865) is amended by striking "4 years" and inserting "6 years".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. SHAYS) and the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. MALONEY) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. SHAYS).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SHAYS. 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 S. 384, the Senate bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, as a member of the Committee on Government Reform, I am pleased to call for the consideration of S. 384, a bill that extends the existence of the Nazi War Crimes and Japanese Imperial Government Records Interagency Working Group. I commend the esteemed Senator from Ohio, MIKE DEWINE, and my distinguished colleague in this body, the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. MALONEY), for working on this bill. I am proud to be a cosponsor of it.

Senate 384 extends by 2 years this worthy working group that was originally created by Congress through Public Law 105-246 in 1998. The group is made up of government agency representatives who are directed to oversee the declassification of U.S. Government records that contain information about Nazi war crimes.

Such information includes trafficking of assets seized by the Nazis and post-war communications between U.S. Government and former Nazi officials, unless declassification would unduly violate personal privacy or harm national security or foreign policy interests. The law also allowed for expedited processing of Freedom of Information, FOIA, requests made by survivors of the Holocaust.

On December 6, 2000, as part of the Intelligence Authorization Act for 2001, Congress changed the group's name to the Nazi War Crimes and Japanese Imperial Government Records Interagency Working Group. This action expanded the mission of the group to include the declassification of U.S. Government records related to World War II era war crimes committed by the Japanese Imperial government.

The project has produced some valuable accomplishments. It has allowed the release of over 8 million previously classified documents and generated a great deal of historical research.

However, the CIA has resisted disclosing certain files, preventing the completion of the work within the 3-year time frame anticipated by the original law. Recently, however, the CIA has agreed to modify its position on a number of key issues and work with the National Archives and other groups to declassify remaining relevant information. Accordingly, S. 384 would extend the law for another 2 years, to give all parties sufficient time to complete the project.

Madam Speaker, all in all, the Nazi War Crimes and Japanese Imperial Government Records Interagency Working Group is a valuable effort that informs the American people of the actions of their government while bal-

ancing the protection of legitimate national secrets.

Again, I thank the gentlewoman from New York and the Senator from Ohio for seeing this legislation through both Chambers of Congress. I urge strong support for this measure.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

□ 1630

Mrs. MALONEY. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. SHAYS) for his leadership on this issue and so many others. I rise in strong support of S. 384 that would extend the Nazi War Crimes and Japanese Imperial Government Records Interagency Working Group for 2 years.

The 1989 law opened up the government files of Nazi and Japanese war activities. Many, many agencies cooperated and declassified an enormous amount of documents, including the CIA, FBI, NSA, DOD, the Army, and many others. The law resulted in the largest specifically focused declassification effort in American history. It provided important information for historians to better understand World War II and the Cold War. Already, over 100 million documents have been screened and over 8 million have been declassified.

The extension will allow time for the remaining documents to be released and studied. The remaining documents are mainly in the CIA. We thank them for their agreed cooperation as we go forward.

Madam Speaker, I want to make clear that the original legislation required the disclosure of Nazi war criminal records specifically related to individuals. It should in no way be interpreted as inhibiting the release of other more general records such as policy directives or memoranda. If such records are uncovered during the search of files, the bill requires and necessitates that they become public along with the rest of the documents. The intent of the original legislation was to bring to the light information which may be in the files and archives of the U.S. Government. This may well include information from the postwar period showing a relationship between those agencies and Nazi war criminals.

It was not the intent that the exemptions included in the underlying bill be used to shield this type of information from disclosure. We included the exemptions that currently exist in executive order. They should not be revoked simply to protect any agency from embarrassment.

It is important that this move forward, and it is important that we pass this extension today as the terms of the Interagency Working Group were set to expire at the end of March 2005. So we are at a critical juncture which this bill addresses.

Madam Speaker, I first introduced the Nazi War Crimes Disclosure Act in