

not going to betray them by eliminating Social Security. Social Security is not a retirement benefit. It is also a survivors benefit for children and the disabled. It is time now to recognize that we invested in Social Security. Do not betray us. Tell the American people how we can move forward together.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LAHOOD). Members are reminded to address their remarks to the Chair and not to the President.

IN SUPPORT OF ALBERTO GONZALES AS ATTORNEY GENERAL

(Mr. WELDON of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WELDON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and also support the nomination of Judge Alberto Gonzales to serve as Attorney General of the United States. Judge Gonzales has served as counsel to the President, a jurist on the Supreme Court of Texas, Secretary of State and chief elections officer in Texas, as well as then-Governor Bush's chief counsel. Before joining the Governor's staff, he was one of the first two minority partners with the law firm of Vinson & Elkins in Houston. Judge Gonzales is extremely qualified to serve as our Nation's Attorney General.

Born in 1955 in San Antonio, Texas, to Maria and Pablo Gonzales, two Mexican-American migrant workers, Judge Gonzales learned firsthand the meaning of hard work, determination, and integrity at a young age. He was the first in his family to attend college, continued on to Harvard Law School, served in the United States Air Force, and later attended the U.S. Air Force Academy.

Mr. Speaker, I have full confidence that upon Senate confirmation, Judge Gonzales will help protect Americans from terrorism while also protecting our rights as the Nation's chief law enforcement officer. He will continue working to bring those who commit corporate fraud to justice, reforming the FBI, and building on the Bush administration's success in reducing crime.

It is an honor to support Judge Gonzales. He is an outstanding Mexican-American, an outstanding example of the American Dream, and we will be proud of his service to our Nation as our Attorney General.

CONGRATULATING BOZEMAN, MONTANA

(Mr. REHBERG asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. REHBERG. Mr. Speaker, I would like to call attention to one of my favorite cities in America: Bozeman, Montana. Nestled in the scenic Bridger mountain range, Bozeman draws visitors from around the world for its first-class outdoor recreational activities. Yet it is more than a gateway to Montana's natural splendor. It is a dynamic center of commerce.

A recent study by the American Cities Business Journal named Bozeman as the best small-business market in the United States among cities with fewer than 100,000 people. This comes as no surprise since Bozeman has first-rate public schools, has become a center of science and technology in its home to Montana State University. Bozeman is the kind of community where parents can let children play in the neighborhoods and where people still wave and say hello when one passes them on the street. The experts have now discovered what many of us in Montana already knew: Bozeman is a place with everything a business needs to succeed.

I congratulate the city of Bozeman for becoming the best small business market in the country.

SOCIAL SECURITY MUST BE FIXED

(Mr. MCHENRY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MCHENRY. Mr. Speaker, Social Security must be fixed. It is not a question of whether to do it or how to do it. It is a question of when we do it. Because unless we act now, those workers that are 20 years old now, in their mid-20s, when they retire, the system is going to be bankrupt.

In the 1950s when current retirees were young workers, there were 16 workers supporting every one retiree. Now there are only 3.3 workers per retiree and by 2040 there are only going to be two workers per retiree.

President Bush will outline his ideas to fix Social Security tonight during his State of the Union Address. It is an issue so important to the future of America, to my grandmother as well as future generations of Americans. We must act boldly, and our President tonight will outline his strategy for a lasting solution, not a temporary fix. We must maintain our commitment to those that are at or near retirement age while allowing younger workers such as myself to get a better return on their Social Security investment.

Mr. Speaker, Social Security must be fixed, and it is this Congress and this President this year that will take on this task.

FREE ELECTIONS IN IRAQ

(Mr. KINGSTON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, I dipped my finger in purple ink today in

symbolic unity and in support of the free election in Iraq, the first free election in the history of that country. Their actions this weekend were not about America or necessarily an endorsement of everything we are doing, although I think that was an effect of it; but their actions were really about a free country, about democracy, about choice, about self-government and self-determination, throwing off the shackles of oppression and joining the world community. A 57 percent voter turnout in the face and threat of death and destruction. Compare that to America, 61 percent just this November, and it was the highest voting turnout in 38 years. Or in my home county in Savannah, Georgia, Chatham County, the last time we elected a Governor, we had a 48 percent voter turnout and no one was threatened with death or suicide bombers or anything like that.

It took America 7 years to win the Revolutionary War and then it was not until 1789 that we threw out the Articles of Confederation and adopted our Constitution. It has taken us many, many years. For Iraq they have many struggling years ahead, but they have taken a very important first step.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on the motion to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote is objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

RECORD votes on postponed questions will be taken later today.

COMMENDING PALESTINIAN PEOPLE FOR HOLDING FREE AND FAIR PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 56) commanding the Palestinian people for conducting a free and fair presidential election on January 9, 2005, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 56

Whereas on January 9, 2005, the Palestinian people elected Mahmoud Abbas as the second President of the Palestinian Authority;

Whereas this election has been hailed as free and fair and is an important and noteworthy step in advancing democracy in the Arab world;

Whereas Israel should be commended for facilitating the Palestinian election proceedings;

Whereas the United States is hopeful that a peaceful resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict can be achieved;

Whereas the United States is strongly committed to the security of Israel and its well-being as a Jewish state; and

Whereas on June 24, 2002, President George W. Bush expressed his vision of two states living side by side in peace and security and that vision can only be fully realized when terrorism is defeated, so that a new state

may be created based on the rule of law and respect for human rights: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) commends the Palestinian people for conducting a free and fair presidential election on January 9, 2005;

(2) congratulates the new Palestinian President, Mahmoud Abbas;

(3) urges the new Palestinian leadership to continue to advance democratic ideals by reforming the Palestinian political structure, advancing human rights, and ending corruption;

(4) strongly condemns terrorism and urges President Mahmoud Abbas, who has previously disavowed terrorism, to immediately take steps to dismantle the Palestinian terrorist infrastructure, confiscate unauthorized weapons, arrest and bring terrorists to justice, consolidate and control the many Palestinian security organizations, and end the incitement to violence and hatred in the Palestinian media, educational institutions, mosques, and other institutions;

(5) urges Arab states to take active steps to encourage and assist the Palestinian Authority in bringing an end to terrorism and an end to anti-Israel incitement in their own media; and

(6) encourages all interested parties to take advantage of this historic opportunity to remove obstacles to achieving a lasting peace in the Middle East.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) and the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN).

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. 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 the resolution under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Florida?

There was no objection.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Today I rise in support of House Resolution 56, introduced by the House leadership, commanding the Palestinian people for holding recent elections. This resolution is a reflection of our support for President Bush when he stated, "The United States stands ready to help the Palestinian people realize their aspirations."

The onus is on the Palestinian leadership to demonstrate that they are committed to moving peace forward by bringing an end to Palestinian terrorism. The election of Abu Mazen is a hopeful first step. Eight hundred international observers monitored the recent Palestinian presidential elections and agreed that the will of the Palestinians was adequately expressed. Palestinians from all walks of life participated in the elections, representing approximately 70 percent of eligible voters.

The Palestinian Central Election Commission has been recognized for fa-

cilitating a process whereby Palestinians could vote in a positive voting atmosphere. Commission representatives trained more than 16,000 electoral officials to staff the 2,800 polling sites throughout the West Bank and Gaza and conducted their operations in a professional way.

The Palestinian presidential election of January 9 of this year and the upcoming parliamentary elections scheduled for this July represent an opportunity for Palestinians to affirm their desire to end the violence and to forge a government that can respond to their needs.

We are guardedly optimistic about Abu Mazen's recent decision to ban the use of unregistered weapons by civilians.

We wish the new Palestinian leadership success in achieving a lasting peace and a prosperous future for both the Israeli and the Palestinian people and in building transparent institutions accountable to the Palestinian people.

Mr. Speaker, I commend the leadership for bringing this resolution to the floor today, and I ask my colleagues to support it.

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 support of H. Res. 56, and I want to commend the bipartisan leadership for introducing this important resolution. I also want to commend the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) for her leadership on this issue.

I fully endorse the message of this resolution. The Palestinian people deserve our commendation for conducting a free and fair election and for electing as their leader a man who has spoken out against the use of violence.

□ 1030

I salute Mahmoud Abbas for opposing the intifada. Far too few Palestinians have had the courage to do so.

The change of Palestinian leadership has had a salutary effect on peace prospects. I am encouraged by recent steps taken by both Israel and the Palestinians, steps that have reduced the level of violence. I share the optimism of many that, for the first time in years, we now may have an opportunity to make real progress toward peace.

Mr. Speaker, I think it is desirable that this body welcome and contribute to the improved atmosphere between the parties. This resolution is an entirely appropriate way to do so. But what I would not want this body to do is to contribute to unrealistically high expectations. In that regard, I would like to make two points which bear on the subject of the resolution before us.

First of all, I respect the good intentions of the new president of the Palestinian Authority. I first met with Mr. Abbas in Ramala on the eve of his becoming Prime Minister some 2 years ago, and he emphasized to me his com-

mitment to peace. But good intentions and commitment will not be enough to assure his success as a leader. In fact, they are barely enough to get him off the starting block.

To succeed, Mahmoud Abbas will have to show backbone that, unfortunately, he has not revealed in his previous high-level positions. As the resolution correctly suggests, he will have to take immediate and significant steps to dismantle the Palestinian terrorist infrastructure. He needs to confiscate unauthorized weapons. He needs to arrest and bring to justice the terrorists who have engaged in so much violent activity. He needs to consolidate and take charge of all Palestinian security organizations, and he needs to end anti-Israeli and anti-Semitic incitement in the Palestinian media, schools, mosques, and all other institutions.

Mr. Abbas is an intelligent man, and he surely knows that, in the long run, there is no such thing as a cease-fire with terrorists. He will control and defeat the terrorists, or he will be controlled and defeated by them. I am hopeful that he will be up to the task. I think he knows that, as the leader, he does not have the option of giving in to frustration and just walking away, as he did during the Camp David negotiations in 2000 and during his brief stint as Arafat's Prime Minister.

Although the incidence of violence has declined in recent weeks, the infrastructure of terrorism has, in many ways, grown stronger and more sophisticated. Kassam rockets that threaten Israeli civilians inside and near the Gaza Strip are becoming more accurate and gaining greater distance. In my travels to the region, I have discovered that Iran and Hezbollah are increasingly engaged with Palestinian terrorists.

Mr. Speaker, I think we must also keep in mind that there is no moral equivalence in the use of violence in this struggle. The Israelis have no interest in violence for the sake of violence but, unfortunately, some Palestinians do. If the current lull in violence breaks down, I am certain it will be because Abu Mazen could not control Palestinian terrorism.

Secondly, Mr. Speaker, we need to be realistic about the current state of the peace process and Israeli-Palestinian relations. The Israeli government which, since Prime Minister Sharon's recent coalition agreement with Labor Party leader Shimon Peres, now includes Israel's two largest parties, is preparing to take an historic action. In fact, it is the boldest, most creative act in the peace process since the outbreak of the intifada in September, 2000. The government of Israel is preparing to redeploy its forces from the Gaza Strip and to dismantle all of its Gaza settlements. This unprecedented action will pave the way for the Palestinians to govern their own contiguous territory and to demonstrate their ability to establish a free and orderly society.

Mr. Speaker, I fully identify myself with the hope and belief expressed in this resolution that a lasting peace in the Middle East is achievable and that we now have an opportunity to take steps in that direction. But we must be realistic about the time frame. Israel's decision to redeploy from Gaza is politically courageous, but it is also politically dangerous and difficult. The overwhelming majority of Israelis support it, and I fully expect it to be accomplished by the latter half of this year, as scheduled. But it will not be easy.

Then, once Israel does redeploy, the onus will be on the Palestinians to prove that they have what it takes to run the equivalent of a state. If and when they do so, I am certain both sides will move with dispatch toward a final settlement. But that agreement is certainly not going to be achieved in the next few months or even in the next year. It would be unfair to the parties to place on them such a burden of expectation. For now, let us be content that both sides are taking significant steps to create a beginning, and let us remember that it is only a beginning.

With those thoughts as context, Mr. Speaker, I would like once again to congratulate the Palestinians on their ably-conducted election. I support H. Res. 56, and I call on all of my colleagues to do likewise.

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

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I am so pleased to yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. PENCE), a member of our Committee on International Relations and an original sponsor of this legislation.

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from Florida for yielding me this time and, more importantly, for her extraordinary and consistent leadership as chairman of the Subcommittee on the Middle East and Central Asia.

I also want to commend the leadership in the Congress of the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT) and the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER) for bringing this measure forward. As ever, I was deeply moved by the courage and candor of the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS) who preceded me and who continues to be the lone star for those of us in this Congress and in this country who cherish the dream that is Israel. It is a privilege to follow him in this discussion today.

I rise in strong support, Mr. Speaker, of H. Res. 56. Like millions of Bible-believing Christians, I pray for the peace of Jerusalem, and that refers specifically to all of the people of this torn region.

So, with the election of the second President of the Palestinian Authority, it is altogether fitting that this Congress commend the Palestinian people for conducting a free and fair presidential election on 9 January, 2005,

and, in so doing, congratulating the new Palestinian President, Mahmoud Abbas, for his achievement and his leadership as H. Res. 56 does.

It is also altogether fitting, though, that in the same breath as this Congress, on behalf of the people of the United States, speaks a word of encouragement to the people of the Palestinian Authority and its new leader, we must also be willing to speak truth. And in this bipartisan measure, the American people, through this body, do just that, Mr. Speaker. In this resolution, the House of Representatives also will strongly condemn terrorism and urge President Mahmoud Abbas, who has happily previously disavowed terrorism, to immediately take steps to dismantle Palestinian terrorist infrastructure, to confiscate unauthorized weapons, arrest and bring terrorists to justice, consolidate and control the many Palestinian security organizations, and end the incitement of violence and hatred in the Palestinian media, educational institutions, mosques, and other institutions.

It may seem somewhat impolitic in what some may have expected from this Congress to have been a greeting card of congratulations to the new President of the Palestinian Authority to bring these matters up, but as this Congress in the very near future, I suspect, Mr. Speaker, will begin to talk about asking the American people to expand our participation in this region of the world, to expand our partnership with the Palestinian Authority, it is altogether fitting that we begin that discussion by expressing the expectations of the American people that the new leadership of the Palestinian Authority be about the rule of law and be about confronting terrorism within their own jurisdiction in the ways enumerated in H. Res. 56.

There can be no more important message that we send at such a time as this, a season of opportunity, as the gentlewoman from Florida (Chairman Ros-Lehtinen) described, a season of hope that we describe for the new leadership of the Palestinian Authority what attaches to that hope for the people of the United States who long for the peace and stability and democratic institutions of the people of Israel and the Palestinian people so richly deserve.

Mr. Speaker, the Old Testament promises, "Weeping may endure for a night, but joy comes in the morning." For too many nights, Israeli and Palestinian families have wept for their loved ones who have fallen prey to the mindless violence that has sprung from terrorists within the Palestinian Authority. This resolution today is about expressing the profound hope of the American people that a morning of joy has come. With the election of President Mahmoud Abbas, the election of a new leader for the Palestinian people, we are come upon that new day of hope, and we will rise today as a Congress in bipartisan fashion to express

that hope, with congratulations, but also with the truth, that there must be results and leadership that lead to peace and justice in the region for all of the people.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I thank the gentleman for his remarks, and I am so pleased that he singled out the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS) who, as all of us know, recently led a delegation to Auschwitz where we commemorated the 60th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz. The gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS) is a Holocaust survivor who lost family members in this horrible tragedy, and we thank him for his leadership in the House throughout the years.

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

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank both of my colleagues for their extremely generous and kind remarks.

Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE), my good friend who has been fighting for peace in that region ever since she came to this body and before.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I thank the Ranking Member for yielding me this time.

There are many accolades that we might share regarding the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS) and, I might say, his wife and family, but I thank him for the steady hand and the steady interest and the persistence which has brought us to where we are today.

□ 1045

Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman of the subcommittee, the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. Ros-LEHTINEN), and my colleagues for putting before this body H. Res. 56 to applaud what I consider to be the next opportunity, the next life-changing experience for those people who have worked, died, and prayed for peace in the Mid East.

I do want to acknowledge the election of Mahmoud Abbas and to say that I too had an opportunity to meet him in the West Bank just about 2 years ago with a number of my colleagues. His dream, I believe, has now come to reality where he is able to lead the region toward full peace. He can declare opposition in the war on terrorism and the terrorist acts that have been going on. And the Israeli people can embrace their dreams, as I heard from so many of them, desiring to live side by side in peace with the Palestinian people.

Mr. Speaker, let me acknowledge my friends and constituents in Houston, strong Palestinians who have come to me with both prayer and petition to ask for intervention and efforts on behalf of Palestinians in the Mid East. They too need to be applauded, as do my friends in the Jewish community who have recognized the importance of the survival of Israel and the standing

alongside of each of those two extremely productive and contributing nations.

I had about 2 years ago the opportunity to co-chair the Partners For Peace. We met in Oslo, Norway. We met with women from Israel and the PLO. And I was gratified even in the emotional charge of that session, women crying and outpouring of their hearts talking about the loss of their children, the violence, and sometimes the anger. We came away from there with one single challenge, to make sure that our voices would continue to be raised for peace in the Mid East.

This election as now allowed gives the opportunity to see the light at the end of the tunnel, to see the sun rising and not setting.

I also recognize that it will be upon us, the United States, to be able to take a sledge hammer to those crumbling refugee camps. It is now time for us to rebuild Palestine, to be able to have it look as we would want people to be able to live and to be educated and to worship. So I hope the world family will join with humanitarian aid to this new fledgling nation so we can build schools and we can build hospitals and that we can build institutions that will last, so we can build housing, that they will not have to live amidst the rubble.

This resolution on behalf of this Congress is a wonderful first step to acknowledge what has happened and also to bring about the free peaceful existence between Palestine and Israel. I hope that we will be part of the solution and not part of the problem. God bless all of those who have worked so hard for peace.

I rise as a strong supporter of H. Res. 56 which commends the Palestinian people for conducting a free and fair presidential election on January 9, 2005. The elections held in the Palestinian Territories are a historic occasion upon which we can build the specter of a comprehensive Middle East peace plan. I want to congratulate Mahmoud Abbas on his election victory in becoming the President of the Palestinian Authority. I also want to thank him for his public service at this vital and momentous time in the history of the Palestinian people.

The two state solution represents the only possible peace plan that can be acceptable and viable for the nation of Israel and the Palestinian people. The Palestinian elections of January 9, 2005 represent the first step in the process towards a comprehensive peace agreement. With this new leadership the Palestinian people will be able to find stability and build their national infrastructure. However, President Abbas's first task will be to take steps to dismantle the Palestinian terrorist infrastructure, confiscate unauthorized weapons, arrest and bring terrorists to justice, consolidate and control the many Palestinian security organizations, and end the incitement to violence and hatred in the Palestinian media, educational institutions, mosques, and other institutions as this resolution calls for. Certainly, this task will not be easy and its resolution will not come quickly, but we as a nation must support the Palestinian people as they

stand determined and ready to build a free and peaceful nation.

If history in the Middle East has taught us anything, we know that the United States must be an active and honest broker between the Palestinians and the Israelis in moving towards a comprehensive peace agreement. I urge the Bush Administration to not relinquish this opportunity to achieve a lasting peace that can forever change the face of the Middle East. The War in Iraq has lowered our diplomatic and public standing around the world, but we have especially done poorly in the Middle East. People in the region do not trust our nation, nor do they trust our intentions. They may watch our television, listen to our music and eat our food, but they still have no love for our nation because of our actions in the Middle East that are being viewed as aggressive. Bringing the Israelis and the Palestinians together represents the best opportunity to show the people of the Middle East and the world that we can heal the rifts that divide us, instead of inflaming them. Militant Islamic organizations throughout the world continue to use the plight of the Palestinian people as one of their main recruiting tools to incite hatred and distrust of the United States. We have the ability to strike a blow at these terrorist organizations if this Administration can seize the opportunity.

This resolution also encourages all interested parties to take advantage of this historic opportunity to remove obstacles to achieving a lasting peace in the Middle East. On this front, I am pleased to report that Egypt has offered to host an Israeli-Palestinian summit next week, and Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon has accepted the invitation. I want to thank the nation of Egypt for taking this important step towards achieving a comprehensive peace agreement. Egypt has served as a key regional ally which has long taken active steps towards achieving peace in the Middle East. This summit will give the Israelis and the Palestinians the chance to meet face to face and negotiate terms to bring relative peace and stability to their people. Once these key objectives are met then a comprehensive agreement is possible. Already, since the election of President Abbas, armed groups in the Palestinian Territories have openly talked about halting attacks on the Israeli people.

No doubt there will be setbacks on the both sides as we have already witnessed too often, but now unlike in the past we must show extra resolve to achieve a lasting peace. Again, I urge the Bush Administration to take an active role in bringing the Israeli and Palestinian people together and not losing this opportunity. As we have seen in the past, these opportunities are fleeting, but their potential for a lasting peace is too great to take for granted. We must take all necessary steps to achieve peace now not only for the Israeli and Palestinian children who will inherit the Middle East, but for our own children as well who will inherit the world that we have shaped.

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from California, (Mrs. CAPPS).

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague and friend for yielding me this time.

Mr. Speaker, January 9 was an important and historic day. For many Palestinians it was a once-in-a-lifetime event. They went to the polls and

elected a new president in a contested, free, and fair election. The Palestinian election was a milestone not only for the safety of Israel and for our own national security as well.

I was privileged to witness this remarkable event with my own eyes. From 5:30 in the morning until nearly midnight I traveled in and around Bethlehem in my capacity as an election observer for the mission co-sponsored by the National Democratic Institute and the Carter Center.

Let me first take a moment and commend President Carter, Governor Christie Todd Whitman, former Swedish Prime Minister Carl Bildt, and NDI President Ken Wollack for leading our delegation and the 80 participants from 16 different nations who did a remarkable job. With a few exceptions, what I observed in Bethlehem held true across the West Bank and Gaza. The balloting process was exceptionally well organized, in part because nearly 14,000 public school teachers were deployed as election officials.

The Israeli Government did a good job facilitating freedom of movement in the territories. There was little violence. In fact, an almost reverential quiet enveloped the polling places. It was truly moving to see Palestinian people, young and old, embracing this democratic exercise with such purpose and resolve.

Mr. Speaker, Israelis and Americans should welcome the choice of the Palestinian people. Abu Mazen is a proven leader with a long track record of negotiating for peace. He is off to a decent start. Abu Mazen cannot prevent terrorism overnight, neither can we; but he has already sent a strong and successful message to Hamas and the Islamic Jihad to halt the attacks. His security forces have deployed in Gaza. He has unequivocally condemned terrorism.

Prime Minister Sharon's response to the new President has been commendable. Israeli and Palestinian security officials and top negotiators have been meeting. Sharon has praised Abu Mazen's efforts and will meet with him shortly. Despite fierce opposition from the settler movement, Sharon is sticking firmly to his plan to withdraw from Gaza and parts of the West Bank. Fragile as it may be, a new flame of hope and optimism has been kindled in the Mid East.

That is why I am pleased that the House bipartisan leadership has brought a resolution to the floor today. The bill commends the Palestinians for conducting the elections, congratulates Abu Mazen on his victory, and encourages both sides to take steps toward peace.

Mr. Speaker, last night a similar resolution was passed in the other body that I had hoped the House could adopt as well. The language of the Senate resolution is more comprehensive and

balanced and lays out a bolder diplomatic vision to achieve Israeli-Palestinian peace. Nevertheless, it is noteworthy that both Houses of Congress are on record commanding the Palestinian people and their new President. Let us all commit ourselves to seizing this historic opportunity and hastening the day when Israelis and Palestinians will live side by side in peace.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. CANTOR), the chief deputy whip.

Mr. CANTOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to offer my congratulations to the Palestinian people who recently elected Mahmoud Abbas as the new President of the Palestinian Authority.

Mr. Abbas has been given a historic opportunity to alter the direction of the Palestinian leadership from one of terror under Yasser Arafat to one of peace. It is critical that Mr. Abbas capitalize on this opportunity to deal with Israel which has long been searching for a partner in peace and not revert to the terrorist ways of his predecessor.

Accomplishing this goal will not be easy. Mr. Abbas must actively work to dismantle the terrorist organizations that plagued the hopes of the Palestinian people, using all means of force if necessary. He must recognize and acknowledge that no progress towards peace can be made until the terrorist organizations that operate freely amongst the Palestinian population stop the killing of innocent men, women, and children on the streets of Israel.

Mr. Abbas must end incitement against Israel. Only by ending the multi-generational hate can the Palestinian Authority begin the painful path towards peace. The task that stands before Mr. Abbas may seem daunting, but these are crucial steps towards improving the life of the Palestinian people. We cannot afford to return to Palestinian leadership that one day disavows terror and the next day stands shoulder to shoulder with the terrorist organizations that carry out murder. This double standard is unacceptable.

Again, I congratulate Mr. Abbas and encourage him to tackle these problems head on and avail himself of this historic opportunity to work with the Israeli Government to improve the lives of the Palestinian people.

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN), my good friend and distinguished colleague.

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS) and the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) for bringing forward this resolution. I particularly want to acknowledge the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS) and his extraordinary leadership on human rights issues in this body and thank him for his continued commitment in the Middle East. I also want to thank the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT) and

the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER) for sponsoring this resolution.

I had the opportunity to travel with our distinguished whips in December to Israel and the West Bank and talk to the leaders in that region. We all have reason to be optimistic with the election of Mr. Abbas. We urge him to continue not only to speak out against violence but to take action to control the terrorists in that region.

I also want to congratulate Mr. Sharon, the Prime Minister of Israel, for his disengagement, commitment in withdrawing from the Gaza and parts of the West Bank. He is showing real leadership and commitment in that area.

Mr. Speaker, this resolution speaks to the commitment of this country to continue to be an active leader for peace in the Middle East. We know it is important not only for that region but for U.S. interests as well, and I congratulate all that are responsible for bringing this resolution forward today.

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, how much time remains?

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LAHOOD). The gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS) has 4½ minutes remaining.

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

Mr. Speaker, it is significant that within the recent past, three areas in the Middle East have succeeded in holding free and open elections, some of them under the most difficult and dangerous circumstances. We applaud the people of Afghanistan, who not long ago suffered under the horrific yoke of the Taliban, for organizing and conducting free and open elections. And I particularly want to recognize the fact that this took place with the full participation of the women of Afghanistan.

We in this resolution are commending the Palestinian people, who have lived under an undemocratic regime for too long, for organizing and conducting fair and open elections. And, of course, this past weekend we were all thrilled as we were watching our television screens seeing the courage of the Iraqi people under the most brutal and bloody threats go to the polls and exercise their right to select their own leaders. These are very encouraging signs. And it is highly appropriate for the United States to take the lead in underscoring the obvious, that just as in every other part of the globe we have led, assisted, and cleared the coming of free and open elections, at long last we are doing so in the Middle East and adjacent territories.

So, Mr. Speaker, I believe our resolution is more than appropriate.

Mr. Speaker, I yield the balance of my time to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER) has 1½ minutes.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER) is recognized for 3½ minutes.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I wanted to join my colleagues and friend, the majority whip, the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT), who I presume has already spoken, in urging Members on both sides of the aisle in supporting this important bipartisan resolution that we have offered.

Over the last half century, the Members of this body have seldom had occasion to commend those on the Palestinian side whose cause, in my opinion, was hijacked by a leadership that preached death and destruction rather than reconciliation and peace. But today we would be remiss if we did not do so.

Three weeks ago on January 9 an estimated 70 percent of the 1.1 million registered Palestinian voters turned out to cast their ballots in an election that was declared fair by most international observers.

□ 1100

This strong turnout, in my judgment, not only reflects the universal appeal of democracy but also the human heart's yearning for freedom and self-determination.

This resolution commends the Palestinian people for conducting a free and fair election and congratulates the new Palestinian President, Mahmoud Abbas, who has previously disavowed terrorist activity and recently earned the praise of Israel for deploying more Palestinian security forces in Gaza to try to halt rocket and mortar attacks on Israeli citizens.

Among other provisions, this resolution urges the new Palestinian leadership to advance democratic ideals by reforming its political structure, advancing human rights and ending corruption.

It strongly condemns terrorism and urges President Abbas to immediately take steps to dismantle the Palestinian terrorist infrastructure, to bring terrorists to justice, and to end the incitement of hatred in the Palestinian media, schools, mosques, and other institutions.

It restates our Nation's strong commitment to and support, unwavering support, for the State of Israel.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, let me say that the election of President Abbas is an important opportunity and could prove to be an historical turning point in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Israel has made repeated overtures over its history in an effort to speak peace, and, today, it continues to move forward with its withdrawal plan in the Gaza strip. Tragically, over the past 5 decades its efforts were consistently rebuffed by the Arafat-led Palestinian leadership.

Without question, there are great challenges ahead, but the election of President Abbas hopefully marks a new day, a day in which the Palestinian leadership becomes a serious, committed partner, a partner for peace in the Middle East.

I urge my colleagues to vote for this resolution. I thank the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS), a giant in the area of human rights and supporting democratic efforts throughout the world, for his leadership, and I thank the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) for her unending efforts, in concert with the rest of us, to ensure that this Nation stands by Israel but stands with those in the Palestinian population who reach out for peace and partnership and a better tomorrow for all of the people of that troubled area of the world, and I thank the gentlewoman for yielding me the additional time.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from California (Mr. DREIER), the Chair of the Committee on Rules, our good friend.

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

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this resolution and congratulate my colleague, the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN), and others who are involved, the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS), my friend.

We want to extend, of course, congratulations to the Palestinian people. It is fascinating to see that this election is all part of sort of a regional, and really beyond the region's, success as it moves towards political pluralism, and we obviously have seen last Sunday the election in Iraq. We just weeks ago saw, the day after Christmas, the election take place in Ukraine, and we now have this free election with a new leader who offers great hope for the prospect of peace.

I also want to extend congratulations to Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, who I believe has shown strong leadership and a willingness to try and bring about a resolution to this age-old challenge of bringing peace to the region.

I also want to congratulate President Bush, who has encouraged this process all along. Without getting so deeply involved in a way that he could potentially be seen as tampering with the process, he has been a driving force at encouraging us to get to exactly where we are.

So this resolution is a very important one, letting the world know that there is going to be strong, bipartisan support, Democrats and Republicans alike, in the Congress for the encouragement of this peace process, and we all hope and pray that this now lays the groundwork for a potential resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend for yielding me the time.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I have no further requests for time, but I would like to take this opportunity to highlight and commend the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT), our majority whip, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER), the minority whip, and all of our leadership for their efforts on this resolution.

Mr. WEINER. Mr. Speaker, today the House of Representatives voted to commend the Palestinians for holding free elections on January 9, 2005. We should congratulate the countless Palestinians who participated nonviolently in the historic event.

However, we must also hold the newly elected President and the entire Palestinian Authority accountable for publicly rebuking and bringing an end to terror and incitement. Until violence has ended, the U.S. should withhold its funding. U.S. taxpayers should know that their money is being spent fighting terror, not supporting it.

During the last 4 years, the Palestinian Authority failed to halt more than 22,000 attacks that killed over 1,030 Israelis. Yet, at the same time the United States gave more than \$612 million in aid to the West Bank and Gaza. That's more U.S. aid to the Palestinians than in the previous 25 years combined.

Sadly, the recent elections have not produced a true disarming of the terrorists. In the 1 week following Abbas' election, terror attacks left 8 Israelis dead and prompted Israel's Prime Minister to express his outrage at the new Palestinian leadership for "not lifting a finger" to stop violent attacks. Just yesterday, the Jewish residents of Gush Katif were terrorized by mortar fire and a 50 kilogram explosive device was uncovered by the Israeli army at a border crossing in the Gaza Strip.

For many, the continuing violence is no surprise given Abbas' election campaign, in which he not only referred to Israel as "the Zionist enemy," but said he would protect Palestinian terror groups that use rockets and other means to attack innocent Israelis. Yesterday, Israeli intelligence chief Aharon Ze'evi confirmed that "the preparations for terror acts continue" among senior Hezbollah and Hamas leaders. And last week, Hamas won 77 council seats in a landslide victory in Gaza municipal elections. The terror group now controls 7 out of the 10 councils in which elections were held. In the wake of the elections, Israeli minister Natan Sharansky has unveiled a report documenting Palestinian incitement "of virulent hatred of Jews and Israel that mandates the killing of Jews as a religious obligation."

These recent events deserve condemnation. While the election of a Palestinian Prime Minister may be a rare experience, the historic event worth celebrating will be a true end to Palestinian terror. Since Arafat was appointed chairman of the PLO in February 1969, more than 36 years of Palestinian terror have plagued Israelis and Palestinians alike. Violence has been the one constant, and the United States should wait until Palestinian terror ends before commanding or funding an apparatus of terror.

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I would like to express my strong support of House Resolution 56.

January 9, 2005 marked a historic day for the Palestinian people. This resolution commends the Palestinian people for holding free and open elections and congratulates Mahmoud Abbas for being elected President of the Palestinian Authority. This resolution also commends Israel for its role in facilitating the election proceedings.

These elections mark a historic accomplishment for the people of Palestine and a great opportunity for the Israel-Palestine peace process to move forward.

The only way this can happen is for Mr. Abbas to act immediately to end terrorism by stopping the flow of money, equipment, and recruits to Palestinian militant groups.

Mr. Abbas has taken steps since his election to stop these groups, but these efforts must be continued and expanded to end the terrorism that has killed and injured thousands of Israelis and Palestinian people.

Mr. Abbas's election provides an excellent opportunity for the Palestinian Authority to reign in these terrorist groups and for the Palestinian people to move beyond this violence and work with Israel to create a lasting peace.

Mr. Speaker, I have traveled to Israel several times and know that the Israeli Government and the Israeli people are ready and willing to work with the Palestinians but have not had a reliable partner to negotiate with in the past.

Mr. Abbas has the opportunity to put the Palestinian Authority's past failures behind him and demonstrate to Israel and the United States that he is dedicated to the peace process by stopping terrorism and fulfilling Palestinian commitments under the roadmap.

Again, I strongly support this resolution and would like to congratulate Mr. Abbas on his January 9th election, and I am hopeful he will take this timely opportunity to work with Israel toward a peaceful resolution to the Israel-Palestine conflict.

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the resolution offered by the gentleman from Missouri, Mr. BLUNT and the gentleman from Maryland, Mr. HOYER. On January 9, the world witnessed the peaceful expression of Palestinian national aspirations. By holding the freest and fairest elections in the Arab world, it is clear that the Palestinian people, like any people, want to choose their own destiny.

I hope, we all hope, that the election of Mahmoud Abbas as President of the Palestinian Authority opens a new chapter in the pursuit of Middle East peace. But as history has taught us, hope in the Middle East can be fleeting, and so our hope is accompanied by trepidation. We hope that this election will mark the beginning of a new relationship between Israelis and Palestinians, that this change in Palestinian leadership will enable the Palestinian Authority to take the courageous steps required to achieve peace that we have long argued were necessary. We hope that the change in Palestinian government will be recognized by Israel as an opportunity to achieve for themselves the secure Jewish, democratic state that has been their goal since independence. We hope that our own government sees the opportunity to again pick up the mantle of peacemaker, and support both parties in the struggle to achieve the vision of two states, living side by side, in peace, articulated by the President in his speech 2½ years ago.

But there is much work to be done. President Abbas faces many challenges but first, foremost and absolutely, he has to stop terror and the potential for its resumption. Without this step all the other necessary reforms will be for naught. To achieve this President Abbas must reform Palestinian security services; end incitement against Israel; and deliver a government free of corruption and capable of producing the economic growth and prosperity the Palestinian people are entitled to expect. The United States can, and should, help here. I am pleased that the supplemental that we will consider in the coming weeks will have additional assistance for the Palestinian people. Now is the time for U.S. leadership in support of Abu Mazen's efforts to fight terror, reform his security services, and eliminate corruption. In the coming weeks and months we

will have time to judge his efforts, but bearing in mind the potential for failure, now is the time to act in pursuit of peace.

Mr. Speaker, I would be remiss if I did not say a word commanding Israel for facilitating the recent elections. Prime Minister Sharon assured me, when I was in Jerusalem last November that he would do everything possible to ensure that Palestinians could vote, and he did. That is the kind of leader he is, and he deserves our support and our trust.

Mr. Speaker, it is not yet a new day and we have not yet “turned the corner.” But I am certain we will be condemned by future generations if we do not do all we can to seize this moment and the opportunity it represents. I urge my colleagues to support this resolution but more importantly to remember that in the coming months we will be asked to take additional risks for peace. We should take them.

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this resolution, which commends the Palestinian people for holding free and fair elections on January 9. I know we all hope it will be the end of the violence that has devastated so many families, and the beginning of the resumption of peaceful negotiations.

The State of Israel and many, many Palestinians want this. They want peace—to safeguard their children, to encourage economic growth, to move towards the future with optimism and a sense of purpose. The United States shares this hope, and must continue to actively support these efforts. I commend President Bush for his involvement, and I hope he will remain steadfast.

But we are not naive. We have been at such hopeful moments before. As President Bush said last summer, there are a number of concrete actions the Palestinians must take before they can be viewed as legitimate partners in the path to peace.

Free elections are one step. But now newly elected Palestinian Authority Chairman Mahmoud Abbas must do more. He must disarm Palestinian terrorist groups—not just call on them to cease attacks on Israelis. Abbas must do the hard work of dismantling the terrorist organizations. He must control and consolidate the security forces that often collaborated with terror groups. He must push for true political and economic reform, and stop the rampant corruption. And finally, he must truly engage Arab leaders in supporting true peace in the region. If he does all these things, if Abbas can demonstrate by his action that he is a serious, earnest partner in the pursuit of peace, then there is truly cause for hope.

We have waited decades for a peace that will safeguard Israel’s security, and will bring about regional stability and prosperity. For those who truly seek peace, who understand that there is no choice but peace to secure the future of the Middle East, the latest developments are encouraging.

The future of the Middle East—and the ultimate security and safety of Israel—is at stake. The United States will maintain its commitment to bringing the parties back to the negotiating table, but the ultimate choice of peace is theirs to make. Chairman Abbas must not squander the opportunity to bring peace and prosperity to his people. He must show his willingness to make the tough choices, and take the risky path, that separate those who truly seek peace from those who do not.

I urge unanimous adoption of this resolution..

Mr. HYDE. Mr. Speaker, there is a very troubling development taking shape in the security policy of the European Union concerning arms sales to China. Briefly stated, the major European countries have already resumed arms sales to China and now propose to terminate altogether the long-standing embargo on arms sales that they imposed in 1989 following the Tiananmen Square massacre.

This is all part of a new “strategic partnership” which the European Union proclaimed at its summit meeting with China last December. Also reflected in the communiqué for that meeting is European support for China’s membership in the Missile Technology Control Regime. The contrast with the policy of the United States Government could not be greater. Just a few days later, the Department of State once again imposed sanctions on several most prominent entities in China’s military industrial complex for illicit sales to Iran.

Recent public comments by European authorities seek to downplay the significance of their new policy. They maintain that their arms sales to China will not result in quantitative or qualitative increases. But, this provides little assurance since the major EU member states have already doubled their arms sales in the one year period between 2002 and 2003 to \$500 million. Indeed, there are no rose-colored glasses available that can soften the impact of this dangerous course of action.

The development of democracy in China would be the first casualty. Like the United States, the European Union imposed an arms embargo on China in 1989 following the Tiananmen Square massacre. While China’s economic policies since then have provided the Chinese people with greater choices about consumer goods, the Communist Party remains firmly in power and permits few choices about what can be said publicly in exercise of personal liberty. A termination of the EU arms embargo would provide the Chinese leadership with an impressive propaganda coup and demoralize the pro-democracy movement.

Even more disturbing, European security policy in this area appears to be on a collision course with our country’s extensive security interests in the Asia-Pacific region. Our security posture has been the decisive factor in ensuring regional stability and prosperity since the end of World War II. Our military planners and commanders are already confronting a sustained Chinese military buildup, which includes China’s deployment of some 500 short range ballistic missiles across the Taiwan Strait and intercontinental missiles that can reach American shores.

The statement we make in this Resolution is twofold: First, that European policy should support the development of democracy in China, not a military buildup, by maintaining the embargo and terminating current sales. Second, that European armament cooperation with China is fundamentally inconsistent not only with our security interests in Asia, but also with transatlantic armament cooperation, which we will be duty bound to examine in a new context given the increased risks of diversion of sensitive U.S. military technology that naturally arise from EU-Chinese arms cooperation.

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Res. 56 and join my colleagues in congratulating President Mahmoud Abbas on his election and commanding the Palestinian people on their effort to restore democ-

racy and accountability to the Palestinian Authority.

Unfortunately, the Palestinian people suffered greatly under the leadership of their previous President, Yasser Arafat. The Arafat regime was plagued by severe corruption, duplicity, a lack of respect for freedom and human rights, and worst of all a senseless campaign of terrorism that imperiled Palestinian efforts to build a state and make peace with Israel.

With the election of President Abbas, I hope the Palestinian people have embarked on a new path in a much more promising direction. Already President Abbas has made statements condemning terrorism and deployed Palestinian patrols into the areas of Gaza that have been mounting mortar attacks against Israeli communities. He has also begun to tamp down on anti-Israel and anti-Semitic incitement in the official Palestinian media and lay the groundwork to reduce tensions.

The path ahead is difficult. President Abbas’s success will depend on his willingness and ability to dismantle the terrorist infrastructure of Hamas, Islamic Jihad, and other groups. His consolidation of power in Gaza will be essential for the Palestinian people to constructively take advantage of opportunity created by Israel’s disengagement plan. But he must follow a path charted with hope rather than hate, and democracy instead of demagoguery.

The Roadmap for Peace set forth a vision of two states living side by side in peace and security that was indefinitely delayed because of Arafat’s intransigence. Let us all hope that these elections and President Abbas’s leadership will finally be a first step back in the right direction.

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Res. 56, “Commending the Palestinian people for conducting a free and fair presidential election on January 9, 2005.”

I find a quote from Harry Emerson Fosdick appropriate for talking about the historic presidential elections in Palestine: “Democracy is based upon the conviction that there are extraordinary possibilities in ordinary people.” Ordinary Palestinians took extraordinary steps on January 9th and voted for a presidential candidate; this was only the second time in their history that Palestinians have had the opportunity to exercise the right to vote. All Palestinians must seize the opportunity to dedicate themselves to the advancement of peace and prosperity.

This historic window of opportunity begs for the dedication and commitment of all parties who desire peace in the Middle East. I urge the new Secretary of State to be a fair and balanced broker in any future dialogue and to work tirelessly for a permanent peace.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SIMPSON). The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 56.

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 THE EUROPEAN UNION TO MAINTAIN ITS ARMS EMBARGO ON THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 57) urging the European Union to maintain its arms embargo on the People's Republic of China.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 57

Whereas the United States and the European Union (EU) have maintained arms embargoes on the People's Republic of China since 1989, following the decision of the Chinese Government on June 4, 1989, to order an unprovoked, brutal, and indiscriminate assault on thousands of peaceful and unarmed demonstrators and onlookers in and around Tiananmen Square by units of the People's Liberation Army, which resulted in an untold number of deaths and several thousand injuries;

Whereas the People's Republic of China has yet to acknowledge and make amends for the 1989 massacre at Tiananmen Square and an estimated 2,000 Chinese citizens remain in prison as a result of their participation in those peaceful demonstrations according to the Department of State's Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2004;

Whereas the National Security Strategy of the United States approved by President George W. Bush on September 17, 2002, concludes that the People's Republic of China remains strongly committed to national one-party rule by the Communist Party and is not truly accountable to the needs and aspirations of its citizens, while preventing the Chinese people to think, assemble, and worship freely;

Whereas for several years the People's Republic of China has also been engaged in an extensive military buildup in its air, naval, land, and outer space systems, including the deployment of approximately 500 short range ballistic missiles near the Taiwan Strait according to the Department of Defense's Report on the Military Power of the People's Republic of China for Fiscal Year 2004;

Whereas the military buildup by the People's Republic of China and the strategic doctrines and policies that underpin such a buildup remain shrouded in secrecy and imply challenges for strategic deterrence between the United States and China, United States Armed Forces deployed in the Asia and Pacific region, United States commitments and interests related to the defense of numerous friends and allies in the region, particularly Taiwan and Japan, and regional stability more broadly;

Whereas the European Union and the People's Republic of China released a joint statement on December 8, 2004, following their seventh summit meeting at The Hague in which the two sides recognized each other as "major strategic partners in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation" and the EU confirmed its "political will to continue to work towards lifting the EU arms embargo against China";

Whereas the European Union and the People's Republic of China also released a joint declaration on non-proliferation and arms control on December 8, 2004, at The Hague in which the EU stated its support for China's

entry into the Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR);

Whereas on December 20, 2004, the Government of the United States determined that seven entities of the People's Republic of China, including several entities that play major roles in China's military-industrial complex, should be subject to sanctions under section 3 of the Iran Nonproliferation Act of 2000, which provides for penalties on entities for the transfer to Iran of certain controlled equipment and technology, reflecting a time span of more than a decade in which the United States Government has made repeated determinations regarding Chinese firms engaged in illicit transactions involving strategic technology;

Whereas on December 17, 2004, the Council of the European Union "reaffirmed the political will to continue to work towards lifting the arms embargo" on the People's Republic of China and invited the next Presidency of the EU "to finalize the well-advanced work in order to allow for a decision";

Whereas the largest member states of the European Union—France, Germany, Italy, and the United Kingdom—have steadily increased their arms sales to the People's Republic of China, such that from 2002 to 2003 the value of reported arms sales to China doubled to approximately \$540,000,000, according to the most recent annual report, dated November 11, 2004, of the EU on its Code of Conduct on Arms Exports;

Whereas in order to assist member states of the European Union to close the gap in defense capabilities with the United States and to enhance the interoperability of the armed forces of such member states and United States Armed Forces, the United States has provided a framework in its laws, particularly under the Arms Export Control Act and chapters 138 and 139 of title 10, United States Code, in which the United States has pursued a policy of expanded transatlantic armament and defense industry cooperation involving increasingly sophisticated levels of sensitive United States military technology, which becomes subject to increased risks of diversion to the People's Republic of China due to armaments cooperation between the EU and China;

Whereas despite the chronically low defense spending of member states of the European Union, EU member states have decided to develop, with the participation of the People's Republic of China, a new global radio navigational satellite system, known as Galileo, at a cost of more than \$3,000,000,000, which will have military applications, even though such system purports to serve civil applications already served by the United States Global Positioning Satellite (GPS) System; and

Whereas the United States has numerous national interests in the Asia and Pacific region, including the security of Japan, Taiwan, South Korea and other key areas, and United States Armed Forces which are deployed throughout the region could be jeopardized by the People's Republic of China because it is increasingly well-armed and may seek to settle long-standing territorial and political disputes in the region by the threat or use of military force: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) reaffirms the United States arms embargo on the People's Republic of China and related findings and statements of policy set forth in title IX of the Foreign Relations Authorization Act, Fiscal Years 1990 and 1991 (Public Law 101-246);

(2) finds that policies by the United States and other countries which promote the development of democracy in the People's Republic of China, and not the development of Chinese military capabilities, will help as-

sure a stable, peaceful, and prosperous Asia and Pacific region;

(3) deplores the recent increase in arms sales by member states of the European Union (EU) to the People's Republic of China and the European Council's decision to finalize work toward lifting its arms embargo on China, actions that place European security policy in direct conflict with United States security interests and with the security interests of United States friends and allies in the Asia and Pacific region;

(4) declares that such a development in European security policy is inherently inconsistent with the concept of mutual security interests that lies at the heart of United States laws for transatlantic defense cooperation at both the governmental and industrial levels and would necessitate limitations and constraints in these relationships that would be unwelcome on both sides of the Atlantic;

(5) requests the President in his forthcoming meetings with European leaders to urge that they reconsider this unwise course of action and, instead, work expeditiously to close any gaps in the European Union's arms embargo on the People's Republic of China, in the national export control systems of EU member states, and in the EU's Code of Conduct on Arms Exports in order to prevent any future sale of arms or related technology to China; and

(6) requests the President to inform Congress of the outcome of his discussions with European leaders on this subject and to keep Congress fully and currently informed of all developments in this regard.

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

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

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GALLEGLY. 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. 57, the resolution under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this resolution that was introduced yesterday by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HYDE), expressing the strong concern of the House that the EU may lift its arms embargo directed at China.

In his recent inaugural address, President Bush reaffirmed America's commitment to democracy and freedom throughout the world. Yet, by selling advanced weapons systems to the People's Republic of China, the EU is directly undermining the security of one of Asia's most vibrant democracies, our close ally, Taiwan.

Over the last decade, Taiwan has moved strongly in the direction of becoming a full-fledged democracy, with free elections, a free press and respect for the rule of law. If the arms embargo is lifted, the EU would be further tilting the military equation against the