

RECOGNIZING THE 34TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE INVASION OF CYPRUS AND COMMENDING EFFORTS TO REACH A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT LEADING TO THE REUNIFICATION OF CYPRUS

HON. ELTON GALLEGLY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 22, 2008

Mr. GALLEGLY. Madam Speaker, this past weekend marked the 34th anniversary of the invasion of Cyprus by Turkish forces. During the war, approximately 5,000 Cypriots were killed and close to 200,000 Greek Cypriots were forcibly removed from their homes. This anniversary also marks another year in which Cyprus is divided between north and south and between the Turkish Cypriot and Greek Cypriot communities.

However, despite 34 years of division in Cyprus, I am more optimistic today about reaching a just and lasting settlement than I have been in many years. In February of this year, the Greek Cypriots elected a new president, Demetrius Christofias. Immediately following his election, President Christofias followed through on his commitment to make the solution of the Cyprus problem his top priority.

President Christofias found a willing partner in Turkish Cypriot leader Mehmet Talat. The leaders of the two main Cypriot communities met on March 21 for the purpose of trying to implement the provisions of the U.N.-brokered July 8, 2006 agreement. This agreement, which sets forth a framework for negotiations with the objective of trying to achieve the unification of Cyprus based on a bizonal, bi-communal federation and political equality, as set out in the relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions. The March 21 meeting also established a number of Working Groups and Technical Committees, as described in the July 8 agreement, in order to prepare the ground for full-fledged negotiations leading to a comprehensive and durable settlement.

The two leaders have already met on three occasions and will meet again on July 25 when they will review the progress of the Working Groups and Technical Committees. It is my hope that both leaders can agree to move forward and begin full-fledged negotiations.

The House of Representatives has already voiced its strong support for comprehensive settlement of the Cyprus issue. On October 9, 2007, the House on a voice vote passed House Resolution 405, which expressed its support for the immediate implementation of the July 8, 2006 agreement as the way forward to prepare for new comprehensive negotiations leading to the reunification of Cyprus within a bi-zonal, bi-communal federation. In addition, the resolution called upon the United States Government to fully support the immediate implementation this agreement in its entirety.

I believe the time is right for a permanent settlement in Cyprus. We have two leaders—President Christofias and Turkish Cypriot Leader Talat—who are ready and willing to reach an agreement. I also believe that the people of Cyprus, whether Greek Cypriot, Turkish Cypriot or members of the other ethnic groups on the island, recognize that a settlement leading to a reunified Cyprus will help

lead the way to a future of peace and prosperity.

LEADING MELANOMA RESEARCHERS ESTABLISH LINK BETWEEN UV EXPOSURE AND SKIN CANCER

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 22, 2008

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, I want to bring to my colleagues' attention a powerful statement from more than 500 of the world's leading skin cancer researchers on the harmful effects of over-exposure to ultraviolet radiation.

The petition was prompted by a national media campaign initiated by the indoor tanning industry, which seeks to dispel the link between melanoma, the most serious form of skin cancer, and UV exposure from natural or artificial sources (such as tanning beds).

Backed by clear, evidence-based data demonstrating the harmful effects of UV radiation, nearly 500 of the world's premier melanoma researchers expressed their concern by signing a petition affirming the role of UV exposure in increasing one's risk for skin cancer. Please find below the official language of the statement signed by nearly 500 researchers:

MELANOMA RESEARCH FOUNDATION AND SOCIETY FOR MELANOMA RESEARCH'S UV EXPOSURE & TANNING JOINT STATEMENT

There are clear, evidence-based data demonstrating harmful effects of UVA and UVB radiation, including carcinogenic/mutagenic effects on DNA. Purposeful exposure to UV rays increases the risk for skin cancer, including multiple types which may be lethal. Use of indoor tanning (outside of medical practice) represents one of the most striking examples of an avoidable cause of lethal cancer in man. We deplore any efforts to distort scientific research for financial gain, and urge regulatory agencies to crackdown on this practice because the lives of so many people, including young people, are at stake.

The petition was prompted specifically by two ads the Indoor Tanning Association (ITA) ran earlier this year. The ads not only distort scientific research, but ignore the clear, evidence-based data demonstrating harmful effects of UVA and UVB radiation.

I am attaching a press release issued by the Society for Melanoma Research and the Melanoma Research Foundation accompanying the public release of the petition.

RESEARCHERS TAKE HARD LINE AGAINST UV EXPOSURE—HUNDREDS AFFIRM HARMFUL EFFECTS OF ULTRAVIOLET RAYS, DISCOURAGE INTENTIONAL TANNING

WASHINGTON, DC.—Researchers have expressed concern over a new campaign initiated by the tanning industry, which seeks to dispel the link between melanoma, the most serious form of skin cancer, and UV exposure from natural or artificial sources (such as tanning beds). In response, nearly 500 of the foremost experts on melanoma signed a statement affirming the existence of evidence-based data demonstrating the harmful effects of UVA and UVB radiation. The statement, which was initiated at the 5th Melanoma Research Congress in Sapporo, Japan on May 7–12, not only states that UV rays increase one's risk for skin cancer, including melanoma, but also maintains that the use

of indoor tanning (outside of medical practice) represents an example of an avoidable cause of lethal cancer.

Studies show that UV light is a carcinogen (i.e. causes cancer). This occurs when skin cells are damaged after UV exposure (either from the sun or a tanning bed). The same DNA damage that triggers tanning also appears capable of causing cancerous mutations in skin cells. If those mutations are not completely repaired—as frequently occurs—skin cancers may result. Additional data demonstrates that indoor tanning devices emit UV radiation that is similar to, and sometimes more powerful than, that emitted by the sun. In fact, a systematic review of worldwide data, published in the March 2007 issue of the International Journal of Cancer, found a prominent, consistent increase—75 percent—in risk for melanoma in people who begin using tanning beds in their teens or twenties. Additionally, the review also showed that people across all age groups who have ever used tanning beds face a 15 percent higher risk of developing melanoma than those who have not. Even more dramatic increases were seen in certain non-melanoma forms of skin cancer, such as squamous cell carcinoma, a tumor that only on occasion spreads from the skin and may then be lethal.

Many scientists also point out that vitamin D, although produced in the skin, can easily be obtained by non-UV related means, such as dietary supplements. These dietary supplements would not carry the risk of cancer associated with UV radiation, in cases where increased vitamin D levels are deemed beneficial.

The Melanoma Research Foundation's (MRF) Scientific Advisory Committee stated, "The petition was developed to reinforce that the scientific community continues to stand behind strong data supporting the connection between skin cancer and UV-exposure. As physicians and scientists, we are concerned that this campaign may confuse the public, putting them at an increased risk for a disease that is too often lethal."

Melanoma is one of the fastest growing cancers in the U.S. and can strike people of all ages, all races and both sexes. In fact, one in 50 people have a lifetime risk of developing melanoma. Further, approximately 65 percent of all melanomas are attributed to UV exposure resulting from natural and artificial sources.

A wealth of information exists about how to reduce the risk of developing melanoma and other skin cancers, yet both MRF and SMR advise that the most important measure the public can take is to avoid intentional sunbathing and indoor tanning devices. For those who want to learn safe ways to access to vitamin D and look "tan," or for more information about melanoma and UV exposure, please visit www.melanoma.org or www.societymelanomaresearch.org.

ABOUT MELANOMA

Melanoma, the most serious type of skin cancer, is one of the fastest growing cancers in the U.S., and can strike people of all ages, all races and both sexes. One in 50 people have a lifetime risk of developing melanoma. In fact, in 2008, more than 62,000 Americans are expected to be diagnosed with invasive melanoma, resulting in an estimated 8,400 deaths. Melanoma is the most common form of cancer for young adults 25- to 29-years-old and the second most common cancer in adolescents and young adults 15- to 29-years-old. Nationally, one person dies of melanoma nearly every hour—and this number is rising.

ABOUT THE MELANOMA RESEARCH FOUNDATION

The Melanoma Research Foundation (MRF) is the largest private, national organization devoted to melanoma in the United

States. The Foundation is committed to the support of medical research in finding effective treatments and eventually a cure for melanoma. The Foundation also educates patients and physicians about prevention, diagnosis and treatment of melanoma, while acting as an advocate for the melanoma community to raise awareness of this disease and the need for a cure. The MRF Web site is the premiere source for melanoma information seekers. More information is available at www.melanoma.org.

ABOUT THE SOCIETY FOR MELANOMA RESEARCH

The Society for Melanoma Research (SMR) is an all-volunteer group of scientists working to find the mechanisms responsible for melanoma and, consequently, new therapies for this cancer. SMR contributes to advances in melanoma research by bringing together researchers to unite the scientific community and hasten the discovery of preventative and curative therapies. More information is available at www.societymelanomaresearch.org.

CELEBRATE PEACE EFFORTS ON CYPRUS WITH PROGRESS, NOT PARADES

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 22, 2008

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Madam Speaker, Turkish Cypriots in the northern region of Cyprus mark every July 20th as the anniversary of Turkey's military intervention in that country in 1974. In fact, as part of the "Peace and Freedom Day" celebration this year, the Turkish Naval Frigate "Gelibolu" reportedly anchored off the northern region of Cyprus and the "Turkish Stars"—Turkey's military jet acrobatics team—performed in the skies over northern Cyprus.

For over three decades, significant international efforts have been undertaken to peacefully reunify the island nation of Cyprus. The new Cypriot government is currently working hard to engage with the leadership of the Turkish Cypriots and find a way to end the division of Cyprus, once and for all. Nevertheless, a date for new reunification talks has yet to be set, barricades still stand across the island, and the government of Turkey continues to withhold its public support for the talks and has yet to remove its military presence on Cyprus.

Madam Speaker, these displays this past weekend by the Turkish military are unproductive, coming, as they do, at a time when the status of Cyprus remains in limbo. Cyprus cannot remain a divided island with a divided people.

Congress last year adopted House Resolution 405, a measure I was proud to cosponsor, which emphasized that the reunification of Cyprus should be based on a bi-communal, bi-zonal federation. Other responsible nations have also stressed that such a reunification should include a single sovereignty and a single citizenship, with the independence and territorial integrity of Cyprus safeguarded. It is commendable that some steps have recently been taken towards establishment of such a solution.

On May 23rd, the President of Cyprus and a designated representative for the Turkish Cypriot community—issued a joint statement

in which they reaffirmed their commitment to a bi-zonal, bi-communal federation. Both sides also recently agreed to reopen a crossing point at Ledra Street in Nicosia, a key thoroughfare through that divided capital that has been closed for over 40 years. So there is some movement, but much remains to be done. There must be a solution that will end the occupation, reunite the island, and restore and safeguard the human rights and fundamental freedoms of the Cypriot people as a whole.

I suggest that a more fitting celebration this year of the so-called "Peace and Freedom Day" that I mentioned at the start of my remarks would consist of an announcement of the resumption comprehensive talks on reunification and a public expression of support for those negotiations. At some point soon, the final parade of Turkish troops should be their permanent departure from the island of Cyprus and the removal of all Turkish military forces there.

TRIBUTE TO SHARON ALBAN

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 22, 2008

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Sharon Alban, co-publisher of the Ogden Reporter, for earning the Distinguished Service Award at the annual Iowa Newspaper Association's convention.

The Distinguished Service Award is the most prestigious honor given by the Iowa Newspaper Association, and former recipients of the award select the winner. Excellence runs in Sharon's household as her husband Gary won the award in 2005. In addition to Sharon's award, the Ogden Reporter was awarded three press awards in the Iowa Newspaper Foundation's annual Better Newspaper Contests.

In 1966, Gary and Sharon bought the Ogden Reporter. Sharon began on the streets selling ads. She found a niche in sales in addition to her day-to-day work with the newspaper. In addition to Sharon's diligent work with the newspaper, she is very active in her church and is involved in many community activities and events.

I know that my colleagues in the United States Congress join me in commending Sharon Alban for her leadership and dedication to representing Iowa in the Ogden Reporter. I consider it an honor to represent Sharon and her husband Gary in Congress, and I wish them the best in their future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO POCAHONTAS REGULAR BAPTIST CHURCH

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 22, 2008

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Pocahontas Regular Baptist Church of Pocahontas, Iowa, on celebrating their 50th anniversary as a congregation.

Beginning in 1955, a group of Baptists began meeting together in Rolfe, Iowa where

study classes and evangelical meetings were held in preparation for a new church community in Pocahontas. In January 1958, the Pocahontas Regular Baptist Church was organized. Later that year it was officially received into the General Association of Regular Baptist Churches.

The first services and meetings were held in the Farm Bureau building until 1961, when the first church building was raised. The church building was the former Methodist Church from Havelock, Iowa. The congregation continued to grow, and in 1978, it was decided to build a new church to accommodate the growing congregation. A new church building was completed and dedicated in 1981 and remains the congregation's church today.

Pocahontas Regular Baptist Church has been an integral part of the surrounding Pocahontas community, and for this I offer the congregation my utmost congratulations on a prosperous history. It is an honor to represent all the parishioners and the current Pastor, Tim Kuhn, in the United States Congress, and I wish them continued success, grace, peace and celebration as a community.

INTELLIGENCE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2009

SPEECH OF

HON. PETER WELCH

OF VERMONT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 16, 2008

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 5959) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2009 for intelligence and intelligence-related activities of the United States Government, the Community Management Account, and the Central Intelligence Agency Retirement and Disability System, and for other purposes:

Mr. WELCH of Vermont. Mr. Chairman, I would like to thank Chairman REYES and the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence for their great work on this bill and for agreeing to include my amendment in the Manager's amendment to the bill.

Mr. Chairman, my amendment recognizes that we have a responsibility to the Iraqis and Afghans who have willingly put a target on their own backs by choosing to help our servicemen and women and our diplomats. These interpreters put themselves and their families in immense jeopardy every single day.

Unfortunately, Congress has been shamefully slow in ensuring their safety. Only now are we beginning to make progress in providing the opportunity of resettlement to those whose lives are at risk because of their work for us. This has come about largely because of the advocacy of our own troops, who have benefited day in and day out from the services of these interpreters and who have come to call them their brothers. They are asking us to stand up for the people who have stood up for them.

Meanwhile, our intelligence community faces a critical shortfall in linguists and cultural experts. Our national security is jeopardized daily by our inability to field the specialists necessary to translate and interpret valuable intelligence information.

Mr. Chairman, my amendment is simple, it requires the Director of National Intelligence to