

REAFFIRMING THE STIMSON
DOCTRINE OF NON-RECOGNITION

HON. ALCEE HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 25, 2008

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce a joint resolution regarding the Stimson Doctrine of Non-Recognition, which was a policy adopted in the 1930s, stating that the United States government will not recognize territorial changes brought about by force alone. The Stimson Doctrine became the foundation for sections of the U.N. Charter dealing with the inviolability of recognized borders and territorial integrity.

This principled policy was perhaps, most famously, applied to the three Baltic republics that were forcibly incorporated into the Soviet Union in 1940. Throughout the Cold War the United States never recognized this violent and illegitimate incorporation.

Following the collapse of the Soviet empire, many had hoped that a non-recognition policy would become a dated relic of a bygone era. Sadly, recent events have exposed the naiveté of this view and I strongly believe that the Stimson Doctrine should be reaffirmed and reapplied and continue to be a fundamental principle of our foreign policy.

As noted Russian scholar Paul Goble recently wrote in an article entitled, "It's Time for a new Non-Recognition Policy" and I quote,

That does not mean that we must counter any such action militarily or refuse to have anything to do with the aggressor—until 1991, after all, we had an embassy in the capital of the Soviet Union even though we did not recognize the USSR's right to control the Baltic countries—but it does mean that we must never recognize such actions as somehow legitimate, a step that would open the floodgates of aggression not only in Eurasia but around the world.

Sometimes we cannot do more, but as the great Russian memoirist Nadezhda Mandelstam reminded us, we can never afford to do less.

Madam Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to join me in supporting the bedrock principle

of respect for territorial integrity and sovereignty and support this measure.

ANNIVERSARY OF THE INDEPENDENCE
OF THE REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 25, 2008

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the 48th Anniversary of the Republic of Cyprus. It was on October 1, 1960, that Cyprus became an independent republic after decades of British colonial rule.

I am honored to represent Astoria, Queens—one of the largest and most vibrant communities of Greek and Cypriot Americans in this country. I truly enjoy participating in the life of this community and treasure the wonderful and vital Cypriot friends that I have come to know. Cyprus has long been a key partner for the United States, and our friendship rests on the bedrock of shared democratic values.

As a member of the European Union, Cyprus is playing a vital role in European affairs while also strengthening relations with the United States. Unfortunately, the commemoration of Cyprus' Independence Day this year, as in the past, is clouded by the fact that Turkish military forces continue illegally to occupy Cyprus, in violation of U.N. Security Council resolutions. On July 20, 1974, Turkey invaded Cyprus, and to this day continues to maintain an estimated 40,000 heavily armed troops on the island.

I have introduced H. Res. 407, which expresses the strong support of the House for the positive actions by the Government of the Republic of Cyprus aimed at opening additional crossing points along the cease-fire line. On April 3, the border crossing at Ledra Street in Nicosia was opened, and for the first time in decades, people could walk the full length of the street. I hope that more positive steps will be taken to end the division of Cyprus and to bring people together.

On March 21, 2008, President Christofias and Turkish-Cypriot leader Talat agreed to establish working groups and technical committees as stipulated in the July 8, 2006, agreement for which the House of Representatives expressed its full support by passing H. Res. 405 last year. I am pleased that new comprehensive negotiations regarding the unification of Cyprus within a bizonal, bi-communal federation have recently begun.

I believe that the United States must play an active role in the resolution of the serious issues facing Cyprus. The relationship between Cyprus and the United States is strong and enduring, and we stand together celebrating democracy and freedom.

TRIBUTE TO ROGER ALLEN

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 25, 2008

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the retirement of Roger Allen at the Lennox Industries factory in Marshalltown, Iowa, and to express my appreciation for his dedication and commitment to the community, his co-workers and factory.

For 50 years, Roger has worked in many roles for Lennox Industries, which manufactures and installs residential and commercial air conditioning and heating systems. His most recent job was as a material handler and forklift operator in several areas of cooling assembly and fabrication. Roger was known for his superb customer service, spotless accident record, reliable attendance, knowledge of the factory and upbeat personality around his co-workers each day.

I know that my colleagues in the United States Congress join me in commending Roger Allen for his service to Lennox Industries and the Marshalltown, Iowa community. I consider it an honor to represent Roger in Congress, and I wish him and his wife Linda a long, happy and healthy retirement.