

CONTINUATION OF NATIONAL
EMERGENCY WITH RESPECT TO
BURMA—MESSAGE FROM THE
PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED
STATES (H. DOC. NO. 110-113)

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, without objection, referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and ordered to be printed:

To the Congress of the United States

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. I have sent the enclosed notice to the *Federal Register* for publication, stating that the Burma emergency is to continue beyond May 20, 2008.

The crisis between the United States and Burma arising from the actions and policies of the Government of Burma, including its engaging in large-scale repression of the democratic opposition in Burma, that led to the declaration of a national emergency on May 20, 1997, and its expansion on October 18, 2007, and April 30, 2008, has not been resolved. These actions and policies are hostile to U.S. interests and pose a continuing unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States. For this reason, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency with respect to Burma and maintain in force the sanctions against Burma to respond to this threat. This action does not inhibit any efforts on the part of the United States to provide humanitarian assistance to the people of Burma in the aftermath of Cyclone Nargis.

GEORGE W. BUSH.
THE WHITE HOUSE, May 16, 2008.

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COMMUNICATION FROM CON-
STITUENT LIAISON, THE HONOR-
ABLE STENY HOYER, MEMBER
OF CONGRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from Jamie Grove, Constituent Liaison, the Honorable STENY HOYER, Member of Congress:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, May 9, 2008.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MADAM SPEAKER: This is to notify you formally, pursuant to rule VIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, that I have been served with a subpoena, issued in the District Court of Charles County, Maryland, for testimony in a criminal case.

After consultation with the Office of General Counsel, I have determined that compli-

ance with the subpoena is consistent with the precedents and privileges of the House.

Sincerely,

JAMIE GROVE,
Constituent Liaison.

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 motions 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 tomorrow.

CORAL REEF ECOSYSTEMS

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 300) recognizing the necessity for the United States to maintain its significant leadership role in improving the health and promoting the resiliency of coral reef ecosystems, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The text of the concurrent resolution is as follows:

H. CON. RES. 300

Whereas coral reef ecosystems are among the world's most biologically diverse and productive marine habitats, and are often described as the tropical rain forest of the oceans;

Whereas healthy coral reef ecosystems provide the basis for subsistence, commercial fisheries, and coastal and marine tourism and are of vital economic importance to coastal States and territories of the United States including Florida, Hawaii, Georgia, Texas, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands;

Whereas healthy coral reef ecosystems function as natural, regenerating coastal barriers, protecting shorelines and coastal areas from high waves, storm surges, and accompanying losses of human life and property;

Whereas the coral reef research community has long established that coral reefs are subject to a wide range of natural and anthropogenic threats, including climate change;

Whereas the health of coral reef ecosystems is at serious risk due to a variety of human activities, both local and global;

Whereas protecting and conserving coral reef ecosystems is an urgent issue, but they may be preserved if we act now;

Whereas changing climate is potentially one of the most significant long-term influences on the structure and function of coral reef ecosystems, including the devastating effects of ocean acidification and rising ocean temperatures;

Whereas a wide variety of destructive fishing practices, including the use of cyanide, other poisons, surfactants, and explosives, are contributing to the global decline of coral reef ecosystems;

Whereas the United States has taken measures to protect national coral reef resources through the designation and management of several marine protected areas located in both the Pacific and Caribbean,

through building local management capacity, and by supporting effective management and sound research to preserve, sustain, and restore valuable coral reef ecosystems;

Whereas our Nation's coral reef ecosystems provide benefit and opportunity to all, and conservation of these important resources requires the coordinated efforts of the many Federal agencies and State, territory, and commonwealth partners that comprise the U.S. Coral Reef Task Force and our many nongovernmental, international, and academic partners;

Whereas the United States, acting through its agencies, has established itself as a global leader in coral reef ecosystem stewardship by launching and remaining an active and engaged participant in the International Coral Reef Initiative, and by maintaining professional networks for the purposes of sharing knowledge and information on coral reef ecosystems, furnishing near real-time data collected at coral reef sites, providing a repository for historical data relating to coral reefs, and making substantial contributions to the general body of coral reef knowledge; and

Whereas 2008 has been declared the "International Year of the Reef" by the coral reef research community and over 40 national and international coral reef research, conservation, and academic organizations: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That the Congress recognizes the necessity for the United States to maintain its significant leadership role in improving the health and promoting the resiliency of coral reef ecosystems, by—

(1) strengthening awareness about ecological, economic, social, and cultural values of coral reefs and associated ecosystems;

(2) improving understanding of the critical threats to coral reefs and generating both practical and innovative solutions to reduce those threats; and

(3) initiating the prompt development and implementation of effective management strategies for the conservation and sustainable use of those ecosystems.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Guam (Ms. BORDALLO) and the gentleman from California (Mr. ISSA) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Guam.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 days 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 Guam?

There was no objection.

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

House Concurrent Resolution 300 recognizes the necessity for the United States to maintain its significant leadership role in improving the health and promoting resiliency of coral reef ecosystems.

Coral reef ecosystems are not only economically important to commercial fisheries and marine tourism of many places, including my own district of Guam, but they also act as natural protective coastal barriers during storm surges and high waves.

In 2008, the International Year of the Reef, the United States can help facilitate coordinated conservation efforts and maintain its leadership by working to strengthen awareness of the values of the coral reef ecosystems. This resolution, Mr. Speaker, encourages continued United States leadership in that regard, and I urge my colleagues to support it.

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

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

I rise in support of this resolution. House Concurrent Resolution 300 does make an important point to the American people and to the world that the United States has been a leader in the preservation and restoration of our coral reefs.

Like the gentlewoman from Guam, I have a long coastline and recognize that without the often-called "rain forest of the ocean," the world would not eat, our coastlines would be eroded, and, without a doubt, life as we know it would not prevail.

So, Mr. Speaker, I do ask strong support in favor of this resolution.

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Con. Res. 300, recognizing the urgency for the U.S. to maintain its leadership role in protecting and promoting the resiliency of our coral reef ecosystems.

First, I want to commend the chief sponsors, Ms. BORDALLO of Guam and Ms. ROSELEHTINEN of Florida, for their initiative in introducing this important resolution. I also want to acknowledge the support and leadership of Chairman NICK RAHALL and Ranking Member DON YOUNG of Alaska of the Committee on Natural Resources.

As a member of the Subcommittee on Fisheries, Wildlife, and Oceans, I want to personally commend my good friend, Chairwoman BORDALLO, for her tireless work on the many issues affecting our oceans. This resolution in particular is an example of the efforts by the Congress in promoting U.S. leadership and participation in preserving our natural resources. Given that 2008 has been designated the "International Year of the Reef," it is only appropriate that we must reinforce U.S. commitments to the international efforts to protect critical coral reef habitats.

Mr. Speaker, according to a recent U.N. report on oceans, 60 percent of the world's coral reefs will die-off by 2030. This is due to the changes in the climate because of global warming from the harm chemicals and human activity has placed on our environment. It is our responsibility to enhance international efforts to protect and restore our coastal marine resources. We have taken many steps to achieve these efforts by establishing the U.S. Coral Reef Task Force in 1998 that has done so much through enhancing research and monitoring, implementing action strategies, and formulating and enforcing national policy on protecting and preserving all of our coastal reefs.

Last year, I introduced H.R. 1205, the Coral Reef Conservation Act of 2000, that was unanimously passed by the House in October 2007. This legislation will codify the U.S. Coral Reef Task Force and will advance existing

programs that address this core issue. However, there has been no further action on the Senate side. I am hopeful that this important legislation will be passed by the end of the year.

Again, I urge my colleagues to pass H. Con. Res. 300. I thank my colleagues for supporting this important bipartisan resolution.

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

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I again urge Members to support the resolution, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Guam (Ms. BORDALLO) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 300.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

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.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

MANAGING FISH STOCKS IN ARCTIC OCEAN

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the Senate joint resolution (S.J. Res. 17) directing the United States to initiate international discussions and take necessary steps with other Nations to negotiate an agreement for managing migratory and transboundary fish stocks in the Arctic Ocean.

The Clerk read the title of the Senate joint resolution.

The text of the Senate joint resolution is as follows:

S.J. RES. 17

Whereas the decline of several commercially valuable fish stocks throughout the world's oceans highlights the need for fishing nations to conserve fish stocks and develop management systems that promote fisheries sustainability;

Whereas fish stocks are migratory throughout their habitats, and changing ocean conditions can restructure marine habitats and redistribute the species dependent on those habitats;

Whereas changing global climate regimes may increase ocean water temperature, creating suitable new habitats in areas previously too cold to support certain fish stocks, such as the Arctic Ocean;

Whereas habitat expansion and migration of fish stocks into the Arctic Ocean and the potential for vessel docking and navigation in the Arctic Ocean could create conditions favorable for establishing and expanding commercial fisheries in the future;

Whereas commercial fishing has occurred in several regions of the Arctic Ocean, including the Barents Sea, Kara Sea, Beaufort Sea, Chukchi Sea, and Greenland Sea, although fisheries scientists have only limited

data on current and projected future fish stock abundance and distribution patterns throughout the Arctic Ocean;

Whereas remote indigenous communities in all nations that border the Arctic Ocean engage in limited, small scale subsistence fishing and must maintain access to and sustainability of this fishing in order to survive;

Whereas many of these communities depend on a variety of other marine life for social, cultural and subsistence purposes, including marine mammals and seabirds that may be adversely affected by climate change, and emerging fisheries in the Arctic should take into account the social, economic, cultural and subsistence needs of these small coastal communities;

Whereas managing for fisheries sustainability requires that all commercial fishing be conducted in accordance with science-based limits on harvest, timely and accurate reporting of catch data, equitable allocation and access systems, and effective monitoring and enforcement systems;

Whereas migratory fish stocks traverse international boundaries between the exclusive economic zones of fishing nations and the high seas, and ensuring sustainability of fisheries targeting these stocks requires management systems based on international coordination and cooperation;

Whereas international fishing treaties and agreements provide a framework for establishing rules to guide sustainable fishing activities among those nations that are parties to the agreement, and regional fisheries management organizations provide international fora for implementing these agreements and facilitating international cooperation and collaboration;

Whereas under its authorities in the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, the North Pacific Fishery Management Council has proposed that the United States close all Federal waters in the Chukchi and Beaufort Seas to commercial fishing until a fisheries management plan is fully developed; and

Whereas future commercial fishing and fisheries management activities in the Arctic Ocean should be developed through a coordinated international framework, as provided by international treaties or regional fisheries management organizations, and this framework should be implemented before significant commercial fishing activity expands to the high seas: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That—

(1) the United States should initiate international discussions and take necessary steps with other Arctic nations to negotiate an agreement or agreements for managing migratory, transboundary, and straddling fish stocks in the Arctic Ocean and establishing a new international fisheries management organization or organizations for the region;

(2) the agreement or agreements negotiated pursuant to paragraph (1) should conform to the requirements of the United Nations Fish Stocks Agreement and contain mechanisms, inter alia, for establishing catch and bycatch limits, harvest allocations, observers, monitoring, data collection and reporting, enforcement, and other elements necessary for sustaining future Arctic fish stocks;

(3) as international fisheries agreements are negotiated and implemented, the United States should consult with the North Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council and Alaska Native subsistence communities of the Arctic; and

(4) until the agreement or agreements negotiated pursuant to paragraph (1) come into