

The Kurds have been willing partners of the United States since that democratic transition in Iraq began in 2003, and the Kurdish part of the country has served as a model for Iraq's democratization ever since Operation Iraqi Freedom.

We should move forward with this. Actually, it really is a sorry comment that we have to have congressional legislation to force the State Department to have a consulate in Kurdistan or in the Kurdish region of Iraq. This makes all the sense in the world. It's good for them. It's good for us. It's good for the people of Iraq. It creates an area of stability in which we are officially recognizing that concept of a peaceful relationship with the Kurds in order to have peace in Iraq.

So I ask my fellow colleagues to join me today in officially recognizing this great friendship that serves us all so well by enabling the State Department to open a consulate in Erbil, Kurdistan, and, again, underscoring the great friendship between the Kurds and the American people, a friendship that serves both our countries well.

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

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. MCMAHON) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 873, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution, as amended, was agreed to.

The title of the resolution was amended so as to read: "Calling for the establishment of a United States Consulate in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq along with similar efforts in other areas of Iraq."

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

UNITED STATES-ISRAEL ROCKET AND MISSILE DEFENSE COOPERATION AND SUPPORT ACT

Mr. MCMAHON. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5327) to authorize assistance to Israel for the Iron Dome anti-missile defense system, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5327

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "United States-Israel Rocket and Missile Defense Cooperation and Support Act".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) The Jewish State of Israel, as a close and indispensable ally of the United States, with whom the United States enjoys mutually-beneficial military, intelligence, home-

land security, scientific, technological, and other cooperation, deserves all necessary assistance to defend itself and its citizens from the many threats that it continues to face.

(2) The State of Israel has been under grave threat and frequent attack from missiles, rockets, and mortar shells fired at Israeli civilian targets by militants from the Foreign Terrorist Organization Hamas on its southern border and by the Foreign Terrorist Organization Hezbollah on its northern border, which have killed, wounded, or inflicted psychological trauma on countless Israelis.

(3) The United States remains committed to Israel's qualitative military edge, including its advantage over non-state actors such as Hamas and Hezbollah, which boast increasingly sophisticated and powerful weapons as a result of support from Iran, Syria, and other state actors.

(4) Regional stability and lasting peace between Israel and the Palestinians requires that Israel can ensure the safety of its population against rocket, missile, and other threats.

(5) The United States can help to advance its own vital national security interests and the cause of peace by supporting Israel's ability to defend itself against rocket, missile, and other threats.

(6) The State of Israel announced in January 2010 the successful testing of its Iron Dome Short Range Artillery Rocket Defense System which is designed to intercept short-range rockets, missiles, and mortars launched by militants in Gaza and southern Lebanon.

(7) In the face of threats from its neighbors and non-state actors, Israel historically has sought the means to defend itself, by itself.

(8) President Barack Obama has stated: "Our commitment to Israel's security is unshakable."

(9) Vice President Joe Biden has stated: "From my experience, the one precondition for progress is that the rest of the world knows this—there is no space between the U.S. and Israel when it comes to security—none."

(10) Secretary of Defense Robert M. Gates has stated: "President Obama has affirmed, the United States commitment to Israel's security is unshakable, and our defense relationship is stronger than ever, to the mutual benefit of both nations."

(11) President Obama recently requested funds to help the State of Israel procure and maintain Iron Dome missile batteries.

SEC. 3. AUTHORIZATION OF ASSISTANCE TO ISRAEL FOR IRON DOME ANTI-MISSILE DEFENSE SYSTEM.

The President, acting through the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of State, is authorized to provide assistance to the Government of Israel for the procurement, maintenance, and sustainment of the Iron Dome Short Range Artillery Rocket Defense System for purposes of intercepting short-range rockets, missiles, and mortars launched against Israel.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New York (Mr. MCMAHON) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MCMAHON. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. MCMAHON. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of this legislation and yield myself as much time as I may consume.

H.R. 5327, the United States-Israel Rocket and Missile Defense Cooperation and Support Act of which I am a proud original cosponsor, authorizes funds for the State of Israel to facilitate the deployment of the Iron Dome missile defense system. I would like to thank the distinguished gentleman from Virginia (Mr. NYE) for introducing this important legislation.

Madam Speaker, as we all know, the residents of Israel are subject to the constant threat of terrorist attack—not just threat but actual attack. Israelis living in the southern city of Sderot have been terrorized by more than 8,000 indiscriminate rocket and mortar attacks on their homes, schools and communities. Passage of the U.S.-Israel Rocket and Missile Defense Cooperation and Support Act today will help provide Israel with a reliable missile shield that could lead to a major strategic shift in Israel's approach to dealing with the persistent missile threat.

For years, the primary tool that Israel has used to protect its citizens from Hamas and Hezbollah missile attacks is an early warning system that sets off sirens telling people to hurry into bomb shelters. This is a passive defense which aims to minimize fatalities among helpless, unprotected civilians. The deployment of the Iron Dome missile shield will give Israel the capability to provide active defense. This advanced system has the capability of knocking Qassams, Katyushas, mortars and other deadly projectiles out of the sky, rendering them harmless.

President Obama's decision to provide the necessary funding to support Israel's deployment of the Iron Dome system demonstrates America's enduring commitment to Israel's enduring defense and the Obama administration's commitment to ensuring Israel's security. As Secretary of Defense Robert Gates recently said, "President Obama has affirmed, the United States' commitment to Israel's security is unshakable, and our defense relationship is stronger than ever, to the mutual benefit of both nations." Madam Speaker, U.S.-Israeli cooperation on the Iron Dome system will help advance the cause of peace by supporting Israel's ability to defend herself against terrorist attacks. This will give Israel the security it requires to live in peace and to make difficult sacrifices for peace. I believe defensive technologies like Iron Dome are a real-world necessity for Israel as it moves from proximity talks to direct talks and eventually to a final two-state solution.

Madam Speaker, the United States and our ally Israel share many of the

same security challenges, from combating terrorism to confronting the threat posed by Iran's nuclear weapons program. President Obama and the Democrats in Congress recognize the threat posed by Hamas and Hezbollah to Israel, and we will continue to do what is necessary to keep Israel safe and promote the cause of peace, but we cannot have peace until Israel is safe. Today we stand shoulder to shoulder with the people of Israel in their quest for peace and the right to live lives free of terrorism. I encourage all of my colleagues to vote "yea" on this important legislation.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. POE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

One of the foundations of America's national security policy is and must remain our deep alliance and our friendship with the democratic, Jewish State of Israel. We not only share our deepest values with Israel, but we also enjoy close, mutually beneficial, bilateral cooperation in many fields, including defense, intelligence, homeland security, science, technology and education. And as many have noted, Israel is a stabilizing force, and our alliance with Israel is a force multiplier in a region of great strategic importance to not only Israel but the United States.

In short, the United States' support for Israel advances our own security interests. But every day the threat to the democratic, Jewish State of Israel grows and continues to grow. As the Iranian regime draws closer to obtaining the capabilities for nuclear weapons and the missiles to deliver them, as that same regime sponsors Hezbollah, Hamas and other foreign terrorist organizations, and as the Syrian regime follows in its footsteps in these regards, the goal is very simple: To destroy Israel and the Jewish people, with the United States next.

Madam Speaker, the little fellow from the desert, Ahmadinejad, has denied the Holocaust. He has compared Israel to a "germ," threatened to "wipe Israel off the map," and has spoken of his goal of "a world without America and Zionism." The dictator of Syria has threatened Israel with "violent resistance." Hamas' covenant calls for killing Jews and destroying the nation of Israel. Hezbollah's leader has reportedly stated that "If the Jews all gather in Israel, it will save us the trouble of going after them worldwide."

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Madam Speaker, we should take these threats from Syria, Iran, Hezbollah, and Hamas as serious threats to world stability, and specifically to the nation of Israel. They have backed up these threats with their evil deeds. For the last decade, thousands of rockets and mortars have been fired by Hezbollah from the north and Hamas to the south, sponsored by Iran

and Syria with reported aid from the nation of North Korea. Since Israel's defense operations against Hezbollah in 2006, Hezbollah has rapidly rearmed again, thanks to Syria and Iran and North Korea, and reports indicate they now have over 40,000 rockets aimed at Israel.

Recent reports indicate that Syria is providing Hezbollah with long-range missiles that could strike most of Israel, and that some of that weaponry was reportedly manufactured by those folks in North Korea. I would add incidentally that it doesn't help matters when senior administration officials say the United States should build up what they call more moderate elements of Hezbollah. There are no moderate elements of Hezbollah. Hezbollah is not a mainstream political party. They are a blood-thirsty terrorist group. But I digress, Madam Speaker.

To Israel's south, Hamas and other violent militant groups in the Gaza area have fired thousands and thousands of rockets and mortars on civilian targets in southern Israel since 2000, killing, wounding and inflicting deep psychological trauma on Israeli citizens.

Madam Speaker, I doubt if we would long put up with rockets coming from the north of our border and from the south of our border, but the Israelis have to put up with the terror from the north and the south on a constant basis. Since the conclusion of Israel's defensive operation in January 2009, the rockets and mortars have abated, but they have not stopped entirely. In fact, over 200 have been fired in the last 16 months.

To defend the Israeli people, the State of Israel is developing a multi-layered rocket and missile defense system. It is a defense system, not an offensive system. It is called the Iron Dome for short-range threats, the David's Sling for medium- to long-range threats, and the Arrow for long-range ballistic missiles.

But as we know, national security comes at a heavy cost. Israel has a higher ratio of defense spending to gross domestic product and spends more on defense as a percentage of its budget than any developed country. Israel should not bear these costs single-handedly.

Madam Speaker, when Hamas and Hezbollah, backed by Iran and Syria, threaten Israel, they also are threatening us, and we need to respond accordingly. What we should do is stand with Israel just as Israel stands with us, and we should continue to provide Israel with the support it needs to defend itself by addressing and stopping the comprehensive threat posed not only by Hamas and Hezbollah, but their state sponsors, specifically Iran and Syria.

That is why I strongly support H.R. 5327, the United States-Israel Rocket Missile Defense Cooperation and Support Act, which authorizes the United States to support Israel with the pro-

curement, maintenance, and sustainment of the Iron Dome system.

I would like to thank my distinguished gentleman from Virginia (Mr. NYE) and the ranking member of our Foreign Affairs Committee, the gentleman from Florida (Ms. ROSELEHTINEN), and Mr. TURNER from Ohio for sponsoring this vital legislation. I urge my colleagues to pass this legislation and make the message clear: the United States will stand with Israel and our other allies, and we will stand against our mutual enemies, no matter the cost.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. McMAHON. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. NYE).

Mr. NYE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to reaffirm and strengthen the U.S.-Israeli bond in mutual defense and security by introducing H.R. 5327, the United States-Israel Missile Defense Cooperation and Support Act.

The relationship between our countries is unlike any found in the world, and our friendship gives both Israel and the United States peace of mind in knowing that we will always support one another's security.

A safe homeland begins abroad, and Israel has long been central to that security. For instance, it is because of Israel's strength and cooperation that the U.S. no longer has to constantly keep a carrier strike group in the Mediterranean, allowing us to use our forces more judiciously.

I am proud to introduce this legislation which is supported by the President's recent decision to provide funding to support Israel's deployment of the Iron Dome missile defense system. The Iron Dome system will help protect Israeli citizens living in cities like Sderot who have been terrorized by over 8,000 indiscriminate rocket and mortar attacks on their homes, schools, and communities. The funds authorized by this bill will allow Israel to build two Iron Dome batteries which will be deployed in the southern and northern areas of the country as needed. Israeli defense officials estimate that Iron Dome could be deployed and functional this year.

Lasting peace between the Israelis and Palestinians requires that Israel can ensure the safety of its population against missile threats. Therefore, U.S.-Israel cooperation on the Iron Dome system will help advance the cause of peace by supporting Israel's ability to defend itself against terrorist attacks. Cooperation on important technologies such as Iron Dome proves that the U.S.-Israeli security cooperation is stronger than ever and is also beneficial to both nations as we continue to collaborate to develop our most sensitive defense technologies.

Congress stands shoulder to shoulder with Israel in their quest for peace and the right to live free from terrorism. This legislation is a tribute to America's commitment to Israel's defense and to the President's continued and expanding support for Israel's security.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. MCMAHON. Madam Speaker, I yield an additional 15 seconds to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. NYE).

Mr. NYE. I would like to thank Chairman BERMAN, Ranking Member ROS-LEHTINEN, Ms. GIFFORDS, Mr. MCMAHON, Mr. HIMES, Mr. ACKERMAN, Ms. KOSMAS, Mr. BISHOP, and Mr. TURNER for their support of this crucial legislation as original cosponsors, and I urge my colleagues to support this measure.

Mr. POE of Texas. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MCMAHON. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Illinois (Ms. SCHAKOWSKY), a member of the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence.

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of the U.S.-Israel Missile Defense Cooperation and Support Act.

Too many Israeli families live under the daily threat of rocket attacks from Hezbollah and Hamas. President Obama's decision to provide \$205 million in support of the Iron Dome rocket defense system will help Israel defend its citizens against these deadly terrorist attacks.

I traveled to Israel last month, and I believe the status quo in the Middle East is unsustainable. Lasting peace between Israelis and Palestinians will only be possible if Israel can ensure the security of its population. And that is why U.S. support for defensive weapons systems like Iron Dome is so important. This legislation clearly demonstrates that the United States Congress and President Obama will not compromise when it comes to Israel's security. I am proud to support this legislation, and I want to thank its sponsors.

Mr. POE of Texas. I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MCMAHON. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to Representative MORAN from Virginia, a member of the Committee on Appropriations.

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of this bill of which I am also a cosponsor.

Last week, President Obama submitted a request to Congress to authorize funds for this important missile defense system which will shield Israeli civilians from indiscriminate short-range missile attacks. The bill is consistent with support of human rights for Palestinians in Gaza and the West Bank, and of efforts to enhance Israel's security and defense of her citizens from violent rocket and missile attacks.

This reflects the role that the United States can play in saving lives on both sides of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict; and if we can save lives and promote a sustainable peace, then we must play that role from both a moral as well as a geopolitical motivation because when people feel secure, they think differently than when they feel under

siege. Their priorities change. And this missile defense system could be a game changer. It deserves our support.

Mr. POE of Texas. I continue to reserve.

Mr. MCMAHON. Madam Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. ROTHMAN), a member of the Appropriations Committee and its Subcommittee on Defense.

Mr. ROTHMAN of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Staten Island, Congressman NYE, and Congressman POE for your work on this important issue.

Madam Speaker, why is it important for the United States to defend the national security of the State of Israel? Well, it is important because the national security of the State of Israel is critically important to the national security of the United States of America.

How is that so? Well, we know first of all that the United States has been working with Israel and her technicians on improved missile defense technology. The Arrow missile system is a joint U.S.-Israel technological wonder that protects the United States and its forces around the world from incoming missiles from within zero to 600 miles. We know that the U.S. is working on a project with Israel called David's Sling, again a defensive system to protect U.S. forces and Israeli forces and people from rockets and mortars fired between 43 and 150 miles.

We are also working with the State of Israel, the United States is, on a very sophisticated anti-missile system called Arrow 3, which would allow us to defend against ICBMs fired as far as 1,200 miles away and get those missiles 1,200 miles away before they were over American soil or over our troops in the region or over our ally, the State of Israel.

So the money that we invest in missile defense with the State of Israel and having our scientists working jointly together is in the vital national security interest of the United States and in the vital national security interest of the State of Israel which provides Americans so many benefits, not just the benefits of supporting a fellow democracy and a nation who our Founders referred to as people deserving of the right to return to their natural homeland.

Israel has a strategic importance to the United States as well. It is located on the Mediterranean. It is located near the Red Sea. It is a bad neighborhood. A lot of the actors who would want to hurt Americans around the world and on U.S. soil are inspired, if not financed, from that region.

Israel has one of the world's greatest intelligence services. We Americans get day-to-day updates from that intelligence service which benefit us in our fight against terrorists who are trying to kill Americans around the world and on American soil.

And of course the money that we give Israel for its military acquisitions, 70 percent of the money is required to buy

American-made munitions; American made.

Those are just some of the reasons. U.S. generals want Israel to have a missile defense system that will be able to be used to protect U.S. troops in the region as well as our ally, the State of Israel.

Also, as one of my colleagues mentioned earlier, we increase the chance for peace if potential adversaries know not only that we have a strong offensive power, but that we have a strong defense. So if they know that whatever they shoot at us won't land, won't blow up on us, and that we will then respond with overwhelming power and they haven't laid a glove on us, so to speak, then they will be deterred. They will say, gee, if I throw everything at them and it won't work because they are protected by this anti-missile system, and they will respond overwhelmingly, why the heck should we fire at them in the first place.

That is why a missile defense system for the United States has been so important. That's why a missile defense system for our number one strategic military ally in the region, the Jewish State of Israel, is so important for the United States. It will help protect Israel. It will help protect American troops in the region, and it will help reduce the chances of war if those who want to destroy Israel know Israel can survive an attack and then be ready with its own offensive response.

I thank the gentleman for offering this bill, and I urge all of my colleagues to support it as well.

Mr. POE of Texas. I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MCMAHON. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ), chairwoman of the Legislative Branch Subcommittee on Appropriations.

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Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 5327, the United States-Israel Rocket and Missile Defense Cooperation and Support Act. As a staunch supporter of the Jewish State of Israel, it gives me great pride to be a cosponsor of this resolution, which will provide Israel with the funding it needs to maintain the safety and security of her citizens.

By authorizing funds requested by President Obama for Israel's Iron Dome defense system, Congress and President Obama's message to the people of Israel is loud and clear: Our commitment to Israel's security is unshakable. And, through this funding that will help Israel produce and maintain an effective defense against short-range missiles, rockets, and mortars such as those used by Hamas and Hezbollah, we are backing up our words with action.

I urge my colleagues to vote "yes" on helping to maintain Israel's qualitative military edge and vote "yes" on H.R. 5327. And I commend my colleague, the gentleman from Virginia

(Mr. NYE) for his leadership on this very important issue.

Mr. POE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I continue to reserve.

Mr. McMAHON. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. NADLER), the chairman of the Judiciary Subcommittee on the Constitution, Civil Rights, and Civil Liberties.

Mr. NADLER of New York. Madam Speaker, we all hope for a peace agreement negotiated between Israel and the Palestinians. Such an agreement, providing for adequate security safeguards for Israel, would benefit the citizens of Israel and would benefit the Palestinians. It would also help stabilize the Middle East and would inure to the national security interests of the United States.

Every American administration for the last 40 years has recognized that prerequisite to the successful conclusion of any peace agreement is the maintenance of Israel's qualitative military superiority over any potential combination of state and nonstate aggressors. In recent years, unfortunately, we have permitted Israel's military superiority to lag, to begin to fall down.

I want to congratulate the administration, the Obama administration for recognizing this and, in the last year and a half, sharply stepping up U.S. military assistance and U.S. military cooperation with Israel.

Now we also face the threat from Iran and the threat of 40,000 rockets and missiles supplied by the Iranians in Lebanon in the possession of Hezbollah, which has said that it wants to kill every Jew. It would be nice if all the Jews moved to Israel so they could kill them with one swoop. And this accumulation of 40,000 rockets has been done in violation of U.N. Security Council Resolution 1701, which has not been enforced. So, hence, this bill.

This bill, which comes to us from the administration, to provide 200-and-some-odd million dollars for the Iron Dome antimissile system is another step in maintaining Israel's military superiority and in protecting Israel's citizens against possibly unprovoked aggression and is an absolute prerequisite if we hope to see any peaceful settlement in the Middle East.

I, therefore, congratulate the administration on taking this step and on the steps it has made to maintain Israel's military superiority. I thank the sponsors, and I urge the passage of this bill.

Mr. POE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, the State of Israel, the nation of Israel, is not a big place. It's a little, bitty country. It's smaller than the State of New Jersey. From north to south, at the longest point, it's 200 miles. East to west, it's 75 miles. And ever since their existence, nations all around them have been wanting to destroy the nation of Israel.

Let there be no mistake about it, Madam Speaker. Israel is our ally.

Israel has the absolute right of self-defense, to protect the dignity of its country and to protect its citizens. That is the first duty of every government and of every nation. This resolution helps Israel protect itself and its citizens.

Israel has the absolute right to exist. And it should be known to the world that we will stand with Israel to make sure they have the right to exist. Israel is saying to Hezbollah and Hamas, Syria, Iran, and even North Korea, Leave us alone. That is the right that Israel has, to be left alone in that region.

This resolution also says, Madam Speaker, and reaffirms a statement made 50 years ago by President John F. Kennedy when he made the comment in his inaugural address, and I quote, "Let every nation know, whether it wishes us well or ill, that we will pay any price, bear any burden, meet any hardship, support any friend and oppose any foe to assure the survival and the success of liberty. This we pledge and much more."

This resolution, Madam Speaker, reaffirms that commitment by President Kennedy over 50 years ago.

I yield back the balance of my time. Mr. McMAHON. Madam Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I shall consume.

Madam Speaker, I join in agreement with all the speakers who have spoken on this resolution, the importance of America's continuing friendship, support, and solidarity with the people of Israel.

Many speak about how this is an issue that is so important for America's national security, and that is true. I'm a New Yorker. You may have noticed that. I know with my accent I didn't have to say it. But I was also in New York on September 11, and like so many New Yorkers, we saw firsthand the threat of terrorism right at our doorstep; not just the threat, but the reality. And it's that threat and that reality that the people of Israel live with every day. They are on the front line. So, yes, it is in our national interest.

But it also speaks to the very morality and soul of our Nation that we stand by our friend, that we stand by our colleague in this world battle, and that is the nation of Israel. And so this bill is just one more step in that statement. It is important for America to do it because, if we didn't, then we would no longer be America.

Mr. MORAN of Kansas. Madam Speaker, the security of our ally Israel is threatened by the proliferation of rockets its enemies possess along its borders. In both the south and the north, millions of Israelis live within range of Hamas and Hezbollah rockets.

In the last decade, more than 16,000 rockets and mortars have been launched over Gaza and Lebanese borders into Israel. These attacks have targeted and killed innocent civilians.

With the backing and support of Iran and Syria, Hezbollah now has an arsenal of more

than 42,000 short- and long-range rockets, which are aimed at Israel. This number of rockets is more than three times larger than what Hezbollah had prior to the 2006 war with Israel. U.S. Secretary of Defense Robert Gates has warned that Hezbollah's "arsenal of rockets and missiles now dwarfs the inventory of many nation-states."

The ability of Hamas and Hezbollah to launch attacks on Israeli civilians is a threat to Israel's security that must be countered. To protect its people, Israel developed Iron Dome, a short-range rocket defense system that will protect civilians living near Israel's border. H.R. 5327, the United States-Israel Missile Defense Cooperation and Support Act, authorizes U.S. assistance to help Israel speed up production and deployment of this rocket defense system so that more Israelis are protected from the indiscriminate attacks of its enemies.

But this legislation does more than improve Israeli security; it also enhances the security of the U.S. The missile defense technology being developed in cooperation with the U.S. will help us better defend ourselves, and may one day help protect U.S. military bases in the Middle East.

I support the legislation before us and urge my colleagues to vote in favor of this legislation that will help Israel maintain its qualitative military edge.

Mr. McMAHON. Madam Speaker, at this time I have no further requests for time, and therefore, I yield the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. McMAHON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5327, as amended.

The question was taken.

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

Mr. McMAHON. Madam 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.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION GRANTING AUTHORITY TO COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND LABOR FOR PURPOSES OF ITS INVESTIGATION INTO UNDERGROUND COAL MINING SAFETY

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 111-487) on the resolution (H. Res. 1363) granting the authority provided under clause 4(c)(3) of rule X of the Rules of the House of Representatives to the Committee on Education and Labor for purposes of its investigation into underground coal mining safety, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, proceedings