

into this legislation and the cooperation that she gave to me and her staff to my staff.

This is a good bill. The differences have been worked out between both sides of the aisle. We worked hard to make sure that we maintained FHA, but that we keep a close watch on it; that, in fact, we give it flexibility, but at the same time ensure the continuity and the consistency of FHA that should be there to provide the guarantees for our citizens that so desperately need them.

Madam Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

The CHAIR. All time for general debate has expired.

Ms. WATERS. I move that the Committee do now rise.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. SCHIFF) having assumed the chair, Mrs. HALVORSON, Chair of the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union, reported that that Committee, having had under consideration the bill (H.R. 5072) to improve the financial safety and soundness of the FHA mortgage insurance program, had come to no resolution thereon.

BP AND NOAA NEED TO BETTER MONITOR OIL BENEATH THE OCEAN'S SURFACE

(Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Madam Speaker, yesterday, officials admitted that a significant amount of oil may be spreading through the deep ocean in layers of highly dissolved oil. This revelation is anything but recent, except to BP.

Last month, I sent a letter, along with my colleagues in the Florida delegation, calling on the administration to examine the amounts of oil suspended in the water column below the ocean surface; yet until yesterday, officials failed to acknowledge what many in the scientific community were already saying, that underwater oil plumes are possible and that they pose a tremendous threat.

My congressional district is home to a variety of ecosystems—coral reefs, mangroves, sea grass beds, as well as countless species of fish. NOAA and BP must do a better job of examining the impact of crude oil and chemical dispersants at all depths of the ocean's surface. My constituents who rely on fishing, diving and tourism for their livelihood demand that we utilize all available resources. Get this right before the disaster becomes even worse.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the motion to instruct on H.R. 4173.

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

There was no objection.

□ 1800

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2009, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. WOOLSEY addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

STANDING BY ISRAEL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Mr. SCHIFF) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SCHIFF. Last week's interdiction by the Israeli Navy of a small flotilla of ships trying to run the blockade on Hamas-controlled Gaza ignited a firestorm around the world.

Foreign commentators, who look askance at the Jewish state in the best of times, condemned the raid in the strongest of terms, attempting to cast it as another example of Israel's supposed slide toward South African-style apartheid or even fascism.

Here and in Israel, itself, the reaction reflected a deeper understanding of the broad spectrum of threats confronting Israel. The execution of the raid, itself, was criticized in some quarters, but there remains a fundamental understanding of the underlying conditions that gave rise to Israel's blockade of Gaza and a realization that those conditions persist and that, as long as Gaza remains under the control of Hamas, there can be no lasting peace between Israel and the Palestinians.

Hamas leaders and their masters in Tehran and Damascus have repeatedly refused to renounce terror, to abide by agreements signed by the Palestinian Authority and Israel and to recognize Israel's right to exist. They have used Gaza's impoverished population as human shields in their war of attrition with Israel and have subordinated their people's needs to the quest for rockets and other weapons. Two days ago, Israeli forces intercepted an armed squad of five terrorists who were wearing diving suits and who were apparently on their way to attack Israeli targets.

Madam Speaker, there can be no doubt that these are dangerous times for Israel and that America must stand by the Middle East's only democracy in its quest for peace and security.

Despite four rounds of U.N. sanctions, including today's passage of

tighter finance curbs and an expanded arms embargo, Iran has not been deterred in its quest to develop nuclear weapons. While this latest round of sanctions is a welcomed step, there is deep skepticism that President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad and the hard-line clerics who rule Iran can be dissuaded from their present course. An Iran armed with the bomb would be a catastrophe, destabilizing the Middle East and triggering an arms race in the region.

President Obama and Secretary of State Clinton have done a great service to Israel, to the greater Middle East, and to the cause of international peace and security through their efforts to forge a consensus in the Security Council, and I offer them my personal thanks. Yet, even as we applaud today's sanctions vote, we must redouble our efforts to prevent Iran from acquiring nuclear weapons, and I look forward to further diplomatic and unilateral initiatives to convince Tehran that the costs of continuing on this reckless path are greater than any perceived benefit.

Hezbollah, the Shiite militia cum political party created in Lebanon by Iran's Revolutionary Guards in 1983, has rearmed in the aftermath of the 2006 war with Israel. Its arsenal of short-range missiles has reportedly been augmented by longer range Scuds, which can reach targets throughout Israel. The Scuds, believed to be supplied by Syria, augment Hezbollah's existing stockpile of up to 40,000 rockets stored in underground bunkers in southern Lebanon.

Turkey, which has been Israel's strongest Muslim majority ally and an important mediator between Jerusalem and Arab capitals, has, in recent months, become deeply hostile to Israel. In addition to hosting the organizers of the Gaza flotilla, Turkey has said it would reduce military and trade ties, and it has put off discussions of energy projects, including natural gas and freshwater shipments. Last year, Prime Minister Erdogan accused Israel of being a greater violator of human rights than Sudan, and today, Turkey was one of only two votes against new rounds of sanctions against Iran in the Security Council.

Most worrisome in the long term is the broad-based international campaign to delegitimize Israel. University campuses have been divided by divestment campaigns. There have been academic and economic boycotts of Israel in Europe, and many Israelis are wary of traveling to several European countries.

The great majority of the world's people alive today were not born until well after World War II and did not bear witness to the Holocaust. They did not watch as thousands of Jewish refugees, desperate to start new lives in Palestine after the war, were forcibly prevented from entering the country by Britain. They did not witness the miracle of Israel's birth in 1948 and

the immediate invasion of the new state by five Arab armies.

For more than six decades, this country has stood by Israel. We have admired its pluck, its ingenuity, and its dedication to democratic principles in spite of all of the threats it faces. While there has always been a strategic dimension to the U.S.-Israel alliance, the relationship has really been rooted in our shared values.

Madam Speaker, 17 years ago, on the occasion of the signing of the Oslo Accords, late Prime Minister Rabin spoke movingly of his journey.

He said, "We have come from Jerusalem, the ancient and eternal capital of the Jewish people. We have come from an anguished and grieving land. We have come from a people, a home, a family, that has not known a single year—not a single month—in which mothers have not wept for their sons. We have come to try and put an end to the hostilities so that our children and our children's children will no longer have to experience the painful cost of war, violence, and terror.

"We have come to secure their lives and to ease the sorrow and the painful memories of the past—to hope and pray for peace."

We share the prime minister's sorrow, and to the people of Israel, we say, America is with you.

PARADISE ISLAND FOR ILLEGALS

(Mr. POE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, Sara Carter, at the Washington Examiner, reports the Mexican Government is opening up a satellite consular office on Catalina Island in California. It will be housed at the island's country club. Catalina Bay is a postcard picture of the lifestyles of the rich and famous, but the island has a long history of drug smuggling and human trafficking.

The consular's office is not there to help people come to the U.S. legally. Instead, the Mexican Government is giving out I.D. cards, called matricula cards, to illegals. These cards are used by illegals in the United States to get credit, to open bank accounts and—get this—to receive federally funded housing on the island.

The Mexican Government is an accomplice to the unlawful entry by these illegals. As further evidence of the willful arrogance of Mexico to violate and to ignore U.S. immigration laws, ICE officers said Mexican officials asked them to temporarily halt the enforcement of U.S. immigration laws on the island.

Isn't that special? Meanwhile, the invasion continues.

And that's just the way it is.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MAFFEI). Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. BALDWIN addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

ISRAEL'S RIGHT TO DEFEND ITSELF

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. MCCARTHY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I want to talk tonight about, obviously, some of the issues that are on everybody's minds as to what happened last week with Israel.

This was a premeditated attack. It was intended to provoke a response and to purposely initiate a violent confrontation. We know that those on the flotilla had terrorist ties to Hamas and to Iran and that Israel warned the boats that they were in violation of a lawful blockade and offered them safe harbor, where all the humanitarian aid would be off-loaded and delivered to Gaza.

It is striking how quickly the world looked to blame Israel for this incident, but as the details have emerged, it has become clear that the Israeli military attempted to resolve the situation peacefully and in accordance with international law.

I fully support Israel and their right to keep its people safe. It is my sincere hope that this incident will not deter our country and the international community from the need to continue to support Israel, to recognize its right to exist, and to take the steps required to advance the peace process.

Israel is a longstanding ally and friend of the United States, and we should continue to do whatever we can to support Israel and to ensure that international challenges to its security are resolved quickly and peacefully.

These Israeli servicemembers were beaten and stabbed while trying to escort the ship to port. Those on board the ship were trying to help a recognized terrorist group, Hamas, and Iran has offered to escort future flotillas.

Iran is a threat, not just to the United States or to Israel, but to the world. It is a real threat against global safety. We cannot just sit and watch Iran stir this pot up anymore. Iran has vowed to eliminate Israel. We as the United States should stay together to make sure that Israel, the true democracy in the Middle East, has that opportunity to protect its land.

Mr. Speaker, it is always a terrible thing when there is loss of life, but it is more terrible when other democracies start to condemn another democracy. Israel has the right to protect itself and its citizens. We in the United States would have done the same thing. We in the United States have come back to protect our citizens.

Mr. Speaker, the June 1, 2010, incident involving a Turkish-sponsored flotilla and the Israeli Defense Forces was a premeditated attack, intended to provoke a response and purposely initiate a violent confrontation. We

know that those on the flotilla had terrorist ties to Hamas and to Iran and that Israel warned the boats that they were in violation of a lawful blockade and offered them safe harbor, where all humanitarian aid would be off-loaded and delivered to Gaza. It is striking how quick the world looked to blame Israel for this incident but as the details have emerged, it has become clear that the Israeli military attempted to resolve the situation peacefully and in accordance with international law.

I fully support Israel and their right to keep its people safe. It is my sincere hope that this incident will not deter our country and the international community from the need to continue to support Israel, recognize its right to exist, and take the steps required to advance the peace process. Israel is a longstanding ally and friend of the United States and we should continue to do whatever we can to support Israel and ensure that intentional challenges to its security are resolved quickly and peacefully.

These Israeli service members were beaten and stabbed while just trying to escort the ship to port. Those on board the ship were trying to help a recognized terrorist group, Hamas. And Iran has offered to escort future flotillas. Iran is a threat not just to the United States or Israel but the world and is a real threat against global safety. We cannot just sit and watch Iran.

AQUINAS BASEBALL

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

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I applaud the Aquinas High School baseball team for reaching their first-ever Class A State Championship series.

I am a proud graduate of St. Thomas Aquinas in Augusta, Georgia, and I played on the baseball team under Coach Denny Leonard, so I was particularly thrilled to hear of the success that they enjoyed this season.

Coach Mike Laney did a terrific job getting his team to the championship. Aquinas surpassed all expectations. They were not forecasted to make it past the second round of the tournament, so I know Coach Laney must be especially proud with the team's march to the State finals. The Fighting Irish took down Walker in a competitive three-game semifinal series and then advanced to the championship to face Wesleyan, the defending State champions.

They gave it all they had, but unfortunately, they came up a little short. Nevertheless, Aquinas has a very young team, so there is not a doubt in my mind that they will be back next year—even stronger and more competitive.

Congratulations on your hard work, accomplishments, and great season. Go, Irish.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. HOLT) is recognized for 5 minutes.