

Mr. SCOTT of Georgia. Thank you very much, Chairman BERMAN.

This unwarranted attack by North Korea on South Korea demonstrates more than anything else the dangerous state that our world is in. It is extraordinarily important that we here in Congress condemn in the strongest possible way this act, unprovoked on the part of North Korea, and to let the people of South Korea and the people of the world know just where the United States stands. We stand strongly and firmly with our ally South Korea and condemn this unwarranted, gross, unjustified attack on South Korea. I commend Chairman BERMAN for bringing this important resolution to the floor.

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH), who is the ranking member of the Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Africa and Global Health.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. I thank my good friend for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I want to rise in strong support of H. Res. 1735, condemning North Korea's unprovoked shelling of the South Korean island of Yeonpyeong on November 23. I want to thank my good friend and colleague Chairman BERMAN and Ranking Member ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN for introducing the resolution. And I, too, like Mr. POE and others, am very proud to be a cosponsor.

Mr. Speaker, with this resolution, we extend our deep condolences and sympathy to the families of those killed and injured in the attack. It's especially fitting that we as Americans do this since, along with the tremendous sacrifices for freedom made by the people of South Korea, we have lost tens of thousands of Americans in that same cause.

Mr. Speaker, since the shelling of Yeonpyeong Island was an act of aggression committed against an ally, the resolution also rightly affirms our alliance with South Korea, supports further cooperation on security matters, and calls on China to use its influence to restrain North Korea.

Mr. Speaker, it's important to remember that North Korea's aggression toward South Korea has almost been nonstop since 1950. It has taken the form of either full-scale war or, since 1953, sporadic shelling and shooting and skirmishing near the DMZ, or tunneling under the DMZ, or seizing the Pueblo, an American vessel, in 1968, or kidnapping South Koreans abroad, or torpedoing the Cheonan, a South Korean vessel, in March of this year.

Similarly, since 1950, the North Korean Government has treated its own citizenry with profound disrespect and outright hostility. It makes normal human relations impossible for them by creating a system in which parents and children, friends and relatives are forced to spy and report on each other—an atmosphere of total distrust, total fear, and total social atomization.

It terrorizes them into worshipping the Kims, father and son, as if they were gods. Their personality cult is the only religion permitted in North Korea. Economic life is such madness that, about 10 years ago, as many as 2 million North Koreans starved to death. And within this large gulag that is North Korea, the Kim family has created smaller, more severe gulags, Kwan-li-so prison camps, and sent an estimated 200,000 people to live or, better stated, survive in them. Here we move from the nightmare of everyday life into a veritable hell on Earth, where forced labor, near starvation, rape, and the cruelest forms of torture prevail, and forced abortion and chemical experimentation on inmates is commonplace.

Mr. Speaker, our government must continue to stand in solidarity with all those threatened and terrorized by the monstrous Government of North Korea, and with the residents of Yeonpyeong Island, and with all the people of both South and North Korea. I urge strong support for the resolution.

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Tennessee, Dr. ROE.

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this resolution condemning North Korea's act of aggression toward South Korea. Thirty-seven years ago, I was stationed in Korea, within an artillery shell of the DMZ. I have seen firsthand and up close what freedom can do. When I arrived there, it was a military dictatorship. Today, you have a market economy with a freely elected democracy that's being attacked relentlessly, as other speakers have said, by the rogue nation in the North.

I can't emphasize strong enough how important it is for us to act decisively against this act of aggression against a free nation. And I want to associate my remarks also with all of the speakers that have been here today. I also want to call on China to exert every bit of pressure they can on the rogue nation of North Korea. I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

Mr. BERMAN. I reserve the balance of my time.

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

In closing, Mr. Speaker, the United Nations reports that North Korea trades in missiles and nuclear technology with not only Syria and Iran, but even Burma. And this is a grave situation since China won't do anything, and North Korea takes our western money with the empty promises of peace, but still rattles its sabers and soon will rattle its nuclear weapons.

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The United States must finally adopt a policy that holds both North Korea and China accountable for their belligerent actions against South Korea and the free world.

I do want to thank the chairman for bringing this strong resolution to the House floor. I urge all my colleagues to adopt this resolution.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I join in asking for an "aye" vote, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. BERMAN) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 1735.

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. POE of Texas. 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.

PROVIDING FOR APPROVAL OF U.S.-AUSTRALIA NUCLEAR ENERGY AGREEMENT

Mr. TANNER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 6411) to provide for the approval of the Agreement Between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of Australia Concerning Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 6411

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

SECTION 1. APPROVAL OF AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND THE GOVERNMENT OF AUSTRALIA CONCERNING PEACEFUL USES OF NUCLEAR ENERGY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding the provisions for congressional consideration of a proposed agreement for cooperation in subsection d. of section 123 of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954 (42 U.S.C. 2153), the Agreement Between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of Australia Concerning Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy, done at New York, May 4, 2010, may become effective on or after October 8, 2010, as if all the requirements in such section 123 for consideration of such agreement had been satisfied, subject to subsection (b) of this section.

(b) APPLICABILITY OF ATOMIC ENERGY ACT OF 1954 AND OTHER PROVISIONS OF LAW.—Upon coming into effect, the agreement referred to in subsection (a) shall be subject to the provisions of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954 (42 U.S.C. 2011 et seq.) and any other applicable United States law as if such agreement had come into effect in accordance with the requirements of section 123 of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from

Tennessee (Mr. TANNER) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Tennessee.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

Mr. TANNER. Mr. Speaker, H.R. 6411 approves the U.S.-Australia agreement for peaceful nuclear cooperation, which replaces the current U.S.-Australia agreement that expires in January.

I know everyone here agrees that Australia is a close friend and valued ally to our country. Moreover, Australia provides over 20 percent of the uranium used by U.S. domestic nuclear power reactors. While the United States does not need a framework agreement for peaceful nuclear cooperation in force to purchase and receive uranium fuel supplies, Australian law does require such an agreement in order to export uranium.

If a new agreement is not passed and does not come into effect this year, it will have to be resubmitted to the next Congress. Given the statutory requirement for 90 days of continuous session to elapse, it would likely be May before the new agreement could come into effect.

If Australia is therefore forbidden by its own law to export uranium to the United States in the interim, it would stand to lose some \$250 million in revenue. But, more importantly, the bill would ensure that this new agreement comes into force and that we, the United States, can continue to purchase what we require in this nuclear domestic power reaction field.

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

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

This companion bill to S. 3844 ensures that the proposed nuclear cooperation agreement with Australia is approved before the existing agreement expires at the end of this calendar year.

Since the Australia 123 agreement was submitted on May 5, changes to the announced House schedule created the possibility that Congress might possibly adjourn before the agreement met the Atomic Energy Act's requirement of a review period of 90 days of continuous session.

The direct result would have been a disruption of several months of our nuclear trade and cooperation with Australia, which supplies the United States 25 percent of its uranium. But now it appears that the projected extension of the lame duck session will be sufficient to meet the 90-day requirement.

However, there are still several reasons the House should still vote to pass this bill. The most important is the opportunity to express our strong support and admiration for our close ally, Australia. For seven decades the United States and Australia have developed ever closer ties, which have been repeatedly tested in both war and peace.

Beginning in World War II and extending through Korea, Vietnam, Iraq, and now Afghanistan, the United States and Australian troops have fought side by side. In fact, Mr. Speaker, Australia has been a loyal ally in every major war since World War II that the United States has fought in.

Without its bedrock support, the defense of our interests in the East and South Asia would be greatly undermined. Reliable allies are rare in this world, and close friends are even rarer.

This bill also is a recognition of Australia's exemplary record in preventing the proliferation of nuclear weapons worldwide. It has taken responsibility very seriously and cooperated closely with the United States on nonproliferation issues across the board, most recently by joining with us to impose new and tougher sanctions on Iran.

There is another and equally important reason the House should vote for this bill: Namely, to demonstrate the contrast between this nuclear cooperation agreement with Australia and that proposed for Russia, which is also before Congress and which also faces an expiration of the 90-day deadline.

While Australia has been a reliable ally and a partner and honest with the United States, Russia has worked to undermine our interests around the world, from Iran to Europe and Venezuela to Syria. Moscow's overt and covert assistance to Iran's nuclear program has been crucial to Tehran's progress in developing a nuclear weapons capabilities.

It has built the Bushehr nuclear facility, which is scheduled to come online in January, and the Russians have said they are ready to construct several more. Russia has repeatedly acted to protect Iran from international pressure aimed at halting its nuclear weapons program.

Its repeated threats to veto any significant U.N. Security Council effort to impose sanctions on Iran have ensured that only weak measures have been adopted, which Tehran has laughed at and ignored. Russia has also signed nuclear cooperation agreements with the rogue regimes in Burma and Venezuela and continues to market its nuclear wares anywhere in the world to anyone that has a little money to spend.

Given this record, an intelligent observer might wonder why we are even considering nuclear cooperation with a country so determined to undermine our interests, that consistently does not tell the truth. Well, the answer is that this nuclear cooperation agreement was offered to Russia first by the previous and then by the current administration as one of a series of gifts

in an effort to bribe Moscow into cooperating on Iran.

The strategy obviously has not worked, and the agreement certainly cannot be sold on its merits. Moscow sees this as a way to make money, but it is difficult to identify how the United States might benefit from the agreement.

By voting for this bill, the House will reaffirm its strong support for the United States' alliance with our friends and allies, the Australians.

It will thereby demonstrate that we will support nuclear cooperation agreements only with those countries which have earned our trust, which have not aided our enemies, and which have consistently acted to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons. Russia meets none of these conditions, and we must not reward it for its actions that, either recklessly or deliberately, have greatly undermined the security of the American people and that of the world as a whole.

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

Mr. TANNER. Do you have any more speakers?

Mr. POE of Texas. We have no other speakers, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman will address the Chair.

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

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. TANNER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 6411.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

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COMMENDING THE NATO SCHOOL

Mr. TANNER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 527) commending the NATO School for its critical support of North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) efforts to promote global peace, stability, and security, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 527

Whereas the NATO School in Oberammergau, Germany is the North Atlantic Treaty Organization's (NATO) premier operational-level education and training facility and has administered courses to over 185,000 officers, noncommissioned officers, and civilians from NATO allied and partner nations since its inception in 1953;

Whereas for 60 years, NATO has served as the bedrock of transatlantic security and defense, successfully defending the territories of its North American and European member