

support of the Ukrainian people by passing additional legislation that provides for military and humanitarian assistance. The Ukrainian people have demonstrated time and again their will to defend their nation against a more powerful aggressor—with no expectation that anyone would come to their aid. Now, we need to do our part and give them the chance to stand up for the same values and principles that define us as a nation.

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 758 as amended. President Vladimir Putin seems to have learned nothing from history other than that power grows out of the barrel of a gun. The Russian Federation under President Putin has demonstrated an ethos of naked aggression that threatens the principle of nation-state sovereignty and the territorial integrity of Russia's neighbors.

When Russian troops were identified as fomenting unrest in Crimea in February of this year, President Putin adamantly denied Russian involvement. By April, Russia had illegally annexed Crimea, and Putin had come clean about the blatant Russian intrusion.

He admitted that Russian troops had been deployed to Crimea before the illegal annexation on March 21, and exposed the illegitimate referendum on independence in Crimea for what it was, a referendum held at the end of the barrel of a gun. As Ukrainians in Crimea flee their Russian occupiers, I cannot help but feel the reverberations of Crimea's bloody history.

What we are witnessing in eastern Ukraine constitutes one of the most audacious power grabs of the 21st century, and it is happening in Europe no less.

I recently participated in a bipartisan delegation to the Annual Session of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly. I can attest that our NATO allies are under no illusions about Mr. Putin and they see him for what he is, a bully who will only be encouraged by concession.

The 28 nations represented at the NATO PA adopted strong language calling on NATO member countries to "make it unambiguously clear that the illegal 'annexation' of Crimea will never be recognized."

The leadership of the NATO PA has rotated to the United States, and my colleague, Mr. Turner of Ohio, has been elected President of the parliamentary body. The world is looking to the United States to reverse the dangerous precedent that has been set in Crimea.

To that end, I am pleased to see that H. Res. 758 includes language that echoes bipartisan legislation I introduced earlier this year with my colleague Rep. STEVE CHABOT, the Crimea Annexation Non-Recognition Act, H.R. 5241.

Today's resolution calls on the President to cooperate with United States allies and partners in Europe and other countries around the world to refuse to recognize any *de jure* or *de facto* sovereignty of the Russian Federation over Crimea, its airspace, or its territorial waters.

Some of my colleagues may recall that in the Cold War era, the U.S. had a policy of non-recognition regarding the Soviet Union's illegal annexation of the Baltic Republics. The U.S. recognized neither the *de jure* nor *de facto* sovereignty of the Soviet Union over the Baltic Republics.

Our policy of non-recognition did not end in 1991 because it had become outdated or failed to recognize a *fait accompli*. It ended

because the Baltic people gained their independence in 1991 almost 50 years after the Soviet occupation began, and today, Estonia, Lithuania, and Latvia are NATO allies.

Without a clear stance on the issue of Crimea, the West becomes unwittingly complicit in Putin's further aggression in eastern Ukraine and offers little hope to Ukrainians leaving Crimea that they will ever have the opportunity to return home.

For the United States to allow this naked aggression to go unaddressed would be truly an abrogation of our moral responsibility and would turn our back on what we should have learned from 20th century history.

Congress must make a stand, and I, for one, am stuck at Crimea.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 758, as amended.

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. KINZINGER of Illinois. Mr. 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, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

REAFFIRMING THE PEACEFUL RESOLUTION OF DISPUTES IN THE SOUTH CHINA AND THE EAST CHINA SEAS

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 714) reaffirming the peaceful and collaborative resolution of maritime and jurisdictional disputes in the South China Sea and the East China Sea as provided for by universally recognized principles of international law, and reaffirming the strong support of the United States Government for freedom of navigation and other internationally lawful uses of sea and airspace in the Asia-Pacific region, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 714

Whereas the maritime domains of the Asia-Pacific region, which include both the sea and airspace above the domains, are critical to the region's prosperity, stability, and security, including global commerce;

Whereas the maritime domain in the Asia-Pacific region between the Pacific and Indian Oceans includes critical sea lines of commerce and communication;

Whereas China, Vietnam, the Philippines, Taiwan, Malaysia, and Brunei have disputed territorial claims over the Spratly Islands, and China, Taiwan, and Vietnam have disputed territorial claims over the Paracel Islands;

Whereas, although the United States Government is not a claimant in maritime disputes in either the East China or South China Seas, the United States has an interest in the peaceful diplomatic resolution of

disputed claims in accordance with international law, in freedom of navigation and overflight, and in the free-flow of commerce free of coercion, intimidation, or the use of force;

Whereas in 2002, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and China agreed to the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea, and committed to developing an effective Code of Conduct;

Whereas that declaration committed all parties to those territorial disputes to "reaffirm their respect for and commitment to the freedom of navigation in and over flight above the South China Sea as provided for by the universally recognized principles of international law", and to "resolve their territorial and jurisdictional disputes by peaceful means, without resorting to the threat or use of force";

Whereas since that time, tensions over the disputed maritime and territorial areas have increased;

Whereas on September 2010, tensions escalated in the East China Sea near the Senkaku (Diaoyutai) Islands, a territory under the legal administration of Japan, when a Chinese fishing vessel deliberately rammed Japanese Coast Guard patrol boats;

Whereas on February 25, 2011, a frigate from the People's Liberation Army Navy (PLAN) fired shots at three fishing boats from the Philippines;

Whereas on March 2, 2011, the Government of the Philippines reported that two patrol boats from China attempted to ram one of its surveillance ships;

Whereas on May 26, 2011, a maritime security vessel from China cut the cables of an exploration ship from Vietnam, the Binh Minh, in the South China Sea in waters near Cam Ranh Bay in the exclusive economic zone of Vietnam;

Whereas on May 31, 2011, three Chinese military vessels used guns to threaten the crews of four Vietnamese fishing boats while they were fishing in the waters of the Spratly Islands;

Whereas on June 9, 2011, three vessels from China, including one fishing vessel and two maritime security vessels, ran into and disabled the cables of another exploration ship from Vietnam, the Viking 2, in the exclusive economic zone of Vietnam;

Whereas on July 22, 2011, an Indian naval vessel, sailing about 45 nautical miles off the coast of Vietnam, was warned by a Chinese naval vessel that it was allegedly violating Chinese territorial waters;

Whereas in April 2012, tensions escalated between the Philippines and China following a standoff over the Scarborough Shoal;

Whereas in June 2012, Vietnam passed a Maritime law that claimed sovereignty and jurisdiction over the Paracel and Spratly Islands;

Whereas in June 2012, China's cabinet, the State Council, approved the establishment of the city of Sansha to oversee the areas claimed by China in the South China Sea;

Whereas in July 2012, Chinese military authorities announced that they had established a corresponding People's Liberation Army garrison in Sansha, in the new prefecture;

Whereas on June 23, 2012, the China National Offshore Oil Corporation invited bids for oil exploration in areas within 200 nautical miles of the continental shelf and within the exclusive economic zone of Vietnam;

Whereas in January 2013, a Chinese naval ship allegedly fixed its weapons-targeting radar on Japanese vessels in the vicinity of the Senkaku islands in the East China Sea, and, on April 23, 2013, eight Chinese marine surveillance ships entered the 12-nautical-

mile territorial zone off the Senkaku Islands, further escalating regional tensions;

Whereas on May 9, 2013, a fatal shooting incident occurred in which shots fired from a Philippine Coast Guard patrol boat resulted in the death of a Taiwanese fisherman;

Whereas on May 1, 2014, China's state-owned energy company, CNOOC, anchored its deepwater drilling rig Hai Yang Shi You 981 (HD-981) in Vietnamese waters and deployed over 80 vessels, including seven military vessels, to support its provocative actions and attempt to change the status quo by force;

Whereas Chinese vessels accompanying Hai Yang Shi You 981 (HD-981) intimidated Vietnamese Coast Guard ships in violation of the Convention on the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea, ramming multiple Vietnamese vessels, and using helicopters and water cannons to obstruct others;

Whereas on May 5, 2014, vessels from the Maritime Safety Administration of China (MSAC) established an exclusion zone with a radius of three nautical miles around Hai Yang Shi You 981 (HD-981);

Whereas China's actions in support of the Hai Yang Shi You 981 (HD-981) drilling activity constitute a unilateral attempt to change the status quo by force;

Whereas claimants have participated in land reclamation and building up of land features, and whereas such activities have raised tensions among the claimants;

Whereas, without prior consultations with the United States, Japan, the Republic of Korea or other nations of the Asia-Pacific region, China declared an Air Defense Identification Zone (ADIZ) over the East China Sea on November 23, 2013;

Whereas China announced that all aircraft, even if they do not intend to enter the ADIZ airspace, would have to submit flight plans, maintain radio contact, and follow directions from the Chinese Ministry of National Defense;

Whereas the "rules of engagement" declared by China, which at one time included the threat of "emergency defensive measures", are in violation of the concept of "due regard for the safety of civil aviation" under the Chicago Convention of the International Civil Aviation Organization and thereby are a departure from accepted practice;

Whereas China's declaration of an ADIZ over the East China Sea has contributed to increased uncertainty and unsafe conditions in the maritime region in East Asia and the broader Asia-Pacific region;

Whereas freedom of navigation and other lawful uses of sea and airspace in the Asia-Pacific region are embodied in international law, not granted by certain states to others;

Whereas the United States Government expressed profound concerns with China's unilateral, provocative, dangerous, and destabilizing declaration of such a zone, including the potential for misunderstandings and miscalculations by aircraft operating lawfully in international airspace;

Whereas China's declaration of an ADIZ in the East China Sea will not alter how the United States Government conducts operations in the region or the unwavering United States commitment to peace, security and stability in the Asia-Pacific region;

Whereas other governments in the Asia-Pacific region, including the Governments of Japan, Korea, Philippines, Australia and Indonesia have expressed deep concern about China's declaration of such a zone, regarding it as an effort to unduly infringe upon the freedom of flight in international airspace and to change the status quo that could escalate tensions and potentially cause unintentional consequences in the East China Sea;

Whereas the United States Government does not support unilateral actions taken by

any claimant seeking to change the status quo through the use of coercion, intimidation, or military force;

Whereas the United States Government is deeply concerned about unilateral actions taken by any state to prevent any other state from exercising its sovereign rights to the resources of the exclusive economic zone (EEZ) and continental shelf by making claims to those areas that have no apparent basis in international law; declarations of administrative and military districts in contested areas in the South and East China Seas; and the imposition of new fishing regulations covering disputed areas, which have raised tensions in the region;

Whereas international law is important to safeguard the rights and freedoms of all states in the Asia-Pacific region;

Whereas China and Vietnam have undertaken discussions to reduce tensions between their navies;

Whereas in November 2014, the United States and China signed a non-binding memorandum of understanding (MOU) on "rules of behavior for safety of air and maritime encounters";

Whereas the MOU currently addresses only maritime behaviors and both sides have agreed to complete an additional annex on air-to-air encounters in 2015;

Whereas the United States welcomes the agreement by Japan and China, in advance of their bilateral meeting in November 2014, to reduce tensions over disputed islands in the East China Sea and to "gradually resume political, diplomatic and security dialogues"; and

Whereas a peaceful and prosperous China, which acts as a responsible international stakeholder and which respects international laws, standards, and institutions, will enhance security and peace in the Asia-Pacific region: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) reaffirms the strong support of the United States for the peaceful resolution of maritime territorial disputes in the South China Sea and the East China Sea and pledges continued efforts to facilitate a collaborative, peaceful process to resolve these disputes;

(2) reaffirms the strong support for freedom of navigation and over flight and condemns coercive and threatening actions or the use of force to impede these freedoms in international maritime domains and airspace by military or civilian vessels, to alter the status quo or to destabilize the Asia-Pacific region;

(3) does not recognize the East China Sea Air Defense Identification Zone (ADIZ) declared by China, which is contrary to freedom of overflight in international airspace, and calls on China to refrain from taking similar provocative actions elsewhere in the Asia-Pacific region, including in the South China Sea;

(4) urges the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), all United States allies and partners, and all claimants to amiably and fairly resolve these outstanding disputes, including through the conclusion of a Code of Conduct for the South China Sea;

(5) urges the conclusion of the annex to the non-binding memorandum of understanding (MOU) between the United States and China on "rules of behavior for safety of air and maritime encounters" addressing air-to-air encounters in 2015;

(6) supports the continuation of operations by the United States to support freedom of navigation in international waters and air space in the South China Sea and the East China Sea; and

(7) encourages the continuation of efforts by the United States Government to

strengthen partnerships in the region to build capacity for maritime domain awareness in support of freedom of navigation, maintenance of peace and stability, and respect for universally recognized principles of international law.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. ENGEL) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Florida.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on the resolution.

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

There was no objection.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 714.

I would like to recognize the gentleman from American Samoa, our good friend, ENI FALEOMAVEGA, for introducing this important measure, and I was proud to have joined him as the lead cosponsor.

I would like to commend and thank Mr. FALEOMAVEGA for his nearly four decades of service in the United States Congress and to our Foreign Affairs Committee, which will soon come to an end, sadly, and we will all miss him dearly.

Throughout his career, ENI has fought for human rights and for the rule of law, especially in the Asia-Pacific region, and the idea that all people should have the opportunity to prosper without fear for their family's safety or livelihoods. This resolution that he presents before us is a fitting representation of the ideals and goals that ENI has worked so hard in support of during his many years in Congress.

This resolution encourages a peaceful reconciliation of the maritime and jurisdictional disputes in the South and East China Seas, as well as the kind of peace that is too often lacking in our world today. This resolution is also an important statement in support of the universally recognized principle of the freedom of navigation.

Mr. Speaker, peace in Asia has held for over a generation, and we have seen incredible economic growth. Home to a vast combination of global sea routes and shipping lanes, substantial energy resources, and significant fishing territories, the importance of maintaining peace in the South China Sea and the East China Sea cannot be overstated.

□ 1830

According to estimates, the South China Sea contains oil reserves of 900 trillion cubic feet of natural gas, making the area second only to Saudi Arabia in regard to oil supply. With Asian

energy consumption set to double by the year 2030, the conflicting claims in this region will likely grow more intense.

Beyond the region's vast energy resources, peace in the South China Sea is essential for international commerce. Each year, \$5.3 trillion in trade passes through the South China Sea, over \$1 trillion of which can be attributed to the United States. But the fragile stability that has held in Asia is now being threatened by China's hegemonic ambitions and its aggressive stance towards its neighbors. From its declaration of an Air Defense Identification Zone to its ramming of other nation's fishing boats to its economic coercion of U.S. allies like Taiwan, China has rapidly raised tensions in the region.

China is pushing the limits on the high seas, motivated by potent nationalist trends and the resources at stake. China's territorial stakes are a clear challenge to its neighbors and must not be allowed to go unchallenged. This resolution rightfully states that China's declaration has contributed to increased uncertainty and unsafe conditions in East Asia.

Additionally, Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA's resolution calls for freedom of navigation, which is a bedrock principle of international commerce that dates back centuries, helping to ensure the continued flow of global trade.

Mr. Speaker, given the importance of this region, I urge my colleagues to support Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA's resolution, which puts the House on record supporting a peaceful process to resolve these disputes.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Res. 714. Let me start by thanking my colleague from American Samoa (Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA) for authorizing this resolution. I also thank him for his many years of distinguished service here in Congress. This is especially moving for me because ENI and I were both elected to Congress on the same day and started to serve that first day. We were elected in November of 1988, and we both served starting January 3, 1989. As the jargon is here in Washington, we are classmates. We sat next to each other on the Foreign Affairs Committee for all those years and had a good chance to travel together and have our families get to know each other, especially our wives. It really has been a pleasure to be a friend and a colleague of Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. We are going to miss him, but I know he will grace our presence and come back and visit.

So this is really a tribute. This is an important resolution. It is important for its substance, but it is also important because I look at it as a tribute to ENI FALEOMAVAEGA, my colleague, my friend, a really great human being, great American, and great person rep-

resenting American Samoa for so many years. Thank you, ENI.

As both the chairman and the ranking member of the Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific throughout the years, Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA was focused on U.S. policy involving the Asia-Pacific region. He was focused on this policy long before anyone decided we need a "pivot" or "rebalance" to the region. ENI always knew—and knows—that Asia is important, and that the United States, as a Pacific power, has a vital role to play.

The measure we are considering today reaffirms our strong support for a peaceful resolution to disputes in the South China Sea and East China Sea. It calls on all parties to reduce tensions, manage disputes peacefully, and adhere to international law. It encourages our own government to keep working with allies and partners, helping expand their ability to keep an eye on their own maritime domains.

The United States, as I mentioned before, is a Pacific power. We have a vital interest in freedom of navigation and overflight in these disputed areas, which are vital to economic security and lawful commerce in the region. These are universal rights, not rights granted by some states to others and not rights that China thinks it can dominate and be aggressive in terms of claiming the seas as its own, even though many of those seas are literally thousands of miles away from mainland China.

Tensions in the East and South China Sea have been steadily increasing for the last several years. Provocations have become bolder and more frequent, and little progress has been made on a code of conduct in the South China Sea to establish rules of the road among claimants.

When I went there more than a year ago with Chairman ROYCE, we were told by the government of the Philippines and Japan that they were very, very concerned with what China has been doing and claiming. The United States does not take sides in these disputes. We believe that they should be resolved diplomatically and without force or coercion. Territorial claims—and arbitration of those claims—should be based on international law.

There have been some hopeful signs. Japan and Taiwan have worked out an agreement relating to fishing rights. China and Vietnam have begun discussions on how to reduce tensions between their respective navies. In advance of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit, called APEC, and bilateral meetings, Japan and China decided to "agree to disagree" on the issue of the Senkaku Islands. They are now looking for other ways to expand their diplomatic, political, and security ties, despite their differences.

In addition, the President announced during his recent visit to Beijing that the United States and China agreed to a range of maritime confidence-building measures. We will continue work-

ing to expand this cooperation into airspace next year.

These developments are positive and should continue in earnest, but they are not enough. H. Res. 714 urges all parties to stay focused on this progress and to continue working for a peaceful resolution of maritime disputes in areas that are vitally important to the continued economic development, peace, and security of the Asia-Pacific region.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to support this resolution, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, it is now my pleasure and honor to yield 5 minutes to the Representative from American Samoa, Mr. ENI FALEOMAVAEGA.

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. I thank the gentleman for yielding. I want to especially thank my good friend from New York and the gentlewoman from Florida for their leadership and their support of this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 714, a resolution I introduced calling for the peaceful and collaborative resolution of maritime territorial disputes in the South China Sea and the East China Sea.

I thank my colleagues, both Republicans and Democrats, who have stood with me since 2012 on this issue. I want to especially thank again Chairwoman ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN and Chairman STEVE CHABOT for their leadership and support. I also thank Chairman ED ROYCE and Ranking Member ELIOT ENGEL for their support and help.

I am so serious about this matter that I have introduced this language as a resolution, as a bill, and now again as a resolution in hopes that the House will take a stand in response to China's aggressive actions in the South China Sea and the East China Sea.

Mr. Speaker, when it comes to China, I consider myself a fair broker, but it is time for China to stop provoking its neighbors and pursue a course of peace. This is the last resolution I have introduced that the House will consider, and I am proud that this resolution calls for peace in the Asia-Pacific region.

Also, as a matter of observation, Mr. Speaker, two-thirds of the world's population is in the Asia-Pacific region. For years, I have always had a little sense of complaint that it seems that our focus has always been toward Europe and the Middle East. Not that they are not important, but the fact is that issues coming out of the Asia-Pacific region should be given our proper attention.

I have served on the House Foreign Affairs Committee since I first came to the U.S. Congress in 1989. For as long as I have served, it has always been, and continues to be, my belief that the United States should pay more attention to the Asia-Pacific region. As of now, we should pay particular attention to the ongoing tensions in the South China Sea.

Also, although the United States Government is not a claimant in maritime disputes in either the East China Sea or the South China Sea, the United States has an interest in the peaceful diplomatic resolution of disputed claims in accordance with international law; in freedom of navigation and overflight; and in the free flow of commerce that is free of coercion, intimidation, or the use of force.

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the leadership of Vietnam in standing for peace—even when China violated its sovereignty by planting its oil rig, HD-981, in the waters of Vietnam's Exclusive Economic Zone. I also commend Taiwan and Japan for peacefully reaching an agreement to jointly share fishing resources in their overlapping Exclusive Economic Zones through the East China Sea Initiative, which demonstrates that resolutions can be achieved through peaceful means.

Mr. Speaker, I firmly believe that we should earnestly seek ways to promote peace, and I thank you for the opportunity I have had to associate with you and our colleagues to carry out our responsibilities in this great Nation.

It has been my distinct honor to serve the people of American Samoa in the U.S. House of Representatives for the past 25 years. I thank them for giving me the opportunity to serve them and this great Nation. I believe I did my best, and I hope I will be remembered for giving all I could to American Samoa and to our great Nation, especially to the Asia-Pacific region, a region that has been too long neglected by our national government.

To borrow the words of Mahatma Gandhi:

I hope my life will be my message.

Mr. Speaker, we will meet again, hopefully, and I extend to each of my colleagues my fondest aloha.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Guam, Representative MADELEINE BORDALLO.

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise in very strong support of H. Res. 714, authored by my very good friend, Representative ENI FALEOMAVAEGA of American Samoa. This resolution reaffirms the United States' interest in a peaceful and collaborative resolution of maritime and jurisdictional disputes in the South and East China Seas.

Disputes over islands in the South and East China Seas have broad economic and security implications to United States interests in the Asia-Pacific region. Escalation of these disputes undercut peace and stability in the region and seriously impact economies across the globe.

I strongly believe that the United States must take a leadership role in these disputes and work with our Asian allies to support a peaceful and collaborative resolution to these issues. The resolution takes a step in the right

direction. We cannot accept unilateral action by any of the countries involved in these disputes, as it further degrades security in the region. Here is a clear example of Congress supporting the United States' role in the rebalance of the Asia-Pacific region.

In particular, we cannot allow recent aggressive actions by China to go unchecked. So I urge all parties, like Secretary Clinton did in 2012, to push toward finalizing a code of conduct that would establish a mechanism to resolve these differences. I believe that it is important for all parties to come to a resolution over these disputes and not allow them to fester any longer.

□ 1845

These disputes should no longer be used as weapons to bolster nationalism helping to secure domestic power.

We must do all that we can to ensure continued peace and stability in the Asia-Pacific region, and I am glad that the House of Representatives is acting on this important measure to send a clear message to China and our allies in the region.

I want to close by saying that I am a close friend of Congressman ENI FALEOMAVAEGA. I am from Guam, he represents American Samoa, islands in the Pacific area. I want to thank him for his leadership on this issue and his long and dedicated service in the House of Representatives. I understand not just as an elected Member, but as a staffer as well, serving here over 40 years, as well as all the other issues in the Asia-Pacific region that he has looked after.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly, again, urge my colleagues to pass H. Res. 714.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I am going to close now. In closing, I would like to underscore the importance and timeliness of this resolution. It is imperative that disagreements in the East or South China Seas be resolved peacefully, without force or coercion, and in accordance with international law.

Anything less than this jeopardizes the interests of the United States, of our allies and partners, and the continued economic development, peace, and security of the Asia-Pacific region.

I urge all my colleagues to support this important resolution, H. Res. 714.

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. ENGEL. I yield to the gentleman from American Samoa.

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. I thank the gentleman for yielding, and certainly want to thank him for his most eloquent statements towards me. I feel a little embarrassed by it, but I do want to thank him.

I do want to note, also, that it has been my honor to have served with him and our colleagues on the other side of the aisle very well, on affairs affecting our national interests, our government.

The gentlelady from Florida will note that I have a relative who happens to live in her district. His name happens to be Dwayne Johnson, and if you haven't seen his latest movie, "Hercules," I suggest to my colleagues that you should see the movie "Hercules" and see what Samoans are like.

I do want to thank the gentleman again for yielding.

Mr. ENGEL. I thank the gentleman, and I want to just say, I think we all have relatives that live in ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN's district. And if we don't, we want to go to her district in the wintertime.

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

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume. And I would like to point out that Dwayne Johnson, The Rock, is a University of Miami Hurricanes alum. It is not bragging if it is true. But thank you.

Mr. Speaker, over the past several years, I have noticed, we all have noticed a worrying trend in Asia. What we are seeing is that Asia's collective attention is gradually shifting away from economic prosperity to security concerns.

Where nations used to focus on trade and commerce, there is increasing discussion of nationalism, of military budgets, and even provocative behavior. There is no better example than the territorial disputes that Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA points out in his resolution in the South China and East China Sea.

We need to work against this shift toward nationalism and promote a peaceful resolution to these disputes. This resolution by Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA encourages just that. I urge my colleagues to support it.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, I want to thank our good friend and colleague Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA for his lifetime of service. And I know that I am speaking for our esteemed chairman, Mr. ROYCE, and all of the Members when we say, thank you, Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA, for your service to our country during the Vietnam war.

Thank you for the service in the cause of peace in the decades that followed that conflict during his distinguished career here in the people's House. We are a better institution for you having served here, sir.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 714, 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: "A resolution reaffirming the strong support of the United States Government for the

peaceful and collaborative resolution of maritime and jurisdictional disputes in the South China Sea and the East China Sea as provided for by universally recognized principles of international law, and reaffirming the vital interest of the United States in freedom of navigation and other internationally lawful uses of sea and airspace in the Asia-Pacific region.”.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

UNITED STATES-ISRAEL STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP ACT OF 2014

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 2673) to enhance the strategic partnership between the United States and Israel.

The Clerk read the title of the bill. The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 2673

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 Strategic Partnership Act of 2014”.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress makes the following findings:

(1) The people and the Governments of the United States and of Israel share a deep and unbreakable bond, forged by over 60 years of shared interests and shared values.

(2) Today, the people and Governments of the United States and of Israel are facing a dynamic and rapidly changing security environment in the Middle East and North Africa, necessitating deeper cooperation on a range of defense, security, and intelligence matters.

(3) From Gaza, Hamas continues to deny Israel’s right to exist and persists in firing rockets indiscriminately at population centers in Israel.

(4) Hezbollah—with support from Iran—continues to stockpile rockets and may be seeking to exploit the tragic and volatile security situation within Syria.

(5) The Government of Iran continues to pose a grave threat to the region and the world at large with its reckless pursuit of nuclear weapons.

(6) Given these challenges, it is imperative that the United States continues to deepen cooperation with allies like Israel in pursuit of shared policy objectives.

SEC. 3. STATEMENT OF POLICY.

It is the policy of the United States—

(1) to reaffirm the unwavering support of the people and the Government of the United States for the security of Israel as a Jewish state;

(2) to reaffirm the principles and objectives enshrined in the United States-Israel Enhanced Security Cooperation Act of 2012 (Public Law 112-150) and ensure its implementation to the fullest extent;

(3) to reaffirm the importance of the 2007 United States-Israel Memorandum of Understanding on United States assistance to Israel and the semi-annual Strategic Dialogue between the United States and Israel;

(4) to pursue every opportunity to deepen cooperation with Israel on a range of critical issues including defense, homeland security, energy, and cybersecurity;

(5) to continue to provide Israel with robust security assistance, including for the procurement of the Iron Dome Missile Defense System; and

(6) to support the Government of Israel in its ongoing efforts to reach a negotiated political settlement with the Palestinian people that results in two states living side-by-side in peace and security.

SEC. 4. SENSE OF CONGRESS ON ISRAEL AS A MAJOR STRATEGIC PARTNER.

It is the sense of Congress that Israel is a major strategic partner of the United States.

SEC. 5. EXTENSION OF WAR RESERVES STOCKPILE AUTHORITY.

(a) DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2005.—Section 12001(d) of the Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2005 (Public Law 108-287; 118 Stat. 1011) is amended by striking “more than 10 years after” and inserting “more than 11 years after”.

(b) FOREIGN ASSISTANCE ACT OF 1961.—Section 514(b)(2)(A) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2321h(b)(2)(A)) is amended by striking “and 2014” and inserting “. 2014, and 2015”.

SEC. 6. ELIGIBILITY OF ISRAEL FOR THE STRATEGIC TRADE AUTHORIZATION EXCEPTION TO CERTAIN EXPORT CONTROL LICENSING REQUIREMENTS.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that Israel—

(1) has adopted high standards in the field of export controls;

(2) has declared its unilateral adherence to the Missile Technology Control Regime, the Australia Group, and the Nuclear Suppliers Group; and

(3) is a party to—

(A) the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons which may be Deemed to be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects, signed at Geneva October 10, 1980;

(B) the Protocol for the Prohibition of the Use in War of Asphyxiating, Poisonous or Other Gases, and of Bacteriological Methods of Warfare, signed at Geneva June 17, 1925; and

(C) the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material, adopted at Vienna on October 26, 1979.

(b) ELIGIBILITY FOR STRATEGIC TRADE AUTHORIZATION EXCEPTION.—The President, consistent with the commitments of the United States under international arrangements, shall take steps so that Israel may be included in the list of countries eligible for the strategic trade authorization exception under section 740.20(c)(1) of title 15, Code of Federal Regulations, to the requirement for a license for the export, reexport, or in-country transfer of an item subject to controls under the Export Administration Regulations.

SEC. 7. UNITED STATES-ISRAEL COOPERATION ON ENERGY, WATER, HOMELAND SECURITY, AGRICULTURE, AND ALTERNATIVE FUEL TECHNOLOGIES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The President is authorized, subject to existing law—

(1) to undertake activities in cooperation with Israel; and

(2) to provide assistance promoting cooperation in the fields of energy, water, agriculture, and alternative fuel technologies.

(b) REQUIREMENTS.—In carrying out subsection (a), the President is authorized, subject to existing requirements of law and any applicable agreements or understandings between the United States and Israel—

(1) to share and exchange with Israel research, technology, intelligence, information, equipment, and personnel, including through sales, leases, or exchanges in kind, that the President determines will advance the national security interests of the United States and are consistent with the Strategic Dialogue and pertinent provisions of law; and

(2) to enhance scientific cooperation between Israel and the United States.

(c) COOPERATIVE RESEARCH PILOT PROGRAMS.—The Secretary of Homeland Security, acting through the Director of the Homeland Security Advanced Research Projects Agency and with the concurrence of the Secretary of State, is authorized, subject to existing law, to enter into cooperative research pilot programs with Israel to enhance Israel’s capabilities in—

- (1) border, maritime, and aviation security;
- (2) explosives detection; and
- (3) emergency services.

SEC. 8. REPORT ON INCREASED UNITED STATES-ISRAEL COOPERATION ON CYBERSECURITY.

Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the President shall submit to Congress a report, in a classified format or including a classified annex, as appropriate, on the feasibility and advisability of expanding United States-Israeli cooperation on cyber issues, including sharing and advancing technologies related to the prevention of cybercrimes.

SEC. 9. STATEMENT OF POLICY REGARDING THE VISA WAIVER PROGRAM.

It shall be the policy of the United States to include Israel in the list of countries that participate in the visa waiver program under section 217 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1187) when Israel satisfies, and as long as Israel continues to satisfy, the requirements for inclusion in such program specified in such section.

SEC. 10. STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF SECTION 4 OF THE UNITED STATES-ISRAEL ENHANCED SECURITY COOPERATION ACT OF 2012.

Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the President shall, to the extent practicable and in an appropriate manner, provide an update to the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate, the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives, the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate, and the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives on current and future efforts undertaken by the President to fulfill the objectives of section 4 of the United States-Israel Enhanced Security Cooperation Act (22 U.S.C. 8603).

SEC. 11. IMPROVED REPORTING ON ENHANCING ISRAEL’S QUALITATIVE MILITARY EDGE AND SECURITY POSTURE.

(a) BIENNIAL ASSESSMENT REEVALUATIONS.—Section 201(c) of the Naval Vessel Transfer Act of 2008 (22 U.S.C. 2776 note) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(3) BIENNIAL UPDATES.—Two years after the date on which each quadrennial report is transmitted to Congress, the President shall—

“(A) reevaluate the assessment required under subsection (a); and

“(B) inform and consult with the appropriate congressional committees on the results of the reevaluation conducted pursuant to subparagraph (A).”.

(b) CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS FOR MAJOR DEFENSE EQUIPMENT.—Section 36(h) of the Arms Export Control Act (22 U.S.C. 2776(h)) is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraph (2) as paragraph (3); and

(2) by inserting after paragraph (1) the following:

“(2) REQUIREMENTS WITH RESPECT TO DETERMINATION FOR MAJOR DEFENSE EQUIPMENT.—A determination under paragraph (1) relating to the sale or export of major defense equipment shall include—

“(A) a detailed explanation of Israel’s capacity to address the improved capabilities provided by such sale or export;

“(B) a detailed evaluation of—

“(i) how such sale or export alters the strategic and tactical balance in the region, including relative capabilities; and