

Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foss
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Garrett
Gibbs
Gibson
Gohmert
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gowdy
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (LA)
Graves (MO)
Griffith
Grothman
Guinta
Guthrie
Hanna
Hardy
Harper
Harris
Hartzler
Heck (NV)
Hensarling
Herrera Beutler
Hice, Jody B.
Hill
Holding
Hudson
Huelskamp
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurd (TX)
Hurt (VA)
Issa
Jenkins (KS)
Jenkins (WV)
Johnson (OH)
Jolly
Jones
Jordan
Joyce
Katko
Kelly (MS)
Kelly (PA)
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kinzinger (IL)
Kline
Knight
Labrador
LaHood

Lamborn
Lance
Latta
LoBiondo
Long
Loudermilk
Love
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lummis
MacArthur
Marchant
Marino
Massie
McCarthy
McCaull
McClintock
McHenry
McKinley
McMorris
Rodgers
McSally
Meadows
Meehan
Messer
Mica
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Moolenaar
Mooney (WV)
Mullin
Mulvaney
Murphy (PA)
Neugebauer
Newhouse
Noem
Nunes
Olson
Palmer
Paulsen
Pearce
Perry
Peters
Peterson
Pittenger
Pitts
Poe (TX)
Poliquin
Pompeo
Posey
Price, Tom
Ratcliffe
Reed
Renacci
Ribble
Rice (SC)
Rigell
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)

Rogers (KY)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Rooney (FL)
Long
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Rothfus
Rouzer
Royce
Russell
Salmon
Sanford
Scalise
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Stefanik
Stewart
Stivers
Stutzman
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiberi
Tipton
Trott
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walker
Walorski
Walters, Mimi
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Wenstrup
Westerman
Westmoreland
Williams
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Womack
Woodall
Yoder
Yoho
Young (AK)
Young (IA)
Young (IN)
Zeldin
Zinke

NOES—174

Adams
Aguilar
Bass
Beatty
Becerra
Bera
Bishop (GA)
Blumenauer
Bonamici
Boyle, Brendan
F.
Brady (PA)
Brownley (CA)
Bustos
Butterfield
Capps
Capuano
Cárdenas
Carney
Carson (IN)
Cartwright
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chu, Judy
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cohen
Connolly
Conyers
Costa
Courtney
Crowley
Cummings

Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny
DeFazio
DeGette
Delaney
DeLauro
DelBene
DeSaulnier
Deutch
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle, Michael
F.
Edwards
Ellison
Engel
Eshoo
Esty
Farr
Foster
Frankel (FL)
Fudge
Gabbard
Gallego
Garamendi
Graham
Grayson
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Grijalva
Gutiérrez
Hahn
Hastings
Heck (WA)
Higgins
Himes
Hinojosa

Honda
Hoyer
Huffman
Israel
Jackson Lee
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson, E. B.
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilmer
Kind
Kirkpatrick
Kuster
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lawrence
Lee
Levin
Lewis
Lipinski
Loeb sack
Loftgren
Lowenthal
Lowe
Lujan Grisham
(NM)
Luján, Ben Ray
(NM)
Lynch
Maloney,
Carolyn
Maloney, Sean

Matsui
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
McNerney
Meeks
Meng
Moore
Moulton
Murphy (FL)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Nolan
Norcross
O'Rourke
Pallone
Pascarella
Payne
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Pingree
Pocan
Polis

Price (NC)
Quigley
Rangel
Rice (NY)
Richmond
Roybal-Allard
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Ryan (OH)
Sánchez, Linda
T.
Sarbanes
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schrader
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Serrano
Sewell (AL)
Sherman
Sires
Slaughter
Smith (WA)
Speier

Swalwell (CA)
Takano
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Titus
Tonko
Torres
Tsongas
Van Hollen
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walz
Wasserman
Schultz
Waters, Maxine
Watson Coleman
Welch
Wilson (FL)
Yarmuth

NOT VOTING—16

Beyer
Boustany
Brown (FL)
Clawson (FL)
DesJarlais
Duckworth

Johnson, Sam
LaMalfa
Lieu, Ted
Nugent
Palazzo
Reichert

Ross
Rush
Sanchez, Loretta
Sinema

□ 1635

So the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF MOTIONS TO SUSPEND THE RULES

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that it be in order at any time on the legislative day of September 9, 2016, for the Speaker to entertain motions that the House suspend the rules, as though under clause 1 of rule XV, relating to the bill (S. 2040) to deter terrorism, provide justice for victims, and for other purposes.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. COLLINS of New York). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

APPOINTMENT OF CONFEREES ON S. 1012, NORTH AMERICAN ENERGY SECURITY AND INFRASTRUCTURE ACT OF 2016

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the Chair appoints the following conferees on S. 1012 to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Representative Whitfield of Kentucky:

Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois.

There was no objection.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote incurs objection under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken later.

EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF GEORGIA

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 660) expressing the sense of the House of Representatives to support the territorial integrity of Georgia.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 660

Whereas since 1993, the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Georgia have been reaffirmed by the international community in all United Nations Security Council resolutions on Georgia;

Whereas the Government of Georgia has pursued a peaceful resolution of the conflict with Russia over Georgia's territories of Abkhazia and the Tskhinvali region/South Ossetia;

Whereas principle IV of the Helsinki Final Act of 1975 states that, "The participating States will respect the territorial integrity of each of the participating States. Accordingly, they will refrain from any action inconsistent with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations against the territorial integrity, political independence or the unity of any participating State, and in particular from any such action constituting a threat or use of force . . . and participating States will likewise refrain from making each other's territory the object of military occupation.;"

Whereas the Charter of the United Nations states that, "All Members shall refrain in their international relations from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any state.;"

Whereas the recognition by the Government of the Russian Federation of Abkhazia and Tskhinvali region/South Ossetia on August 26, 2008, was in violation of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Georgia and contradicting principles of Helsinki Final Act of 1975, the Charter of the United Nations as well as the August 12, 2008, Ceasefire Agreement;

Whereas the United States-Georgia Charter on Strategic Partnership, signed on January 9, 2009, underscores that "support for each other's sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity and inviolability of borders constitutes the foundation of our bilateral relations.;"

Whereas according to the Government of Georgia's "State Strategy on Occupied Territories", the Government of Georgia has committed itself to a policy of peaceful engagement, the protection of economic and human rights, freedom of movement, and the preservation of cultural heritage, language, and identity for the people of Abkhazia and the Tskhinvali region/South Ossetia;

Whereas the August 2008 war between the Russian Federation and Georgia resulted in civilian and military casualties, the violation of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Georgia, and large numbers of internally displaced persons;

Whereas the annual United Nations General Assembly Resolution on the "Status of Internally Displaced Persons and Refugees from Abkhazia, Georgia and the Tskhinvali region/South Ossetia, Georgia", recognizes the right of return of all internally displaced persons and refugees and their descendants, regardless of ethnicity, as well as their property rights, remains unfulfilled;

Whereas the Russian Federation is building barbed wire fences and installing, so-

called “border signs” and other artificial barriers along the occupation line and depriving the people residing within the occupied regions and in the adjacent areas of their fundamental rights and freedoms, including, but not limited to the freedom of movement, family life, education in their native language, and other civil and economic rights;

Whereas the August 12, 2008, Ceasefire Agreement, agreed to by the Governments of the Russian Federation and Georgia—

(1) provides that all troops of the Russian Federation shall be withdrawn to pre-war positions;

(2) provides that free access shall be granted to organizations providing humanitarian assistance in regions affected by the violence in August 2008; and

(3) launched the Geneva International Discussions between Georgia and the Russian Federation;

Whereas, on November 23, 2010, Georgian President Saakashvili declared before the European Parliament that “Georgia will never use force to restore its territorial integrity and sovereignty.”;

Whereas, on March 7, 2013, the bipartisan Resolution of the Parliament of Georgia on Basic Directions of Georgia’s Foreign Policy confirmed “Georgia’s commitment for the non-use of force, pledged by the President of Georgia in his address to the international community from the European Parliament in Strasbourg on November 23, 2010.”;

Whereas, on June 27, 2014, in the Association Agreement between Georgia and the European Union, Georgia reaffirmed its commitment “to restore its territorial integrity in pursuit of a peaceful and lasting conflict resolution, of pursuing the full implementation of” the August 12, 2008, ceasefire agreement;

Whereas despite the unilateral legally binding commitment to the non-use of force pledged by the Georgian Government, the Russian Federation still refuses to reciprocate with its own legally binding non-use of force pledge;

Whereas the European Union Monitoring Mission (EUMM) is still denied access to the occupied regions of Abkhazia and the Tskhinvali region/South Ossetia, despite the fact that its mandate covers the whole territory of Georgia within its internationally recognized borders;

Whereas the Russian Federation continues to enhance its military bases illegally stationed in occupied regions of Abkhazia and the Tskhinvali region/South Ossetia without the consent of the Government of Georgia or a mandate from the United Nations or other multilateral organizations;

Whereas the Russian Federation continues the process of aggression carried out against Georgia since the early 1990s and occupation of Georgia’s territories following the August 2008 Russia-Georgia War;

Whereas the Russian Federation’s policy vis-à-vis Georgia and the alarming developments in the region illustrate that Moscow does not accept the independent choice of sovereign states and strives for the restoration of zones of influence in the region, including through the use of force, occupation, factual annexation, and other aggressive acts; and

Whereas the United States applied the doctrine of non-recognition in 1940 to the countries of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania, and every Presidential administration of the United States honored this doctrine until independence was restored to those countries in 1991: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) supports the policy, popularly known as the “Stimson Doctrine”, of the United

States to not recognize territorial changes effected by force, and affirms that this policy should continue to guide the foreign policy of the United States;

(2) condemns the military intervention and occupation of Georgia by the Russian Federation and its continuous illegal activities along the occupation line in Abkhazia and Tskhinvali region/South Ossetia;

(3) calls upon the Russian Federation to withdraw its recognition of Georgia’s territories of Abkhazia and the Tskhinvali region/South Ossetia as independent countries, to refrain from acts and policies that undermine the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Georgia, and to take steps to fulfill all the terms and conditions of the August 12, 2008, Ceasefire Agreement between Georgia and the Russian Federation;

(4) stresses the necessity of progress on core issues within the Geneva International Discussions, including a legally binding pledge from Russia on the non-use of force, the establishment of international security arrangements in the occupied regions of Georgia, and the safe and dignified return of internally displaced persons and refugees to the places of their origin;

(5) urges the United States Government to declare unequivocally that the United States will not recognize the de jure or de facto sovereignty of the Russian Federation over any part of Georgia, its airspace, or its territorial waters, including Abkhazia and the Tskhinvali region/South Ossetia under any circumstances;

(6) urges the United States Administration to deepen cooperation with Georgia in all areas of the United States-Georgia Charter on Strategic Partnership, including Georgia’s advancement towards Euro-Atlantic integration;

(7) urges the United States Administration to place emphasis on enhancing Georgia’s security through joint military trainings and providing self-defensive capabilities in order to enhance Georgia’s independent statehood and national sovereignty; and

(8) affirms that a free, united, democratic, and sovereign Georgia is in the long-term interest of the United States as it promotes peace and stability in the region.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. ENGEL) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include any extraneous material for the RECORD.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE), the chairman of the Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Terrorism, Nonproliferation, and Trade, and he is the author of this measure.

Mr. POE of Texas. I thank the chairman of the committee and the ranking member for their support on this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I was in Georgia in 2008 when the Russians invaded that sovereign country and took one-fifth of their nation away from them. I saw the

Russian tanks on the hill, and, unfortunately, many years later, those Russian tanks are still on the hills of Georgia.

Russia is a cancer in the area. It is trying to infiltrate countries in the region, trying to spread its propaganda and conquering ideas to the former Soviet Republics. Russian troops maintain a stranglehold on the occupied territories of Georgia. Russians have forced ethnic Georgians to leave and have forbidden everyone who still lives there from speaking the Georgian language or from traveling to Georgia. The illegal Russian occupation of Georgia is not a simple matter of territory—it is an attack on ideas; it is an assault on the very freedoms and liberties that are God given.

Georgia is a small and young democracy despite the rough neighborhood that it lives in—surrounded by corrupt dictators, including Russia. In fact, over the past 25 years, Georgia has become the freest nation in the region. It has championed good governance, economic reform, and democracy while combating corruption and ensuring press freedom. This is no small achievement. I have met with the first Georgian Government and the second Georgian Government and have met with many of their officials. Mostly, I have met with the people of Georgia, and they are freedom-loving individuals.

Georgia sets up a strong contrast to the authoritarian Putin up north. Putin does not like having a beacon of freedom shining brightly from the south with his imperial aggression kingdom looking down on them. This is exactly why Putin decided to invade Georgia 8 years ago. Georgia represents the democratic potential in the region. Putin would like nothing more than to cause unrest and turmoil in Georgia, like he has done in other nations, including in Ukraine.

Georgia is a strong ally of the United States. Georgia has more troops in Afghanistan who are fighting alongside our troops than any non-NATO ally, and it has made hard reforms in order to join NATO and the European Union.

This resolution expresses our solidarity with Georgia. I am proud to be a co-chair, along with the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. CONNOLLY), of the Georgia Caucus. This resolution condemns Russia’s illegal occupation of Georgian territory, and it sends a clear message to Putin that the United States will never recognize his control over any part of Georgia.

Our friends in Georgia and the region must know that the United States will not waver in its longstanding support for its allies in the face of the Napoleon of Siberia. We must be clear about our commitment to our friends. Instead of retreating from the world stage, the United States must deepen its relationships with our allies. Georgia is a valuable ally threatened by the cold Russian winds of authoritarianism. John F. Kennedy, our President 50 years ago,

said that we would support any friend who believes in freedom.

It is time we step up and support the nation of Georgia. I urge my colleagues to support this important resolution and send a signal to our enemies and our friends all over the world that the United States means it when it says it will support its allies.

And that is just the way it is.

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

I rise in support of this measure.

I am glad that Mr. POE said, "That is just the way it is," because I agree. It is just the way it is. I agree with everything he says, and I want to thank him and Mr. CONNOLLY for their work on this very timely resolution.

Mr. Speaker, it is clear that Russian President Vladimir Putin is doing everything in his power to steamroll the efforts of the U.S. and our allies over many decades to build a Europe that is whole, free, and at peace; and we shouldn't forget that the illegal occupation of Crimea and parts of eastern Ukraine isn't the first time he has trampled on his neighbors' territorial integrity.

Last month, we marked 8 years since Russian troops moved into Georgia, where they remain to this day. Now, I believe keeping Georgia out of NATO in 2008 was a terrible mistake, and, indeed, then-President Medvedev cited the alliance's failure to put out the welcome mat for Georgia as a signal that Russia needed to push across the border.

□ 1645

Yet, even with its sovereignty fractured for eight years, Georgia will soon write another chapter in its history of freedom and democracy by holding parliamentary elections.

We went to a celebration—and, I believe Mr. POE was there—celebrating the 25th anniversary of freedom from communism by Georgia. Your heart really has to go out to the Georgian people and what they have been able to accomplish under very, very adverse circumstances.

Georgia was a part of the Soviet Union for so many years. It was clear that they didn't wish to be, but they were forced to be. Then when the Soviet Union collapsed, Georgia, of course, was an independent country and declared so, but that wasn't good enough for Mr. Putin.

So the resolution we are considering today reaffirms the commitment of the United States to our partners in Georgia. We believe that Georgia's territorial integrity should be restored, just as with Ukraine. We do not recognize Russia's occupation of parts of that country as legitimate, and we never will. I think we have to state that again. The Russian occupation of parts of Georgia is illegal, and Georgia should remain whole and free, and the Russians ought to get out.

We view Georgia's democracy and vibrant society as a beacon in an increas-

ingly challenging part of the world, and we continue to believe that the door should be open to Georgia to work with us. I continue to believe that the door should remain open to Georgia for both NATO and the EU membership.

I am glad to support this resolution.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, since it regained its independence back in 1991 with the collapse of the Soviet Empire at the time, Georgia has repeatedly proven that it is indeed a strong partner of the United States.

Russian President Vladimir Putin is trying to sever our connection in order to reestablish Russia's domination over Georgia. That is part of the problem here. Ever since he came to power in 2000, President Putin has pursued an aggressive policy toward Georgia that has included economic coercion, armed conflict, and occupation of the regions of Abkhazia and South Ossetia. This is similar to his ongoing campaign, frankly, against Ukraine where Russia has annexed Crimea outright.

President Putin has these territorial ambitions in Georgia as well and is promoting separatist forces in Abkhazia and in South Ossetia with the ultimate goal of annexing those regions outright or in all but name. In fact, Russia has already formally recognized these two regions as independent countries.

As part of that effort, Russia is using its enormous propaganda machine to convince the Georgian people that the U.S. and the west have abandoned them and that they have no option but to submit to Moscow and to submit to its imperial ambitions.

This strategy will soon be put to the test. It is going to be put to the test in Georgia's parliamentary elections on October 8 because Moscow is hoping that its campaign of disinformation will convince the Georgian people that they are alone and helpless and that they must give up close ties with the west or they will face greater hardship. Our broadcasts through Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty should be an important counter to this harmful propaganda.

By voting overwhelmingly for this resolution, the House will send a powerful message that will be heard, not only throughout Georgia, but in the Kremlin as well, and that message is the United States will not accept Russia's efforts to undermine Georgia's sovereignty and their territorial integrity and that we will always remain a strong partner of this embattled democracy and of the brave Georgian people.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. SANFORD).

Mr. SANFORD. Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairman ROYCE so much for his indulgence in terms of time.

I had the pleasure of going to Georgia over the recess with Congressman DUNCAN, and we had an incredible experience in that we saw firsthand the very thing that you are talking about with regard to the Russian occupation of nearly 20 percent of the landmass of Georgia. It is having a real-world impact in terms of a threat to that part of the region, a threat in terms of investment, and a threat in terms of further economic development to that country.

What has been, I think, impressive are the market reforms that have taken place there, the way that the economy has burgeoned as a consequence of those market reforms, but, again, the way in which the Russian threat threatens all of that in terms of the growing democratic movement, the growing economy, and the change in people's lives.

So I just want to praise the gentleman from California and thank him for bringing this resolution to the floor because I think it does make a difference in terms of a signal to that part of the world wherein people that we met with and saw firsthand are seeing the consequence of the Russian occupation.

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

It is clear that Vladimir Putin has no regard for his neighbor's sovereignty, and I think we should be doing more to push back against Russia's aggression.

We also need to take every chance we get to make clear that his past bad behavior is not acceptable. Russia's illegal occupation, as we have said of Georgia, has gone on for too long. He has occupied other places as well: Moldova, Crimea, and Ukraine, which is part of Crimea. If we just let him do this, there will be no end in sight. The United States has to really be strong about this.

I am glad we are sending this message today that we stand with the people of Georgia. We want to see their country made whole again, and we will never accept Russia's illegal claims.

I am glad to support this measure. I urge my colleagues to do the same. Again, this is a bipartisan resolution because we all oppose aggression, and Abkhazia and South Ossetia should not be occupied. It should go back and be part of the rest of the country in a free and independent Georgia.

I urge my colleagues to support this measure.

I yield back the balance of my time.

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

I would just close by acknowledging again and thanking Judge POE, Chairman POE, a valued member of the Foreign Affairs Committee and author of this measure, for this resolution and for his focus to see that we collectively send a clear and powerful message to the people of Georgia and to President Vladimir Putin that the U.S. is and will remain a steadfast friend of this embattled democracy.

I would also add that Judge POE's resolution comes at a crucial time because the Kremlin is trying to convince the Georgian people that we have abandoned them and that they have no choice but to submit to Moscow.

I think by passing this resolution we will send our own message. We will send a powerful message of support to the people of Georgia and ensure that, when the Georgians cast their vote in next month's parliamentary elections, they will do so confident that the American people will stand by them.

I yield back the balance of my time. Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this resolution (H. Res. 660) to support the territorial integrity of Georgia.

I want to thank my good friends and colleagues Mr. POE and Mr. CONNOLLY for introducing this excellent resolution, which condemns Russia's ongoing illegal activities along the occupation line in Abkhazia and South Ossetia.

Mr. Speaker, Russia's invasion and occupation of Georgian territory violates the Helsinki Final Act, as well as the core principles of several multilateral agreements, the Budapest Memorandum, and the United Nations Charter. The United States has not recognized Russia's illegal attempt to separate Abkhazia and South Ossetia from Georgia as legitimate in any way—and this resolution sends a powerful message that in this policy the administration has the full support of Congress.

I was in Georgia in August, 2008, arriving about two weeks after the Russian invasion. The human suffering generated by the invasion was immense, with over 192,000 people displaced and several hundred killed. Several of my constituents found themselves trapped behind Russian lines in South Ossetia—and we were able to get them out with help from our very capable ambassador, John Tefft, now serving as our ambassador to Russia, and the assistance of another country's diplomatic mission.

The Russian occupation of Georgian territory is a festering sore that has not healed in the eight years that have elapsed since the invasion.

Mr. Speaker, the resolution notes: "the Russian Federation is building barbed wire fences and installing, so-called 'border signs' and other artificial barriers along the occupation line and depriving the people residing within the occupied regions and in the adjacent areas of their fundamental rights and freedoms."

Mr. Speaker, I saw this new Iron Curtain with my own eyes in July. I was in Georgia, leading the U.S. Delegation to the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, and made a visit to what our embassy calls the occupation line with some of my congressional colleagues. We looked over Russia's fortified line from an observation platform—and what we saw reminded me of the old Soviet Union. The Russian troops came to the checkpoint and made people wait upwards of 12 hours to cross over with foodstuffs and reach people on the other side. A Russian guard used a camera to film me and the other members who were standing on the platform. Tensions were thick.

Mr. Speaker, this resolution comes at a timely moment, as Georgia prepares for its parliamentary elections in October. It reminds

Georgians as they prepare to go to the polls that the U.S. supports them in their efforts to develop a sovereign, independent, and prosperous country.

I thank my good friend Mr. POE for introducing this resolution in support of Georgia and urge my colleagues to support it.

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 660, expressing support for the territorial integrity of Georgia.

I want to thank the Chairman and Ranking Member for shepherding this measure through the House Foreign Affairs Committee.

I introduced this resolution with my colleague and fellow co-chair of the Congressional Caucus on Georgia, Judge TED POE.

It serves as a clear and unequivocal statement in support of the sovereign territory of Georgia and it reiterates the longstanding policy of the United States to not recognize territorial changes effected by force, as dictated by the Stimson Doctrine—established in 1932 by then Secretary of State Henry L. Stimson.

In Georgia and elsewhere in the region, Russia has committed gross violations of these principles by fomenting unrest and aiding separatist movements in the countries along its periphery.

Foundational multilateral agreements reached for the purpose of maintaining a peaceful and stable international order, such as the Helsinki Final Act of 1975 and the Charter of the United Nations, have been willfully disregarded by Russia at Putin's behest.

This resolution condemns strongly the forcible and illegal occupation of the Abkhazia and South Ossetia regions in Georgia, and calls on Russia to withdraw its troops from the territories.

Russian forces continue to harass civilian communities along the administrative boundary line and impede the right of return of internally displaced persons.

This resolution is about restoring the territorial integrity of a sovereign state and upholding the commitments and promise of the U.S.-Georgia Charter on Strategic Partnership—a framework founded on support for each other's sovereignty, the strengthening of Georgian democracy, and the Euro-Atlantic integration of Georgia.

Support for this resolution would be consistent with the recent Warsaw Summit Communiqué issued by the NATO Heads of State and Government on July 9, 2016 in which NATO reaffirmed its support for the territorial integrity, independence, and sovereignty of Georgia.

I would ask that my colleagues support this important and timely resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. YODER). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 660.

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, 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.

RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF THE UNITED STATES-REPUBLIC OF KOREA-JAPAN TRI-LATERAL RELATIONSHIP

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 634) recognizing the importance of the United States-Republic of Korea-Japan trilateral relationship to counter North Korean threats and nuclear proliferation, and to ensure regional security and human rights.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 634

Whereas, on January 6, 2016, North Korea conducted its fourth nuclear test and on February 6, 2016, North Korea conducted an Intercontinental Ballistic Missile technology test, both constituting direct and egregious violations of United Nations Security Council resolutions;

Whereas each of the governments of the United States, the Republic of Korea (ROK), and Japan have condemned the tests, underscoring the importance of a strong and united international response;

Whereas the ROK President Park Geun-hye and Japan Prime Minister Shinzo Abe have agreed to work with the United States both to institute strong measures in reaction to North Korean provocations, and to prevent North Korea from becoming a nuclear weapons state;

Whereas the United States, ROK, and Japan have signed a framework to enhance information sharing called the "Trilateral Information Sharing Arrangement Concerning the Nuclear and Missile Threats Posed by North Korea";

Whereas Seoul, the capital of the Republic of Korea (ROK), is 35 miles from the Demilitarized Zone, and Japan is 650 miles from North Korea, both within reach of North Korea's weapons;

Whereas North Korea already has an estimated stockpile of nuclear material that could be converted into 13-21 nuclear weapons, with clear intentions to continue building its nuclear arsenal;

Whereas North Korea consistently conducts destabilizing domestic military drills, including firing short range missiles into the territorial waters of its neighbors;

Whereas Admiral William Gortney, Commander of the United States Northern Command has assessed on October 5, 2015, that the North Koreans "have the capability to reach the [U.S.] homeland with a nuclear weapon from a rocket" and U.S. Forces Korea Commander General Curtis M. Scaparrotti said on October 24, 2014, that North Koreans "have the capability to have miniaturized the device [a nuclear warhead] at this point, and they have the technology to potentially deliver what they say they have";

Whereas the United States' deployment of the Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) system would greatly improve the ROK's missile defense capabilities and the ability of the United States-ROK-Japan cooperative efforts to deter North Korea's threats and provocations;

Whereas from June 20, 2016, through June 28, 2016, the United States Navy, the Japanese Maritime Self Defense Force, and the Republic of Korea Navy conducted their third biennial Pacific Dragon exercise, a trilateral event focusing on ballistic missile defense;

Whereas the Report of the United Nations Commission of Inquiry on human rights in