

Let me again thank Mr. CASTRO for putting forward this timely and important resolution. He has been a valued leader on policy on Asia and policy in Australia.

As we look to the future of U.S.-Australia relations over the next 100 years, I am confident that our countries will be able to expand our close collaboration in the critical domain of space exploration and research.

This resolution commends the Government of Australia for constituting the Australian Space Agency, which lays the foundation for our bilateral cooperation in space. It also underscores America's interests in prioritizing space cooperation in the years to come and in doing it with a good friend in Australia.

I support the passage of this resolution. I encourage my colleagues to do the same, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my colleague, Representative CASTRO of Texas, for sponsoring this measure.

Our cooperation with Australia in space-related activities is a key element of our broader strategic relationship. Those ties will become increasingly important as new technologies create expanded opportunities for peaceful endeavors and as Beijing and Moscow and others increasingly challenge U.S. national security in space.

Expanding our joint efforts in this area will enhance the interests of both countries and further strengthen our longstanding strategic alliance.

For these reasons, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this timely, bipartisan measure.

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

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of House Resolution 1052 which affirms cooperation on space research, exploration, and utilization between the United States and its great ally, Australia.

On the eve of the 50th anniversary of the landing of *Apollo 11* on the Moon, it is fitting that we acknowledge the contribution of NASA's tracking station located at Honey-suckle Creek in Australia and Australia's Parkes radio telescope to the success of the *Apollo 11* mission.

Indeed, Neil Armstrong's famous words announcing humankind's first step on the Moon were first received by those facilities located in Australia before being relayed to the rest of the world.

Australia has been a crucial partner to the U.S. space program ever since.

For example, scientists and engineers from the Australian Space Agency worked with NASA at the Canberra Deep Space Communication Complex to support communications for the landing of rovers on Mars, the arrival of New Horizons to Pluto, and the entry of Juno into orbit around Jupiter.

And NASA will build on its experience conducting sounding rocket launch operations at Australia's Woomera Test Range by using the

Equatorial Launch Australia launch range for several Astrophysics missions that are scheduled for 2019.

As Ranking Member of the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, I have been engaged in ensuring that NASA establish the requisite building blocks to ensure the success of the Nation's space exploration program.

One of those building blocks will be international cooperation and partnerships.

The National Academies' Committee on Human Spaceflight recommended in its 2014 "Pathways to Exploration" report that NASA, among other recommendations, "vigorously pursue opportunities for international and commercial collaboration in order to leverage financial resources and capabilities of other nations and commercial entities".

Peaceful international cooperation has been a hallmark of NASA's approach since its inception. House Resolution 1052 resolution affirms the need for such cooperation and partnership with Australia.

I urge my fellow Members to pass this Resolution.

□ 1745

The SPEAKER pro tempore. 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. 1052.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

TRANS-SAHARA COUNTERTERRORISM PARTNERSHIP ACT OF 2018

Mr. ROYCE of California. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 6018) to establish an interagency program to assist countries in the Sahel, Maghreb, and adjacent regions of Africa to improve immediate and long-term capabilities to counter terrorist threats, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 6018

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 "Trans-Sahara Counterterrorism Partnership Act of 2018".

SEC. 2. SENSE OF CONGRESS.

It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the Trans-Sahara Counterterrorism Partnership, launched in 2005, is an interagency program to assist partner countries in the Sahel and Maghreb regions of Africa on their immediate and long-term capabilities to address terrorist threats and prevent the spread of violent extremism;

(2) armed groups and violent Islamist terrorist organizations, such as Al Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb, Boko Haram, the Islamic State of West Africa, and other affiliated groups, have killed tens of thousands of innocent civilians, displaced populations, destabilized local and national governments, and caused mass human suffering in the affected communities;

(3) it is in the national security interest of the United States to combat the spread of radical Islamist extremism and build partner countries' capacity to combat these threats in Africa;

(4) extremist movements exploit vulnerable and marginalized communities suffering from poverty, lack of economic opportunity (particularly among youth populations), and weak governance; and

(5) to address critical security, political, economic, and humanitarian challenges in these regions of Africa, a coordinated, inter-agency approach is needed to appropriately allocate resources, share responsibility, de-conflict programs, and maximize the effectiveness of United States defense, diplomatic, and development capabilities.

SEC. 3. TRANS-SAHARA COUNTERTERRORISM PARTNERSHIP.

(a) TRANS-SAHARA COUNTER TERRORISM PARTNERSHIP.—

(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary of State, in consultation with the Secretary of Defense and the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development, shall establish a partnership, to be known as the "Trans-Sahara Counterterrorism Partnership" (TSCTP), to coordinate all United States programs, projects, and activities in North and West Africa that are conducted for any of the following purposes:

(A) To build the capacity of foreign military and law enforcement entities in such regions to conduct counterterrorism operations.

(B) To improve the ability of foreign military and law enforcement entities in such regions to cooperate with the United States and other partner countries on counterterrorism efforts.

(C) To enhance the border security capacity of partner countries in such regions, including the ability to monitor, restrain, and interdict terrorists.

(D) To strengthen the rule of law in such countries, including access to justice, and the ability of the law enforcement entities of such partner countries to detect, disrupt, respond to, investigate, and prosecute terrorist activity.

(E) To monitor and counter the financing of terrorism.

(F) To further reduce any vulnerabilities among affected populations in such regions to recruitment or incitement of terrorist activities through public diplomacy efforts, such as supporting youth employment, promoting meaningful participation of women, strengthening local governance and civil society capacity, and improving access to economic opportunities and education.

(G) To support independent, local-language media, particularly in rural areas, to counter media operations and recruitment propaganda by terrorist organizations.

(2) CONSULTATION.—In coordinating programs through the TSCTP, the Secretary of State shall also consult, as appropriate, with the Director of National Intelligence, the Secretary of the Treasury, the Attorney General, the Chief Executive Officer of the United States Agency for Global Media (formerly known as the Broadcasting Board of Governors), and the heads of other relevant Federal departments and agencies.

(3) CONGRESSIONAL NOTIFICATION.—Not later than 15 days before obligating amounts for an activity coordinated by the TSCTP pursuant to paragraph (1), the Secretary of State shall submit a notification, in accordance with the requirements of section 634A of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2394-1), that includes the following:

(A) The foreign country and entity, as applicable, whose capabilities are to be enhanced in accordance with the purposes specified in paragraph (1)

(B) The amount, type, and purpose of support to be provided.

(C) An assessment of the capacity of the foreign country or entity to absorb the assistance to be provided.

(D) The estimated cost and anticipated implementation timeline for assistance.

(E) As applicable, a description of the arrangements to sustain any equipment provided by the activity beyond the completion date of such activity, if applicable, and the estimated cost and source of funds to support such sustainment.

(F) The amount, type, statutory authorization, and purpose of any United States security assistance provided to such foreign country during the three preceding fiscal years pursuant to authorities under title 10, United States Code, the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2151 et seq.), or any other "train and equip" authorities of the Department of Defense.

(b) COMPREHENSIVE STRATEGY FOR COUNTERTERRORISM EFFORTS.—

(1) DEVELOPMENT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State, in consultation with the Secretary of Defense and the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development, shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a comprehensive, interagency strategy that—

(A) states the objectives of the United States counterterrorism effort in North and West Africa with respect to the use of all forms of United States assistance to counter violent extremism; and

(B) includes a plan by the Secretary of State for the manner in which programs shall be coordinated by the TSCTP pursuant to subsection (a)(1), including which agency or bureau of the Department of State, as applicable, will be responsible for leading and coordinating each such program; and

(C) outlines a plan to monitor and evaluate TSCTP programs and identifies the key indicators that will be used to measure performance and progress under the strategy.

(2) SUPPORTING MATERIAL IN ANNUAL BUDGET REQUEST.—The Secretary of State shall include, in the budget materials submitted in support of the budget of the President (submitted to Congress pursuant to section 1105 of title 31, United States Code) for each fiscal year beginning after the date of the enactment of this Act, a description of the requirements, activities, and planned allocation of amounts requested by the TSCTP.

(c) MONITORING AND EVALUATION OF PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES.—

(1) MONITORING AND EVALUATION.—The Secretary of State, in consultation with the Secretary of Defense and the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development, shall monitor and evaluate the programs coordinated by the TSCTP pursuant to subsection (a)(1) in accordance with the plan outlined pursuant to subsection (b)(1)(C).

(2) REPORT.—For the 5-year period beginning 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees an annual report on monitoring and evaluation efforts pursuant to paragraph (1) that describes—

(A) the progress made in meeting the objectives listed in the strategy required by subsection (b)(1), including any lessons learned in carrying out TSCTP programs and activities and any recommendations for improving such programs and activities;

(B) the efforts taken to coordinate, de-conflict and streamline TSCTP programs to maximize resource effectiveness;

(C) the extent to which each partner country has demonstrated the ability to absorb the equipment or training provided in the

year previous under TSCTP programs, and where applicable, the ability to maintain and appropriately utilize such equipment provided;

(D) the extent to which each partner country is investing its own resources to advance the goals described in subsection (a)(1) or demonstrated a commitment and willingness to cooperate with the United States to advance such goals; and

(E) the actions taken by the government of each partner country receiving assistance through programs coordinated by the TSCTP to combat corruption, improve transparency and accountability, and promote other forms of good governance.

(d) FORM.—The strategy required by subsection (b)(1) and the report required by subsection (c)(2) shall be submitted in unclassified form but may include a classified annex.

(e) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES DEFINED.—In this section, the term "appropriate congressional committees" means—

(1) the Committee on Armed Services, the Committee on Foreign Affairs, the Committee on Appropriations, and the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence of the House of Representatives; and

(2) the Committee on Armed Services, the Committee on Foreign Relations, the Committee on Appropriations, and the Select Committee on Intelligence of the Senate.

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 of California. 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 in the RECORD.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 6018, the Trans-Sahara Counterterrorism Partnership Act.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my colleagues here, Chairman MIKE MCCAUL and Ranking Member KEATING, for their bipartisan leadership to advance this important measure.

Mr. Speaker, as you know, Boko Haram, ISIS-West Africa, as well as ISIS in the Greater Sahara, al-Qaida affiliates, and other armed groups continue to create havoc across north and west Africa. Thousands of civilians, including countless women and children, have died at the hands of these terrorist organizations.

In response to these threats, the U.S. has deployed over 1,000 troops in the region, but the many diverse and increasingly pressing security threats across Africa demand more than just a military presence.

Realizing this, in 2005, the U.S. established the Trans-Sahara Counterterrorism Partnership, known as the TSCTP program, to bring together the Depart-

ment of State, the Department of Defense, and the U.S. Agency for International Development, and they did that to coordinate and streamline U.S. and partner nations' efforts to combat terrorism, as well as preventing the spread of violent extremism in north and west Africa.

This program rightly recognizes that we must build the capacity of countries so that they can themselves detect and defeat terrorists within their own countries. This is a long-term approach that can produce high returns with relatively low investment. We are investing in the future security of partner nations.

But TSCTP is not just about security assistance. Strengthening democratic institutions of partner nations to ensure responsive democratic governance and rule of law is also a key part of this program. Often our efforts help bring government officials around the table with local communities, including women's groups and including civil society at large, to increase dialogue on peace and security. Having women at the table not only makes peace agreements more likely, but also makes agreements last longer.

This region is home to some of the poorest countries of the world, and the humanitarian and development needs are immense. High youth unemployment, food insecurity, low education, and severe lack of government services together create an environment ripe for terrorist recruitment.

To improve these underlying conditions, USAID is supporting vulnerable populations through livelihood training, through access to health resources, and through agricultural development.

TSCTP coordinates our diplomatic, defense, and development tools to counter these terrorist threats and to help bring stability to this region. The bill we are considering today supports this program by establishing core objectives in benchmarks and strengthening congressional oversight so it continues to be efficient and effective and timely.

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

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this measure and I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to begin by thanking Mr. MCCAUL for putting forward this important bill, which would authorize the Trans-Sahara Counterterrorism Partnership. I want to also thank Congressman KEATING for his hard work on this bill as well.

This interagency program was established in 2005 to help America's partners in the Sahel and Maghreb counter terrorism and violent extremism.

In places where instability leads to terrorism and conflict, it is important that we collaborate with our allies and that our policy is driven by united interagency effort. That is why this bill is so critical.

It requires the Secretary of State to work with the Secretary of Defense and the USAID administrator to create a comprehensive strategy. By coordinating our diplomatic, military, and development efforts at home and with partners abroad, the Trans-Sahara Counterterrorism Partnership Act strengthens our response to the international security threats facing these regions of Africa.

Mr. Speaker, the Trans-Sahara Counterterrorism Partnership is an important program that will enhance our international security efforts in an area that demands attention.

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

Mr. ROYCE of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. MCCAUL), chairman of the Committee on Homeland Security, a senior member of the Foreign Affairs Committee, and the author of this legislation.

Mr. MCCAUL. Mr. Speaker, I want to commend Chairman ROYCE and Ranking Member ELIOT ENGEL, both of them this Congress, in their leadership. We are going to miss Chairman ROYCE as we move on to the end of this Congress.

Mr. Speaker, I do rise in support of this bill, the Trans-Sahara Counterterrorism Partnership Act. This bill will strengthen our counterterrorism operations in Africa, an area where the threat of terrorism is rapidly rising.

While our attention has been focused on the Middle East, terrorism in Africa has spread.

Our military successes in Iraq and Syria have splintered ISIS, squeezed terrorists out of the Middle East, and sent them fleeing to Africa.

The numbers, Mr. Speaker, are alarming. On the eve of 9/11, it is important to point out, that al-Qaida on the eve of 9/11 only had a few hundred followers. Today, it is estimated that 10,000 ISIS and al-Qaida jihadists have established bases across the continent.

Along with other existing terrorist organizations, such as Boko Haram, terrorism is taking hold in Africa and prohibiting its prosperity.

My bill, which I introduced with my friend, Mr. KEATING, authorizes, for the first time, a program called the Trans-Sahara Counterterrorism Partnership. This program works with countries such as Chad, Mali, and Nigeria to build their capacity to conduct counterterrorism operations and strengthen the rule of law.

Furthermore, my bill requires the State Department, USAID, and the Defense Department to work together to develop a counterterrorism strategy in Africa. By taking a multifaceted approach, we may be able to prevent terrorism from gaining a larger foothold in these countries.

Mr. Speaker, again, I would like to thank Mr. KEATING, Chairman ROYCE, and Ranking Member ENGEL for all of their support in this important legislation.

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

Mr. ROYCE of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN), who chairs the Subcommittee on the Middle East and north Africa and is the former chair of the Africa Subcommittee as well.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairman ROYCE and Ranking Member ENGEL for their leadership, for their bipartisan spirit, for everything that they are doing to bring our Congress together. We need more of them around here. I thank them for bringing Mr. MCCAUL's bill to the floor today. I thank my esteemed Foreign Affairs Committee colleague, MICHAEL MCCAUL, for his authorship of this important bill.

The Trans-Sahara Counterterrorism Partnership Act codifies an important program, the program after which the bill is named, and helps build partner capacity in a critical region of the world.

Thanks to Chairman ROYCE and Ranking Member ENGEL, I recently had the privilege of leading a delegation to one of those partner countries, Morocco, where I met with the Moroccan equivalent of the FBI. On the front lines of terrorism in north Africa and the Sahel, Morocco has successfully thwarted plot after plot that was threatening U.S. interests, and is positioned to play an even bigger role in our joint counterterrorism efforts.

Programs like the Trans-Sahara Counterterrorism Partnership help bring law enforcement services in places like Morocco even closer together, allowing us to share information about terrorist groups like ISIS, al-Qaida, Hezbollah, and helps to protect our homeland.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to support Mr. MCCAUL's important bill, and I thank the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE) for yielding me time.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, in closing, I, again, want to thank Mr. MCCAUL for his hard work on this measure and to Chairman ROYCE for moving it forward.

This bill authorizes a very important program that strengthens our efforts to assist partners in the Sahel and Maghreb to counter terrorism and violent extremism.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this bipartisan legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, in conclusion, the Trans-Sahara Counterterrorism Partnership Act mandates an important interagency effort to combat terrorism and to prevent the spread of radical extremism. It increases congressional oversight by requiring increased reporting and regular monitoring and evaluation, frankly, of all of our programs. In doing so, through programs like TSCTP and with just a relatively

small amount of foreign assistance dollars, we are investing in the future stability of these nations and their own ability to defeat terrorist attacks.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairman MIKE MCCAUL for this measure, 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. ROYCE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 6018, as amended.

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

The title of the bill was amended so as to read: "A bill to establish an interagency program to assist countries in North and West Africa to improve immediate and long-term capabilities to counter terrorist threats, and for other purposes."

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 6:30 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 5 o'clock and 58 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1830

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. POE of Texas) at 6 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 6784, MANAGE OUR WOLVES ACT, AND PROVIDING FOR PROCEEDINGS DURING THE PERIOD FROM NOVEMBER 19, 2018, THROUGH NOVEMBER 26, 2018

Mr. NEWHOUSE, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 115-1022) on the resolution (H. Res. 1142) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 6784) to provide for removal of the gray wolf in the contiguous 48 States from the List of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife published under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, and providing for proceedings during the period from November 19, 2018, through November 26, 2018, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, proceedings will resume on motions to suspend the rules previously postponed.

Votes will be taken in the following order:

H.R. 6064, by the yeas and nays; and