the data and information supporting the financial statements. Those conditions also made it impractical for us to extend our audit procedures to the degree necessary to determine the effect that these shortcomings might have had on the House's financial statements.

□ 2100

For the reasons stated, we are unable to and do not express an opinion as to whether the supplemental schedules are fairly stated in relation to the consolidating financial statements taken as a whole, and we do not express an opinion on these consolidating financial statements. That is the worst situation, I don't know, are any of you CPAs?

Mrs. SMITH of Washington. Will the gentleman yield?

All I can tell you is if my business had that kind of an audit, I could never get a loan again. I think what it says is there can be no beginnings. I looked at that, and I am like the person with the shovel, you know, digging and looking for the pony.

Mr. HOKE. Looking for the pony.

Mrs. SMITH of Washington. And I looked at it and I thought, some things were obvious. Even before we came in in January, we started making changes, we started digging around, we started opening up files and we started closing things that were not efficient. We started looking at the mail room, we started looking at the way things were done.

My understanding is that this audit said certain things should change. We are already doing a lot of them. But I do not think we will ever know for sure all of what happened between the 1954 audit and the 1995 audit. That is a long time.

What I would like to see us do is go forward. I would love to see us look at this and say, we are a new Congress, we want to go forward. So I was excited to see that we were not going to mess with the results. We were going to turn them over to an independent counsel and let anybody else deal with them outside of this place so that it was not political. I like that, and it kind of excited me that we were already starting along the path to repair.

Mr. FOX of Pennsylvania. To follow up with what Congresswoman SMITH just said, the fact is we just passed a resolution unanimously in this House this afternoon giving the Inspector General the authority to move forward to make the kinds of changes we need. Because in the report, if I can just follow up, the appropriations limits were ignored, bills were paid late in the House, House property and equipment was unaccounted for, and there were significant security problems with their own computer system. So these changes, in order to really help our country and to lead by example, I think it is good that we have this kind of audit and that we actually do the follow-up, as Congresswoman SMITH just stated.

Mr. HOKE. I think that is right, and that we now have audits on an annual base, which is exactly what we are committed to doing.

I think we would be remiss in not pointing out two things: No. 1, that this audit was taken under the first Republican Congress in 40 years; and, No. 2, that we made the promise to the American people that we were going to start out the 104th Congress with an audit, and that is exactly what we did. It is another promise made, another promise kept.

Mr. KINGSTON. If the gentleman will yield, was this done on an inventory and on a cash basis? Because my question that I am leading to is, did we count the number of personal computers? Did we count the papers? Is there inventory missing? And is there cash missing? Is the cash done on an accrual basis, is it done on a cash basis, or could the auditors even tell one way or the other? Because what I am really hearing is, they gave up and they said, this is just too much of a mess.

Mr. HOKE. Well, they tried to do it properly, and I don't think they really gave up. What they did is they kind of threw their hands up in despair and frustration and said, we can't give you the kind of report that you wanted.

Mr. KINGSTON. Well, if the gentleman will yield, Price Waterhouse also does the audit for Washington, DC. Did they say that this was comparable?

Mr. HOKE. My understanding was that the books for Washington, the District of Columbia, were in much better shape than the books for the Congress.

I will read one other thing from this, because I think it is interesting. It says the House used cash basis accounting as its primary means of managing its financial resources and preparing internal and external financial reports.

This meant that the House tracked when it received or spent cash, but not what liabilities or legal obligations or commitments it was incurring, or the value of the assets properly recorded, accumulated and reported in accordance with the rules, policies and procedures that are established by the House itself.

Mr. KINGSTON. So perhaps we can get somebody from the Washington, DC City Council to come show the House how to take care of the books.

Mr. HOKE. Perhaps we can.

Mr. KINGSTON. Not necessary any more, is it?

Mrs. SMITH of Washington. Let's do better than that.

Mr. HOKE. I want to extend my appreciation to the gentlelady from Washington [Mrs. SMITH], the gentleman from Pennsylvania [Mr. FOX], and the gentleman from Georgia [Mr. KINGSTON] for participating with me in this special order.

Mr. Speaker, I want to yield the balance of this hour at this point to the gentleman from Florida [Mr. BILIRAKIS] to discuss Cyprus. I hope that I will have an opportunity, since it just happens that this is also an issue that is near and dear to my heart, to join him on that issue.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on this subject of my special order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MCINNIS). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Florida?

There was no objection.

CYPRUS: 21 YEARS OF DIVISION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida [Mr. BILIRAKIS] is recognized for 20 minutes.

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me the time. I also thank the gentleman and commend the gentleman and the others for basically sharing the facts and the truth regarding the Medicare picture with our viewers out there.

Mr. Speaker, Thursday, July 20, marks the twenty-first anniversary of the illegal invasion and occupation of Cyprus by Turkey. I rise here today, as I have since I first came to the Congress in 1983, to remind us all of this sad day in the history of the Republic of Cyprus.

We must all be reminded that the Green Line, separating the northern part of the island—some 40 percent and Turkish-occupied—from the free portion is the only wall remaining in the world dividing a country.

We must be reminded that our conduct here in this Congress has played a major part in ensuring that wall continues to stand.

On July 20, 1974, 6,000 Turkish troops and 40 tanks landed on the north coast of Cyprus. Turkish forces captured almost 40 percent of Cyprus, representing 70 percent of the country's economic health.

As a result of Turkey's illegal invasion, 1,619 people have never been seen again. Among these 1,619 missing individuals, five are United States citizens.

In addition, more than 200,000 Cypriots were forcibly driven from their homes. They are now refugees—a people without a home.

Today, Turkey continues its occupation of the northern portion of Cyprus, maintaining more than 35,000 troops and some 65,000 settlers there. As I previously mentioned, a barbed wire fence, known as the Green Line, cuts across the island separating thousands of Greek Cypriots from the towns and communities in which they and their families had previously lived for generations.

As you might guess, this has led to frequent incidents and disputes—and in the near future, the settlers and occupying troops will outnumber the indigenous Turkish Cypriots.

At this point, Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield to the gentleman from Pennsylvania [Mr. GEKAS].

Mr. GEKAS. I thank the gentleman. As usual, the gentleman from Florida has gone to extra lengths to bring a vital issue to the floor and to utilize the special auspices of the special order to get across a vital message.

The gentleman has begun his presentation with talk about refugees, and about an act of aggression. The invasion was a bold and dastardly act of aggression, was it not? The answer is yes. I will answer my own question.

Refugees became one of the results of this act of aggression. Missing persons is another disaster that came directly because of that act of aggression. Does not this remind you of what is happening in Bosnia?

Here we have a situation where an act of aggression resulted in refugees, in missing persons, in atrocities of every kind of description. The United Nations passed resolutions dealing directly with the Bosnian situation. Here we are in turmoil and dismay at being unable to do anything about what is happening in Bosnia.

Well, we could have all predicted that if only one would set that same eyeglass on the Cyprus situation: an act of aggression, ethnic cleansing, refugees, dastardly atrocities, missing persons. The United Nations passed resolution after resolution to try to do something about it. Their inaction there, in my judgment, laid the groundwork for the inaction that they are now undergoing in Bosnia.

I am sick of it. I no longer can tolerate even a gentle discussion on the Cyprus situation. How can the world community coalesce behind a Desert Storm situation to help Kuwait regain its independence, and indeed, enlist the aid of Cyprus in that effort, and then tolerate a continuing act of aggression? Every single minute that that force occupies the northeastern part of Cyprus is an act of aggression repeated and repeated.

Let us do something about this. We argue about it, we debate it, we pass resolutions, we send letters. The Bosnian situation will never be solved, nor will the Cyprus situation ever be solved, unless the resolve, as evidenced by the individuals who will be speaking this evening, is mounted into legislative action here in the Congress of the United States.

I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. BILIRAKIS, I thank the gentleman for his remarks.

While I am saddened by the anguish that the invasion and occupation has caused the people of Cyprus, I am also inspired and encouraged by their undaunted spirit and determination as they have endured this tragedy.

In fact, the government of cyprus has persisted in making every possible effort to reach a just and lasting solution.

Most recently, in December of 1993, the Cyprus government submitted to the United Nations a bold and innovative proposal calling for the demilitarization of the island-nation. In exchange for the withdrawal of Turkish troops, Cyprus offered to disband its national guard, transfer the national guard's military equipment to an enlarged U.N. peacekeeping force and use the money saved from defense spending for development projects that would benefit both communities. Unfortunately, the Turkish side rejected Cyprus' proposal.

At this point, Mr. Speaker, I would yield to the gentleman from Ohio [Mr. HOKE].

Mr. HOKE. I heard what you said, Mr. BILIRAKIS, about the Turkish troops. Are these Turkish Cypriot troops, or are these Turkish troops who have been exported to Cyprus and are occupying the island.

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Clearly exported to Cyprus.

Mr. HOKE. Clearly. There are 35,000 Turkish troops that are standing on the north side, that are an occupying force on this island that was at one time an island paradise that is now divided. They are using, as I understand the situation, they are using Cyprus as a bargaining chip in their own designs and insecurities about their own domestic situation and the longtime problems that they have had with the Nation of Greece generally.

They use Cyprus as a way to get at Greece and create untold misery for the Greek Cypriots who live on that island. I know of one situation particularly in Famagusta where 60,000 people lived in Famagusta, which is just on, as I understand it, and correct me if I'm wrong, but it is just on the north side of the green line.

Now, 21 years ago at the time of the invasion by the Turks of the island of Cyprus, this city was evacuated; 60,000 people were forced to flee from Famagusta and that is now an abandoned city. Nobody is in it. There are these 60,000 people in exile of the Famagusta municipality.

It seems to me that it really is time that we began to identify the genuine source of the trouble over there. We talk a lot about human rights in this body; we talk a lot about our concern for self-determination and the concern that we have that nations be allowed to have their own rights.

Here we are with a situation in Cyprus where the Turks have invaded that beautiful nation where Moslem Cypriots and Christian Cypriots got along for centuries side-by-side, and now for the past 21 years they have not, and the Turks again are using them as a pawn.

There are 1,619, as I understand it, I think that is the correct number, people who are still missing and unaccounted for from that invasion that took place 21 years ago, and of those, five were American citizens, including one who was a young boy, or young man at the time, just in college, who was snatched away, literally in the sight of his parents when they were there on vacation. They are from Michigan, and he has never been seen since, never been accounted for. The Turkish Government refuses to cooperate or give any information about his whereabouts, and certainly he puts a very real and personal face on this tragedy.

I thank you for your leadership and what you are doing. I agree with the gentleman from Pennsylvania that enough is enough, and it is time to act.

□ 2115

Mr. BILIRAKIS. I thank the gentleman and thank him for his interest during all the time you have been here in the Congress and on all of the other Hellenic issues, and we appreciate your concern and your caring, I say to the gentleman.

Mr. Speaker, tomorrow we will have another chance when the House International Relations Committee begins its mark-up of House Concurrent Resolution 42, introduced by my colleague from New York [Mr. ENGEL] and of which I am an original cosponsor.

This important resolution calls for the demilitarization of Cyprus and insists that all parties to the dispute regarding Cyprus agree to seek a solution based upon relevant U.N. resolutions, including provisions of Security Council Resolution 939. Resolution 939 reaffirms that a solution to the Cyprus problem be based upon a State of Cyprus with a single sovereignty, citizenship and international personality.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from New York [Mrs. MALONEY], who has truly been an inspiration on this issue.

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I want to first thank the gentleman from Florida for once again organizing this special order.

Mr. BILIRAKIS is a true champion of human rights and justice and has been an inspiration to many of us as we attempt to solve the problems of the beautiful island of Cyprus.

The past few years have seen great advances in peace and human rights throughout the world.

The end of the cold war, the triumph of democracy in South Africa, and the movement toward peace in the Middle East and Northern Ireland have been beacons of hope for us all.

In light of these advances, the situation on Cyprus is all the more tragic.

This island remains divided by the continuing shackles of occupation and oppression.

This week, we commemorate the 21st anniversary of the 1974 illegal Turkish invasion of Cyprus and its occupation of 37 percent of the island.

The continued presence of 35,000 Turkish troops represents a gross violation of human rights and international law.

During the invasion, almost 200,000 Greek Cypriots were expelled from their homes. They were removed from

the land that had been theirs' for generations. Their property was confiscated.

Worst of all, 1,614 Greek Cypriots and 5 Americans were seized by Turkish troops and remain unaccounted for to this day.

I've shared the pain of some of my own constituents in Astoria, Queens whose beloved family members are still missing. On this issue, there can be no compromise. We will never give up hope that people like Chrisaci Loizoi, Andrew Kassapis, and George Anastasiou will be accounted for.

I'm pleased that last year Congress passed, and the President signed into law, a bill which directs the Department of State to conduct an investigation into the whereabouts of the five Americans that are still missing.

But we must do more. Human decency demands that we use all means at our disposal to account for all of the 1,619 who are missing.

For this reason, I was particularly pleased to play an active role in the passage of an amendment to the Foreign Operations bill offered by my friend and colleague Mr. PORTER that would cut $25 million in United States economic aid to Turkey.

By a decisive vote of 247 to 155, this House spoke out loud and clear that Turkey must be forced to pay a price for its continuing human rights violations and its refusal to act in good faith on the Cyprus issue.

The House did the right thing when it passed the Porter amendment.

I am also pleased that the Clinton administration is taking concrete actions on a variety of issues of importance to the Hellenic community.

The President's appointment of a special emissary to Cyprus, Mr. Richard Beattie, was an important development. Mr. Beattie, and the special emissary to FYROM, Matt Nimitz, have both visited my district and spoken at heavily attended town hall meetings.

The actions of the President and the Congress to help secure the release of the ''Omonia Four'' represent another example of progress in Greek-American relations. Many of us in this Chamber tonight worked very hard to gain the freedom of these ethnic Greeks who were unfairly imprisoned in Albania.

Just this afternoon, several of us met at length with Ambassador Richard Holbrooke and other top State department officials and urged them to continue to press Turkey to come to a solution on Cyprus.

And there are additional revenues for the supporters of Greece and Cyprus to take to keep Turkey's feet to the fire on these important matters.

I strongly support the March 6 accord which will set a firm timetable for Cyprus' accession to the European Union.

Conversely, the United States should condition the admission of Turkey into the European Customs Union on an improvement on Turkish human rights and progress on the Cyprus issue.

We must likewise carefully monitor recent Turkish actions and bellicose statements with respect to the Law of the Sea Treaty. This important treaty has been signed by nearly 200 nations, including the United States and Greece, but Turkey has not only refused to sign, but has threatened war if Greece asserts its legitimate rights.

We must continue to support the $15 million earmark for economic and peace-enhancing assistance for Cyprus, and I'm pleased that this aid was included in the recently-passed Foreign Operations bill.

Finally, the United States must be mindful of a variety of Turkish abuses, even the ones that do not receive headlines. For example, the gentleman from Florida and I have introduced a House resolution to protect the Eastern Orthodox Ecumenical Patriarchate.

In recent years, there have been terrible terrorist attacks on the Ecumenical Patriarchate premises in Turkey. In addition, religious schools have been shut down and freedom of religion threatened.

Mr. Speaker, I want to conclude by thanking my colleagues, for once again joining in this special order.

We must continue to rise each and every July to commemorate these terrible events and to fulfill our obligation to the missing in Cyprus, and all the Cypriot people that we will never forget their plight.

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to thank my distinguished colleague, Mr. BILIRAKIS, for organizing this commemoration of a sad and frustrating anniversary.

Twenty-one years—for many American young people, it's a coming of age. But for Cypriots, and for us tonight, its a reminder that on July 20, 1974, Turkish troops invaded their island and began a military occupation.

Today, 35,000 Turkish troops remain on Cyprus. They occupy one-third of the island. In a chilling reminder of the Berlin Wall, a barbed wire fence known as the Green Line cuts across Cyprus, separating thousands of Greek Cypriots from the towns and communities in which their families have lived for generations.

As a result of the invasion 21 years ago, thousands of people were killed, more than 200,000 people were expelled from their homes, and today, more than 1,600 remain missing—including five Americans.

Instead of helping us to locate the missing and enter negotiations aimed toward unity and freedom for Cypriots, Turkey today continues to keep troops on the island.

U.S. Secretary General Boutros Boutros-Ghali just last month called Turkish-occupied northern Cyprus ''one of the most highly militarized areas in the world.''

Most disturbing of all, when you look at the amount of United States dollars flowing into Turkey today, it is nearly identical to the amount of money Turkey spends to keep those troops housed in Cyprus.

So in effect, American taxpayers are paying to keep Turkish troops housed in Cyprus.

Until Turkey begins to remove its troops from Cyprus, we have no business sending aid to Turkey. That is why I strongly supported the Porter amendment to the foreign operations appropriations bill.

The Turkish government must know that the division of Cyprus will continue to be an obstacle to better relations with the United States.

Over the past few years, we have witnessed tremendous changes around the world—the fall of the Berlin Wall, the beginning of reconciliation in the Middle East and the end of Apartheid. It is my sincere hope that soon we will be able to add Cyprus to that list of places where peace and freedom have triumphed.

Mr. MANTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join my colleagues in this important special order marking the 21st anniversary of Turkey's invasion of Cyprus. At the outset, I want to thank my colleague Mr. BILIRAKIS for organizing this important special order to commemorate this anniversary.

The division of Cyprus has the distinction of being one of the most intractable in the world today. Since Turkey first invaded Cyprus in 1974, 1619 people including eight Americans last seen alive in the occupied areas of Cyprus have never been accounted for. We must not let the passage of years weaken our resolve to pressure the Turkish government to provide answers to the families of the missing. We cannot forget their suffering continues.

Mr. Speaker, last year, when marking this solemn anniversary, many of us felt hopeful that this conflict would soon be resolved peacefully through the auspices of the United Nations. Today, while I applaud the efforts of United Nations to resolve the issue of the continuing division of Cyprus, I am very frustrated by Turkish leader Rauf Denktash's stubborn resistance to meaningful negotiations. Its not just Greek Cypriots and their supporters who think Denktash has been unreasonable.

In December of 1993, in an effort to facilitate a peace resolution of the problem, President Clerides submitted to the United Nations a thoughtful and innovative proposal calling for the demilitarization of Cyprus. In exchange for the withdrawal of Turkish troops, Cyprus would disband its National Guard; transfer the National Guard's military equipment to the United Nations peace keeping force; and the money saved from Defense spending for development projects that would benefit both communities. Demilitarization would alleviate the security concerns of all parties and substantially enhance the prospects for a peaceful resolution of the problem. Once again the Turkish side rejected Cyprus' efforts toward ending the tragic unacceptable status quo. In April of this year I was proud to join my colleagues as a cosponsor of House Concurrent Resolution 42, which calls for the demilitarization of Cyprus. I urge my colleagues to join me as a co-sponsor of this very important legislation.

The United States Government has always supported a just and lasting solution to the Cyprus problem. It is important for the Congress to continue to firmly support the people of Cyprus by pressing Turkey to remove its illegal occupation force and to work constructively for a resolution of the problem in accordance with the relevant U.N. resolutions and agreements between the two sides. A just and lasting solution to the problem will benefit both communities on Cyprus, stabilize the often tenuous relationship between Greece and Turkey, as well as constitute a significant step towards peace in the unstable eastern Mediterranean region.

Mr. Speaker, I want to take this opportunity to commend the Secretary General for his tireless efforts to resolve this issue. I also want to recognize the Greek Cypriot people for their valiant commitment to resolving this conflict,

despite the seeming bad faith shown by the Turkish side. It is my hope that this will be the last year members must join to discuss the longstanding problems of the people of Cyprus, that next year we may join to celebrate the end to this conflict. Until that happens, the Turkish government must know we in the United States will continue to mark this anniversary and speak out for rights of the missing.

Mr. DELLUMS. Mr. Speaker, 12 months have passed since we last recognized, and reminded ourselves that July 20, 1974 marks the occupation and division of the Republic of Cyprus. One of the tragic consequences of that invasion and occupation is the continued 'disappearance' of almost 2,000 people.

The passing years only add to our enormous embarrassment that although there is a great deal of evidence to indicate that these individuals were arrested by Turkish military personnel during the invasion and subsequent occupation, that we, the international community, have not been able to negotiate or pressure the Turkish government into releasing any information on these individuals.

This 21st anniversary of that occupation presents us once again with the opportunity to support the work of the United Nations negotiating team's efforts to persuade Mr. Glafcos Clerides, President of the Republic of Cyprus, and Mr. Rauf Denktash, Turkish Cypriot leader, in reaching an understanding on obtaining information on these detainees.

As always, I am honored to stand with my colleagues in calling upon the President to continue to work with the United Nations in resolving the issues of territorial control in Cyprus, in gaining knowledge of the 1,619 innocent people still missing and in achieving their eventual release.

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, this Thursday will mark the 21st anniversary of Turkey's invasion on the peaceful, self-governing island of Cyprus. For 21 years, Turkey has tried to make the island its own. It has done this by installing 80,000 illegal colonists, by maintaining over 30,000 heavily armed troops on the island, and by moving 200,000 Greek Cypriots from their homes. Through 21 years of hardship, the people of Cyprus have held on to a hope for peace and for the return of their island. Their purpose has not been revenge, but negotiation and reconciliation. Here in the House of Representatives, we have the opportunity to help the cause of justice. I urge my colleagues to support House Concurrent Resolution 42, calling for demilitarization of Cyprus. I encourage them to cosponsor H.R. 3475, legislation I have introduced that would reduce United States aid to Turkey by $500,000 per day until that country complies with several conditions, including progress toward withdrawal from Cyprus. As saddened as I am by their plight, as dismal as their treatment by a foreign force has been, we should all be inspired by the patience, courage and faith shown by the people of Cyprus. Let us make this the year when the people of Cyprus once again can govern themselves with peace and dignity.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. Speaker, I would like to applaud and express my gratitude to my fellow colleagues for conducting this special order to acknowledge the 21st anniversary of the Turkish occupation of Cyprus.

This year, the Members of the House meet again to remember this sad day and to denounce the atrocities taking place in Cyprus. There are still 1,619 people missing as a result of the occupation. Five of these missing persons are American citizens. This is an outrage.

In the time since the Turks have taken over Cyprus the situation there has steadily worsened. The widespread violence and violations of human rights can not be ignored. Action must be taken to amend these horrible travesties.

For some time I have been interested in the situation in Cyprus. I have supported legislation which would require an investigation into the whereabouts of United States citizens and others missing from Cyprus. Another bill I have supported would prohibit all United States military and economic assistance for Turkey until the Turkish Government takes responsibility for its actions in Cyprus and complies with its obligations under international law. I hope there will soon be a resolution to the problems in Cyprus once an for all.

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, today's Special Order on Cyprus comes on the eve of the 21st anniversary of the brutal invasion by Turkish troops. I congratulate my friend, the gentleman from Florida [Mr. BILIRAKIS] for organizing this Special Order. The international community is still faced with the fact that in excess of 30,000 Turkish military personnel remain on the island to enforce an illegal partition and to protect a self-proclaimed government that has been recognized by only one other country—Turkey itself.

Those of us in Congress who have supported a negotiated settlement to the dispute which has led to the division of Cyprus are painfully aware of the complexities of the issue, the injustices committed, and particularly the suffering over these many long years of the Cypriot people on both sides of the Green line.

Indeed, Cyprus has become a code-word for stale-mate and intractability in international diplomacy.

Last year, the House passed H.R. 2826, which provides for an investigation by the President of the whereabouts of persons mission in Cyprus since 1974. The resolution of the long lingering question of the whereabouts of 1,619 persons—including 5 Americans—needs to be resolved. The United Nations has been looking into this matter since the early 1980's. But has not solved a single case. I understand that former Ambassador Bob Dillon who has had long experience in the region will head an investigative team. I hope the administration and President Clinton will diligently pursue an investigation that can provide to the families and friends of the missing, some long overdue, answers. It is also hoped that the governments of Turkey and Cyprus will cooperate fully in providing all available information to the President as he conducts this investigation.

Old history and grievances must be placed behind us as we seek to resolve the division of Cyprus. I hope and pray that both sides of the problem will reach within themselves to find and resolve to settle this persistent problem. The Greek Cypriots have demonstrated both, the flexibility and the spirit of compromise in recent rounds in U.N. sponsored talks. The international community and the U.N. should recognize this as we reevaluate our tactics in the light of the most recent failure to move beyond the current situation.

I have urged and will continue to prod the administration to do more to focus the Turkish Government on the necessity of withdrawing from Cyprus without further delay. Regrettably, Prime Minister Ciller appears to be in a weak position, unable to reign in recalcitrant elements among Turkey's political and military establishment. But the fortunes of the people of Cyprus must not be held hostage to internal Turkish political problems.

Twenty-one years is too long a time. There are now young people coming of age in Cyprus who know nothing other than the experience of living in a divided society. For this next generation what can guide them in learning to accept life with a neighboring but different culture? Time is running out for the possibility of achieving a peaceful settlement. The people of Cyprus now have to ask themselves if the enmity between the two communities is truly worth the price of a divided nation.

As we approach the 21st anniversary of Turkey's invasion of Cyprus, let us call on the world community to help resolve this problem of a divided and occupied Cyprus.

Mr. FAZIO. Mr. Speaker, this week marks the 21st year of the occupation and division of the Republic of Cyprus. This island nation that gained its independence from Great Britain over three decades ago was invaded by Turkey in 1974. Since the invasion, northern Cyprus has been in the grip of foreign occupation, a siege marked by violence and bloodshed.

Over 1,600 people—among them 5 United States citizens—have been missing since the island was divided after the invasion. They remain unaccounted for. Their families have no idea whether they are sick or well, dead or alive.

I want to once again profess my support for a negotiated peace on Cyprus, and for the reunification of this Mediterranean nation which has been our faithful ally over the course of its history. Lastly, Mr. Speaker, I wish to thank my colleague from Florida, [Mr. BILIRAKIS] for his devotion and dedication to the Cyprus issue. Every year, Mr. BILIRAKIS is instrumental in calling this special order and providing us with an opportunity to reaffirm our commitment to the innocent victims and families of Cyprus' occupation, as well as to an end to the turmoil and conflict under which Cypriots are forced to live. I am, as always, pleased to join my colleagues in recognition of this solemn anniversary.

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join my colleagues in commemorating a tragic event—Turkey's military invasion of the Republic of Cyprus in July 1974. But I think we all agree that the even greater tragedy is the fact that 21 years later, Turkey's illegal occupation of northern Cyprus remains in place and the suffering of the people of Cyprus continues.

Driven from their homes and villages, brutalized, and denied information as to the fate of over 1,600 loved ones missing since the invasion, the people of Cyprus have patiently cooperated with international negotiators—for 21 years) in the hopes of securing a peaceful coexistence.

Mr. Speaker, Greek-Americans in San Diego and across the United States also share in the agony created by the occupation of Cyprus. They agonize about mission friends and family, the destruction of the Greek Cypriot culture and the denial of access to ancestral homelands now occupied by the Turkish Army. These people have suffered too long.

And so, together with the Greek-American community, I urge Congress and the administration to adopt a far more active role in pressing the Turkish Government to withdraw its troops from Cyprus, end the human rights abuses there and provide a full accounting of those who are missing.

It is time we let Turkey know that a peaceful resolution to this crisis is tragically overdue.

Mrs. KELLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join with my colleagues in marking the tragic events that occurred 21 years ago on the Island of Cyprus. On July 20, 1974, the Government of Turkey sent troops to Cyprus and forcefully assumed control of more than one-third of the island. This action dislocated much of the Greek Cypriot population, creating a refugee problem that exists to this day. Additionally, over 1,600 Greek Cypriots are still missing or unaccounted for as a result of this brutal invasion.

The Turkish Cypriot community has continually shown its unwillingness to move toward a negotiated settlement with their Greek neighbors. The removal of the roughly 35,000 Turkish troops from the Island of Cyprus is central to any such agreement. However, the Turkish Government is doing the exact opposite. They continue their arms buildup on the island, in effect making any sort of rapprochement all the more unlikely.

The Greek Cypriots have demonstrated repeatedly their flexibility and willingness to compromise in order to bring an end to this long-standing dispute. As late as last year, President Glafcos Clerides of Cyprus unveiled a plan that would demilitarize the island. This proposal should be commended. The United States has also taken steps to facilitate an agreement. Earlier this year, President Clinton appointed a Special Envoy for Cyprus and dispatched Assistant Secretary of State Richard Holbrooke to the region in hopes of helping to achieve a solution.

However, these efforts have failed to produce any movement toward an agreement. It is time that the United States Government take bold steps to show its resolve to the Turkish Government that it is serious about moving toward peace on Cyprus. In this regard, I am pleased to be a cosponsor to House Concurrent Resolution 42, which officially calls for the demilitarization of Cyprus. Perhaps more importantly, I was very encouraged by the passage of an amendment to H.R. 1868, the Foreign Operations Appropriations Act, which cuts economic support funds and military assistance to Turkey until it withdraws its troops from Cyprus, lifts its blockade of Armenia, and makes progress on extending political and economic rights to is Kurdish minorities.

Mr. Speaker, it is with decisive steps such as these that we can begin to hope for a brighter future for Cyprus. I wish to commend the gentleman from Florida, [Mr. BILIRAKIS] for his steadfast work in this area. I look forward to working with him, and all my colleagues who share our concerns, to achieve a unified and peaceful Cyprus in the future.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, today we commemorate the 21st anniversary of a very sad event when a democratic country, Cyprus, fell victim to a foreign army.

Today, all the people of that country continue to suffer the ill consequences of that intervention and a military occupation of part of Cyprus.

The situation in Cyprus deserves our attention.

As a country at the crossroads of the great civilizations of Europe and the Middle East, Cyprus has long been an island where people from all these civilizations and cultures mingled freely and in harmony.

Twenty-one years ago, the population of Cyprus lived in peace and friendship despite the differences in religion, language, and national origin.

The Greek Cypriots did not abuse their electoral strength, and despite being 80 percent of the Cypriot population, they did not use the opportunity to deny the other citizens and residents of Cyprus of their rights to full participation in that democratic system.

Nonetheless, outside intervention led to the division of the country.

Since then, all efforts to restore Cyprus to national sovereignty and to restore the legitimate government's authority over all the national territory have been to no avail.

I sincerely hope that all parties to this conflict will heed the consensus among the democratic states of the world and put an end to its illegal occupation of the northern portion of Cyprus.

A continuation of a divided Cyprus is not in the interest of any of the citizens of that country.

Since the foreign occupation of the northern part of the island, the per capita income of the Cypriots living under the legitimate and recognized Government of the Republic of Cyprus in the south has soared from less than $1,500 in 1973 to $10,430 in 1993, while those who live in the occupied territory have seen their incomes stagnating.

The European Union is moving toward a decision in which the residents of the area under the control of the legitimate Government of Cyprus will be offered membership in the European Union, while simultaneously taking measures to further isolate the residents of the occupied territory from their market opportunities in Europe.

A settlement in Cyprus would be good for all countries in the region.

As I understand it, the European Union is willing to negotiate a customs union with Turkey which would give Turkey duty free access to the 367 million residents of the European Union countries. Thus, both Greece and Turkey will be able to move beyond the misunderstandings and conflicts of the past and become part of a customs union that will bring increased prosperity to both countries.

But that customs union cannot be achieved until there is a settlement in Cyprus to restore the legitimate government to full control of the island, and the withdrawal of all foreign troops from that island.

The expansion of democracy throughout Cyprus is a noble goal, that I urge all Members to support.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sadness and frustration that I rise tonight to commemorate the anniversary of an international crisis that has to date defied resolution. Twenty-one years ago, demonstrating a gross disrespect for both international law and human life, Turkish troops stormed into the Mediterranean island nation of Cyprus and stole its independence. Defiantly ignoring the calls of the United Nations and NATO to allow Cyprus to resume its existence as a free and sovereign country, Turkey currently maintains its illegal occupation of the island with a force of over 30,000.

As we gather here to remember those who have died, as well as those who today live in a divided country, we must also be sure to vigorously communicate our determination to persevere until Cyprus is once again free. We must continue to point out, as I and my fellow cosponsors have done in House Concurrent Resolution 42, that the presence of 30,000-plus Turkish troops ''hampers the search for a freely negotiated solution to the dispute regarding Cyprus.'' Calling for a complete demilitarization of the island, House Concurrent Resolution 42 asks for nothing more than Turkish compliance with the numerous resolutions passed by the United Nations Security Council.

And if the Turks continue to resist the idea of a sovereign, independent Cyprus, let there be no doubt that we will continue—just as I and many of my colleagues joined together to do in voting for the Porter amendment to the fiscal year 1996 foreign operations bill—to cut U.S. assistance to them.

Mr. Speaker, we should be proud of our efforts in the Congress to resolve this situation, but there is much work that still needs to be done. Answers must be found for those who have disappeared, including five Americans who were in Turkish held territory, following the 1974 invasion; in the absence of a complete Turkish withdrawal from the island, human rights improvements for the Cypriots must be secured; and the regional instability caused by tension between Greece and Turkey must be contained.

Thus, although we hope we will not have to return to commemorate this event next year, be assured that we will return for as many years as it takes to once again see a peaceful and independent State of Cyprus.

Mr. Speaker, I again thank the gentleman from Florida [Mr. BILIRAKIS] for organizing this special order and for his leadership on this issue and on many others.

Mr. BILIRAKIS. I thank the gentlewoman for her wonderful words.

Very quickly, getting back to demilitarization. Demilitarization is crucial to a satisfactory resolution of the division of this island-nation. In fact, this couldn't have been made more clear than in a recent report submitted to the U.N. Security Council regarding its resolution renewing the U.N. peacekeeping force in Cyprus. In that report, U.N. Secretary General, Boutros Boutros-Ghali, referred to occupied Cyprus as ''one of the most highly militarized areas in the world.''

Demilitarization would alleviate the security concerns of all parties and substantially enhance the prospects for a peaceful resolution of the problem.

In addition to these efforts, the United States and the international community have undertaken numerous other endeavors to end the occupation, but again and again the Turkish side has resisted.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Pennsylvania [Mr. KLINK].

Mr. KLINK. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding, the other half of the Hellenian Caucus, for yielding, and I thank him for his leadership on this issue.

I note you have a brief amount of time. I will just try to mention some things I do not think have been said, maybe putting this in a different perspective.

When it comes to the topic of Cyprus, there are so many paradoxes involved here. If you go back to September 14, 1829, after a tenacious 8-year battle, Hellenic troops were able to conquer larger Ottoman forces. The Greeks finally won their recognition as a sovereign state. They did that with the support of countries like Russia, Britain, France, and the United States, all supporting a return of democracy to the Greeks.

Yet, now for 21 years, these countries and many others around the world have turned their backs on Cyprus and the situation in Cyprus. It is the Greeks themselves who are credited with the entire concept of democracy. As early as the sixth century B.C., the ideas upon which our own Constitution was written were being debated by the ancient Athenian philosophers. Greeks were the first people to believe all persons are created equal and should be recognized as so, and these people can go and govern their own affairs. Yet, for 21 years on Cyprus, the Greeks who lived there, the Cypriots there, have not been allowed to do that.

Hundreds of years after the Greeks first talked about democracy, our own Founding Fathers referred to the wisdom of Pericles, Plato, and Aristotle in drafting the principles of America's own democracy and Constitution. Yet, we turn our back for 21 years on what has occurred in Cyprus.

When and under what other circumstance would this Nation turn its back on five American citizens captured and held? The gentleman from Ohio [Mr. HOKE] referred to a 17-year-old boy, who is a 38-year-old man, if he is alive. He had his passport in his hand.

The family was there, along with five Americans, along with 1,600 Greek Cypriots, who have not been heard of for 21 years. Yet, our Nation stands by, giving millions of dollars in economic aid to Turkey, giving hundreds of millions of dollars in military aid to Turkey.

In fact, it is amazing, if you take a look at those figures, the amount of money coming from the United States to Turkey is about what it costs that nation to be able to occupy Cyprus each of those 21 years, and every time the United Nations has spoken up on Cyprus, they have found that the Turkish Government has not paid attention. They have ignored everything we have done.

So I say to the gentleman, I am proud to be here on the floor with you commemorating this, and I hope that we never have to do this again, that something before the next anniversary comes up will occur so the people of Cyprus can again know the freedom that Greeks for centuries have talked about and people of this country for 200 years have also spoken about.

JOBS AND EDUCATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MCINNIS). Under the Speaker's announced policy of May 12, 1995, the gentleman from New York [Mr. OWENS] is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

TURKISH-OCCUPIED CYPRUS

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. OWENS. I yield to the gentleman from Florida.

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from New York [Mr. OWENS]. I appreciate it so very much. I will not take the full 5 minutes.

Mr. Speaker, as the gentlewoman from New York said, last fall, the President appointed Mr. Richard Beattie as special emissary to Cyprus to lend new impetus in resolving the Cyprus problem. Mr. Beattie, along with State Department Special Cyprus Coordinator, James Williams, have made several trips to Cyprus stressing U.S. resolve in achieving a lasting solution to the problems there.

However, it is evident, Mr. Speaker, that a solution to the 21-year-old problem on Cyprus will not be found until tensions are lessened on the island and the Turkish side agrees to come to the table and negotiate.

I am satisfied that the Government of Cyprus remains committed to seeking a peaceful, just, and viable solution. The acceptance by the Turkish side of U.N. Resolution 939 and of Cyprus President Glafcos Clerides' demilitarization proposal would substantially enhance the prospects of a negotiated settlement.

This past weekend, in my home in Florida, a gentleman said to me that in all the history of the country of Turkey, voluntary negotiations and agreements based on those negotiations are absent. He said, ''they don't negotiate.''

I truly hope that he is wrong. Turkey has many internal problems. American taxpayer dollars are intended to help them with those problems, not to help them to wage invasions on their neighbors and to illegally occupy other lands. Common sense, a true caring for their own people, their domestic needs, and world opinion all would seem to dictate that Turkey would want to work things out on a problem that they just do not need.

I feel that we in the Congress have a responsibility to use our influence to see that Cyprus is made whole again, to rescue the thousands of Greek-Cypriots who have become refugees in the land of their birth. Like those faithful Cypriots in my district and elsewhere, we must do our utmost in this cause.

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, last week the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services and Education reported its appropriations bill for next year. The bill will be considered by the full committee on Thursday and by the full House next week.

On previous occasions, Mr. Speaker, I made it clear that nothing is more important in this House, nothing that we contemplate and nothing that we legislate on is more important than jobs and education.

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And in our complex society jobs and education are inextricably interwoven. We cannot really hope to have a decent job in this complex society unless you do have an education.

When I came to Congress 13 years ago, I volunteered, and I wanted very much, to serve on the Education and Labor Committee. I thought that there would be a lot of competition for service on the committee which deals with education and jobs because in my district of course the most important thing that was clearly communicated to me by my constituents was a need for more jobs. We had one of the highest unemployment levels in the country concentrated in my district. People wanted jobs, they needed jobs, and of course, in order to qualify for some of the better jobs, they needed an education. I saw that right away. I wanted to serve on the Education and Labor Committee, and that was the name of the committee at that time, because of the fact that was the way I felt I could give the greatest amount of service to my constituents.

To my great surprise I found there was no great amount of competition for service on the Education and Labor Committee. The smarter members of the freshman class when I came in all told me that the Education and Labor Committee is a graveyard. You cannot get any contributions for our campaigns by serving on the Education and Labor Committee, and, true to form, I found that it was easy for me to get a place on that committee, and I, of course, still wanted a place, but there were many vacancies on Education and Labor, and year after year there were vacancies, and people came on that committee only after they could not find any other place.

But I think it was a great mistake on the part of those who chose that course. Nothing is more important than jobs and education. Nothing that we do is more important than what we do in order to encourage an economy which produces jobs and an economy which makes it possible for people to work and earn decent wages under conditions that are not life-threatening, under conditions that do not destroy the health of workers, and of course closely added to that is the need for education systems that allow people to qualify for these jobs, allow people to be able to operate and earn their own way in our complex society, and allow people also to meet other requirements in our very complex society.

So jobs and education are very important. They are very important, and in the Congressional Black Caucus alternative budget the only area that we propose great increases in the budget,