

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Tennessee.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

in an effort to bribe Moscow into cooperating on Iran.

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

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

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

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

Mr. TANNER. Do you have any more speakers?

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

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

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

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

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

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

□ 1910

COMMENDING THE NATO SCHOOL

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

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 527

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

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

states from a range of external threats and promoting democratic values throughout North America, Europe, and Eurasia;

Whereas since the fall of the Berlin Wall and the end of the Cold War, NATO has been adapting to address a range of new and emerging security challenges, including transnational terrorism, the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, the re-emergence of regional and local conflicts, cyber attacks, piracy, and threats to global energy security;

Whereas while NATO transforms to address the emerging security challenges of the 21st century, the NATO School functions as the Alliance's primary vehicle to educate and train the men and women serving in NATO missions to successfully carry out the full spectrum of crisis management operations, from combat and peacekeeping to logistics support, humanitarian relief and governance enhancement, institution building, and civil security;

Whereas the NATO School plays a crucial role in supporting NATO's ongoing operations in Afghanistan, Iraq, Kosovo, the Mediterranean, and elsewhere, providing much of the training for NATO personnel serving in NATO's core stabilization mission in Afghanistan and conducting almost all of NATO's out-of-country training of Iraqi military officers;

Whereas NATO School efforts to support NATO's ongoing mission in Afghanistan, including through its training for personnel in NATO's Provincial Reconstruction Teams, are a particularly critical component of international efforts to combat transnational terrorism;

Whereas the NATO School offers a broad-based and comprehensive approach to its training and educational activities including courses in civil-military cooperation, crisis management, peace support operations, and arms control and non-proliferation that draw upon a range of military, development, and governance tools;

Whereas the NATO School currently offers 90 courses to individuals from over 100 countries including an array of unique programs dedicated to building civilian, governance, and military capacity in aspiring NATO member states;

Whereas in addition to offering courses at its headquarters in Oberammergau, the NATO School conducts a variety of programs through its network of 15 Partnership for Peace Training and Education Centers located in countries ranging from Ukraine to the United States;

Whereas the NATO School raises a large portion of its operating expenses through tuition fees, but also receives significant financial support from both the United States and German governments and relies in large part on the invaluable contribution of expert faculty from NATO member states and partner countries;

Whereas in February 2009 the NATO School hosted a United States Congressional delegation for the first time in the School's history when the United States House delegation to the NATO Parliamentary Assembly (NATO PA) visited the School in an effort to boost domestic and international public and parliamentary support for NATO missions and activities; and

Whereas Congress continues to support the NATO School and recognizes the critical role it plays in enhancing the ability of NATO and the United States to successfully confront the security challenges of the 21st century: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) commends the NATO School for its critical support of North Atlantic Treaty Orga-

nization (NATO) efforts to promote global peace, stability, and security;

(2) reaffirms its commitment to NATO as the bedrock of transatlantic security and defense; and

(3) expresses appreciation to Colonel James J. Tabak, USA-MC, for his leadership of the NATO School during his tenure as commandant from June 2006 to June 2009 and to the NATO School faculty and staff for their hard work and commitment to advancing the School's mission, to NATO member states and partner countries for their consistent and invaluable contribution of expert faculty to the NATO School, and for the strong partnership between the United States and German governments in providing financial support and leadership for the NATO School.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. TANNER) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Tennessee.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

Mr. TANNER. Mr. Speaker, this resolution commending the NATO School for its critical efforts to promote peace, stability and security is something long overdue, in my opinion.

Last year, I had the honor of participating in a visit of the bipartisan House delegation to the NATO Parliamentary Assembly to the NATO School in Oberammergau, Germany. The NATO School's mission is to provide courses in support of the current and developing NATO strategy and policy, including cooperation and dialogue with military and civilian personnel from non-NATO countries. As such, the school serves as NATO's premier operational-level education and training center, and it plays, I can tell you, a crucial role in preparing the United States and its allies to face the evolving security challenges of the 21st century.

Since 1953, more than 185,000 officers, noncommissioned officers and civilians from all allied and national military commands within the NATO Alliance have attended courses at the school. In addition, students from the Alliance's Partnership for Peace Program and the Mediterranean Dialogue attend the school. I'm proud to report that ours was the first U.S. congressional delegation to visit the NATO School in its 57-year history.

The curriculum taught at the NATO School offers our soldiers, civilian leaders and allies over 90 different specialized courses on subjects such as arms control strategies, counterinsurgency training, intelligence gathering, electronic warfare, special operations and a host of other programs. Courses are continually revised and updated to

reflect current operations and developments in NATO, and in so doing, the school strives for top-down clarity of vision in the educational process.

With the unveiling of NATO's new Strategic Concept earlier this month in Lisbon, which details NATO's evolving role in global affairs, it is especially important that we stop and take a moment to acknowledge and support the work of the NATO School so that we can continue to operate as a truly unified alliance.

I would ask our colleagues to support this resolution.

With that, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I want to first congratulate the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. TANNER) for sponsoring this legislation, and I rise in strong support of House Resolution 527, which commends the NATO School in Oberammergau, Germany, for its critical support of the NATO Alliance's efforts to promote global peace, stability and security.

The NATO School in Germany provides support and training for NATO's operations, including the stabilization mission in Afghanistan and the training of Iraqi officers. The school offers courses and programs to individuals from different countries focusing on peace support operations, arms control and nonproliferation, civil-military cooperation, governance and the building of military capacity in aspiring NATO member states.

As we all know, the NATO Alliance was the heart of trans-Atlantic security during the Cold War and is now transforming itself to address new security challenges. There is indeed a multitude of emerging threats and challenges that the Alliance must play a role in addressing, including the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and piracy and the challenge NATO faces in the stabilization mission in Afghanistan. Indeed, NATO's performance in Afghanistan will serve as a test with regard to the Alliance's effectiveness and relevance in addressing the security challenges of the 21st century.

As the measure notes, the NATO School itself is playing an important role in ensuring that the NATO mission in Afghanistan is a complete success.

Again, I would like to express my support of this resolution, and I urge all my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support it as well.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. TANNER. Thank you, Mr. POE.

At this time, it is with a great deal of pleasure that I yield 3 minutes to my colleague, David Scott, from Georgia. Mr. SCOTT is a member of the NATO parliamentary delegation from the Congress to the NATO Parliamentary Assembly headquartered in Brussels, and he has made an enormous contribution in that area.

Mr. SCOTT of Georgia. Thank you very much, Mr. TANNER. I certainly appreciate that.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in order to recognize and commend the NATO School for its critical support of NATO's efforts to promote global peace, stability and security. As a member of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly, I have seen firsthand and I have been a part of and supported the many great efforts of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization to maintain security and favorable relations between not only the NATO member states but with those states that are outside of the region and our 28-nation Alliance.

Mr. Speaker, for over 60 years, NATO has been the foundation in maintaining trans-Atlantic security and defense. It has successfully defended the territories of its North American and European member states from numerous external threats while promoting democracy and its values throughout the Western World and Eurasia. Since NATO's beginning, the NATO School in Germany has served as a premier operational-level education and training facility and has supplemented the knowledge, skills and experience of over 185,000 officers, noncommissioned officers, and civilians from NATO-allied and partner nations.

Mr. Speaker, I have visited the NATO School personally during a recent trip to Germany, and I have seen firsthand the extraordinary and effective job that they are doing. As NATO continues to evolve and transform to address 21st century threats, the NATO School's importance is all the more emphasized. Its support role is critical to NATO's ongoing operations in Afghanistan and Iraq, Kosovo and elsewhere, and the NATO School continues to provide much of the training for personnel serving in NATO stabilization mission in Afghanistan and conducts much of NATO's out-of-country training of Iraqi military officers. It is very important to note that the training and education the school provides beyond strictly military strategies, including civil-military cooperation, crisis management, and peace support operations and arms control and non-proliferation, issues that draw upon a range of military, development and governance tools.

Our recognition of the NATO School today, Mr. Speaker, falls just 2 days after confirmation that six NATO troops were killed during training operations in eastern Afghanistan. Their sacrifices underscore the continued importance and relevance of NATO and the NATO School as it evolves in the 21st century, making our Nation's commitment to the organization and its efforts to promote global peace and democracy all the more important.

So this resolution is very important, and I commend the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. TANNER), who is also the president of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly. And I commend him

not only for this resolution, but I commend Mr. TANNER also for the extraordinary service that he has given over the years to NATO.

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

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MCMAHON). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. TANNER) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 527, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

□ 1920

COMMENDING THE MARSHALL CENTER

Mr. TANNER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 528) commending the George C. Marshall European Center for Security Studies for its efforts to promote peace, stability and security throughout North America, Europe, and Eurasia.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 528

Whereas The George C. Marshall European Center for Security Studies (the Marshall Center), a joint partnership of the United States and German governments located in the German city of Garmisch-Partenkirchen, is a world-renowned international security and defense studies institute promoting dialogue and understanding among the nations of North America, Europe, and Eurasia;

Whereas since its inception in 1993, the Marshall Center has sought to advance the legacy, goals, and ideals of the 1948-1951 Marshall Plan by advancing democratic institutions, promoting peaceful security cooperation, and enhancing partnerships among the nations of North America, Europe, and Eurasia;

Whereas the Marshall Center has played and continues to play a critical role in fostering the peaceful transition to stable democratic governance in the formerly communist states of Central and Eastern Europe and Eurasia by developing and expanding defense and security cooperation between these countries and North America and Western Europe;

Whereas today, the security of the United States remains inseparably linked to the peace and stability of Europe and Eurasia;

Whereas the United States and Europe face an array of new and emerging security challenges ranging from transnational terrorism

and the proliferation of nuclear, biological, or chemical weapons to regional and local conflicts and failing and failed states;

Whereas successful resolution of these 21st century security challenges will require strong transatlantic cooperation and international, interagency, and interdisciplinary responses;

Whereas through its tailored educational and outreach programs in areas ranging from transnational terrorism and post-conflict stability operations to advanced security studies, the Marshall Center prepares leaders from North America, Europe, and Eurasia to address emerging security challenges and to forge a 21st century security environment defined by peace and cooperation;

Whereas the Marshall Center's programs play a vital role in building support for United States and German defense and security policy and strategies, and fostering understanding and support among friends and allies to combat transnational terrorism and other security threats and to transform national defense establishments to effectively meet the array of 21st century security challenges;

Whereas to date, general officers, members of parliament, ministers, ambassadors, and other high-ranking government officials from over 100 countries have benefited from the Marshall Center's unique programs; and

Whereas the United States House of Representatives' delegation to the NATO Parliamentary Assembly (NATO PA) visited the Marshall Center in February 2009, recognizes the importance of the Center's work, and seeks to support the Center's efforts by engaging in constructive dialogue with parliamentarians from NATO member and associate and observer states on key transatlantic security issues: Now, therefore, be it Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) commends the Marshall Center for its efforts to promote peace, stability, and security throughout North America, Europe, and Eurasia;

(2) expresses appreciation for the strong partnership between the United States and German governments in advancing their mutual national security interests through the Marshall Center's programs;

(3) expresses appreciation to Marshall Center Director Dr. John P. Rose and his outstanding faculty and staff for their hard work and commitment to advancing the Center's mission;

(4) notes that the security of the United States remains inseparably linked to peace and stability on the European continent; and

(5) reaffirms its commitment to promoting transatlantic cooperation through international collaborative educational programs such as those offered by the Marshall Center.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. TANNER) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Tennessee.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. TANNER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the resolution under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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