

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, March 30, 2017.

Hon. PAUL D. RYAN,
The Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on March 30, 2017, at 4:45 p.m.:

That the Senate agreed to without amendment H.J. Res. 43.

With best wishes, I am
Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 5 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 7 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1704

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky) at 5 o'clock and 4 minutes p.m.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message in writing from the President of the United States was communicated to the House by Ms. Mariel Ridgway, one of his secretaries.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken later.

CONDEMNING NORTH KOREA'S DEVELOPMENT OF MULTIPLE INTERCONTINENTAL BALLISTIC MISSILES

Mr. ROYCE of California. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 92) condemning North Korea's development of multiple intercontinental ballistic missiles, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 92

Whereas the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), also known as North Korea, possesses a ballistic missile and nuclear weapons development program that poses a grave threat to the United States,

United States allies South Korea and Japan, and to regional and global security;

Whereas North Korea's ballistic missile program has demonstrated an increasing ability to reach the United States, which constitutes a credible and growing threat to the security of the American people;

Whereas North Korea has demonstrated a willingness and ability to proliferate its ballistic missile and nuclear weapons technology to a variety of countries, including the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Syrian Arab Republic, which the United States has designated as state sponsors of terrorism;

Whereas, on January 6, 2016, North Korea detonated a nuclear device, marking its fourth nuclear test to date;

Whereas, on February 7, 2016, North Korea, utilizing a modified version of the Taepodong-2 ballistic missile, launched a "satellite" into space;

Whereas according to the U.S. Intelligence Community's 2016 Worldwide Threat Assessment, North Korea is "committed to developing a long-range, nuclear-armed missile that is capable of posing a direct threat to the United States; it has publicly displayed its KN08 road-mobile ICBM on multiple occasions";

Whereas, on April 28, 2016, Deputy Secretary of State Antony Blinken, in a hearing before the Foreign Affairs Committee of the House of Representatives, testified "the benefits of [the trilateral] relationship are crystal clear in the face of the region's most acute challenge—the challenge from North Korea and its provocative acts in the nuclear missile domain";

Whereas, on August 24, 2016, North Korea successfully tested a submarine-launched ballistic missile, firing the missile over 300 miles from a submerged submarine;

Whereas, on September 9, 2016, North Korea conducted its fifth nuclear test, which it claimed was a warhead that could be miniaturized for its ballistic missiles;

Whereas, on September 15, 2016, Admiral Harry Harris, Commander of U.S. Pacific Command, stated "Combining nuclear warheads with ballistic missile technology in the hands of a volatile leader like Kim Jong-un, is a recipe for disaster";

Whereas, on September 16, 2016, Secretary of Defense Ashton Carter stated "Everyone can see that North Korea is determined to try to expand its missile threat to the peninsula, to the region, and to the United States";

Whereas in 2016 North Korea willfully and repeatedly violated multiple United Nations Security Council resolutions, through its nuclear tests, missile tests, and satellite launch;

Whereas, on January 6, 2017, Deputy Secretary of State Antony Blinken stated that North Korea had conducted 24 missile tests in the past year, as well as two nuclear tests and "in our assessment, we have a qualitative improvement in their capabilities in the past year as a result of this unprecedented level of activity";

Whereas, on January 8, 2017, North Korea declared that it is ready to test-launch an intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM);

Whereas, on February 11, 2017, North Korea launched an intermediate-range ballistic missile off its eastern coast while President Donald Trump hosted Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe on an official visit to the United States;

Whereas, on February 18, 2017, the People's Republic of China announced that it would suspend all coal imports from North Korea, a significant source of revenue to the North Korean regime;

Whereas, on February 27, 2017, the United Nations Panel of Experts on North Korea determined that "The Democratic People's Re-

public of Korea is flouting sanctions through trade in prohibited goods, with evasion techniques that are increasing in scale, scope and sophistication.";

Whereas, on March 6, 2017, North Korea launched four intermediate range missiles, three of which landed approximately 200 miles off the coast of Japan;

Whereas South Korea and the United States have made an alliance decision to deploy the Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) system as a self-defensive measure to ensure the security of South Korea and its people, and to protect alliance military forces from the growing threat of North Korea's nuclear weapons and ballistic missile program; and

Whereas a nuclear North Korea with a functional and operational intercontinental ballistic missile program would pose a direct threat to the United States and United States interests: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) condemns North Korea's development of multiple intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBMs);

(2) welcomes the deployment of the Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) system in South Korea to counter North Korea's missile threat, which supports an alliance security decision;

(3) urges the Government of the People's Republic of China to immediately cease its diplomatic intimidation and economic coercion against South Korea in an attempt to block the THAAD deployment;

(4) reaffirms the United States support for a layered, integrated, multi-tier missile defense system to protect Americans and allies in Northeast Asia;

(5) supports continued bilateral security cooperation between the United States and South Korea and the consideration of additional measures to strengthen the alliance, including expanded foreign military sales, joint exercises, and other actions as appropriate;

(6) reaffirms, in view of the ICBM threat by North Korea, the commitment of the United States to its alliances and to trilateral cooperation with South Korea and Japan, which is critical for the preservation of peace and stability in Northeast Asia and throughout the world;

(7) supports and urges the full implementation of the intelligence sharing agreement between Japan and South Korea signed on November 23, 2016, concerning the direct exchange of intelligence on North Korean threats;

(8) calls upon the People's Republic of China to use its considerable leverage to pressure North Korean leaders to cease their provocative behavior and abandon and dismantle their nuclear and missile programs, and comply with all relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions;

(9) calls on the United States to fully enforce all existing economic sanctions on North Korea and to seek to continuously adapt the sanctions regime to address evasive techniques employed by the North Korean regime; and

(10) calls on the Secretary of State to undertake a comprehensive and rigorous diplomatic effort to urge allies and other countries to fully enforce, and build upon, existing international sanctions on North Korea.

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE).

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, let me begin here by thanking Mr. WILSON for his leadership on H. Res. 92. What this resolution does is to describe in alarming detail the growing sophistication of North Korea's missile and nuclear weapons program. This, of course, poses a direct threat to the United States as well as to our allies.

Last year alone, North Korea, as we will recall, conducted more than 20 missile tests, including one from a submarine, and they are doing this in pursuit of an intercontinental ballistic missile capable of striking the United States. Kim Jong-un has detonated two separate nuclear devices in the same year, a first for this rogue regime. Today, the Kim regime's aggression continues, and recent satellite imagery indicates that Pyongyang is now prepared to detonate its sixth nuclear device.

With every test, North Korea gains valuable knowledge that has enabled it to make significant improvements to this developing arsenal. Bear in mind that North Korea has cooperated on its program with these countries, and I would like the Members to think on this: they have cooperated with Iran, they have cooperated with Syria on a nuclear program, and they have cooperated with Pakistan. This, of course, is undermining U.S. security, but, frankly, it undermines the security of the entire global counter-proliferation system.

That is why I strongly support the passage of this resolution. I have been in North Korea, and let me tell you, this resolution, which condemns North Korea's development of an ICBM and calls for the United States and others to immediately address this urgent threat, is very necessary at this time.

Fortunately, the new administration already has several tools at its disposal. One of those is a bill that we wrote up in the committee, a bill authored by myself and ELIOT ENGEL, the North Korea Sanctions and Policy Enhancement Act. It was signed last year, and it was also taken up at the U.N. Security Council and passed at the Security Council office. This resolution, among other things, empowers the President to ramp up pressure on the North Korean regime by sanctioning foreign companies that do business with—and therefore enable—the regime.

The deployment of the anti-missile defense system THAAD to the Korean

Peninsula must also continue as quickly as possible, and China should end its economic intimidation of our ally South Korea in response to this deployment. THAAD will serve as a vital first line of defense protecting U.S. personnel in the region and protecting our allies from Kim Jong-un.

As this resolution notes, China needs to do its part to implement the sanctions contained in multiple U.N. Security Council resolutions. President Trump should press this issue with President Xi when the two meet this week. With these steps, I believe the United States can again exert effective pressure on the Kim regime.

As H. Res. 92 emphasizes, Congress stands ready to help counter North Korea's belligerent behavior and maintain peace and maintain stability in the Asia Pacific.

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

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES,

Washington, DC, March 30, 2017.

Hon. EDWARD R. ROYCE,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Affairs,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: I am writing to you concerning H. Res. 92, a resolution "Condemning North Korea's development of multiple intercontinental ballistic missiles, and for other purposes," as amended. There are certain provisions in the legislation which fall within the Rule X jurisdiction of the Committee on Armed Services.

In the interest of permitting your committee to proceed expeditiously to floor consideration of this important legislation, I am willing to waive this committee's further consideration of H. Res. 92. I do so with the understanding that by waiving consideration of the resolution the Committee on Armed Services does not waive any future jurisdictional claim over the subject matters contained in the legislation which fall within its Rule X jurisdiction.

Please place a copy of this letter and your response acknowledging our jurisdictional interest into the Congressional Record during consideration of the measure on the House floor. Thank you for the cooperative spirit in which you have worked regarding this matter and others between our respective committees.

Sincerely,
WILLIAM M. "MAC" THORNBERRY,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS,
Washington, DC, March 30, 2017.

Hon. WILLIAM M. "MAC" THORNBERRY,
Chairman, House Armed Services Committee,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you for consulting with the Committee on Foreign Affairs on H. Res. 92, Condemning North Korea's development of multiple intercontinental ballistic missiles, and for agreeing to be discharged from further consideration of that resolution so that it may proceed expeditiously to consideration by the House.

I agree that your forgoing further action on this measure does not in any way diminish or alter the jurisdiction of the Committee on Armed Services, or prejudice its jurisdictional prerogatives on this resolution or similar legislation in the future.

I will seek to place our letters on H. Res. 92 into the Congressional Record during floor consideration. I appreciate your cooperation

regarding this legislation and look forward to continuing to work with your Committee as this measure moves through the legislative process.

Sincerely,

EDWARD R. ROYCE,
Chairman.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 92.

I am the chief Democratic cosponsor and the gentleman from South Carolina is the sponsor of this resolution condemning North Korea's development of multiple intercontinental ballistic missiles, and for other purposes. It should be noted that this resolution now has 120 bipartisan cosponsors, including the ranking member and chairman of the committee, the chairman of the Asia and the Pacific Subcommittee, and myself as ranking member of the Asia and the Pacific Subcommittee.

This resolution is necessary at a time when the regime of Kim Jong-un is as belligerent as ever. His intentions are clear. He is conducting intermediate and intercontinental ballistic missile tests and nuclear tests for the purpose of being in a position to intimidate the United States and the rest of the world. Just this month the regime in Pyongyang released a fake propaganda video showing the imagined destruction of a U.S. aircraft carrier by its forces.

In addition to the five nuclear weapons North Korea has already tested, Kim Jong-un continues to test ballistic missiles, including submarine-launched ballistic missiles, and is moving toward intercontinental ballistic missiles. These missiles have as one of their chief purposes to be able to reach the continental United States and particularly the Pacific Coast of the United States.

We used to have the luxury of saying that North Korea just wants attention; they just want this or that concession. But now their goal is clear. It is to threaten hundreds of millions of Americans. It is clear that North Korea is testing missiles and bombs for the purpose of developing warheads that can do just that.

The resolution we are considering today, H. Res. 92, condemns North Korea's intercontinental ballistic missile tests, calls for the United States to apply economic sanctions on North Korea, and calls on China to pressure North Korean leaders to cease their provocative behavior, abandon and dismantle their nuclear missile program, and it calls upon China to curtail, or at least threaten to curtail, their economic support of Pyongyang.

President Xi is coming to the United States. He will meet with our President in Florida. And I hope that the recent comments that we are going to handle this issue on our own are not what comes out of Florida, because, instead, we must demand that China pressure North Korea.

According to the U.S.-China Economic and Security Review Commission, China accounts for over 90 percent of North Korea's foreign trade and approximately 95 percent of its foreign direct investment. Beijing needs to know that there are serious challenges to its relationship with the United States if it does not assist us in this effort. Officials in Beijing cannot assume that their companies will always have access to the United States market.

There are those who say it is unthinkable to link our trading relationship with China to its position on North Korea. I believe it is unthinkable for us not to use all the tools at our disposal to try to prevent the least predictable leader in the world—and perhaps the least stable—from having the capacity to hit the United States mainland with intercontinental nuclear-tipped ballistic missiles.

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

Mr. ROYCE of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. WILSON), who is a senior member of both the Foreign Affairs Committee and the Armed Services Committee and the author of this resolution.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I was grateful to visit North Korea on a congressional delegation in 2003 with House Foreign Affairs Ranking Member ELIOT ENGEL on a delegation led by Congressman Curt Weldon of Pennsylvania. While there, we witnessed a regime obsessed with a Potemkin-like appearance and preservation to the detriment of its own citizens who have been reduced to destitution and starvation.

□ 1715

After seeing the devastation of the people at the hands of the totalitarian regime, I have been even more invested in the need to hold the regime in Pyongyang accountable for threatening neighbors.

In early February, I introduced this bipartisan resolution in response to North Korea's threat to test an intercontinental ballistic. Their threat is concerning because an ICBM has the capability of reaching the West Coast of the United States.

The rapid pace of North Korea's growing offensive nuclear weapons development is alarming to the United States and our allies. In just a few short months, North Korea has appeared to successfully test an ICBM; launched a satellite; tested four simultaneous ballistic missiles, three of which landed in Japanese territorial waters; had a failed missile launch; and tested a ballistic missile engine. The regime also claims to be planning another nuclear test for later this month.

Sadly revealing, the regime in North Korea recently released a propaganda video depicting a missile striking a U.S. aircraft carrier and calling for the destruction of the American people.

North Korea is rapidly advancing their capabilities, working to minia-

turize nuclear technology to deliver a nuclear weapon anywhere in the world. Sadly, 8 years of strategic patience only enabled the dictatorship. We cannot afford to stand by as this regime grows in power and influence, threatening the United States and our allies.

I am grateful that President Donald Trump is taking the regime and its threats seriously. Secretary of Defense Jim Mattis and Secretary of State Rex Tillerson recently visited our allies in South Korea and Japan; and the U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations, Nikki Haley, has led the efforts for strengthening international sanctions against North Korea.

The administration has also demonstrated peace through strength by backing up their commitments to our allies with action. We have begun deploying the THAAD missile defense system, recently resumed the annual military training exercises with South Korea, and deployed attack drones to support our servicemembers stationed in the region. This defends the extraordinary people of South Korea, who have developed one of the most prosperous nations on Earth.

As we work to check the growing influence and missile capability of North Korea, Congress, too, has a vital role, starting with passage of H. Res. 92 to forcefully condemn North Korea for these actions and call for the consideration of all available sanctions on the regime and the individuals or businesses who sustain it. We are clear: the United States must stand strong against North Korea for American families and our South Korean allies.

I appreciate the consideration of H. Res. 92, with 120 bipartisan cosponsors. I know that America is fortunate to have the leadership of House Foreign Affairs Chairman ED ROYCE, serving in a bipartisan manner with Ranking Member ELIOT ENGEL.

I urge my colleagues to vote in support of the resolution.

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ROYCE of California. I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN), the chairman emeritus of the committee who chairs the Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on the Middle East and North Africa and has authored previous legislation to address the North Korean threat.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I commend the commitment that Chairman ROYCE and Ranking Member ENGEL have shown in holding North Korea accountable for its illicit activity, and it is a long list.

Mr. Speaker, I want to also commend my good friend and colleague, Congressman JOE WILSON, for authoring this important measure, H. Res. 92, condemning North Korea's development of multiple intercontinental ballistic missiles, or ICBMs.

Recently, North Korea has made the calculation that it either needs to flex

its muscles through the test of ballistic missiles or, at the very least, provoke an international response so that the regime can use it as propaganda against the West.

We have seen dozens of missile tests over the past year, and, just as troubling, at least two nuclear tests. I know that this is resolution condemning North Korea's provocative action, but I do think this is an opportunity to call attention to the Iranian nuclear and ballistic missile program. What I and some of my colleagues have been saying for years now is that Iran has been following the North Korea playbook.

We signed a weak and dangerous nuclear deal with North Korea, and what was the result? A nuclear-armed Pyongyang that is testing and upgrading its ballistic and nuclear program unchecked and possibly even proliferating these materials, or at least the know-how, to Iran.

We concluded a weak and dangerous nuclear deal with Iran, and you can be sure, if we don't do more to press Iran, we will be welcoming another dangerous regime to the nuclear weapons club.

While we rightfully condemn North Korea for its provocations, we must be mindful that, if we follow the same path and make the same mistakes, it will be Iran in a few years that will have a nuclear weapon and ballistic missile program that can threaten global security, and that is in none of our interests.

I urge my colleagues to fully support Mr. WILSON's measure, Mr. Speaker, but I also urge them to realize the failures of past policies and what got us here to this point with North Korea and not to allow the same mistakes to happen with respect to Iran.

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ROYCE of California. Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. CHABOT), a senior member of the Foreign Affairs Committee.

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 92, condemning North Korea's development of multiple intercontinental ballistic missiles.

Without question, North Korea's relentless effort to develop ballistic missiles poses a serious threat to the security of the United States, especially to our allies in the region, and possibly all across the globe.

For the past several years, Kim Jong-un has made significant strides in their nuclear missile program. It seems like every few weeks we hear new reports concerning the growing North Korea nuclear threat. North Korea has conducted multiple nuclear tests and demonstrated that it is bound and determined to develop a ballistic missile capable of delivering a nuclear warhead to the continental United States.

It has also become abundantly clear that the Kim regime will continue to

work toward a nuclear warhead, no matter the cost. Just today, a senior North Korean defector stated that the young, irresponsible dictator will do anything to remain in power and that Kim believes nuclear weapons will help guarantee his rule.

We must condemn these actions and begin taking concrete steps to mitigate the growing North Korean threat. I also believe we must work closer than ever with our South Korean partners and increase our already strong security alliance by assisting with technological developments, carrying out more joint exercises, and quickly making the Terminal High Altitude Area Defense systems, or THAAD, in South Korea operational.

I commend my friend, Mr. WILSON of South California, for his leadership in championing H. Res. 92. I also want to thank Chairman ROYCE and the ranking member, Mr. ELIOT ENGEL, for, again, using the format of the Foreign Affairs Committee in a bipartisan manner.

This is one committee in the House—and there are a few others—that works very much in a bipartisan manner. This is one we do need to be united on. The threat from Kim Jong-un is serious. It is dangerous. It is a threat to world peace. We need to take it seriously. H. Res. 92 goes in the right direction. I, again, want to thank Mr. WILSON for proposing it.

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

Mr. Speaker, I will add a comment to the upcoming visit of President Xi to Florida and President Trump's statement in advance of that: Well, we don't need China to get tough on North Korea.

The fact is, President Trump has not given us a plan that would put effective pressure on Pyongyang that does not involve China. There is no magic road to dealing with the North Korean threat that does not go through Beijing.

My fear is that, in the guise of being the tough guy who doesn't need China's help, in fact, President Trump is preparing to fail to get China's help in controlling North Korea, is preparing to be weak in dealing with China and to weakly accept their unwillingness to act, and then disguising it all in some machismo statement of strength: Oh, we don't need China.

We do need China. There is no plan to control North Korea that doesn't involve China. Macho statements are not an excuse for real strength in dealing with President Xi.

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

Mr. ROYCE of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. MIMI WALTERS of California).

Mrs. MIMI WALTERS of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 92, condemning North Korea's development of multiple intercontinental ballistic missiles.

The world has watched in fear as this brutal dictatorship has labored to miniaturize a nuclear warhead capable of being delivered by an ICBM. Across the 45th District, Californians are anxious about the growing threat from North Korea and its efforts to develop the capability to strike the West Coast.

Orange County is home to a large Korean-American population who have spoken out forcefully against this rogue regime, fearing for the life of their Korean kin and the safety of the entire world. As I tell all concerned constituents when I am back home in California, and I will repeat here today: I share your concern and will do all I can to ensure we eliminate this threat.

Mr. Speaker, just today, an interview with the most high-profile North Korean defector in two decades was released. The man's warning was dire: Kim Jong-un will use nuclear weapons at the slightest sign of an imminent threat to his rule.

The time for the old strategy of strategic patience has passed. We must take serious actions now to prevent a nuclear weapon from ever threatening the United States or one of our allies. I urge the President to address this grave threat with the Chinese President at their upcoming summit.

I thank my friend, the gentleman from South Carolina, for undertaking this effort, and I am proud to join him in this fight.

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, I would simply say that I commend the gentleman from South Carolina, Mr. WILSON, for authoring this resolution, which has secured the support of 120 bipartisan cosponsors, including the chair and ranking member of the full committee and the chair and, in my case, ranking member of the relevant subcommittee.

I, again, call on my colleagues to join me in supporting H. Res. 92, condemning North Korea's development of multiple intercontinental ballistic missiles, and for other purposes.

We need an official congressional condemnation of North Korea's continued ballistic missile testing and its related nuclear program. We need to ramp up sanctions on North Korea, while applying pressure to China, hopefully later this week, for being North Korea's economic lifeline.

Mr. Speaker, 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, North Korea, as we all know, poses an urgent threat to the United States and to our allies. Experts say that, in less than 4 years, Kim Jong-un will likely have the ability to make a reliable intercontinental ballistic missile topped by a nuclear warhead capable of targeting the continental United States. They also expect that, by then, North Korea may have accumulated enough nuclear material to build up to 100 warheads for those ICBMs they have been making.

In an interview, the President says he is going to discuss this growing threat and Kim Jong-un's behavior with Chinese President Xi this week. As he says, China has great influence over North Korea, and China will either decide to help us with North Korea or they won't, but, if they do, that will be very good for China.

It will be good for China because we have made it very clear that this is a key interest of the United States. We do not want to see North Korea able to proliferate this kind of weaponry. They have already tested this off of a submarine. It would be irresponsible for us, China, and every member of the international community not to take steps now to cut off all hard currency into North Korea that allows that regime to continue down this path.

□ 1730

This threat is real, and that demands real response. I appreciate JOE WILSON bringing this resolution because, as he notes, one other point that I think we have to make, the deployment of THAAD needs to be completed as quickly as possible.

The President must also utilize the economic tools that Congress has given him with the act authored by myself and Mr. ENGEL to cut off funding for the regime of Kim Jong-un. I would also encourage the administration to pursue all opportunities to strengthen our economic and security relationships with our partners throughout the Asia Pacific right now because, as we know, our allies there are equally concerned about this development.

I thank the author of this resolution, Mr. JOE WILSON, and, of course, my committee's ranking member, Mr. ENGEL. I want to thank Mr. SHERMAN as well for working on this resolution.

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

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I stand in strong support of H. Res. 92, Condemning North Korea's development of multiple intercontinental ballistic missiles.

The security of our nation and allies rests on a global community of nations acting in a responsible manner. For too long the Asia-Pacific region has been rocked with instability because of North Korea's irresponsible behavior. Last year, the North Korean regime conducted two nuclear tests and twenty missile tests, including successfully testing a submarine-launched ballistic missile. This is a marked increase from two nuclear tests and 42 missile tests over the previous seven years. In February 2017, North Korea fired a ballistic missile that landed in the sea between the Korean Peninsula and Japan, sending shockwaves among our two closest allies in the Asia-Pacific.

Passing this resolution will reaffirm our commitment to trilateral missile defense cooperation with South Korea and Japan and to an interoperable, multi-tier missile defense system that will protect Americans and our allies on the Korean Peninsula. At a time of increasing belligerence by North Korea, our allies need such security assurances. This bill will also urge the President to promptly deploy the

Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) system in South Korea, apply all available economic sanctions on North Korea, and consider additional measures to strengthen bilateral security cooperation with South Korea, including increases in foreign military sales and joint exercises.

Like many of my colleagues, the constituents whom I represent want assurance that the United States is secure from all external threats, including the potential threat of weaponized intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBMs). ICBMs are designed to travel between 5,500 km and 10,000 km. California is about 9,000 km from North Korea. Given that the North Korean regime has made steady advances in its nuclear weapons program over the past few years, it is not surprising that my California colleagues are increasingly alarmed by Pyongyang's actions.

The level of bipartisan support for H. Res. 92 reflects the importance of the threat North Korea poses to global stability. Our security and the security of our allies is an issue that crosses party lines. It is imperative to our national security interests that North Korea does not develop a weaponized ICBM capable of reaching any part of our country.

This resolution provides more assurance to our allies in the Asia-Pacific and sends a message to the North Korean regime that all Americans are united in our determination to safeguard our country against foreign threats. I strongly urge my colleagues to vote yes on the resolution.

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. 92, 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. ROYCE of California. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

REAFFIRMING THE UNITED STATES-ARGENTINA PARTNERSHIP AND RECOGNIZING ARGENTINA'S ECONOMIC REFORMS

Mr. ROYCE of California. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 54) reaffirming the United States-Argentina partnership and recognizing Argentina's economic reforms, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 54

Whereas, on November 22, 2015, the citizens of the Argentine Republic elected Mauricio Macri as their President;

Whereas President Macri has pledged to promote greater national unity, rebuild the economy, combat domestic corruption, strengthen freedom of the press, defend human rights abroad, attract foreign direct investment, return to international credit

markets, and reassert Argentina's leadership globally;

Whereas President Macri has emphasized his intention to seek closer ties with the United States and restore the bilateral partnership previously enjoyed by both countries;

Whereas the Argentine Republic has been a major non-NATO ally of the United States since 1998 and is the only country designated as such in Latin America;

Whereas United States-Argentina relations are historically characterized by comprehensive commercial ties and strong bilateral cooperation on human rights, peacekeeping, science and technology, non-proliferation, and education, as well as on regional and global issues;

Whereas, in an appearance with President Macri at the Casa Rosada in Buenos Aires in March 2016, President Barack Obama said that "our countries share profound values in common—respect for human rights, for individual freedoms, for democracy, for justice, and for peace";

Whereas Secretary of State John Kerry visited Argentina in August 2016 to launch a High-Level Dialogue to develop and sustain cooperation on bilateral, regional, and global challenges, including democratic development and protection of human rights in Latin America;

Whereas Secretary Kerry, during his visit, stated that "the United States strongly supports President Macri's effort to deepen Argentina's integration with the global economy" and that "our governments will be supporting policies that are aimed at strong, sustainable, and balanced economic growth";

Whereas the United States Department of the Treasury no longer opposes multilateral development banks lending to Argentina because of the Government of Argentina's "progress on key issues and positive economic policy trajectory";

Whereas President Macri prioritized Argentina resolving its 15-year standoff with private creditors stemming from the 2001-2002 economic crisis, which facilitated Argentina's return to international financial markets;

Whereas the Macri Administration lifted controls on trade, currency, and poultry, enhanced the quality and transparency of government data, and eliminated subsidies on electricity, water, and gas;

Whereas Argentina is Latin America's third largest economy and the International Monetary Fund, in April 2016, claimed the Macri Administration "embarked on an ambitious, much needed transition to remove domestic imbalances and distortions and correct relative prices"; and

Whereas the Government of Argentina has expressed a renewed commitment to bring the perpetrators of the 1994 bombing of the Asociación Mutual Israelita Argentina (AMIA) building, that occurred in Buenos Aires on July 18, 1994, killing 85 people and injuring hundreds, to justice: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) upholds its commitment to the partnership between the United States and Argentina and reaffirms that the Argentine Republic is a major non-NATO ally of the United States;

(2) encourages the Department of State to coordinate a new interagency strategy to increase cooperation with the Government of Argentina on areas of bilateral, regional, and global concern;

(3) commends the Government of Argentina for making far-reaching economic reforms that will benefit the people of Argentina, stimulate economic growth, and deepen

Argentina's integration with the global economy;

(4) praises the Government of Argentina for resolving most of its business disputes at the World Bank's International Centre for the Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID) thereby hastening their re-entry into world financial markets to the benefit of the Argentine people; and

(5) encourages the Government of Argentina to continue to investigate and prosecute those responsible for the 1994 bombing of the Asociación Mutual Israelita Argentina (AMIA) building in Buenos Aires, as well as the January 2015 death of AMIA special prosecutor Alberto Nisman.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE) and the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SIREN) 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 put 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.

Let me just start by thanking Mr. SIREN, the author of this measure, and I rise in support of it. It reaffirms the United States-Argentina partnership.

After over a decade of economic mismanagement and corruption and alliances with the likes of Iran—well, we should say the Ayatollah in Iran—and alliances with the regime in Venezuela, the people of Argentina used their vote to usher in a new era of what I would call economic common sense and a new era of regional leadership.

Since assuming the Presidency in December 2015, President Macri has undertaken difficult economic reforms to undo the damage caused by his predecessor's policy and taken reforms to return to the global markets. He tore up the laughable agreement that President Cristina Kirchner signed with Iran to investigate the 1994 Hezbollah bombing of the Jewish community center, which killed 85 and injured hundreds of other people in the Jewish community in Argentina. He has shown regional leadership in condemning Venezuela's human and democratic rights violations.

As the new Argentinian Government undertakes difficult reforms, it needs the moral support of its allies in the region, including the support of this body. This measure seeks to reaffirm the partnership, the friendship that we share with Argentina. It commends the government's hard work in bringing Argentina back from economic ruin.

This measure also encourages the Government of Argentina to make good on its promise to finally bring the perpetrators of the 1994 bombing there