

Calls for the imposition of Magnitsky sanctions on those responsible for the attack;

And supports a review of whether the poisoning constitutes use of a chemical weapon, with sanctions to follow as appropriate.

This resolution does not punish Germany by calling for the suspension of the Nord Stream 2 pipeline. Germany is an ally. It is the Russian Government that is at fault here.

So I want to thank all the cosponsors in the Foreign Affairs Committee for supporting this initiative.

I hope and I pray that the incoming Biden administration will make human rights the centerpiece of U.S. foreign policy going forward. Brave individuals like Alexei Navalny deserve far more than a passing reference from our government's leaders.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all my colleagues to support this resolution.

□ 1430

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I, again, thank Congressman MCGOVERN for his hard work on this resolution. I strongly support this measure and urge all the Members to do the same.

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 New York (Mr. ESPAILLAT) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 1145, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PROHIBITING RUSSIAN PARTICIPATION IN G7

Mr. ESPAILLAT. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 8259) to prohibit Russian participation in the G7, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 8259

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. PROHIBITION ON RUSSIAN PARTICIPATION IN THE G7.

(a) LIMITATION.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, no Federal funds are authorized to be appropriated to take any action to support or facilitate—

(1) the participation of Russia in a Group of Seven proceeding; or

(2) the reconstitution of the Group of Eight to include Russia.

(b) TERMINATION.—Subsection (a) shall cease to have any force or effect after the date on which—

(1) the Secretary of State and the Director of National Intelligence, in consultation with the Secretary of Homeland Security and the Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, certify to the appropriate congressional committees and leadership that the Government of Russia, and all persons acting as an agent of or otherwise on behalf of such government, has halted all interference in United States elections or elections of the other members of the Group of Seven, members of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and the European Union, and other allies and partners; and

(2) the Secretary of State, in consultation with the Director of National Intelligence, determines and certifies to the appropriate congressional committees and leadership that the Government of Russia, and all persons acting as an agent of or otherwise on behalf of such government, has—

(A) ended its illegal occupation of Crimea and is fully complying with its commitments under the Minsk agreement with respect to Eastern Ukraine;

(B) ended its illegal occupation of South Ossetia and Abkhazia and will support efforts for the reintegration of these regions with the Republic of Georgia; and

(C) withdrawn its troops and armaments from Transnistria and fully respects Moldova's sovereignty and territorial integrity.

(c) REPORT.—Not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State, in coordination with the Director of National Intelligence and in consultation with the heads of other relevant Federal departments and agencies, shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees and leadership a report on the threats and challenges of Russia to NATO and the United States in Afghanistan and to United States efforts to counter such threats and challenges, including—

(1) an assessment of support provided by the Government of Russia, and all persons acting as an agent of or otherwise on behalf of such government, for Taliban-linked militants, including—

(A) the provision of defense articles, defense services, or technology (as such terms are defined and described in the Arms Export Control Act (22 U.S.C. 2751 et seq.)) or financial assistance for purposes that undermine or run counter to the principles agreed upon in the Agreement for Bringing Peace to Afghanistan entered into on February 29, 2020;

(B) financial transactions, including transactions made through the hawala system, between the individuals and entities of the Government of Russia, or individuals or entities acting in connection with that government, to Taliban-linked militants, other militants with connections to Afghanistan, and their intermediaries; and

(C) any alleged program to incentivize the killing of United States or NATO coalition soldiers by the Government of Russia or any other foreign government;

(2) a description of United States Government efforts to engage in diplomatic efforts with Russia and the governments of NATO coalition allies and partners to counter Russian malign influence in Afghanistan; and

(3) a description of the views of the governments of other NATO members, including heads of government, political leaders, and military commanders in the region on Russian interference and malign influence in Afghanistan.

(d) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES AND LEADERSHIP.—In this section, the term “appropriate congressional committees and leadership” means—

(1) the Committee on Foreign Affairs, the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, the Committee on Homeland Security,

and the Speaker, the majority leader, and the minority leader of the House of Representatives; and

(2) the Committee on Foreign Relations, the Select Committee on Intelligence, the Committee on Homeland Security, and the majority leader and the minority leader of the Senate.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New York (Mr. ESPAILLAT) and the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ESPAILLAT. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include in the RECORD extraneous materials on H.R. 8259.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this measure, and I thank the author, my friend, Mr. MEEKS from New York, a senior member of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, for his leadership and hard work.

Throughout this Congress, the committee has focused on measures to counter Russian aggression and hold President Putin accountable for the unlawful invasion and attempted annexation of Crimea. But President Trump has flagrantly ignored the pleas of our allies and attempted to invite Russia back into the G7 despite its continued aggression in Ukraine, Georgia, and other sovereign countries near its border.

Putin and his cronies must be held accountable for their actions. And for Trump to put out the welcome mat for Russia would be a slap in the face to our allies and the Ukrainian citizens living in Crimea.

This important bipartisan bill would prevent the U.S. Government from facilitating Russian participation in the G7, or a reconstituted G8, and requires a report about Russia's nefarious relationships with the Taliban in Afghanistan and any bounty program it instituted for the killing of American troops.

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

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 8259, which prohibits Russian participation in the G7. I thank my friend and colleague, Mr. MEEKS, for authoring this bill.

As I have said time and time again, Vladimir Putin is not a friend of the United States nor of our allies.

In the past few years, we have witnessed his regime invade and occupy

parts of Ukraine and certainly Georgia in South Ossetia and Abkhazia; unleash devastating cyberattacks against our allies; prop up corrupt regimes in Syria and Venezuela; use a banned nerve agent to try to kill a former Russian spy, as we just saw with the resolution that preceded this, opposition activist Alexey Navalny; meddle in our elections; and much more.

The Russian President's actions speak for themselves. At almost every opportunity, Putin pursues policies that undermine American and allied interests around the world.

The Group of Seven is a forum that brings together like-minded democracies to tackle important global issues. A dangerous and corrupt dictator that assassinates his own people cannot be trusted to be a reasonable partner on the world stage. We must not turn a blind eye to this reality.

This bill would prohibit Russia from being readmitted to the Group of Seven until Putin fully restores the territorial integrity of Ukraine, parts of Georgia, and Moldova, and stops interfering in the democratic processes of the United States and our allies.

The bill also demonstrates that Congress takes very seriously the safety of American troops serving overseas—it is our utmost priority—and that we remain concerned about the challenges Russia poses to U.S. and NATO efforts to bring peace and stability to Afghanistan.

Maintaining the integrity of the Group of Seven is vital to its success. Russia cannot be invited back in while Vladimir Putin continues to undermine the efforts of democratic states to build a freer and more prosperous world.

Mr. Speaker, I have no more requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. ESPAILLAT. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. MEEKS), the author of this important bill and an esteemed member of the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

Mr. MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. ESPAILLAT, and I thank the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH). I also thank Representative KINZINGER for his support and his collaboration in working collectively to bring this bill to the floor for a vote.

The reason for this bill is actually very simple. Congress must be clear that Russia cannot be part of the G7 while it does all it can to undermine democracies, including our own.

What they are doing is inflaming some of the biggest challenges that face the global community today. Congress has an oversight responsibility here, and this bill simply makes that clear.

Through its actions, today's Russia continues to prove that it does not intend to be a part of the global solution. Moscow interferes in democratic processes across the globe, suppresses and poisons opposition, and wreaks havoc

in emerging nations in Europe—Ukraine and Georgia being the most recent targets where they still remain, holding sovereign land.

The list is long. Yet, I am concerned that the President of the United States has repeatedly expressed his inclination to bring Russia back to the G7. He has called it commonsense to include Russia. It is not as long as they continue to behave the way they are.

It is crucial that the American taxpayer should not pay for this bizarre and harmful courtship of Putin's Russia, the same Russia that puts bounties on American soldiers in Afghanistan.

Of course, we should have lines of strategic communications open with Moscow. I am one also open for dialogue. But with Russia's malfeasance, we cannot welcome them to the table as our partners and allies at a time when they do not share our democratic values or interests.

There is nothing short of the strength of America's stance as a global leader at stake. We have to be leaders in bringing folks together and standing for democracy and for what is good for democracy. That is who we are as Americans. That is what this United States Congress stands for.

We must do our oversight in this regard. We must give a message to Russia that should it want to enter into the G7, it has to play by the rules and not do undemocratic things or threaten democracy, whether it is in the United States or any of our European allies.

Mr. Speaker, I, again, thank my colleagues for joining this bill in a bipartisan effort, and I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman has the only remaining time.

Mr. ESPAILLAT. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE).

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the distinguished gentleman from New York (Mr. ESPAILLAT) for yielding, and the distinguished gentleman from New York (Mr. MEEKS) for proposing this legislation, along with his colleagues, Mr. KINZINGER and all the Members who are supporting H.R. 8259 that deals with the admission of Russia into the G7.

The reason I think this is crucial legislation that I would hope that we would move swiftly to the United States Senate, the other body, and move swiftly for a signature, ultimately, of the President of the United States, is because this is a move that seems afoot with little consultation of the other members of the G7.

Anyone listening to this, the American people, might be reminded that Russia fought against the Nazis. One might say they were on the good side in World War II. There have been moments where we have been able to collaborate with Russia on important issues relevant to all of us, Europe and beyond. But it certainly is dis-

appointing under the leadership of their present head of government that they have seemingly sought not only to quash dissent but to kill dissent.

Just a few minutes ago, we heard of the poisoning of one of the largest dissenters in Russia. It has happened before. It will happen again.

Is the G7 an organization that coddles and comforts those who would poison dissent or undermine dissent? Or are we a group that may not agree all the time but truly believes in human rights and the dignity of all people and, yes, the understanding that dissent is part of the democratic principles? I am appalled at the attempt to kill dissent.

Then, of course, you have to be concerned about the absolute, unfettered intrusion and caring less about the people of Ukraine, Crimea, and certainly places in surrounding Eastern Europe. They are in fear of their lives—the shooting down of an innocent commercial airline and the complete denial of such.

Belarus, the whole question of Moldova, all of these places are subject to the whims of Russia.

Now, if there was a completely different policy, foreign aid, a foreign relations policy of cooperation and collaboration, there is certainly the opportunity for G7 members to talk with Russia in any other forum. But I think when we are supporting NATO, we recognize the importance of that alliance. We also understand the strength of that alliance, recognizing the importance of that alliance in Afghanistan and, yes, in Iraq.

To admit, because of a personal relationship between a head of state and Russia's head of state, I think it is unacceptable.

Let me also say something that is strikingly disturbing at this point. Yes, the President has the right to hire and fire his or her Cabinet. In the last 4 days or so, the then-existing Secretary of Defense was precipitously fired. We don't have the inner workings and decisions of that. Maybe his work performance wasn't up to par. It doesn't seem like that is the case.

Then, all of a sudden, a new person is ultimately an interim Acting Secretary of Defense, one of the most strategic and important parts of our Nation.

Having been here through 9/11, there was a transition of government. Look who struck. Not Russia, of course, but Osama bin Laden on 9/11.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentlewoman has expired.

Mr. ESPAILLAT. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 30 seconds to the gentlewoman from Texas.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, now we have a circumstance where the newly appointed Acting Secretary of Defense is saying that our troops will be cut in half.

I understand, the Joint Chiefs, if I am correct, have not been consulted or they have not made that decision. And

that means, is that opening the door more for Russia into Afghanistan and Iraq? Is that jeopardizing our troops?

These are questions that tie into relationships between Russia and now, presently, the United States.

I think we have to make a firm statement against the G7, and I ask that we question the decision to withdraw troops, not because I have not been against the wars, but because I believe our troops should be assessed as their security and also our mission.

Mr. Speaker, I ask for the support of this legislation.

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

Mr. Speaker, again, I thank Congressman MEEKS for his hard work on this measure. I am very pleased to support this important measure, and I urge all Members to do the same.

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 New York (Mr. ESPAILLAT) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 8259, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

□ 1445

CELEBRATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF ENTRY INTO FORCE OF TREATY ON THE NON-PROLIFERATION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS

Mr. ESPAILLAT. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 825) celebrating the 50th anniversary of the entry into force of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), recognizing the importance of the NPT's continued contributions to United States and international security, and commemorating United States leadership in strengthening the nuclear nonproliferation regime since the dawn of the nuclear era, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 825

Whereas on December 4, 1961, the United Nations General Assembly unanimously approved a resolution supporting an international agreement to prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons;

Whereas the nonproliferation of nuclear weapons has been a bedrock principle of United States foreign policy since 1945;

Whereas the October 1962 Cuban Missile Crisis nearly led the United States and the former Soviet Union to a catastrophic nuclear exchange;

Whereas the aftermath of the Cuban Missile Crisis led to a series of bilateral and

multilateral agreements to reduce the chances of nuclear war and prevent the spread of nuclear weapons;

Whereas on August 17, 1965, the United States submitted its first draft of such a treaty to the Eighteen Nation Disarmament Committee;

Whereas in May 1966, the Senate adopted S. Res. 179 supporting the President's efforts to negotiate such a treaty;

Whereas the United States, the United Kingdom, and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics signed the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) on its first day of opening for signature on July 1, 1968;

Whereas the Senate gave its advice and consent to ratification of the NPT on March 13, 1969, by a vote of 83 to 15;

Whereas the NPT entered into force on March 5, 1970, the date it was ratified by the United States and the Soviet Union;

Whereas the NPT provides stability that is critical for United States and international security, and its success has and will continue to depend upon the full implementation by all State Parties of the NPT's three mutually-reinforcing pillars: nonproliferation, access to peaceful uses of nuclear energy, and disarmament;

Whereas United States leadership has been and will continue to be indispensable to the development and success of the global nuclear nonproliferation regime;

Whereas on May 11, 1995, the NPT was extended indefinitely;

Whereas North Korea is the only non-nuclear weapon state that was a party to the NPT before acquiring nuclear weapons;

Whereas the United States has supported the NPT's disarmament goals by negotiating bilateral arms control agreements and achieving dramatic reductions in its own and other states' nuclear weapons stockpiles through these treaties, including the 1972 SALT I Treaty, the 1987 INF Treaty, the 1991 START I Treaty, the 2002 Moscow Treaty, and the 2010 New START treaty;

Whereas the United States has promoted the NPT's nonproliferation pillar by supporting states that relinquished their nuclear weapons and acceded to the NPT, such as Belarus, Kazakhstan, Ukraine, and South Africa;

Whereas the United States has worked to ensure the peaceful uses of nuclear energy by supporting the International Atomic Energy Agency and its safeguards programs, including the Additional Protocol;

Whereas the 2018 Department of Defense Nuclear Posture Review affirms, "The Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) is a cornerstone of the nuclear nonproliferation regime. It plays a positive role in building consensus for non-proliferation and enhances international efforts to impose costs on those that would pursue nuclear weapons outside the Treaty.";

Whereas on June 28, 2018, the United States, United Kingdom, and Russian governments released a joint statement, reaffirming their commitment to work toward "the ultimate goal of the elimination of nuclear weapons, as set forth in the NPT"; and

Whereas Congress has long been a leading voice for nonproliferation, including through the Export-Import Bank Act of 1945, the McMahon Act of 1946, the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Act of 1978, the Export Administration Act of 1979, the Nunn-Lugar Soviet Nuclear Threat Reduction Act of 1991, the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Prevention Act of 1994, and other legislative efforts: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) calls for continued support for the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons, to further reduce the number of nuclear weapons, and to promote the peaceful use of nuclear energy as it has over the past 50 years;

(2) reaffirms that a strong nonproliferation regime is in the United States interest;

(3) recognizes that the United States, through its network of alliances, has led the world upholding the pillars of the NPT and continues to work together to strengthen the NPT; and

(4) urges the United States to continue to be a leader in supporting the NPT and the global nonproliferation regime, by—

(A) continuing to encourage all States Party to the NPT to comply fully with the NPT;

(B) maintaining support for the International Atomic Energy Agency through its assessed and voluntary contributions and promote the universal adoption of the IAEA Additional Protocol;

(C) continuing to encourage opportunities for cooperation with other nuclear weapons states to reduce the number and role of nuclear weapons;

(D) encouraging universality of the NPT and the Additional Protocol;

(E) discouraging the unlawful spread of uranium enrichment technologies and ensuring such technologies covered under the NPT are properly verified;

(F) developing policies to prevent withdrawal of additional states parties from the Treaty;

(G) maintaining global moratoria on nuclear explosive testing, which is in the national security interest of the United States; and

(H) working towards a successful 2021 NPT Review Conference.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New York (Mr. ESPAILLAT) and the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ESPAILLAT. 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 H. Res. 825.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this resolution, and I would like to thank the author, Congressman SHERMAN, for his hard work and leadership.

Arms control and nonproliferation have been bipartisan pillars of United States security since the earliest days of the Cold War. After a half a century of successfully contributing to the nonproliferation and reduction of nuclear weapons, the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons continues to bolster the United States national security and global stability.

This important resolution recognizes the importance of the NPT and calls for continued U.S. leadership in global