

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

nonproliferation efforts and the further reduction in the number of nuclear weapons. The current administration has undercut and disregarded our important arms control regimes, and I hope that President-elect Biden will immediately change our course after he is sworn in.

With this measure, the House is going on record to support a return to the leadership and policies that helped make the world safer for decades. I urge my colleagues to support this resolution, 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 today in support of this resolution marking the 50th anniversary of entry into force of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons.

I want to thank our distinguished colleagues, Mr. SHERMAN and Mr. BANKS, and some of the other cosponsors. Mr. SHERMAN took the lead on it, and I thank him for that, in marking this important anniversary.

For the last 50 years, the NPT Treaty, Non-Proliferation Treaty, has been the bedrock upon which nonproliferation policy has been built. More than 185 countries around the world have ratified the treaty, adding their support to the responsible use of nuclear technology, while reducing the likelihood of nuclear conflict.

Every country has the right to use nuclear energy for peaceful purposes; however, we must ensure that the number of states armed with nuclear weapons does not grow. The proliferation of these weapons in unstable, dangerous regimes like North Korea and Iran only makes the world more dangerous and the use of those weapons of mass destruction more likely.

Under the treaty, nuclear weapons states agree not to transfer nuclear weapons or technology to nonnuclear weapons states. States without nuclear weapons are bound to accept IAEA safeguards in order to verify any and all nuclear activities are peaceful.

The treaty also requires all countries to pursue good faith negotiations related to nuclear disarmament. There may be disagreement on how to achieve such disarmament, but in the meantime, the U.S. remains committed to continuing to reduce risk and enhance global stability through maintaining a modern, safe, and secure nuclear deterrent and reaffirming our defense commitment to our allies. We seek to engage countries like China, which is growing its nuclear arsenal, and Russia, which is developing new nuclear armed weapons systems, on enhanced arms control regimes.

Finally, the United States continues to seek to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons to rogue states.

Again, I want to thank my friend, the gentleman from California (Mr. SHERMAN), for sponsoring this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. ESPAILLAT. Mr. Speaker, I yield 6 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. SHERMAN), the author of this important resolution and an esteemed member of the Foreign Affairs Committee.

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in favor of H. Res. 825, which I authored, to focus our attention on the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.

If you look back to 1945 when nuclear weapons literally exploded upon the world, most political scientists believed that within the next century after 1945 we would have had dozens of nuclear states and many nuclear wars. Well, so far, we have gone the vast bulk of a century since 1945 and we have not seen nuclear weapons used in anger. An important part of that is the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.

There is no more important work for our committee than preventing the spread of nuclear weapons. That is why, for well over a decade, I have chaired or been ranking member on the subcommittee that focuses on nonproliferation. It is simple math. The more nuclear states, the more likelihood of a nuclear war.

This resolution reaffirms the strong nonproliferation regime that is in the interest of the United States and supports the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. It urges the United States to continue to support the NPT regime and global nonproliferation and looks forward to a successful 2021 NPT Review Conference.

I look forward to working with the new administration on nonproliferation issues.

Every nation in the last 50 years that has developed a nuclear weapon has done so under the pretense that they were developing a nuclear energy program. That is why we have to be very careful when we enter into nuclear cooperation agreements with countries that may seek to develop a nuclear weapon.

The best way to make sure that a nuclear energy program is not a nuclear weapons program is to make sure that the country that engages in that signs the additional protocol to allow the additional inspections of the IAEA. That is why what is important today—not only this resolution—is the conference committee that I sit on for the NDAA, which contains the provision that I wrote and introduced to this House as the Saudi Nuclear Nonproliferation Act, to say that we will not enter into agreements for nuclear cooperation with countries that refuse to sign the additional protocol.

As we look forward to a new administration, we need to reenter the JCPOA with Iran and make sure Iran never develops a nuclear weapon. We have to prevent Saudi Arabia from developing a nuclear weapon, and we have to roll back the North Korean program. There is much for us to do in nonproliferation, and there is no work that is more important for our committee.

Since I have some additional time, I would like to use it to express my

views on the other important legislation that the Foreign Affairs Committee is bringing to this House today.

The first is the Tropical Forest and Coral Reef Conservation Reauthorization Act of 2020, introduced by Mr. CHABOT, for which I serve as the lead Democrat. This is an important debt-for-nature program critical to preserve tropical forests and coral reefs.

Chairman BERA has introduced the Securing America From Epidemics Act. This bill recognizes the importance of working cooperatively—and I look forward to us rejoining the WHO—working cooperatively to deal with epidemics. And, of course, these provisions were part of the Heroes Act, which this Congress passed back in May. It authorizes the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations, an alliance of countries that are partners to finance and coordinate the development of vaccines for high-priority epidemic threats.

I want to commend the gentleman from New York for his Caribbean Basin Security Initiative Authorization Act to promote safety, security, and the rule of law in the Caribbean. It is so important that we achieve improvement for the lives of those who are our immediate neighbors. This important bill would fund support for the justice sector and education for at-risk youth.

I want to commend Representative TOM SUOZZI for his resolution on the importance of the United States' alliance with the Republic of Korea and the contribution of Korean Americans. Just yesterday, I had a chance to meet with the chair and several of the members of the Korean National Assembly's Foreign Affairs and Unification Committee, and I look forward to a new administration reaching a different kind of relationship with North Korea and a stronger relationship with South Korea.

I commend Chairman MCGOVERN for his resolution condemning the poisoning of Russian opposition leader Alexei Navalny and calling for the United States to coordinate a robust international response.

I think our committee is bringing to the floor of this House a package of important legislation. I look forward to it passing overwhelmingly.

Mr. ESPAILLAT. Mr. Speaker, again, I want to thank Congressman SHERMAN for his hard work on this measure. I am very pleased to support this measure, I urge all Members to do the same, and 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. 825, 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.

The title of the resolution was amended so as to read: "A resolution urging the United States to continue

to be a leader in supporting the Treaty on the Nonproliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) and the global non-proliferation regime to reap the benefits the NPT and such regime bring to United States and international security.”.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PARTNERING AND LEVERAGING ASSISTANCE TO STOP TRASH FOR INTERNATIONAL CLEANER SEAS ACT

Mr. ESPAILLAT. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4636) to authorize the Secretary of State and the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development to prioritize and advance efforts to improve waste management systems and prevent and reduce plastic waste and marine debris, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4636

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Partnering and Leveraging Assistance to Stop Trash for International Cleaner Seas Act” or the “PLASTICS Act”.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) Eight million metric tons of plastic enter the ocean every year. Marine debris damages the health of marine life, impedes local economic development, and threatens health systems. Ten river systems carry an estimated 90 percent of the river-based plastic waste that ends up in the ocean.

(2) Mismanaged plastic waste has the highest risk of contaminating rivers and oceans. China contributes the largest share of this mismanaged waste, followed by Indonesia, the Philippines, Vietnam, Thailand, Egypt, Nigeria, and South Africa. The United States is the world’s second-largest producer and consumer of plastics products, and the top exporter of plastic scrap.

(3) Most marine debris, particularly plastics, enters the oceans from land-based sources, mainly in developing countries, that lack the capacity to adequately manage waste and prevent dumping.

(4) During the Our Ocean Conference in October 2018, the United States announced assistance to prevent marine debris from entering the ocean through development of waste management systems and reduce plastics in marine protected areas in the Indo-Pacific.

(5) During the June 2019 G20 Summit in Osaka, Japan, the United States joined other G20 members in endorsing the “Osaka Blue Ocean Vision” to reduce additional pollution by marine plastic litter to zero by 2050 and the G20 Implementation Framework for Actions on Marine Plastic Litter, which outlines a commitment to prevent and reduce plastic debris in the oceans through waste management and clean-up efforts to remove marine plastic debris and prioritizes efforts to advance innovative solutions and international cooperation to support such initiatives.

SEC. 3. STATEMENT OF POLICY.

It is the policy of the United States to consult, partner, and coordinate with the gov-

ernments of foreign countries, international organizations, private and civil society entities, and other stakeholders in a concerted effort to—

(1) prevent and reduce marine debris and plastic waste, including through reduced consumption, greater transparency in global trade of plastic waste, and support for integrated waste management systems in developing countries;

(2) advance innovative market-based solutions and catalyze private capital to prevent and reduce marine debris and plastic waste, support integrated waste management systems, and improve market demand for recycled material;

(3) build the capacity of national and subnational governments in other countries to develop and implement integrated waste management systems, measure and report progress in reducing plastic waste, and prevent plastic waste from entering rivers and oceans;

(4) support local economic development through programs that assist community members, particularly women, youth, and marginalized populations, to derive economic benefit from waste products and participation in waste management systems; and

(5) engage in international and regional cooperation to prevent and reduce marine debris and plastic waste, share best practices, and empower national and subnational governments, local communities, civil society, and the private sector to engage in such efforts.

SEC. 4. SENSE OF CONGRESS.

It is the sense of Congress that, in pursuing the policy described in section 3, the President should direct United States representatives to appropriate international bodies to use the voice, vote, and influence of the United States to advocate support for the following:

(1) Efforts to improve transparency in global trade of plastic waste, improve plastic waste regulation to ensure the safety of humans and the environment, strengthen integrated waste management systems, and prevent, reduce, reuse, and recycle plastic waste, to the extent practical.

(2) Collaborative approaches to establish measurable targets and objectives, with related action plans, for reducing marine debris and plastic waste from all sources and sharing best practices in waste prevention and management systems to prevent plastic waste.

SEC. 5. UNITED STATES SUPPORT TO IMPROVE WASTE MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS AND PREVENT AND REDUCE MARINE DEBRIS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of State and the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development, in coordination with the heads of relevant Federal departments and agencies, are authorized to prioritize and advance ongoing global efforts to—

(1) prevent and reduce marine debris and plastic waste, including through reduced consumption, greater transparency in global trade of plastic waste, and support for integrated waste management systems in developing countries;

(2) advance innovative market-based solutions and catalyze private capital to prevent and reduce marine debris and plastic waste, support integrated waste management systems, and improve market demand for recycled material;

(3) build the capacity of national and subnational governments in other countries to develop and implement integrated waste management systems, measure and report progress in reducing plastic waste, and pre-

vent plastic waste from entering rivers and oceans; and

(4) support local economic development through programs that assist community members, particularly women, youth, and marginalized populations, to derive economic benefit from waste products and participation in waste management systems.

(b) COORDINATION WITH PRIVATE SECTOR.—The Secretary and the Administrator, in coordination with the Chief Executive Officer of the United States International Development Finance Corporation and the Chief Executive Officer of the Millennium Challenge Corporation and in consultation with the heads of relevant Federal departments and agencies, are authorized and encouraged to work with entities in the private sector and with nongovernmental organizations to leverage sources of public and private capital to complement the efforts described in subsection (a), including by financing infrastructure investments, supporting capacity-building activities, and entering into cost-sharing, cost-matching, and other cooperative agreements to support and finance such efforts.

(c) MONITORING AND EVALUATION.—The Secretary and the Administrator shall establish monitoring and evaluation mechanisms, including measurable goals, objectives, and benchmarks, to ensure the effective use of United States foreign assistance to achieve the objectives described in paragraphs (1) through (4) of subsection (a).

(d) DOMESTIC RESOURCE MOBILIZATION.—In carrying out the authority under subsection (a), the Secretary and the Administrator, in coordination with the heads of relevant Federal departments and agencies, shall seek to provide technical assistance to mobilize the domestic resources of recipient countries in order to increase cost-sharing, self-reliance, and host country ownership of waste prevention and management programs.

(e) COST LIMITATION.—No additional funds are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this Act.

(f) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary and the Administrator, in consultation with the heads of relevant Federal departments and agencies, shall jointly submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report on ongoing programs and monitoring and evaluation mechanisms to carry out the authority under subsection (a) that includes a description of—

(1) the monitoring and evaluation plans and indicators used to measure performance of assistance programs, in accordance with subsection (d);

(2) best practices and lessons learned in implementing the efforts authorized under subsection (a);

(3) the extent to which recipient countries have demonstrated a commitment and willingness to cooperate to advance the efforts described in subsection (a) and to dedicate resources to support waste prevention and management initiatives;

(4) the extent to which host country governments and other governments in the region are investing resources to advance initiatives to prevent or reduce marine debris and plastic waste and develop integrated waste management systems; and

(5) the extent to which other funding sources, including through private sector investment, have been identified to advance waste prevention and management initiatives.

(g) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES DEFINED.—In this section, the term “appropriate congressional committees” means—

(1) the Committee on Foreign Affairs and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives; and