

the distinguished gentleman from Indiana [Mr. HAMILTON] and would urge its passage. This Member would also note the thoughtful and important contribution made by the distinguished chairman of the International Relations Committee, the gentleman from New York [Mr. GILMAN].

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

□ 1320

(Mr. WYNN asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise to urge support for this resolution.

Sri Lanka has been wracked by a bloody civil war that has claimed the lives of at least 30,000, and perhaps as many as 50,000 people.

Sri Lanka is a country of only 18 million people. If the United States lost a comparable number of people, 730,000 Americans would have been killed.

Last winter the democratically elected President of Sri Lanka, President Kumaratunga opened a dialog with the insurgent Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, known as the LTTE.

Unfortunately, after four rounds of talks, the LTTE withdrew from the negotiations this past April and resumed military operations against the government—without provocation and in violation of the cease-fire.

Since the breakdown of the talks in April, the fighting has been heavy, producing many casualties, not only among the combatants but also among the civilian population.

Last month, the Sri Lankan Government, in an effort to reach out to the minority Tamil community, unveiled a plan that provides for a significant devolution of power to the provinces.

It is not for us to pass judgment on the merits of this or any other plan, but I think we can all applaud this effort to settle Sri Lanka's problems politically rather than militarily.

House Resolution 181 calls on the LTTE to return to the negotiating table, and urges all parties to negotiate in good faith with a view to finding a just and lasting political resolution to Sri Lanka's ethnic conflict.

It does not take sides in the conflict, but it does call for a political settlement that provides adequate protection for minority rights.

It does not commit the United States to any specific course of action, but it does indicate our willingness, in principle, to see the United States lend its good offices to help resolve the conflict, if this is desired by all parties.

This resolution has bipartisan support. It has the support of the administration as well.

I want to commend the chairman of the Asia and Pacific Subcommittee, Mr. BEREUTER, and the ranking member, Mr. BERMAN, who have worked closely with me as cosponsors of this resolution.

I urge my colleagues to put the House on record in support of a peaceful resolution of this ongoing tragedy in Sri Lanka.

I urge a "yea" vote on House Resolution 181.

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I commend the chairman of the Asia and Pacific Subcommittee, Mr. BEREUTER, and the ranking minority member, Mr. BERMAN, for their work on this resolution. And I commend the ranking minority member, Mr. HAMILTON for his efforts in crafting the resolution.

The conflict in Sri Lanka has gone on for nearly 12 years and so many lives—some 30,000—have been lost. The LTTE took the promising young life of Rajiv Gandhi and in 1994 a bomb attack killed the opposition presidential candidate along with more than 50 others. The State Department's human rights report for 1994 concludes that the government has used excessive force in the conflict.

As the resolution suggests, the United States could play a role in resolving the crises if the two disputing parties desire it. It is believed that the current government of President Kumaratunga is serious about working with the LTTE in finding a mutually agreeable solution. If our Government can play a role it would be an honor for all of us to help end the bloodshed.

Accordingly I urge my colleagues to support House Resolution 181.

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

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Nebraska [Mr. BEREUTER] that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, House Resolution 181.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on House Resolution 181, the resolution just agreed to.

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

There was no objection.

CONGRATULATING THE PEOPLE OF MONGOLIA

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 158) congratulating the people of Mongolia on the 5th Anniversary of the first democratic multiparty elections held in Mongolia on July 29, 1990, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 158

Whereas in 1990 Mongolia ended nearly 7 decades of Soviet domination and single party Communist rule;

Whereas the 1992 Mongolian constitution established Mongolia as an independent and sovereign republic and guaranteed fundamental human rights;

Whereas the people of Mongolia enjoyed their first multiparty democratic elections on July 29, 1990, and their first direct presidential election on June 6, 1993;

Whereas the Department of State's 1994 Country Report on Human Rights practices commended Mongolia for "steady—if sometimes uneven—progress in its transition from a highly centralized Communist-led state toward a full-fledged multiparty democracy";

Whereas Mongolia continues its efforts to develop a market economy;

Whereas the United States has sought to assist Mongolia's movement toward democracy and market-oriented reforms by granting most-favored-nation status and providing insurance by the Overseas Private Investment Corporation, supporting Mongolia in international assistance organizations, and providing \$35,000,000 in bilateral assistance; and

Whereas United States-funded programs of nongovernment organizations, such as the National Endowment for Democracy and the Asia Foundation, have helped build democracy in Mongolia: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) commends Mongolia for courageous efforts to transform itself from a single-party state to a multiparty state and from a controlled to a free market economy;

(2) congratulates Mongolia for the swift and peaceful changes that have taken place since the appearance of the internal reform movement in December 1989;

(3) cites for particular praise Mongolia's first multiparty democratic elections on July 29, 1990, and first direct presidential election on June 6, 1993;

(4) urges the Government of Mongolia to continue to strengthen and deepen democratic reform and human rights, including the full protection of religious freedom and other civil liberties, in order to enhance representative and accountable government;

(5) commends the parallel movement in Mongolia toward a free market economy through economic reforms;

(6) notes that the best hope for accelerated economic growth is to attract more foreign investment by further liberalizing the economy and expanding trade with nontraditional partners, including the United States; and

(7) pledges its continued support for democracy, human rights, and the development of a free market in Mongolia.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Nebraska [Mr. BEREUTER] will be recognized for 20 minutes, and the gentleman from Maryland [Mr. WYNN] will be recognized for 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Nebraska [Mr. BEREUTER].

(Mr. BEREUTER asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

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

Mr. Speaker, the resolution before us today has one simple objective—to commend the people of Mongolia for the remarkable progress that country has made since 1990. Mongolia has