

This amendment is also about American soldiers and South Korean soldiers. It is an expression of support for the men and women stationed over there with the hope that these four-party talks will lead to a unified Korea, eliminating the need for their deployment.

Reunification is a goal claimed by both North and South Korea. Let us encourage this ambition by making reunification a sincere goal of our foreign policy. I urge all of our colleagues to support this resolution. I thank the gentleman, once again, for yielding me the time.

Mr. HAMILTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Guam [Mr. UNDERWOOD].

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I thank the distinguished ranking member for yielding me this time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise this afternoon in strong support of the resolution introduced by our colleague from Florida [Mr. HASTINGS], which supports our U.S. troops who faithfully served the interests of the United States by ensuring stability on the Korean peninsula and the four-way talks between the United States, China, South Korea and North Korea.

Mr. Speaker, I represent a very unique American community. The American citizens of Guam live in the Asia-Pacific region, and Guam is the closest American community to the events occurring on the Korean peninsula and would be a crucial part of any effort to deal with any hostilities on the peninsula.

Mr. Speaker, as part of my ongoing work in the Committee on National Security, I have traveled to Korea for on-site briefings and witnessed firsthand our challenge there. As America remains engaged in the effort to peacefully settle the conflict between North and South Korea, we must commend and vigorously support the recent efforts to begin the four-way talks. These talks will contribute to greater security in the Asia-Pacific region and are of tremendous importance to Guam and the rest of the United States.

Mr. Speaker, this House has taken many steps in directing United States policy in Korea. At a time of severe starvation and growing internal strife in North Korea, we must resolve to act on our commitments and demonstrate international leadership.

Passage of this resolution will again reassure Koreans that we in the United States are working to establish a concrete and lasting peace on the Korean peninsula by living up to our responsibility as a signer of the armistice agreement. As we support the resolution, let us not forget the distinguished service of our men and women in uniform who have been the main force for peace in that part of the world.

I urge this body to pass this very important resolution.

Mr. KIM. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from California [Mr. ROYCE], a member

of the Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific, my good friend.

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my colleague, the gentleman from California [Mr. KIM], for yielding to me this time. I want to commend the gentleman from Florida [Mr. HASTINGS] for offering this resolution.

This resolution makes an important statement that the House of Representatives supports our troops on the Korean peninsula. We support our friends and allies in the Republic of Korea and we support the proposed North-South four-party talks that at long last seem to be moving forward.

We are all hopeful that the recent agreement of the North Korean Government to sit down and agree to the final details of four-party talks will lead to substantive negotiations. Now more than ever, it is important to have such channels of communication open to discuss the future of North Korea, and future relations between the North and South. And I really want to take this opportunity to urge all of my colleagues to support this resolution.

Mr. HAMILTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from American Samoa [Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA].

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

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to support House Concurrent Resolution 74, as introduced by my good friend and colleague, the gentleman from Florida [Mr. HASTINGS].

Mr. Speaker, after that terrible conflict commonly known as the Korean war, for some 44 years now our Nation has had to maintain an effective presence in the demilitarized zone that is separating North Korea from South Korea. Even until now, Mr. Speaker, the crisis in the Korean Peninsula remains one of the most tense in the world. North Korea has an army of over 1 million soldiers, compared to South Korea's 600,000 sailors and soldiers.

Mr. Speaker, history has demonstrated several times that all the bullets, the guns, the cannons, and all other manner of military weapons are not worth a dime if the country cannot feed its soldiers. Recent reports indicate, Mr. Speaker, that there is currently a shortfall of approximately 2.3 million tons of grain in North Korea. What this simply means is that the North Korean people are starving and there is serious concern if the crisis has been alleviated or do we expect more problems in the future.

Mr. Speaker, I believe it is only proper that the People's Republic of China, our Nation, and the two Koreas should engage in meaningful dialog.

Mr. Speaker, I have been to South Korea, and I was very impressed with its economic and political developments in recent years. With South Korea's development in technology and industrialization, and with the tremendous potential of resources available to North Korea, a unified Korea could

really become a great nation to provide for the needs of some 60 million people living in both North and South Korea.

I want to commend the gentleman from California [Mr. KIM], my good friend, for also being a part of the management of this legislation. I urge my colleagues to support this piece of legislation.

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

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GOODLATTE). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. KIM) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, House Concurrent Resolution 74, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

EXPRESSING CONCERN OVER VIOLENCE IN REPUBLIC OF CONGO

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 175) expressing concern over the outbreak of violence in the Republic of Congo and the resulting threat to scheduled elections and constitutional government in that country, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 175

Whereas President Pascal Lissouba defeated former President Denis Sassou-Nguesso in a 1992 election that was determined to be free and fair;

Whereas losing candidates raised questions concerning the results of the 1993 legislative election and used those concerns to cast doubt on the entire democratic process in the Republic of Congo and as the rationale for creating private militias;

Whereas thousands of citizens of the Republic of Congo have been killed in intermittent fighting between Government soldiers and private militiamen since 1993;

Whereas there are concerns about the unfinished census and resulting electoral list to be used in the scheduled July 27 election;

Whereas the recent fighting resulted from the Government's attempt to disarm former President Sassou-Nguesso's "Cobra" militia in advance of the scheduled July 27 election;

Whereas the fighting and uneasy peace has caused serious loss of life and diminished ability to care for those who are without access to adequate medical care or food and water;

Whereas the fighting between Government troops and militiamen have forced the evacuation from the country of foreign nationals and endangered refugees from both Rwanda and the former Zaire; and

Whereas African governments have attempted to bring about a negotiated settlement to the current crisis: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) condemns the current fighting and urges the warring parties to reach a lasting ceasefire that will allow for humanitarian needs to be addressed as soon as possible;

(2) calls on all private militia to disarm and disband immediately to end the continuing threat to peace and stability in the Republic of Congo;

(3) commends African leaders from Gabon, Equatorial Guinea, Cameroon, Benin, Central African Republic, Senegal, and Chad for their efforts to negotiate a peaceful settlement and encourages their continuing efforts to find a sustainable political settlement in this matter;

(4) supports the deployment of an African peacekeeping force to the Republic of Congo if deemed necessary;

(5) urges the Government of the Republic of Congo, in cooperation with all legal political parties, to resolve in a transparent manner questions concerning the scheduled elections and to prepare for open and transparent elections at the earliest feasible time; and

(6) encourages the United States Government to provide technical assistance on election related matters if requested by the Government of the Republic of Congo.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California [Mr. ROYCE], and the gentleman from Indiana [Mr. HAMILTON], each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California [Mr. ROYCE].

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

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on this resolution.

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

There was no objection.

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

Since violence in the Republic of Congo escalated several weeks ago, an estimated 3,000 lives have been lost there. What started as an effort by Congo President Pascal Lissouba to safeguard upcoming elections by neutralizing the so-called Cobra militia, operated by a political rival, has degenerated into ethnic cleansing.

All this has developed beneath the media's radar. As the world watched the unraveling of the Mobutu regime in the neighboring country then known as Zaire, the Republic of Congo was seen as a safe haven for refugees from that collapsing nation.

But today nearly a quarter of the population of the city of Brazzaville has left town to avoid being caught in the fighting. Unfortunately, these refugees have found themselves stopped along the way and killed if they belong to the wrong ethnic group. This resolution is a reinforcement of our Government's commitment to the democratic process in Congo-Brazzaville. It calls for a disengagement of forces and a lasting cease-fire and applauds the African efforts to resolve this crisis. It unanimously passed the Committee on International Relations several weeks ago.

□ 1545

Mr. Speaker, when this resolution was before the House last week, there

was some confusion over whether it called for an international peacekeeping force. Let me say clearly that this resolution calls for any such force to be an African force.

Mr. Speaker, a resolution of the crisis in Congo-Brazzaville is not only a priority for regional strategic reasons, but the example of a democracy unraveling is a poor one for other African nations. I ask for my colleagues' support.

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

Mr. HAMILTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume and I rise in support of the resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I support the resolution because I believe it does draw attention to an explosive situation in central Africa, and I want to express my appreciation for the leadership of the distinguished gentleman from California [Mr. ROYCE], for his sponsorship of the resolution and for putting the resolution forward.

I do think the gentleman's explanation is important to notice. There was a misunderstanding on the floor of the House last week. This resolution supports the deployment of an African peacekeeping force to the Republic of Congo, and only supports it if it is deemed necessary. I think the resolution was not fully understood at the time of the vote last week.

This resolution reflects the views of the U.S. Congress on the importance of this issue. I hope the resolution will encourage the parties to maintain the current cease-fire and to reach a political solution in the ongoing talks. I urge the adoption of the resolution.

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

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time to thank the gentleman from Indiana [Mr. HAMILTON] and ask my colleagues to support this resolution, which sends an important message to the region.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GOODLATTE). 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. 175, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message in writing from the President of the United States was communicated to the House by Mr. Sherman Williams, one of his secretaries.

BANKRUPTCY JUDGESHIP ACT OF 1997

Mr. GEKAS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill

(H.R. 1596) to amend title 28, United States Code, to authorize the appointment of additional bankruptcy judges, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 1596

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 "Bankruptcy Judgeship Act of 1997".

SEC. 2. PERMANENT JUDGESHIPS.

Section 152(a)(2) of title 28, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in the item relating to the central district of California, by striking "21" and inserting "25";

(2) in the item relating to the district of Maryland, by striking "4" and inserting "5";

(3) in the item relating to the district of New Jersey, by striking "8" and inserting "9"; and

(4) in the item relating to the western district of Tennessee, by striking "4" and inserting "5".

SEC. 3. TEMPORARY JUDGESHIPS.

(a) APPOINTMENTS.—The following judgeship positions shall be filled in the manner prescribed in section 152(a)(1) of title 28, United States Code, for the appointment of bankruptcy judges provided for in section 152(a)(2) of such title:

(1) 1 additional bankruptcy judgeship for the eastern district of California.

(2) 1 additional bankruptcy judgeship for the southern district of Florida.

(3) 1 additional bankruptcy judgeship for the district of Maryland.

(4) 1 additional bankruptcy judgeship for the eastern district of Michigan.

(5) 1 additional bankruptcy judgeship for the southern district of Mississippi.

(6) 1 additional bankruptcy judgeship for the eastern district of New York.

(7) 1 additional bankruptcy judgeship for the northern district of New York.

(8) 1 additional bankruptcy judgeship for the southern district of New York.

(9) 1 additional bankruptcy judgeship for the eastern district of Pennsylvania.

(10) 1 additional bankruptcy judgeship for the middle district of Pennsylvania.

(11) 1 additional bankruptcy judgeship for the eastern district of Virginia.

(b) VACANCIES.—The first vacancy occurring in the office of a bankruptcy judge in each of the judicial districts set forth in subsection (a) which—

(1) results from the death, retirement, resignation, or removal of a bankruptcy judge, and

(2) occurs 5 years or more after the appointment date of a judge appointed under subsection (a), shall not be filled.

SEC. 4. EXTENSION.

The temporary bankruptcy judgeship position authorized for the district of Delaware by section 3(a)(3) of the Bankruptcy Judgeship Act of 1992 (28 U.S.C. 152 note) is extended until the first vacancy occurring in the office of a bankruptcy judge in that district resulting from the death, retirement, resignation, or removal of a bankruptcy judge and occurring 10 years or more after October 28, 1993. All other provisions of section 3 of the Bankruptcy Judgeship Act of 1992 remain applicable to such temporary judgeship position.

SEC. 5 TECHNICAL AMENDMENT.

The first sentence of section 152(a)(1) of title 28, United States Code, is amended to read as follows: "Each bankruptcy judge to be appointed for a judicial district as provided in paragraph (2) shall be appointed by