

bombing in the Jerusalem market and expresses the solidarity of the American people with the people of Israel in the face of this tragic and senseless act;

(2) Reaffirms the determination of the Congress to join with the government of Israel in fighting against international terrorism;

(3) Urges Yassir Arafat and officials of the Palestinian Authority to undertake immediately unequivocal action to bring to justice leaders of terrorist organizations and extremist groups and to eliminate all weapons and explosives in the hands of such groups;

(4) Reaffirms the commitment of the Congress of the United States to the peace process in the Middle East and urges all parties to work together to bring lasting peace and security without violence and terrorism to that region; and

(5) Urges the President and appropriate Executive agencies to provide all appropriate assistance to the government of Israel to provide medical and other assistance to the victims of this terrorist act, to bring to justice the terrorist leaders behind this and similar acts of violence, and to work to prevent such terrorist acts in the future.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the concurrent resolution.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 5 of rule I, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CALLAHAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks on the bill (H.R. 2159) making appropriations for foreign operations, export financing, and related programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1998, and for other purposes, and that I may include tabular and extraneous materials.

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

There was no objection.

#### FOREIGN OPERATIONS, EXPORT FINANCING, AND RELATED PROGRAMS APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1998

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of Thursday, July 24, 1997 and rule XXIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the consideration of the bill, H.R. 2159.

□ 1712

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the consideration of the bill (H.R. 2159) making appropriations for foreign operations, export financing, and related programs for the fiscal year ending

September 30, 1998, and for other purposes, with Mr. Thornberry in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The CHAIRMAN. Pursuant to the order of the House of Thursday, July 24, 1997, the bill is considered read for the first time.

The gentleman from Alabama [Mr. CALLAHAN] and the gentlewoman from California [Ms. PELOSI] each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Alabama [Mr. CALLAHAN].

Mr. CALLAHAN. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

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

Mr. CALLAHAN. Mr. Chairman, it is my privilege today to summarize the work of the Subcommittee on Foreign Operations as well as the full Committee on Appropriations in developing the fiscal 1998 Foreign Operations, Export Financing and Related Agencies appropriation bill.

First, I want to publicly express my appreciation for the cooperation extended by my colleague the gentlewoman from California [Ms. PELOSI], San Francisco to be specific, and her staff for their help in crafting this bill. Like the gentleman from Louisiana [Mr. LIVINGSTON] and the gentleman from Wisconsin [Mr. OBEY] before us, the ranking minority member and chairman do not agree with every detail of this bill, but we jointly recommend this bill to the House.

Again, this year the committee recommends a bill that is less than in previous years. We as well as our counterparts in the Senate fully recognize that foreign programs are not entitlements and must be subjected to the same scrutiny as domestic programs.

This year less than 5 percent of the money in this bill goes to the headline countries, such as Bosnia and Cambodia and Haiti. Another 43 percent supports the Middle East peace process, and that amount will not increase. But most of the money goes elsewhere to places where diplomats are seldom seen. What is it used for? It helps children, it protects victims of disasters and war, it promotes responsible economic growth in poor countries, it creates jobs at home through trade and investment, and that is why the \$12.267 billion is needed to fund this appropriations bill.

□ 1715

Let me move on to some of the specifics in this bill, beginning with the possible impact of the Congressional Budget Resolution.

At \$12.267 billion in discretionary budget authority, this bill is now \$233 million under our 602(b) allocation, it is \$4.6 billion less than the President's request, and \$4.5 billion less than the Senate bill. It is also \$87,000 below last year's appropriation bill. Let me once again reemphasize that this year, once

again, in voting for the final passage of this bill, Members will be cutting foreign aid as we have done for the last 2 years.

Not every dollar level nor every policy in this bill will find its way into the final conference report in September. The President has no objection to the House passage of this bill, but his advisers signal that he is unlikely to sign a bill at this appropriation level. The House conferees will do our best to hold the line, but the final outcome will be different from what we recommend today, I am sure.

Let me move on to some of the policy issues we have addressed this year, and then to some of the major programs funded through this measure.

The committee again directs through the report language that Israel and Egypt receive the traditional amount of economic and support funds and military assistance. However, leaders of Israel and Egypt have publicly indicated their intention to gradually reduce the burden of economic support by American taxpayers. Our efforts are complicated by the urgent needs of Jordan, Israel's principal peace partner today.

With regard to the South Caucasus and Black Sea-Aegean region, the committee has worked hard to develop a balanced approach. The bill language directs the administration to provide humanitarian assistance to conflictive zones throughout the South Caucasus, including Karabagh for the first time.

We also provide for democracy training in Azerbaijan, and a cap of \$40 million in ESF for Turkey, half of which is to be in the form of projects for specific purposes, as directed by section 571. Finally, the committee has reiterated current law with regard to trade and export agencies in the region.

Our chairman, the gentleman from Louisiana [Mr. LIVINGSTON], and the gentleman from Illinois [Mr. PORTER] and the gentleman from Michigan [Mr. KNOLLENBERG] have worked hard on the provisions I have just discussed.

They and the managers oppose all amendments that would disadvantage the United States' efforts to mediate conflict in the Caucasus and Aegean regions.

There are several policy regions involving spending in our own hemisphere. Many of our Members favor tighter control over training at the School of the Americas. We have included language in the bill this year which I believe will address most of the concerns. Before taking a position on any amendment to ban IMET funding for the School of the Americas, I ask all Members to take time to read the committee's bill language on page 29.

Guatemala, Haiti, and Panama are three other countries that have drawn attention from many Members. The committee welcomes and supports the peace settlement in Guatemala. Several Members had the opportunity to witness this first hand in April of this year.