

By rejecting this ultimatum, Greece proved its courage, strength, an dedication to preserving democracy. Winston Churchill said it best: "Don't say that Greeks fight like heroes, say that heroes fight like Greeks." The soldiers and statesmen of this great land not only helped Greece and Europe free themselves from the shackles of the swastika, but their actions ensured that the future of democracy and freedom would continue to be strong and grow throughout the world.

Greece is one of only three nations in the world that has allied with the United States in every major international conflict this century. The actions that the Greeks took against the Axis powers, and communist rebels during and after World War II, cost many lives. However, Greece prevailed and emerged as the strong and victorious democracy it is today.

Mr. Speaker, Greeks from around the world are proud of the actions taken by their home country during World War II. I commend those who struggled, fought, sacrificed and lost their lives in the fight to restore and preserve the liberty and democracy Greeks and Greek-Americans enjoy today.

As a member of the Congressional Caucus on Hellenic Issues, I will continue to work to ensure that the people of Greece continue to enjoy the freedoms they have today and will continue to work with my colleagues to bring justice to the people of Cyprus. The human rights abuses taking place on this island go against everything the soldiers and leaders of Greece fought so hard to save and preserve on October 28th, 1940.

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the valiant Greek resistance against the Axis powers during World War II. Greece was the last stronghold in Continental Europe to fall to the Axis.

Today marks the anniversary of the Greek refusal of Mussolini's ultimatum to surrender to Italian forces. On October 28, 1940, the Greek government issued a resounding "OXI," (NO) to the Italian Fascists. A month after the invasion began, the last Italian soldier was driven from Greek soil and the Greek army was fighting Italian Fascist forces in Albania.

The rout of Mussolini's forces in Albania required Hitler to divert valuable troops and arms to invade Greece in April 1941. Nazi forces faced fierce resistance in Crete and Macedonia. The Greek campaign delayed the planned invasion of the Soviet Union by several critical weeks.

The Germans were never able to occupy more than two-thirds of Greece. The Greek national resistance continued fighting in the rugged mountain terrain. Greek civilians and clergy sought to protect Greek Jews from the occupying forces at great personal risk.

Hitler diverted 50 battalions from the Eastern front and North Africa to Greece. In 1943, the Nazis were distracted into believing that the main Allied assault would occur in the Balkans, thereby enabling the Sicilian invasion. Greek Army units in exile also played an important role in the Allied campaign in North Africa.

Mr. Speaker, the resounding "No" Greece sent Mussolini 57 years ago marked the beginning of the valiant Greek resistance to invasion and occupation during World War II. Greece proved itself a faithful ally throughout the war effort with heroism and self sacrifice and at great cost in human lives and suffering.

A VICTORY FOR FAIRNESS AND JUSTICE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New Jersey [Mr. PALLONE] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, today the House rejected by a convincing margin a motion to instruct the conferees on the Commerce, Justice, State appropriations bill, which would have resulted in thousands of legal immigrants being forced to leave the country. I was proud to join with the majority of Members of the House in opposing this proposal. I rise to express my appreciation for the vote today in this body, which represents a victory for fairness and justice.

The result here in this Chamber today also shows that this body can work together in a bipartisan fashion on sensible and fair legislation to maintain the integrity of our immigration laws, while still keeping the doors of immigration open to those who play by the rules.

Speaking in opposition to the motion offered by the gentleman from California [Mr. ROHRBACHER] was a diverse cross-section of Members from both sides of the aisle, including both the chairman and the ranking Democrat of the Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, State and Judiciary Appropriations, as well as the chairman of the Committee on International Relations and the Democratic leader. Speaker after speaker, Democrat and Republican alike, cited the indisputable reasons for opposing the motion to instruct and for supporting permanent extension of Section 245(i) of the Immigration and Nationality Act in the Commerce, Justice, State and Judiciary Appropriations legislation.

Mr. Speaker, as we heard during today's debate, Section 245(i) allows certain immigrants who have fallen out of status to have their papers processed here in the United States in order to become permanent residents, rather than forcing them to return to their home country to apply.

Those covered by Section 245(i) must pay a \$1,000 fee before obtaining their visa. Last year, these fees generated more than \$200 million for the INS, 80 percent of which is earmarked for INS detention purposes.

Mr. Speaker, 245(i) does not change the order in which a person's visa is processed. Contrary to the claims made by some during today's debate, it does not give illegal immigrants the right to live in the United States.

If we had passed the motion to instruct today, we would have torn families apart and deprived many families of their sole source of support. We would have forced the mother of children who are U.S. citizens to be separated from those children. We would have forced children who have grown up in the United States to wait out their applications for permanent residence in countries they barely know, and deprived many businesses, includ-

ing small businesses of valued employees. We would have lost services of foreign-born doctors, providing much needed care to medically underserved areas, and forced many churches and other houses of worship to lose valued participants, many of whom give their services voluntarily, and we would also have imposed a 30 percent increase in the caseload that our embassies and consulates around the world must deal with.

So I have to say, we have heard strong signals of support for permanent 245(i) from businesses, from churches, from professional organizations, labor unions and community groups. Our State Department has benefited from the \$100 million in additional annual revenues, while the reduced caseload in our consular offices overseas has freed up additional resources for providing resources to Americans traveling abroad and to enhanced anti-fraud efforts.

Given the belt tightening we have imposed on the State Department in recent years, it only makes sense to maintain a program that reduces costs and frees up resources. Mr. Speaker, I heard my colleague from New Jersey talk about the Statue of Liberty. We are a Nation of immigrants. The American dream that attracted many of our ancestors still has profound meaning for people from around the world, from Latin America to Africa, from Ireland to the lands of the former Soviet Union, from India to the Far East.

We must guard against illegal immigration and punish those who deliberately violate our immigration laws, but we should not punish those who came here the right way, who played by the rules and who are simply the victims of an innocent mistake or a bureaucratic error.

Permanently extending 245(i) is not only the rational thing to do from an economic standpoint, it was the morally right thing to do. I was proud to vote to defeat the motion to instruct the conferees. This House, Mr. Speaker, can be proud for defeating this motion and for supporting fair and rational immigration law once again.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mrs. CUBIN (at the request of Mr. ARMEY), from October 21 to the end of the first session of the 105th Congress, on account of medical reasons.

Mrs. KELLY (at the request of Mr. ARMEY), after 6 p.m. on October 28 and today, on account of medical reasons.

Mr. YATES (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT), after 4 p.m. today, on account of personal reasons.

SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to: