

which were imposed because of concerns over Pakistan's nuclear proliferation activities. But I do want to thank the conferees for maintaining the prohibition on IMET assistance to Pakistan.

Overall, this is a good conference report, and I urge my colleagues to support it.

Mr. CALLAHAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Georgia, also a member of our subcommittee.

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, I just want to say, I think this bill has a lot of good things. It is a product of a great compromise and a lot of work.

One of the things I think is very significant and that is a debate we do not have much in our country is what is going on with the nuclear weapons stockpile in Russia. We often concentrate on a lot of issues, but we never ask ourselves as a country, as free people, what are they doing with all their nuclear arms? This bill starts to address that by withholding assistance to the Russian Government unless we know exactly what they are doing with their nuclear arsenal, and hopefully they are not selling it around the globe.

There are a lot of good things in here. It increases international narcotics control by \$17 million over last year, bringing the 1998 level to \$230 million.

But there are some things it does not do which have been addressed, and we look forward to working with the administration on that.

We want to address the issue of the U.N. arrearage. We think that the United Nations has taken too big of an assessment against the United States, and we want to work through that. We also want to work with this IMF funding to have stability in some of the developing countries.

We look forward to working with the administration on that and solving these problems, and we also hope the administration will work with us in making sure that none of this money goes to groups who choose to lobby for liberalization of abortion laws, and also groups who may tend to have some of their own moneys used to support abortion.

We think there are a lot of things we can get together with the administration on, and we look forward to that process. Hopefully the authorization bill that will come maybe as early as tomorrow will address this.

Mr. CALLAHAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Iowa [Mr. LEACH].

Mr. LEACH. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the distinguished chairman for yielding me time. Let me say I think his leadership on this issue has been nothing less than estimable, and I intend to support his bill, but I think all of us in this body have to understand that the intricacies of single-issue group politics is bedeviling our foreign policy at this time and jeopardizing the national interests of the United States.

If this Congress adjourns without passing fast track, without passing U.N. reform and arrearages, and if we do nothing about the IMF replenishment, there is a distinct possibility that tomorrow will not be the last day of this year's session. The last two issues are of vital significance this week, and we may well be called back into a special session. This Member would support it.

The fact of the matter is we need to address the U.N. at this time. We need to address international economic circumstances as implied in the IMF. I am hopeful we will do so.

□ 2300

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

I too want to associate myself with the remarks of the gentleman from Iowa [Mr. LEACH] in regard to the IMF replenishment and the U.N. arrearages. I hope that before this Congress adjourns, that those issues will be appropriately addressed and successfully addressed.

I believe that our chairman, the gentleman from Alabama [Mr. CALLAHAN], as I mentioned, has provided great leadership in this legislation, which is almost a match of the administration's request in terms of funding in order to promote U.S. global leadership, promote our exports, maintain the peace, alleviate poverty, and to maintain the peace, I think I said that twice, but it deserves mentioning more than one time.

Mr. Speaker, in the interests of time, we are not going to hear from all of the Democrats on the committee, but I want to acknowledge the distinguished service of the gentleman from Illinois [Mr. YATES] and the gentleman from California [Mr. TORRES], who did not speak, in addition to the gentleman from Wisconsin [Mr. OBEY] and the gentlewoman from New York [Mrs. LOWEY].

But I know I speak for them and our Republican colleagues on the committee when I extend our best wishes to the gentleman from Pennsylvania [Mr. FOGLIETTA], a member of our subcommittee who today left our committee and was sworn in as the U.S. Ambassador to Italy. I think every Member of this House is very proud of the service of Mr. FOGLIETTA here, wishes him much success in his new endeavor personally, and especially for our great country.

With that, I urge our colleagues to support this legislation.

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

Mr. CALLAHAN. Mr. Speaker, it is my intention in just a second to yield back, but I yield myself such time as I may consume to briefly explain that the President requested \$16.8 billion, and the House passed \$12.26 billion. The Senate sent us a message of \$16.8 billion, and the conference resolved it at \$13.1 billion, but the net appropriation is \$12.7 billion, very close to what we passed in the House.

Some of the remarks that were made about the IMF, as well as the U.N. problem, have great merit and I do not deny that. But once again, this is the foreign operations appropriation bill. We are cutting the President's request by \$4 billion. That is basically where we were. At this time, Mr. Speaker, I ask for a favorable vote.

Mr. FOX of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the Foreign Operations Appropriations bill for two main reasons.

First, the appropriation for Israel will help to insure the survival of this thriving democracy in the Middle East. No other country has greater ties to America.

Second, I am pleased that Armenia will benefit from this legislation by increased recognition of its importance to the United States and support by our country.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LAHOOD). Without objection, the previous question is ordered on the conference report.

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the conference report.

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XV, the yeas and nays are ordered.

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

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 2777

Mr. GEJDENSON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to have my name removed as a cosponsor of H.R. 2777.

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

There was no objection.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1998

Mrs. MYRICK, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 105-403) on the resolution (H. Res. 324) providing for consideration of the Senate amendments to the bill (H.R. 2607) making appropriations for the government of the District of Columbia and other activities chargeable in whole or in part against the revenues of said District for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1998, and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

Mrs. MYRICK. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 324 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 324

Resolved, That upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to take from the Speaker's table the bill (H.R. 2607) making appropriations for the government of the District of Columbia and other activities chargeable in whole or in part against the revenues of said District for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1998, and for other purposes, with Senate amendments thereto, and