

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 concurrent resolution, House Concurrent Resolution 218, as amended.

The question was taken.

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 5, rule I, and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

SENSE OF CONGRESS REGARDING LITTLE LEAGUE BASEBALL

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and concur in the Senate concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 37) expressing the sense of the Congress that Little League Baseball Incorporated was established to support and develop Little League baseball worldwide and that its international character and activities should be recognized.

The Clerk read as follows:

S. CON. RES. 37

Whereas Little League Baseball Incorporated is a nonprofit membership organization, chartered by the Congress of the United States in 1964 to promote, develop, supervise, and assist youth worldwide in participation in Little League baseball and to instill in youth the spirit and competitive will to win, values of team play, and healthful association with other youth under proper leadership;

Whereas Little League Baseball Incorporated has chartered more than 18,000 local Little League baseball or softball leagues in 85 countries, across 6 continents, through which more than 198,000 teams and 3,000,000 youth worldwide come together in healthy competition, learning the value of teamwork, individual responsibility, and respect for others;

Whereas Little League Baseball Incorporated provides administrative and other services, including financial assistance from time to time, to such leagues without any obligation to reimburse Little League Baseball Incorporated;

Whereas Little League Baseball Incorporated has established a United States foundation for the advancement and support of Little League baseball in the United States and around the world, and has also created in Poland through its representative, Dr. Creighton Hale, the Poland Little League Baseball Foundation for the construction of Little League baseball facilities and playing fields, in which youth may participate worldwide in international competitions, and is providing all the funds for such construction;

Whereas the efforts of Little League Baseball Incorporated are supported by millions of volunteers worldwide, as parents, league officials, managers, coaches, and auxiliary members and countless volunteer agencies, including sponsors, all of whom give their time and effort without remuneration, in service to others, to advance the goals of Little League Baseball Incorporated and thereby assist the economic transformation of societies worldwide, the improvement in the quality of life of all citizens and the promotion of a civil international community; and

Whereas, as demonstrated by the success of its efforts worldwide, Little League Baseball Incorporated is the largest nongovernmental international youth sports organization in the world and continues to grow: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That (a) it is the sense of the Congress that Little League Baseball Incorporated is international in character and has engendered international goodwill through its worldwide activities, particularly among the youth of the world.

(b) The Congress reaffirms that Little League Baseball Incorporated was established to support and develop Little League baseball worldwide, through the chartering of local leagues and the provision of assistance to such local leagues, through the creation or location of facilities in other countries, and the provision of other support as appropriate, including financial support, without right of reimbursement or repayment.

(c) The Congress calls upon the parliamentary bodies and government officials of other nations, particularly those that participate in Little League baseball, to recognize and celebrate the international character of Little League baseball.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH) and the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. LUTHER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH).

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

(Mr. SMITH of New Jersey asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on this measure.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote unanimously in favor of S. Con. Res. 37. This resolution makes clear that Little League Baseball Incorporated is a bona fide nongovernmental organization and that it should be treated as such by our government and those of other nations.

Little League Baseball Incorporated is a nonprofit membership organization that was chartered by Congress in 1964 to promote participation by children around the world in Little League baseball. Unfortunately, the charter did not explicitly use the words "nongovernmental organization." That phrase and its acronym, NGO, were not in vogue in those days. So there has been some confusion, particularly in nations where Little League baseball is relatively new, about the undeniable fact that this organization indeed is a not-for-profit organization.

Because the U.S. Congress originally chartered this organization, it falls to us to clarify the matter. This resolution calls on the parliamentary bodies and government officials of other nations to recognize and celebrate the international charter of Little League Baseball, the largest nongovernmental

international youth sports organization in the world, with over 18,000 local leagues in 85 countries supported by a network of many thousands of volunteers and coaches around the world.

S. Con. Res. 37 was introduced by Senator COVERDELL and has already passed the Senate. It also passed the Subcommittee on International Operations and Human Rights by a voice vote on February 12 of this year. On April 1 the full Committee on International Relations ordered the bill favorably reported, again by a unanimous vote.

Mr. Speaker, I want to point out the relentless dedication of the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MCDADE) on this issue. The gentleman from Pennsylvania helped draft the Senate resolution as well as a parallel House Resolution. He brought the resolution to the attention of our subcommittee and full committee, and he has pushed every step of the way to ensure the success of this resolution. He deserves the credit for its passage on the floor today.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this resolution expressing the sense of Congress that Little League baseball is international in character and has engendered international good will.

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I commend the gentleman from Pennsylvania for introducing the companion measure in the House.

The resolution affirms congressional support for the Little League organization and calls upon other governments to recognize and celebrate the international character of Little League baseball. In the House, the companion to this resolution has received widespread bipartisan support.

Mr. Speaker, we all know Little League is a good organization, encouraging good, healthy life-styles for our young people, and I am happy to support its activities for kids around the world. I urge adoption of this resolution.

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

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of S. Con. Res. 37, the Little League Baseball Resolution.

Senator COVERDELL and Representative MCDADE introduced this resolution last year in support of the international activities of little league baseball. The Senate has already acted on this resolution, and I support House passage today. The measure is broadly supported in the House, with a total of 42 co-sponsors.

This non-controversial measure is designed to reaffirm the importance and the values exemplified by the long-standing American institution known as "little league baseball".

In addition, it expresses the sense of Congress that Little League Baseball Incorporated was established to develop Little League Baseball worldwide recognizing that its international activities are similar to other non-governmental organizations.

As a former president of our local Little League in my hometown in Middletown, NY, I am pleased to recommend approval of this resolution, affirming our support for the worthy international activities of Little League Baseball.

Mr. McDADE. Mr. Speaker, it is my very great pleasure to rise today in support of Senate Concurrent Resolution 37 which I wrote, on behalf of Little League Baseball, Incorporated.

I'd like to thank my good friend, the gentleman from New Jersey, Mr. SMITH, for bringing this resolution to the floor. I would also like to express my gratitude to the Chairman of the International Relations Committee, Mr. GILMAN, for moving this measure. I am also grateful to Ranking Member LEE HAMILTON and to the 45 bipartisan cosponsors of the House companion of this resolution which is so important to Little League Baseball.

As the sponsor of the companion resolution in the House and the Representative of the World Headquarters of Little League, Williamsport, Pennsylvania, I ask that my colleagues join with me in supporting this resolution which recognizes the international character of Little League Baseball.

Today's Little League Baseball has programs in 85 countries on six continents. It brings three million young people worldwide together every year to learn the value of teamwork and individual responsibility in a setting of healthy competition. Clearly, Little League Baseball is international.

However, when the Congress acted in 1964 to incorporate Little League Baseball, we failed to foresee that it would one day take the joys and disciplines of the American game of baseball to children around the world. Now that Little League Baseball has gone worldwide, it is time that we recognize its international character and activities.

Without an official imprimatur concerning its international character, Little League was unable to get a much-needed exemption from the Value-Added Tax from the Finance Ministry of the Republic of Poland related to the cost of building the Little League Baseball European Training Center in Kutno, Poland. Despite that setback, Little League has finished Phase I of the Center. Ultimately, the Center will have four little league-sized and three regulation-sized fields, two practice fields, dining and laundry facilities, a dormitory, and a conference center as well as other athletic facilities and administration buildings.

I am delighted to tell my colleagues that the Polish Ministry of Sports and Tourism recently awarded Little League a generous grant toward the cost of a regulation baseball field at the facility in Kutno.

I hope sincerely that the House will pass this resolution and that the nations of the world will recognize Little League's international qualities and extend to them all appropriate privileges.

Let's go to bat for Little League!

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

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH) that the House suspend the rules and concur in the Senate concurrent resolution, S. Con. Res. 37.

The question was taken.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 5, rule I, and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

SENSE OF THE HOUSE REGARDING ONGOING VIOLENCE IN ALGERIA

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 374) expressing the sense of the House of Representatives regarding the ongoing violence in Algeria, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 374

Whereas in January 1992 Algeria annulled the second round of parliamentary elections; Whereas the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS), which favored the creation of a theocratic state, expected to win in those parliamentary elections;

Whereas the suspension of the Algerian elections in January 1992 triggered an escalation of terrorism;

Whereas the Islamic Salvation Army (AIS), the armed wing of FIS, started terrorist activities in the wake of the annulled elections, but has since declared a unilateral ceasefire;

Whereas the Armed Islamic Group (GIA), a nonpolitical radical Islamic movement, has been responsible for carrying out terrorist activities, particularly since the AIS ceasefire;

Whereas the United States Government has listed the GIA as a foreign terrorist organization;

Whereas tens of thousands of Algerians have lost their lives since the onset of the violence in 1992, with hundreds estimated to have lost their lives in the holy month of Ramadan that ended in January 1998;

Whereas the violence perpetrated by terrorists has become increasingly barbaric, leaving thousands of innocent civilians, particularly women and children, dead or injured;

Whereas the Government of Algeria has not agreed to the establishment of an international inquiry into the massacres;

Whereas the democratic process has progressed in Algeria despite the current terrorist activity; and

Whereas the United States has a strong interest in seeing the development of a democratic and peaceful Algeria: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) strongly condemns the Armed Islamic Group (GIA) and any other terrorist groups responsible for the atrocities being committed in Algeria;

(2) condemns the perpetrators of violence and other crimes against the fundamental human rights of Algerians;

(3) urges those who continue to engage in violence and the fundamental abuse of human rights to discontinue such activity;

(4) calls on the Government of Algeria to take all necessary and legal steps to prevent violence and stop it once it occurs;

(5) encourages the Government of Algeria to cooperate with the international community to ensure transparency in the investigation and combating of terrorist activity, including the use of objective investigators into the massacres;

(6) acknowledges that the Government of Algeria has made progress toward democratization and urges the government to engage in dialogue with all elements of Algerian society who have renounced violence, in order to further democracy and promote the rule of law;

(7) urges the United States Government to continue to work closely with the Government of Algeria to bring about the development and implementation of political and economic reforms as well as the full restoration of law and order in Algeria;

(8) encourages the European Union and the Government of Algeria to further their cooperation against terrorism; and

(9) encourages the Algerian Government to accept the appointment of a Special Rapporteur by the United Nations or another qualified independent organization to conduct an inquiry into the violations of human rights in Algeria.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE) and the gentleman from Florida (Mr. HASTINGS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE).

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 H. Res. 374.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BARRETT of Nebraska). 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.

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

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, this resolution makes note of the ongoing crisis in Algeria and condemns the horrific wave of killings there. Throughout the Muslim holy month of Ramadan that begins on December 30 nearly 1,300 innocent Algerians, including women and children, were brutally murdered. Another 100 Algerians were killed earlier this month; and, according to the U.S. State Department Human Rights report, 70,000 Algerian men, women and children have been brutally murdered during the last 6 years, 70,000.

Much of this crisis in Algeria began after the annulled 1992 elections. An attempt at political reform by the government at the time included the legalization of opposition political parties.

One of the parties, the Islamic Salvation Front, or FIS, wanted to create an Islamic state. They were on the brink of a parliamentary victory in January, 1992, when the military forced the President's resignation and annulled the election. The banned FIS has since renounced its violence, but a new