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## House of Representatives

The House met at 9:00 a.m.

The Chaplain, Rev. James David Ford, D.D., offered the following prayer:

O gracious God, whose love is given freely to all creation and whose mercy is without end, accept our prayers and petitions this day.

We place before You, O God, our thanksgivings and praise for all Your goodness to us and to all people, for You have blessed us when we did not deserve and You have healed us in spite of our errors. We confess that we have too often missed the mark and not been receptive to Your grace.

Open our thoughts and minds to Your loving spirit, that we will be Your people and do the works of justice and of peace.

In Your name we pray, Amen.

### THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. KUCINICH) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. KUCINICH led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair desires to announce that pursuant to clause 4 of rule I, the Speaker signed the following enrolled bill on Thursday, June 25, 1998:

H.R. 2646, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow tax-free ex-

penditures from education individual retirement accounts for elementary and secondary school expenses, to increase the maximum annual amount of contributions to such accounts, and for other purposes.

### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair desires to make an announcement.

After consultation with the majority and minority leaders, and with their consent and approval, the Chair announces that during the joint meeting to hear an address by His Excellency, Emil Constantinescu, only the doors immediately opposite the Speaker and those on his right and left will be open.

No one will be allowed on the floor of the House who does not have the privilege of the floor of the House.

Due to the large attendance that is anticipated, the Chair feels that the rule regarding the privilege of the floor must be strictly adhered to.

Children of Members will not be permitted on the floor, and the cooperation of all Members is requested.

### RECESS

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to the order of the House of Tuesday, July 14, 1998, the Chair declares the House in recess, subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 9 o'clock and 7 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess, subject to the call of the Chair.

During the recess, beginning at about 9:54 a.m., the following proceedings were had:

□ 0954

JOINT MEETING BY THE HOUSE AND SENATE TO HEAR AN ADDRESS BY HIS EXCELLENCY H.E. EMIL CONSTANTINESCU, PRESIDENT OF ROMANIA

The Speaker of the House presided.

The Assistant to the Sergeant at Arms, Richard Wilson, announced the President pro tempore and Members of the U.S. Senate, who entered the Hall of the House of Representatives, the President pro tempore taking the chair at the right of the Speaker, and the Members of the Senate the seats reserved for them.

The SPEAKER. The Chair appoints as members of the committee on the part of the House to escort his excellency, H.E. Emil Constantinescu, into the Chamber:

The gentleman from Texas (Mr. ARMEY);

the gentleman from California (Mr. COX);

the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN);

the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. BEREUTER);

the gentleman from New York (Mr. SOLOMON);

the gentlewoman from Washington (Ms. DUNN);

the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. FOX);

the gentlewoman from Connecticut (Mrs. KENNELLY);

the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER);

the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. HAMILTON);

the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS); and

the gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI).

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The President pro tempore of the Senate, at the direction of that body, appoints the following Senators as members of the committee on the part of the Senate to escort the President of Romania into the House Chamber:

The Senator from Florida (Mr. MACK);

the Senator from Indiana (Mr. COATS);

the Senator from Indiana (Mr. LUGAR);

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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the Senator from Oregon (Mr. SMITH); the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. DASCHLE); and the Senator from Delaware (Mr. BIDEN).

□ 1000

The Assistant to the Sergeant at Arms announced the Acting Dean of the Diplomatic Corps, His Excellency Dunstan Weston Kamara, Ambassador of Zambia.

The Acting Dean of the Diplomatic Corps entered the Hall of the House of Representatives and took the seat reserved for him.

The Assistant to the Sergeant at Arms announced the Cabinet of the President of the United States.

The members of the Cabinet of the President of the United States entered the Hall of the House of Representatives and took the seats reserved for them in front of the Speaker's rostrum.

At 10 o'clock and 5 minutes, a.m., the Assistant to the Sergeant at Arms announced His Excellency H.E. Emil Constantinescu, President of Romania.

His Excellency H.E. Emil Constantinescu, President of Romania, escorted by the committee of Senators and Representatives, entered the Hall of the House of Representatives, and stood at the Clerk's desk.

(Applause, the Members rising.)

The SPEAKER. Members of Congress, it is my great privilege and I deem it a high honor and personal pleasure to present to you His Excellency Emil Constantinescu, President of Romania.

(Applause, the Members rising.)

ADDRESS BY HIS EXCELLENCY  
H.E. EMIL CONSTANTINESCU,  
PRESIDENT OF ROMANIA

President CONSTANTINESCU. Mr. Speaker, Honorable Senators and Representatives, Ladies and Gentlemen: Thank you for your warm welcome.

It is a rare honor to be able to address those who make the laws of the United States, the laws of the country of freedom, and who stand as guardians of fundamental human rights in the United States and all over the world.

Throughout its history, your country has been a beacon of hope for the oppressed and the needy, a source of inspiration for the creative, the courageous and the achieving. It has always been, and may it ever remain, the land of the free and the home of the brave.

Romania and the United States have a strong and growing relationship. We are linked to the United States by technology, know-how and capital. We are joined by hundreds of thousands of Romania's sons and daughters, people who came to this country over the years and whose descendants now live in every corner of your magnificent land. But ever more importantly, Romanians have always sent to America their most cherished treasure: Their hopes for freedom.

We call America the Land of Freedom because this has been its guiding

principle, as well as a source of inspiration to other countries around the world. But the term "Land of Freedom" stands also for a virtual community of like-minded and like-hearted people all over the world who believe in the defense of liberty, of human rights, and of human dignity. People of all races and backgrounds and religions are welcomed to join.

Regardless of where they live on the globe, people who believe in freedom are citizens of the virtual Land of Freedom. Since the fall of Communism, its numbers have grown steadily and enthusiastically. Since 1989, 23 million Romanians are among the proudest members.

Your Founding Fathers have written: When a long train of abuses and usurpation evinces a design to reduce people under absolute despotism, it is their right, it is their duty to throw off such government, and to provide new guards for their future security. This is what the Romania people have done.

My country threw off the yoke of Communism in 1989, and in 1996, it achieved its first fully democratic transfer of power. As President of a fully democratic Romania, I bring you the greetings and the hopes of my fellow citizens. It is their desire to live in the Land of Freedom alongside you and all other people who value freedom, human rights and human dignity. This desire has brought me to America and to this historic Chamber today.

In the new global order, this Land of Freedom spans the globe from West to East and from North to South.

□ 1015

It is an expansive land of constantly changing landscape and with ever-changing contours. Its elusive borders are defined by each and every individual who is willing to defend liberty, property, and respect the rule of law.

But in such an ever-changing landscape, people need anchors to keep steady and stable in a sea of change. As the messenger of the Romanian people, I am here to tell you that my country can and wants to be exactly that, an anchor of stability in the sometimes storm-ridden sea of southeastern Europe. But for that anchor to keep steady, we need the acknowledgment and support of the United States of America.

We, the people of Romania, think we have earned it. Even as Romania was dragged into World War II by the Nazi regime, 6,000 Romanian citizens joined countless Romanian Americans to serve proudly in the United States Army, seeing action in the Pacific and North Africa. Some of these veterans are here today. On behalf of the Romanian people, I salute you. In defiance of the country's unfortunate war alliance, more than 1,400 American pilots and soldiers were sheltered by the Romanian people, people who refused to see the Americans as enemies, and who insisted on seeing them as defenders of freedom.

During the 1950s and 1960s, hundreds of thousands of my countrymen were being thrown in concentration camps and jails, tortured and killed only because they refused to yield their freedom. Farmers were jailed because they would not allow their land to be confiscated. Priests were tortured when they refused to forsake their beliefs. Intellectuals were sent to camps because they chose to defend freedom and democracy.

In all the eastern and Central European countries, the armed resistance against communism lasted longest in Romania. Romania's freedom fighters were thousands of anti-Communist guerilla fighters who operated in the Carpathian mountains, including one in my childhood village. The last members were not subdued until 1961. The terrible dramas of those death-sunken times, of suffering and humiliation, were, and perhaps still are, sealed off in silence and oblivion. Romanians paid a terrible price for their fierce refusal to surrender their freedom. Romania was subjected to the harshest totalitarian dictatorship in the region: The regime of the dictator Nicolae Ceausescu.

And yet, in 1989, Romanians summoned the courage to rise up against that dictatorship: Hundreds of thousands of people took to the streets, defying Ceausescu's tanks and troops. Bare-chested young people chanted: "We shall die, but we shall be free". Over 12,000 of them paid dearly with their lives, and thousands more were injured during the anti-Communist revolution in Romania, the only country in central and Eastern Europe to have paid in blood the price of its freedom. Please allow me here, in this temple of democracy and of freedom, to pay homage to all the Romanians, known or unknown, who have suffered and died for liberty, and, indeed, to all people who fight in its cause, anywhere in the world.

I am here today as the representative of a free, Democratic and proud Romania. I am here to tell you that you may always count on us to be vigilant guardians of the Democratic values we share with you, the values we have fought so hard to regain.

But it is not enough to have freedom. Freedom must be maintained and defended on a constant basis. I feel the best way to meet this challenge is by working together in cooperative partnerships with other nations. For I think that all of those who believe in freedom ought to have the means to defend their beliefs, together. Romania was the first country to join the United States in its Partnership For Peace, and my fellow citizens have now invested their hopes in one day joining an expanded NATO.

Some of you have strongly supported the enlargement of NATO to include Romania. For that we are grateful. Others have a less positive view, especially of a so-called "second wave" of expansion. I respect your right to differ. But as the first Central European