

ground that is hauntingly familiar; it is also American and European diplomacy."

"Once again the victims are being asked to negotiate with those who are attacking them. In addition, there is an active attempt to impose a moral equivalence between Serbian forces and the small band of Albanians who have taken up arms against them."

I have written today to President Clinton the following letter:

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT: The on-going conflict in Kosovo has produced over a quarter of a million refugees and internally displaced persons—women, children and the elderly—who have been driven from their homes by a brutal Serbian campaign that has haunting similarities to what occurred in Bosnia earlier this decade. The President of Serbia and Montenegro, Slobodan Milosevic, has failed to keep his pledges and assurances throughout the course of this year to U.S. and other diplomats to permit these people to return in safety to their homes. Now, as the winter is fast approaching, we are facing an impending humanitarian disaster with the real prospect of seeing tens of thousands of vulnerable people freezing to death on the mountains and in the forests of Kosovo.

Mr. President, you have said that the United States would not permit another Bosnia to occur in the Balkans. I am appealing to you now, before it is too late, to keep faith with that commitment. It is imperative that the United States, with or without other members of the international community, act to force Milosevic to end his barbaric policies aimed at civilians in Kosovo. What we are witnessing now is not a diplomatic, political or military problem, it is a humanitarian one and we should address it on that basis.

As Senator Bob Dole has written in today's edition of the Washington Post:

"Half-measures and interim deals will not do. \* \* \* American officials have pledged not to allow the crimes against humanity that we witnessed in Bosnia to be repeated in Kosovo. \* \* \* What is urgently needed now is American leadership and a firm commitment to a genuine and just peace."

It is important that Milosevic fully understands that the Congress is supportive of U.S. efforts to curb his vicious assaults on Albanian civilians. Whatever his reasons, wanton attack on civilians constitutes a grave breach of international law.

It is critical, therefore, that the House joins our colleagues in the Senate and agree to this resolution today in order to send a strong message that Milosevic is accountable. Accordingly, I urge our members to support House Concurrent Resolution 304.

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, with so much legislative business left to conduct this session, there may be some who are wondering why we should care about Slobodan Milosevic.

We should care because on March 23, 1989, Slobodan Milosevic unilaterally changed the Yugoslav Constitution, revoking the autonomous status of Kosovo.

We should care because, in a referendum held in 1989, 87 percent of those Kosovars eligible to vote approved independence by an overwhelming 99 percent.

We should care because two of the most devastating wars in history began in the Balkans.

But most importantly, Mr. Speaker, we should care because Slobodan Milosevic has initiated his second genocidal campaign to maintain his dictatorship through terror.

When Milosevic sought to tighten his grip in Bosnia the world stood by and watched. We watched as Milosevic drove three million Bosnians from their homes. We watched as Milosevic ordered the killing of more than 250,000 Bosnians. And we watched as Milosevic directed the rape of 40,000 Bosnian women and girls.

How long will we watch in Kosova?

Although 90 percent of Kosovars are ethnically Albanian, Milosevic has denied them entry to schools, he has denied them access to jobs, and he has denied them access to government. By instituting his own police force, he has entrenched his generals of genocide in every Kosovan community.

A recent Washington Post story tells of one home in Kosova. The home was burning to the ground. Reporters saw Milosevic's police force running from the scene. When asked how the fire started, one officer grinned and replied that the house was burning "Because it was made of wood."

The Butcher of Belgrade is at it again. By inciting the worst elements of Serbian nationalism and by exploiting existing tensions between Albanians and Serbs, Milosevic has driven as many as 200,000 Kosovars from their homes. Mass graves are again common in the Balkans. Civilians are being butchered when they can be caught and terrorized when they escape.

There can be no doubt that Milosevic has proven he is unworthy of stewardship over this place. It is incumbent upon us to ensure that he is held accountable for these atrocities and that he never commits them again.

Mr. Speaker, if we believe people have the right to be safe and secure in their homes—if we believe people have the right to live free from the fear of being murdered or raped because of their race—then we must stop this madman.

I urge my colleagues to join me in strong support of this resolution.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I strongly support House Concurrent Resolution 304, which expresses the sense of Congress that the United States should publicly declare that it considers there to be probable cause that Slobodan Milosevic has committed war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide. The resolution urges the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia to promptly review all information relating to Milosevic's possible criminal culpability with a view toward issuing an indictment. I am proud to be a cosponsor of this resolution.

Mr. Speaker, there is no justification for the massacre of hundreds of ethnic Albanians in Kosova. The pattern in Kosova is tragically all too familiar. The Serbian Army shells and burns villages. Among the dead are innocent men, women and children. More than a quarter of a million people in Kosova have already been driven from their homes since February. In addition, the U.S. government has received first-hand reports that Yugoslav military forces are separating males and females in villages and refugee groups in Losova and taking the men and boys to unknown sites.

This brutal, indiscriminate, disproportionate and unjustified use of violence must end. What Mr. Milosevic is about in Kosova, as in Bosnia before this, is ethnic cleansing on a massive scale.

It is important that the international community stand united against death and destruction

inflicted on Kosova by Serbia. The crisis in Kosova is not—as some have described it—an "internal affair" of Serbia. We must speak loudly and clearly. More than that, the time has come to back up words with actions. If the United States and the international community fail to take effective action to stop the violence in Kosova, the likelihood is that the conflict will grow and spread.

I urge the President and Secretary Albright to take a hard line against Slobodan Milosevic's repressive policies. To that end, I recently joined more than 80 concerned Members of the House in writing a letter to the President that said, "It is time to send a message to Milosevic that NATO will intervene if Serbian forces do not stop attacking ethnic Albanian citizens and destroying their villages."

Experience has shown that we cannot rely on Slobodan Milosevic's words. We must judge him by his actions and hold him accountable. House Concurrent Resolution 304 is an important step in that direction. It should by no means be the last step.

The horrendous killing and shelling of civilians must stop. I urge all my colleagues to support House Concurrent Resolution 304.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PETRI). 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, H. Con. Res. 304.

The question was taken.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. 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 and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceeding on this motion will be postponed.

□ 1330

#### CALLING ON GOVERNMENT OF CUBA TO EXTRADITE JOANNE CHESIMARD TO UNITED STATES

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 254) calling on the Government of Cuba to return to the United States convicted felon Joanne Chesimard and all other individuals who have fled the United States to avoid prosecution or confinement for criminal offenses and who are currently living freely in Cuba, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. CON. RES. 254

Whereas on May 2, 1973, Joanne Chesimard and 2 friends were stopped in their vehicle by New Jersey State Troopers James Harper and Werner Foerster on the New Jersey Turnpike;

Whereas while being questioned, Ms. Chesimard and the driver opened fire with automatic pistols striking Trooper Werner Foerster twice in the chest and Trooper James Harper in the left shoulder;

Whereas the suspects then turned Trooper Foerster's own weapon on him firing an additional two bullets into his head execution style;

Whereas this heinous and premeditated act resulted in the tragic death of New Jersey State Trooper Werner Foerster;

Whereas Trooper Foerster left behind a wife, Rose Foerster, and family;

Whereas in 1977, after a 6 week trial, a jury found Ms. Chesimard guilty of first-degree murder for the slaying of Trooper Foerster, a respected New Jersey State Trooper;

Whereas as a result of this conviction Ms. Chesimard was sentenced to life in a New Jersey State prison;

Whereas in 1979, Ms. Chesimard broke free from a maximum security cell at the Reformatory for Women in Clinton, New Jersey, with the help of 4 men who took a guard and prison van driver hostage;

Whereas after escaping prison, Ms. Chesimard fled to Cuba for political asylum;

Whereas the Federal Bureau of Investigation lists 77 felony fugitives known to have been granted safe haven by the Cuban Government, including Robert Vesco, Frank Terpil, and Victor Gerena, wanted for, or convicted of, violent crimes, including murder, robbery, kidnapping, air piracy, and terrorism;

Whereas these individuals have been indicted or convicted of criminal offenses in the United States and have not paid their debt to society;

Whereas people in New Jersey were shocked and outraged to see television interviews showing Ms. Chesimard living freely in Cuba, portraying herself as the victim and denying any crimes against Trooper Foerster;

Whereas the Governor of New Jersey, Christine Whitman, has requested Federal assistance from Attorney General Janet Reno for the return of Ms. Chesimard; and

Whereas Members of Congress have petitioned Secretary of State Madeleine Albright requesting that the Department of State do everything in its power to have Joanne Chesimard, and all other individuals who have fled the United States to avoid prosecution or confinement for criminal offenses and who are currently living freely in Cuba, returned to the United States in order for them to face prosecution or confinement in the United States: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That it is the sense of Congress that—*

(1) the Government of Cuba should extradite to the United States convicted murderer Joanne Chesimard in order for her to complete her life sentence for the murder of New Jersey State Trooper Werner Foerster;

(2) the Government of Cuba should extradite to the United States all other individuals who have fled the United States to avoid prosecution or confinement for criminal offenses and who are currently living freely in Cuba in order for them to face prosecution or confinement in the United States; and

(3) the extradition from Cuba to the United States of all individuals who have fled the United States to avoid prosecution or confinement for criminal offenses and who are currently living in Cuba should be a top priority for the United States Government.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PETRI). Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. BEREUTER) and the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS), each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. BEREUTER).

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

I strongly support this resolution which calls on the Cuban regime to return Joanne Chesimard to the United States. It is shameful and unacceptable that Fidel Castro continues to harbor murderers and other hardened crimi-

nals like Ms. Chesimard. The victims of her crime, New Jersey State trooper Werner Foerster and his widow Rose and their family, have been denied justice by Fidel Castro.

In approving this resolution, the committee made an amendment which underscores that "the Federal Bureau of Investigation lists 90 felony fugitives known to have been granted safe haven by the Cuban government." These include Robert Vesco, Victor Gerena, who is on the FBI's top 10 most wanted listed, and Frank Terpil, a rogue CIA agent wanted for selling explosives to Libyan dictator Mu'ammur Qadhafi.

I commend the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. FRANKS) for sponsoring this resolution. Our colleague on the committee, the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) is a co-sponsor, as is the gentleman from Florida (Mr. DIAZ-BALART); in addition, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) who is also a member of our committee. They have been steadfast advocates for the Foerster family, and I thank them for their efforts.

I would additionally like to thank New Jersey Governor Christine Todd-Whitman for exercising personal leadership in pressing for the passage of this resolution calling on the Cuban government to see that justice is done for the Foerster family. This terrible tragedy dragged on far too long, due exclusively to Fidel Castro's intransigence. Accordingly, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H. Con. Res. 250.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LANTOS. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume, and I rise in strong support of H. Con. Res. 254, calling on the government of Cuba to return to the United States convicted felon Joanne Chesimard and all other individuals who fled the United States to avoid prosecution or confinement for criminal offenses and who are currently living freely in Cuba.

Providing a safe haven for fugitives from prosecution in the United States is one of the many concerns that we had with the government of Cuba. The case of Joanne Chesimard is particularly egregious and we are right to call this body's attention to it. Chesimard was sentenced to life for the murder of a New Jersey State trooper. She escaped from prison, fled to Cuba where she is currently living.

I strongly urge the adoption of this resolution, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BEREUTER. Madam Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH), who has been very much involved in this issue as well.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me the time.

I am very proud to be one of the co-sponsors of H. Con. Res. 254, which con-

demns the government of Cuba for harboring Joanne Chesimard and other fugitives who have committed brutal crimes in the United States. I want to thank my good friend and colleague, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. FRANKS) for introducing this important resolution and working for its passage.

As most of us here know, Joanne Chesimard was convicted in 1977 of first degree murder and sentenced to life in prison for her brutal execution style murder of trooper Foerster. She escaped from jail in 1979 and subsequently fled to Cuba where she was given political asylum. This escaped murderer now lives a very comfortable life in Cuba and has launched a public relations campaign in which she attempts to portray herself as an innocent victim rather than a cold-blooded murderer.

The protection Chesimard and others enjoy in Cuba is yet another example of the lawlessness of the Castro dictatorship. The only truly satisfactory solution is democracy and self-determination for the people of Cuba. In the meantime, however, I believe it is shameful that the Clinton administration has made deal after deal with the Castro government, giving concession after concession, while Chesimard and other felons are living the high life in Havana.

I would like to thank members of the Committee on International Relations. They backed some amendments that I had offered during markup which changed some of the wording. The bottom line is we need to make sure that we bring these murderers and felons, and there are many of them, to justice. For the family, the Foerster family, that lost its loved one, we will not rest until she is behind bars where she belongs for the rest of her life.

I want to thank, again, my good friend, the gentleman from Jersey (Mr. FRANKS) for offering this. I hope that it will get the full support of the body.

Mr. FRANKS of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge my colleagues to support the passage of H. Con. Res. 254, a resolution which I introduced on March 30.

It calls upon Fidel Castro, the dictator of the imprisoned island of Cuba, to return to the United States all the fugitives from American justice that he is harboring in his country.

Under Castro, Cuba has become a haven for terrorists, murderers, rapists, kidnapers and drug dealers who have sought refuge in Cuba in order to avoid prosecution and imprisonment in the United States. According to the FBI, there are now 77 American fugitives living in Cuba.

Let me tell you about one of them.

Earlier this year, I was shocked to turn on the local television news and see Joanne Chesimard, a cold-blooded cop killer, living freely in Cuba.

Twenty-five years ago, Joanne Chesimard gunned down two state troopers on the New Jersey Turnpike. After firing at Trooper Werner Foerster and hitting him twice in the chest, Chesimard grabbed the trooper's gun and fired two more bullets execution-style into his head.

Six years later—after serving just two years of a life sentence for first-degree murder—a group of revolutionaries assisted her in a daring and successful escape. She has been given a new, comfortable life in Cuba—thanks to Fidel Castro.

It's a tragic irony that while some of America's most vicious killers live comfortable lives in Cuba, many of Cuba's own natives languish in prisons merely for speaking out against the communist dictatorship.

This resolution sends a strong message to Castro: Return Joanne Chesimard and all the other felons you are harboring. They must be returned to the United States so that they can be sent to prison in order to serve out their full sentences and repay their debt to society.

Mrs. ROUKEMA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Con. Res. 254.

Twenty-five years ago, in 1973, Joanne Chesimard ruthlessly gunned down two New Jersey State Troopers on the New Jersey Turnpike.

She approached one of the wounded Troopers, who laid bleeding and dying, grabbed his own gun and fired two shots, point-blank, execution style in the back of his head.

Chesimard was captured and convicted of this brutal murder and sent to prison.

She broke out of prison and now lives freely in Cuba just 90 miles off the U.S. coast.

She is not alone, many other convicted felons live in Cuba. This Resolution calls for justice to be served. It demands that Castro extradite Chesimard and other criminals so they can face justice in the U.S.

Justice must be served. It is cruel and morally wrong for Cuba to allow a safe harbor for these criminals while Cuba has sent its own religious leaders to suffer in prison.

I stand united with the families of the slain, the New Jersey State Police, and all citizens of New Jersey in demanding Cuba return Joanne Chesimard.

I strongly urge my Colleagues to support this resolution.

Mr. PAPPAS. Mr. Speaker, on May 2, 1973 a terrible tragedy occurred in the State of New Jersey when Joanne Chesimard killed New Jersey State Trooper Werner Foerster leaving behind his wife and family. Ms. Chesimard was sentenced to life in prison for this heinous crime in our state and rightly so. But she escaped and fled to Cuba where she has the high life. She sips pina colodas, walks on the white sandy beaches, and swims in the crystal clear water. This is a grave injustice.

This is wrong and our government must do everything in its power to bring her back to serve out her sentence. Instead, the Clinton administration talks of easing the embargo knowing that Cuba is harboring violent criminals.

Fugitives such as Chesimard are cowards and for Cuba to invite them in and treat them like royalty is clearly wrong. I urge Secretary Albright and Attorney General Reno to do all they can to bring these criminals back to the U.S. to face justice.

I co-sponsored this legislation because I want our government to use all means possible to pressure Cuba to return Ms. Chesimard and every other criminal which Cuba harbors. We must fight for justice.

I commend Congressman FRANKS and Governor Whitman for being such strong advocates of this cause and I welcome the passage of this legislation.

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, it is the time to send a unequivocal signal to Fidel Castro that the United States Congress finds his regime's harboring of terrorists, murderers and other hardened criminals wanted in the United States shameful and unacceptable.

H. Con. Res. 254 draws attention to the cold-blooded murder twenty-five years ago of a New Jersey State Trooper, Werner Foerster. Joanne Chesimard was convicted of this heinous murder but, in 1979, escaped to Cuba.

Joanne Chesimard now lives under Fidel Castro's protection in Cuba. Back in New Jersey, Trooper Foerster's widow and family are denied the justice of seeing the woman who took him from them pay for her crime.

This is not an isolated case. Our Federal Bureau of Investigation lists 90 felony fugitives known to have been granted safe haven by the Cuban government.

This resolution has broad bipartisan support. The gentleman from New Jersey, Mr. FRANKS sponsored this resolution with our colleague on the Committee, the gentlelady from Florida, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN and the gentleman from Florida, Mr. DIAZ-BALART. The gentleman from New Jersey, Mr. MENENDEZ, who is also a member of our Committee, has for years supported the Foerster family's efforts to bring Joanne Chesimard back to the United States to serve her sentence.

I would like to recognize New Jersey Governor Christine Todd-Whitman who wrote to me to ask that we pass this resolution.

Just today, we have had another sobering reminder of Fidel Castro's undiminished efforts to attack American interests. The FBI announced in Miami that ten people have been charged with spying for the Cuban government by trying to penetrate our Miami-based U.S. Southern Command, MacDill Air Force Base in Tampa, and the Boca Chica Naval Air Station in Key West.

The FBI reports that Castro's spies also sought to infiltrate Cuban-American groups and manipulate other political groups and the U.S. media.

Accordingly, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H. Con. Res. 254.

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

Mr. BEREUTER. Madam Speaker, I urge unanimous support for this resolution, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. MORELLA). 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, H. Con. Res. 254, as amended.

The question was taken.

Mr. BEREUTER. Madam 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 and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

#### PROMOTING INDEPENDENT RADIO BROADCASTING IN AFRICA

Mr. BEREUTER. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 415) to promote independent radio broadcasting in Africa

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 415

Whereas Africa's numerous ethnic groups, with an estimated 2,000 languages and dialects, have long been isolated from each other;

Whereas radio is the primary means of transmitting vital information in Africa and linking African populations;

Whereas poverty, illiteracy, and logistical difficulties make television and the print media less utilized means of communication; Whereas radio is not only compatible with Africa's oral traditions, but has the added benefit of being affordable and adaptable;

Whereas African radio stations generally are owned and operated by governments, which being aware of radio's power often deny or delay applications for proposed independent radio stations, harass officials or staff of independent radio stations, or close independent radio stations;

Whereas 53 independent journalists in Africa have been killed over the past 8 years, 42 other journalists were imprisoned last year alone, and hundreds of others have been threatened, harassed, or even physically assaulted;

Whereas standards of journalistic professionalism often are low in Africa, which causes problems of accuracy in reporting that often lead governments to overreact and apply repressive legal remedies against the media, including radio broadcasts;

Whereas biased government radio broadcasts have promoted ruling parties and limited coverage of opposition political parties, while inhibiting the free flow of information necessary for citizens to effectively exercise their electoral choices, thus undermining democracy;

Whereas the promotion of independent ownership of local radio operations in Africa is a useful tool for advancing the United States foreign policy objective of promoting democracy and human rights;

Whereas the phenomenon of "hate radio" has fueled genocide in countries such as Rwanda, in which an estimated half million persons were killed in a largely ethnic purge in 1994;

Whereas surrogate broadcasting, which consists of locally generated news on issues of local concern, has been well demonstrated as a vehicle to promote democracy and human rights in repressed regions and countries throughout the world;

Whereas the Voice of America has designed the "Radio Democracy for Africa" project to create a surrogate radio operation throughout Africa to promote democracy and human rights; and

Whereas the African Growth and Opportunity Act calls for the United States Information Agency to use its broadcasts to promote economic reforms in addition to its current promotion of political reforms: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

(1) supports the creation and operation of the Voice of America's surrogate radio project known as "Radio Democracy for Africa" which includes journalist training and journalist exchange components;

(2) urges the United States Information Agency to expand its economic, political, and human rights programming in Africa to support indigenous efforts aimed at promoting democratization, human rights, economic development, and good governance;

(3) calls on the Agency for International Development to adopt a comprehensive strategy for the promotion of free and independent African media, especially radio, by supporting journalist and other media training programs, assisting in the development