

the non-Indian communities of Vista and Escondido have continued to enjoy the use of low-cost, local water to which the Bands have a claim, the Bands have had the benefit of neither water nor funding for economic development as provided for by the settlement. Under these circumstances, the House Committee on Resources has found that the Bands' request for a one-time, partial disbursement of interest earned on the Development Fund that was establishment for their benefit is reasonable and appropriate. The other settlement parties, including the Department of the Interior, have informed the Committee of their support for the Band's request.

The San Luis Rey Tribal Development Fund was capitalized with approximately \$32,000,000 appropriated by the Congress in 1989 by Public Law 101-121. The Fund has since grown to more than \$52,000,000. With the distribution authorized by this section, the Fund will retain a balance of more than \$44,000,000, which will continue to accrue interest and remain an incentive to the Bands to see the settlement through to full and final implementation.

The Committee on Resources expects that the factors that have prolonged fulfillment of the requirements of the settlement will not persist indefinitely. Accordingly, the Committee urges the Secretary to use the full measure of his authority to secure the acquisition of the supplemental water supply required by the Settlement Act at a cost that will enable its economical use for the benefit of the Bands and the complete implementation of the San Luis Rey Indian Water Rights Settlement.

The Committee on Resources recognizes that the Act's dual command that the Department arrange to obtain or develop not more than 16,000 acre feet per year of supplemental water, without bearing any development costs, has been a major impediment to finalizing the settlement. Nevertheless, the Committee does not agree that these requirements support an interpretation of the Act that the Tribal Development Trust Fund, which was established for the exclusive use of the Indian Water Authority on behalf of the Bands, is an appropriate source of funds to finance the delivery of water to the Bands.

Section 107(b)(4) of the Settlement Act states that all funds of the Indian Water Authority that are not required for administrative or operational expenses of the Authority or to fulfill obligations of the Authority (emphasis added) under the title, the Act or any other agreement entered into by the Authority, shall be invested or used for economic development of the Bands, the Bands' reservation lands, and their members. The Act places the obligation to arrange for the development and delivery water for the Bands squarely on the Secretary, not on the Bands. To suggest that the Tribal Development Trust Fund should be used to acquire or deliver water to the Bands is to suggest that the Bands use their own money to fulfill the Secretary's obligation to them. This suggestion is inconsistent with the content of the Act. If additional authority or funding is needed to carry out the intent of the Act, then the Department should consider submitting an appropriate request to the Congress.

Mr. REDMOND. Mr. Speaker, H.R. 4068, the Native American technical corrections bill, contains two important amendments in Section 10 of the bill. Section 10 of H.R. 4068 would

amend a section of, and add a new section to, the 1992 Jicarilla Apache Tribe Water Rights Settlement Act (Act of October 23, 1992, Pub. L. No. 102-441, 106 Stat. 2237) ("Settlement Act").

By the terms of the Settlement Act, the Jicarilla Apache Tribe may not access its "future use" water or a six million dollar water resources development fund until two partial final decrees have been entered, adjudicating the Tribe's historic and existing water rights in two stream system in New Mexico. The current statutory deadline for entry of these two decrees is December 31, 1998. See Pub. L. No. 104-261 § 2, 110 Stat. 3176 (1996). If the deadline is not met, these monies, which have already been appropriated, will be returned to the general treasury.

One amendment outlined in Section 10(b) of H.R. 4068 would add a new section 12 to the Settlement Act to provide Congressional approval of an October 7, 1997, Stipulation and Settlement Agreement between the Jicarilla Apache Tribe, the Asociación de Acéquias Norteñas de Rio Arriba, and certain other parties to the Rio Chama general stream adjudication, *State of New Mexico ex rel. State Engineer v. Aragon*, No. CIV-7941 JC. This settlement agreement has been approved by the Federal district court, but the parties to the agreement are seeking Congressional approval as an extra measure.

This settlement agreement provides for the future transfer of certain water rights from the Tribe to the Acéquias Norteñas. These water rights were perfected under state law prior to the Tribe's acquisition of a ranch from private parties in the 1980s. That land was proclaimed part of the Tribe's reservation in 1988. This agreement does not alter significantly the water rights the Tribe will receive under the Settlement Act, but still provides a fair and reasonable settlement of the concerns expressed by the Acéquias Norteñas. Because the Tribe was able to settle its differences with these and other acequias in the basin, there was no need for a trial on any of the objections filed to the Tribe's proposed Rio Chama decree. This decree was approved by the Federal district court on April 6, 1998.

However, for a host of reasons entirely outside of the Jicarilla Apache Tribe's control, the other decree required by the Settlement Act, which confirms the Tribe's water rights in the San Juan River general stream adjudication, *State of New Mexico v. United States of America, et al., v. Jicarilla Apache Tribe*, No. 75-184-1 (11th Jud. Dist. NM), has taken far longer to complete than either the United States Departments of Justice and Interior or the Jicarilla Apache Tribe had anticipated. For this reason, an additional amendment to the Settlement Act, outlined in H.R. 4068, is necessary.

Section 10(a) of H.R. 4068 authorizes a two-year extension of the 1998 statutory deadline by which this last decree must be entered in the San Juan River adjudication. The parties are well along in the litigation, and the United States, the State, and the Tribe are actively trying to negotiate a resolution to the objections that have been filed to the decree. This is the final hurdle to conclude implementation of the Settlement Act, and although the parties are close to conclusion, there is no way for the Tribe to know whether the court will actually enter the decree before the December 31st deadline.

The delays to date have not been the fault of the Jicarilla Apache Tribe. Indeed, the Tribe has acted in good faith to fulfill the requirements of the Settlement Act. Therefore, the Tribe should not be penalized with the loss of six million dollars, which could potentially jeopardize the entire settlement. There is no justifiable reason to allow the statutory deadline to expire without an extension, especially when final settlement is so near. The Department of the Interior supports this extension, and the amendment to sanction the settlement between the Tribe and the acequias, because the Administration believes, as I do, that settlement is in the best interest of all water users in these two basins in New Mexico.

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

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Alaska (Mr. YOUNG) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4068, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 4068, the bill just passed.

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

There was no objection.

SENSE OF THE HOUSE WITH RESPECT TO IMPORTANCE OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH PACIFIC ISLAND NATIONS

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 505) expressing the sense of the House of Representatives with respect to the importance of diplomatic relations with the Pacific Island Nations.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 505

Whereas the South Pacific region covers an immense area of the earth, approximately 3 times the size of the contiguous United States;

Whereas the United States seeks to maintain strong and enduring economic, political, and strategic ties with the Pacific island countries of the region, despite the reduced diplomatic presence of the United States in the region since World War II;

Whereas Pacific island nations wield control over vast tracts of the ocean, including seabed minerals, fishing rights, and other marine resources which will play a major role in the future of the global economy;

Whereas access to these valuable resources will be vital in maintaining the position of

the United States as the leading world power in the new millennium;

Whereas Asian countries have already recognized the important role that these Pacific island nations will play in the future of the global economy, as evidenced by the Tokyo summit meeting in October 1997 with various Pacific island heads of state;

Whereas the Pacific has long been regarded as one of the "last frontiers", with an enormous wealth of uncultivated resources; and

Whereas direct United States participation in the human and natural resource development of the South Pacific region would promote beneficial ties with these Pacific island nations and increase the possibilities of access to the region's valuable resources: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the House of Representatives that—

(1) it is in the national interest of the United States to remain actively engaged in the South Pacific region as a means of supporting important United States commercial and strategic interests, and to encourage the consolidation of democratic values;

(2) a Pacific island summit, hosted by the President of the United States with the Pacific island heads of government, would be an excellent opportunity for the United States to foster and improve diplomatic relations with the Pacific island nations;

(3) through diplomacy and participation in the human and natural resource development of the Pacific region, the United States will increase the possibility of gaining access to valuable resources, thus strengthening the position of the United States as a world power economically and strategically in the new millennium; and

(4) the United States should fulfill its longstanding commitment to the democratization and economic prosperity of the Pacific island nations by promoting their earliest integration in the mainstream of bilateral, regional, and global commerce and trade.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN) and the gentleman from American Samoa (Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GILMAN. 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 York?

There was no objection.

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

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

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I want to commend the gentleman from American Samoa (Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA) for introducing this important resolution, and I want to commend the Chairman and ranking minority member of the Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific, the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. BERREUTER) and the gentleman from California (Mr. BERMAN), for the role they played in crafting this resolution.

Mr. Speaker, it is important that the House has the opportunity to express its support for the concepts within the

resolution. H. Res. 505 expresses the sense of the House that the importance of relations with the Pacific Island Nations be emphasized. Our Nation has a long history of friendship and important alliances with many of the small island nations in the South Pacific. Their overwhelming support at the United Nations for U.S. initiatives and the strategic access we are given to their waters and ports have not gone unnoticed by this committee. Their many sacrifices during the Second World War and the aftereffects in nuclear testing created the foundation that insured world peace.

Accordingly, Mr. Speaker, I support the gentlemen's resolution, and I urge my colleagues to support H. Res. 505.

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

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

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

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of House Resolution 505. I introduced this resolution in July to recognize the importance of diplomatic relations between the United States and the Pacific Island Nations.

I am deeply appreciative of the efforts of the chairman and ranking Democratic Member of the House Committee on International Relations, the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN) and the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. HAMILTON), for supporting House Resolution 505 as original cosponsors and for passage of the measure before the full committee.

Mr. Speaker, I would also thank the chairman and ranking Democratic members of the Committee on International Relations' Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific, the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. BERREUTER) and the gentleman from California (Mr. BERMAN), as well as our esteemed colleagues in the full committee, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH), the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS) and the gentleman from Florida (Mr. HASTINGS) for joining us as original cosponsors of House Resolution 505.

Mr. Speaker, my thanks also go to the gentlewoman from Hawaii (Mrs. MINK), the gentleman from Guam (Mr. UNDERWOOD), the gentleman from Hawaii (Mr. ABERCROMBIE), the gentleman from California (Mr. MATSUI) and the gentleman from California (Mr. KIM) for their support of this resolution.

Mr. Speaker, the United States has had a long and extraordinarily deep relationship with our allies and friends of the Pacific Islands. One need only mention the names of Guadalcanal, Midway, Wake Island, Guam and Saipan to recall the critical battles waged in the Pacific during World War II. In that terrible conflict and during the Cold War, our Pacific Island allies have fought and worked alongside Ameri-

cans to preserve peace and nurture democracy in the Pacific region.

The people of the Marshall Islands, in particular, have made tremendous sacrifices which have greatly contributed to America's nuclear deterrence. During the 1940s and the 1950s the home-lands and the Marshallese people were subjected to some 67 U.S. nuclear tests, an ordeal from which they are still struggling to recover.

□ 1530

The contributions of Pacific islanders have truly enhanced American security and stability. Today, a half century later, Mr. Speaker, we should not forget our commitment to our friends in this part of the world.

The Pacific Ocean covers one-third of the earth's surface, and spanning it are the 7,500 islands which comprise the 22 Pacific island nations and territories.

Mr. Speaker, while budgetary cutbacks have resulted in a reduced U.S. diplomatic presence in the region, our Nation continues to have substantial interests in the Pacific, whether that be in areas of investment and trade, strategic and regional security, democratic government and human rights, or protection of the environment.

In particular, with the advent of the Law of the Sea Conference and increasing international enforcement of exclusive economic zones, the Pacific island governments wield control over vast tracks of the entire Pacific Ocean. The millions of square miles of the Pacific Ocean under the jurisdiction of island nations encompass productive fisheries, undersea minerals, and important sea lanes, increasingly vital assets in the future of a global economy.

For example, Mr. Speaker, some of the world's richest and most diverse fishing grounds are found in the Pacific region, where the United States nets the bulk of tuna consumed by our fellow Americans. I would note that much of that tuna is processed in canneries in my own district in American Samoa.

On the ocean floor by Papua New Guinea, Fiji and Tonga lie seabed mineral deposits and undersea nodules containing valuable minerals such as manganese, cobalt, nickel, copper, silver and gold. The EEZ waters of the sparsely populated Cook Islands alone are projected to contain at least \$150 billion of sea bed nodules.

The lesson has not been lost on Asian nations that have invested in the region, Mr. Speaker, including China, South Korea, and, in particular, Japan. Last October, then Prime Minister Hashimoto of Japan hosted a Tokyo summit meeting with Pacific island heads of government. No doubt, Japan is making a long term investment and an economic investment for the 21st Century.

Mr. Speaker, House Resolution 505 sends the message that it is important for the United States to cultivate diplomatic relations today with the Pacific island nations to foster strong economic ties tomorrow, and this will

directly facilitate access to the region's valuable marine resources in the next millennium. For economic as well as strategic reasons, the United States should not permit others to step into the vacuum created by the lack of a strong U.S. policy and presence in the Pacific region.

Mr. Speaker, in furtherance of that goal, House Resolution 505 strongly urges that the President of the United States host a summit meeting with the Pacific island Heads of State and Governments to improve diplomatic relations with the Pacific island nations.

I would humbly suggest the perfect opportunity to conduct the Pacific Island Summit would be upon the President's return from the APEC meeting scheduled for November 1999 in Wellington, New Zealand. Since it is appropriate that the summit meeting take place in the Pacific, I suggest the East-West Center in Hawaii provides the ideal forum. Since its formation in 1960, the East-West Center has been the region's most respected institution for furthering U.S. relations with the Asian-Pacific region.

Before concluding, Mr. Speaker, I would note that an identical counterpart to House Resolution 505 has been introduced this month in the Senate by my good friend and distinguished Senator from Hawaii, Senator DANIEL INOUE. Senator INOUE's measure, Senate Resolution 277, has been cosponsored by Senators DAN AKAKA, TED STEVENS, ORRIN HATCH, ROBERT BYRD, CRAIG THOMAS, ERNEST HOLLINGS, WILLIAM ROTH, WENDELL FORD, BARBARA BOXER, FRANK MURKOWSKI and JEFF SESSIONS, and is before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee now. I thank and commend Senator INOUE, who has long demonstrated commitment and unmatched leadership in the affairs of the Pacific region.

Mr. Speaker, I would urge that our colleagues support adoption of House Resolution 505 as it is in the national interest of the United States that we preserve strong and enduring economic, political and strategic ties with the Pacific island nations.

America cannot afford to neglect our friends in the Pacific. Adoption of this resolution and the holding of a Pacific Island Summit will ensure that we do not, and that our allies understand that the United States intends to remain firmly engaged in the Pacific region for our mutual benefit.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support and adopt this resolution.

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

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. BEREUTER), the distinguished chairman of the Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific.

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, I want to first thank the chairman for yielding me this time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Res. 505, a resolution recognizing

the tremendous importance of the Pacific island region and calling for U.S. participation and, in fact, leadership for a Pacific Island Summit.

This resolution was introduced in July, as you heard, by the distinguished gentleman from American Samoa (Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA). It is cosponsored in original cosponsorship by the chairman and ranking member of the full committee, the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN) and the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. HAMILTON) as well as the gentleman from California (Mr. BERMAN), the ranking member of the subcommittee I chair, and myself, along with other distinguished members of our subcommittee and the full committee.

Mr. Speaker, we unanimously approved of in the subcommittee this resolution on September 9th, and the full Committee on International Relations followed suit the following day, September 10th.

This Member would congratulate particularly the distinguished gentleman from American Samoa for introducing this timely and important resolution. He is rightly recognized throughout this body for his commitment and support for the Pacific islands, and today's resolution certainly reflects that commitment.

Mr. Speaker, while the Pacific island nations are a vast and important region with enormous potential, it is nonetheless true that it has recently largely escaped international attention. Of late, international attention has been focused on the political and social unrest in other parts of Asia, together with the financial crisis and nuclear and missile proliferation. The gentleman from American Samoa is to be commended for reminding this body that the Pacific islands are economically and diplomatically important to the United States, and we ignore them to our detriment.

In the years since the end of the Second World War, the United States policy toward the Pacific islands has been dominated by military and security considerations. Certainly the deep water port facilities, the missile test ranges and the jungle training facilities offered by the Pacific islands were essential considerations during the Cold War. But the legislation before this body today expands the focus beyond the security arena, correctly addressing economic issues, the environment and political cooperation.

It is, I think, self-evident in this Nation's interest to pursue such a broad agenda with these small nations of the Pacific. Endowed with vast natural resources, this ocean continent of islands is poised to make valuable contributions to the global economy. U.S. fishing companies already enjoy fishing rights in certain waters controlled by these nations, and improved diplomatic ties would increase the potential for the United States to further benefit from the Pacific's wealth of resources, as well as benefiting those nations.

Similarly, there is an enormous potential to exploit the vast mineral wealth of the Pacific for the benefit of the globe and for the benefit of these Pacific island nations and their people.

House Resolution 505 also recommends that the United States host a Pacific Island Summit as a means of highlighting the myriad of bilateral-multilateral issues of the region. This Member believes that is a very important element of this resolution, and suggests indeed, as my colleague has suggested and I reiterate, that a summit is an excellent proposal. Such a summit probably could be scheduled with little difficulty in concert with the annual meeting of the Asia-Pacific Economic Community, APEC, perhaps, as the gentleman suggests, and I agree, at the East-West Center in Hawaii. This Member would urge the administration to consider and act upon such a proposal.

Lastly, I would note that the resolution's author has worked constructively with the majority, with his colleagues in the minority and with the administration to ensure that there are no unnecessary differentials in this resolution. By making this effort, the gentleman has permitted this body to speak with one voice on this important issue.

Therefore, I urge our colleagues to support H. Res. 505, and I thank the gentleman from American Samoa (Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA) for his initiative.

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

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I yield three minutes to the distinguished gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS).

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, let me first identify myself with the comments of the distinguished gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. BEREUTER), the chairman of the subcommittee, and my good friend and colleague from American Samoa.

The purpose of my rising is to commend the gentleman from American Samoa (Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA), not only for his leadership on this issue, but on a wide range of issues in the jurisdiction of the Committee on International Relations. The gentleman has not restricted his expertise to this most important region. His contributions to the work of our committee have extended across the globe.

But I think it is particularly appropriate that the gentleman has taken the lead on this issue. His idea of holding a summit at the East-West Center following the APEC meeting at Wellington, New Zealand, is an excellent one, and I strongly urge all of my colleagues to support this legislation. I also call on the administration to take the necessary steps to implement the gentleman's idea.

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I yield five minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Guam (Mr. UNDERWOOD).

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague from American Samoa, my fellow islander, for yielding me time.

Mr. Speaker, I, too, want to associate myself with all of the remarks previously made by the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. BEREUTER), as well as the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS), and also extend my personal congratulations to my friend the gentleman from American Samoa (Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA) for this very important and timely resolution. I want to point out to the body that the gentleman personally made this suggestion to the President in a recent meeting about having a Pacific summit that would be in concert with the APEC summit, and it was very well received, and I am hopeful that the administration will heed his request and that we will see this summit come to fruition in the future.

Mr. Speaker, on Guam, we share the Pacific Ocean with island nations like Palau and Vanuatu and many of the nations that are referred to and are being considered under this resolution, and we also share many of the same values and cultural traits which already enhance our significant bonds. Our geographical and our cultural proximity with other Pacific island nations gives Guam the opportunity to facilitate cultural, educational and economic exchanges with our Pacific neighbors.

The United States already meets with Pacific island nations through such organizations as the South Pacific Forum, Pacific Economic Cooperation Council and the United Nations, but, as we enter the next millennium, I certainly encourage the United States to continue and in fact intensify its diplomatic and economic engagement.

H. Res. 505 calls for this type of cooperation, and specifically calls for a Pacific summit. A Pacific summit would be a prodigious opportunity for the United States to dialogue with the leaders of nations which control vast marine resources, from fishing rights to sea bed minerals.

The passage of H. Res. 505 is an indication that we are committed to our friends in the Pacific. As has been pointed out, the Pacific island nations are sometimes ignored in the process of even discussing the Pacific Ocean and the Asian-Pacific region. Sometimes in those discussions we are really talking about the Pacific rim nations.

I always like to tell people it is like a big donut, and we are always concerned about the rim nations and we forget that it is the hole in the middle that makes the donut, and it is the Pacific basin and it is all those tiny little islands and tiny little nations which really are sitting on top of a vast variety of resources which need attention.

□ 1545

Not only are they economically important, but certainly they also have strategic and diplomatic importance,

as well. It is also significant that in this, the International Year of the Ocean, we must also mean that it must be the International Year of the Islands in those oceans, and those islands whose cooperation is vitally necessary for the development and cultivation of ocean resources in an environmentally sound manner, while making sure that the islanders profit from those resources.

This is a very timely, a very necessary resolution, and I urge its adoption.

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

Mr. Speaker, I would really like to express my appreciation to the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS), and my good friend, the gentleman from Guam (Mr. UNDERWOOD), my fellow Pacific Islander, for their eloquence.

I know this is probably the last piece of legislation that we will be working on as far as the Committee on International Relations Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific is concerned, but I certainly would like to offer my highest commendation to the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. BEREUTER), the chairman of the subcommittee, not only for his keen insight, but the tremendous eloquence of his statement, which really, I could not have stated better, his full understanding and knowledge of what is happening there in the Pacific region.

I really, really want to thank and commend him for his assistance, for his help, not only as a friend, but for his tremendous leadership that has been demonstrated as chairman of the Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific, and of course my good friend, the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN).

Mrs. MINK of Hawaii. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Res. 505.

The South Pacific was one of the major theaters of World War II. During that time, the United States and the island nations of the Pacific established strong bonds that endure even after the passage of over half a century.

Yet, while the United States has developed and maintained a strong economic, political, and strategic interest or presence in the Pacific, the same cannot be said of the United States diplomatic presence in the region, which has diminished considerably over the decades. This resolution expresses the sense of Congress that the United States should strengthen its diplomatic presence with the Pacific island nations.

This resolution, by encouraging a greater U.S. diplomatic presence in the Pacific, recognizes that while the United States should promote and support its commercial and strategic interests by encouraging Pacific island nations to become more fully integrated into the regional and global economy, it is equally important that such integration be accompanied by the promotion and consolidation of human rights and democratic values. And, these broader developments can better be realized by reestablishing America's diplomatic presence in the South Pacific.

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

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MILLER of Florida). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, House Resolution 505.

The question was taken.

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. 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 of 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 CONDEMNING ATROCITIES BY SERBIAN POLICE AND MILITARY FORCES AGAINST ALBANIANS IN KOSOVA

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 315) expressing the sense of the Congress condemning the atrocities by Serbian police and military forces against Albanians in Kosova and urging that blocked assets of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) under the control of the United States and other governments be used to compensate the Albanians in Kosova for losses suffered through Serbian police and military action, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. CON. RES. 315

Whereas the ethnic Albanian population of the province of Kosova, which makes up the overwhelming majority of the population of that area, has been denied internationally recognized human rights and political rights, including the protection of life, freedom of speech, freedom of assembly, and freedom of the press;

Whereas Serbian police and military forces have engaged in brutal suppression of the Albanian people, and the number of Serbian police and military forces which have been deployed in Kosova is estimated at some 50,000 men;

Whereas human rights groups have reported and documented instances of Serbian forces conducting abductions and summary executions of innocent ethnic Albanian civilians in reprisal killings that are similar to those conducted by Nazi forces during World War II and are similar to the ethnic cleansing which was carried out by ethnic Serbian troops in Bosnia;

Whereas Serbian forces have indiscriminately shelled and burned villages, reducing them to rubble, in order to drive out the ethnic Albanian inhabitants, inflicting heavy material losses upon the ethnic Albanians in Kosova;

Whereas hundreds of ethnic Albanians, including women and children, have been killed and over 200,000 ethnic Albanians have been forced to flee and have become refugees as a result of this Serbian military action;

Whereas the stubborn denial of human rights and political rights to the ethnic Albanian majority in Kosova by the Government of Serbia has been the major factor in