

I want to commend Mr. Kojo Badu for his important contributions to the Brooklyn community.

THE DIPLOMATIC FAIRNESS COMPENSATION RESOLUTION, H. CON. RES. 157

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 16, 1999

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing H. Con. Res. 157, a resolution expressing the sense of the Congress that neither the United States, nor NATO, should reimburse the Chinese Government for the accidental damage of their embassy in Belgrade, Yugoslavia unless the United States is reimbursed for the damage of its government facilities in China.

The State Department has sent an official delegation to China to discuss reparation for the accidental bombing by the U.S./NATO forces of the Chinese embassy in Belgrade, Yugoslavia on May 7, 1999. This is unacceptable. Let us not forget that the Chinese retaliated against our accidental bombing with government sanctioned violent protests against American facilities in China. We should not pay for the damages done to the Chinese embassy in Belgrade unless the Chinese government reimburses us for the damages they have done to our facilities in China, including the United States Embassy in Beijing.

The injustices that occurred in China on May 8–11 as a result of the protests that the Chinese government organized were substantial. The full costs of the damages have not yet been determined. Police officers in Beijing ushered protesters to within 25 feet of the walls of the United States embassy, enabling the protesters to pelt the walls with rocks and pieces of concrete. Our Ambassador, James Sasser, and 13 other staff members were trapped inside the embassy for three days because the Chinese government did not provide enough protection for them to leave the grounds. The Chinese government did not even supply them with food. In addition the Consul-General's residence in Chendu was burned to the ground and the Guangzhou consulate was set on fire.

In light of these unacceptable actions tolerated and promoted by the Government of China, the U.S. should not reimburse the Chinese Government for the accidental bombing of its embassy in Belgrade unless China reciprocates by paying the United States for the damages they inflicted upon our government's property.

Accordingly, I urge my colleagues to support H. Con. Res. 157 to ensure that the United States is treated fairly. In insert the full text of the resolution to be printed at this point in the RECORD.

H. CON. RES. 157

Whereas military forces of the United States acting in conjunction with the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) during Operation Allied Force accidentally dropped at least three precision-guided bombs on the Chinese embassy in Belgrade, Yugoslavia, on May 7, 1999;

Whereas on May 8, 1999, a joint statement by the United States Defense Department

and the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) stated that NATO hit the Chinese embassy, located 200 yards from the Yugoslav Federal Directorate of Supply and Procurement, a weapons agency, because of errors in detecting the location of the weapons agency;

Whereas on May 11, 1999, the Washington Post cited a United States official who stated that the error of targeting the Chinese embassy went undetected because the address was checked against outdated maps and databases, which showed the location of the Chinese embassy before it moved in 1996;

Whereas apologies by the United States Government for the accidental bombing went unreported in China by the Chinese Government controlled press;

Whereas it is reported in the New York Times that on May 10, 1999, marchers were ushered by Chinese police officers to within 25 feet of the walls of the United States embassy in Beijing;

Whereas protesters pelted the embassy walls with rocks and pieces of concrete pried from the sidewalk of the embassy in full view of Chinese Government security forces;

Whereas demonstrators on May 8 through May 11, 1999, trapped the United States Ambassador, James Sasser, and 13 other staff members inside the United States embassy in Beijing, unable to leave because adequate protection was not provided by the Chinese Government;

Whereas the Chinese Government did not provide food for the ambassador and his staff;

Whereas the embassy building in Beijing was damaged with broken windows, broken signs, and paint-stains and cars on the embassy grounds were damaged;

Whereas 170,000 students demonstrated outside the Consul-General's residence in Chendu;

Whereas the Chinese Government security forces did not prevent the Consul-General's residence from being set afire and burned down;

Whereas the Chinese Government security forces did not prevent the consulate in Guangzhou from being set afire; and

Whereas protesters were not stopped by Chinese authorities from throwing rocks, pieces of pavement, molotov cocktails, gasoline bombs, paint, and other debris at American facilities throughout China: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring). That neither the United States, nor NATO, should reimburse the Chinese Government for the accidental damage of their embassy in Belgrade, Yugoslavia unless the United States is reimbursed for the damage of its government facilities in China.

TREASURY AND GENERAL GOVERNMENT APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2000

SPEECH OF

HON. WILLIAM J. COYNE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 15, 1999

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2490) making appropriations for the Treasury Department, the United States Postal Service, the Executive Office of the President, and certain Independent Agencies, for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2000, and for other purposes:

Mr. COYNE. Mr. Chairman, I include the following letter for printing in the RECORD:

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY,
INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE,
Washington, DC, July 15, 1999.

Hon. WILLIAM J. COYNE,
Committee on Ways and Means,
House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. COYNE: As the House considers the Fiscal Year 2000 Treasury, Postal Service and General Government Appropriations bill, which includes the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) budget, I want to urge your support for full funding for the IRS. Adequate funding for FY 2000 is critical to the success of the Restructuring and Reform Act of 1998 (RRA), passed almost unanimously a year ago. As you know, that legislation established 71 new taxpayer rights provisions and mandated an entire new direction for the IRS.

I understand that on July 13, 1999, the Full Appropriations Committee approved an amendment to trim approximately \$240 million from the Subcommittee mark, including approximately \$135 million from the IRS (approximately \$139 million from the President's budget request). While I can appreciate the new budget constraints under which the Committee must operate, I am gravely concerned that a cut of \$135 million will seriously jeopardize the IRS's ability to implement its reform effort mandated by the Restructuring Act.

A funding reduction of \$135 million would: Severely restrict, if not completely impair, IRS' ability to deliver on the Restructuring and Reform Act mandated by the Congress in 1998. Every aspect of the agency's commitment to reorganize the organization, improve customer service and taxpayer rights would be in jeopardy.

Constrain the ability to implement the initiatives so critical to changing how IRS delivers on customer service and improves its treatment of taxpayers and focus on taxpayer rights. For example, the cut would result in reduced plans to deliver better telephone service and tax assistance in Spanish.

Require reduced staffing levels in order to free up the funds necessary to implement congressionally mandated RRA requirements. IRS staff has already been reduced 14% (or 15,600 FTE) since FY 1993—thereby continuing the rapid decline in exam, collection and criminal tax compliance operations.

Reduce funding for the Electronic Tax Administration program, thereby jeopardizing the Congressionally mandated goal of 80 percent electronic filing by the year 2007.

Impair the creation of operating units to help specialized groups of taxpayers including small businesses and ordinary wage earners.

Delay implementation of important taxpayer rights initiatives.

I sincerely hope that the \$135 million will be restored so that the IRS and Congress can achieve its mutual goal of meaningful IRS reform. I look forward to continuing to work with you and the rest of the Congress to ensure that the American people have the modernized revenue service that they deserve.

Sincerely,

CHARLES O. ROSSOTTI,
Commissioner.

IN APPRECIATION OF JOSEPH E. CARTER, FEDERAL WORKER AND THOROUGHbred HORSEMAN

HON. CARRIE P. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 16, 1999

Mrs. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the late Joseph E.