

other governments would follow that strong moral lead. So I am delighted to join with the gentleman in introducing this unanimous strong resolution, and I hope that this is something that is going to lead the way for our own Government and other governments.

One point ought to be clear. People say we cannot intervene in another country's affairs, but the world has never recognized Indonesia's grab of East Timor. We have more legal right internationally to intervene in East Timor than ever existed in Kosovo, because the nations of the world, the United Nations and others, never recognized Indonesia's grab of East Timor. So it is time for the world resolutely to act, and I appreciate the initiative of the gentleman from California (Mr. POMBO), and I am glad to join with him in introducing this very well-done resolution.

RESOLUTION OF THE ASSEMBLEIA DA REPUBLICA ON THE SITUATION IN EAST TIMOR

Whereas the people of East Timor accepted in good faith the tripartite (UN, Portugal, and Indonesia) project of consultation of the people of the territory via a referendum ensuring self-determination of the territory's future;

The voting process was carried out with remarkable civility and represented a rate of participation of approximately 100 percent of the registered voters;

Approximately 80 percent of the voters expressed their clear and unequivocal desire for independence; the voters' freedom and the honesty of the voting process were recognized by the Secretary-General of the UN and by the President of Indonesia;

The Indonesian authorities demanded that maintenance of order during the following referendum would be solely their responsibility;

The Indonesian authorities, having at their disposal significant military and police forces both inside and outside the territory, were capable of ensuring maintenance of order if they had the political will to do so;

Indonesia, to the surprise and indignation of the international community, provided arms to civilian militias which, following the referendum, launched an operation of terror and death in East Timor; and sent to the territory additional military and police elements which not only did nothing to stop the atrocities but also abetted and took part in them;

With the passing of time the situation has deteriorated dramatically, as evidenced by the attacks on and destruction of both the home of the Bishop of Dili who had departed the territory in fear for his life and the compounds of the International Red Cross and the UN itself;

The Indonesian military and police forces are deliberately creating an information gap by expelling journalists and television news personnel with the clear objective of returning to domination of the territory and enabling themselves to launch a second genocide which is indeed already underway;

It is solely the opposition of the Indonesian authorities to entry into East Timor of a multinational peacekeeping force for maintaining order and respect for human rights—a force ready to go in immediately—that has allowed the chaos raging in the territory to continue;

It is impossible for the international community, and particularly for the UN, to allow this steadily worsening situation to continue for one more day without jeopard-

izing their own credibility and their capacity to prevent the massacre of a heroic and defenseless people being cruelly punished for the simple fact of having exercised their right to self-determination and their desire for independence; and

It is clearly evident that the Indonesian authorities are unable or unwilling to guarantee peace and order in East Timor by the means available to them, and that, on the contrary, their military and civilian forces are sowing the seeds of terror and conflict;

The Comissão Permanente of the Assembleia da República, at their meeting of September 7, 1999, after having heard the Primeiro Ministro and the Ministro dos Negócios Estrangeiros, has unanimously approved the following

RESOLUTION

In concert with the Presidente da República and the Government, the Assembleia da República is resolved.

1. To intensify political and diplomatic efforts toward making the international community, and in particular the UN and its Security Council, aware of the necessity for the immediate organization, under the aegis of the Secretary-General of the UN, of a multinational peacekeeping force whose purpose will be to put an end to the atrocities occurring in East Timor, to guarantee the peace, and to uphold the rights of the Timorese with respect to their freely-expressed wishes; and toward effecting the immediate dispatch of such a force to East Timor, with the consent of the Indonesian Government to the extent possible;

2. To approve any future decision of the Portuguese Government to authorize inclusion of a Portuguese military contingent in the aforementioned peacekeeping force;

3. To send immediately to the United States a delegation from the Assembleia da República, to include a representative of each party holding seats in the Assembleia, for the purpose of making the President of the UN Security Council, the US Congress, and world public opinion, aware of the clearly inevitable and urgent requirement for organization and deployment of the aforementioned peacekeeping force;

4. To appeal to the conscience of the world that a second genocide of the heroic and martyred people of East Timor be resisted by every means possible, since with their death all confidence in the liberating force of human rights and in the international bodies entrusted with safeguarding security and peace in the world would die also;

5. To condemn in the strongest terms possible the behavior of Indonesian Government, which has refused to fully comply with the New York Accord to which it has subscribed, and which in recent days, in a totally unacceptable manner, has neglected its responsibility to guarantee the security of the Timorese and respect for their will as legitimately expressed in the referendum of August 30;

6. To appeal forcefully to the Secretary-General and the Security Council of the UN, to the Indonesian authorities, and to those elements of Indonesian society who sincerely support aspirations for democracy and peace, reminding them that this critical moment for East Timor represents for them the essence of their historic responsibilities;

7. To applaud the release of Xanana Gusmão, historic leader of the people of East Timor, whose voice, finally free, will undoubtedly strengthen both the efforts underway to ensure peace in the territory and the independence of its people, and his own commitment to reconciliation.

MAKING IN ORDER CONSIDERATION OF CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 2587, DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2000

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that it be in order to consider the conference report on bill, H.R. 2587, that all points of order against the conference report and against its consideration be waived, and that H. Res. 282 be laid upon the table.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LAHOOD). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ISTOOK. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on the conference report to accompany H.R. 2587, and that I may include tabular and extraneous material.

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

There was no objection.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 2587, DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2000

Mr. ISTOOK. Mr. Speaker, I call up the conference report on the bill (H.R. 2587) making appropriations for the government of the District of Columbia and other activities chargeable in whole or in part against revenues of said District for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2000, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

□ 1900

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LAHOOD). Pursuant to the rule, the conference report is considered as having been read.

(For conference report and statement, see proceedings of the House of August 5, 1999 at page H7384.)

The gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. ISTOOK) and the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. OLVER) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. ISTOOK).

Mr. ISTOOK. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume, and all time I may yield, of course, will be for the purpose of debate only.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to present this conference agreement on H.R. 2587, the conference report on the appropriations for the District of Columbia.

In summary, Mr. Speaker, the conference agreement endorses the budget and tax cuts which were approved previously by the mayor and council of the District of Columbia. This helps the District's efforts to reorganize, to cut their costs, to reduce their overhead, to reduce the size of the peril of the District of Columbia government.