

They will proceed until early August and resume again in New York City at the United Nations on September 12th. We are all disappointed that Turkish Cypriot leader Denktash interrupted the process and left the talks to return for the Turkish Cypriot celebration of the July 20th invasion of Cyprus. I remain hopeful, however, that continued international interest in and pressure for a negotiated settlement will result in a return of good faith efforts by all parties to move the agenda forward when talks resume on July 24th.

The international community has been consistent throughout the past quarter century in expressing its support for a unified Cyprus. Over the past several months, it has been particularly forceful in expressing its support and desire for successful proximity talks leading to a comprehensive negotiated settlement. These include strong statements from the European Union, leaders of the G-8 nations, the United Nations Security Council, the Clinton Administration and the U.S. Congress.

The people of Cyprus have suffered too long. A lasting and comprehensive solution, one based on international law and democratic principles, can and must be negotiated.

Twenty-six years ago, on July 20th, Turkey invaded Cyprus. As a result, an estimated 35,000 heavily armed Turkish troops continue to occupy 37 percent of Cyprus' territory.

I hope that this year, the beginning of the new millennium, a new anniversary will be created. It will be the year when the breakthrough happens and the people of Cyprus are blessed with peace, security, reconciliation and a single democratic sovereignty.

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COMMEMORATING THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE OCCUPATION OF CYPRUS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 19, 1999, the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, today we are observing a tragic occasion, the invasion of Cyprus by Turkish troops. I commend the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS) who has, over the years, made certain that the House does not fail to observe the events of July 1974, the tragic consequences of which still persist today, more than a quarter of a century later.

The occupation of northern Cyprus by Turkish troops which began some 26 years ago has turned into one of the most vexing problems of the international community, confounding the efforts of five presidents, four U.N. Secretaries General, and many of the world's top diplomats, including our own.

Late last year, we finally saw the first faint signs of hope when Rauf Denktash, a Turkish Cypriot leader, decided after more than 2 years of stonewalling, to agree to participate in U.N.-sponsored proximity talks with President Clerides, the Greek Cypriot leader. A few days ago, the third round of those talks resumed in Geneva. Although they have recessed until later this month, the good news is that they are going to continue, and further

rounds for the fall of this year are also scheduled.

But mere talks alone do not achieve any resolution of this issue. We need to see substantive discussions with real progress being made.

It is gratifying that this summer, we have had two young people from Cyprus serving as interns with our Committee on International Relations. They have given their personal viewpoint, providing some convincing evidence to us that a resolution of the Cyprus problem is very possible, if sufficient political will is brought about by both sides. Greek Cypriot President Clerides has over the years demonstrated that kind of will. We must, therefore, look to Mr. Denktash and to Ankara. There is, thankfully, a new dynamic at play, which is the European Union's accession talks with Cyprus and the prospective candidacy for EU membership that was extended to Turkey by the EU just late last year.

Membership in the European Community is now at hand for Cyprus; and with all of that, it entails cementing a peaceful and prosperous future for the Cypriot people. Likewise, Turkey, in order to demonstrate its own commitment to the peaceful democratic values that lie at the core of the European Union, must decide whether it wants to play a positive role in resolving the Cyprus dispute, or a divisive one.

Mr. Speaker, when I first came to the Congress some 28 years ago, Cyprus was one of the first international crises in which I became involved as a member of our Committee on Foreign Affairs, as it was then labeled. It is one of the most frustrating facts that I have faced as I look back on that now, after a quarter of a century during which we have seen the collapse of communism in Europe, greater peace in the Middle East, a possible settlement in Northern Ireland, and conflicts resolved in the Balkan tinderbox, but no movement on Cyprus.

Accordingly, we call upon our State Department and our President to continue to place the highest priority on working with the Turkish Government and all parties in Cyprus to produce results in this ongoing U.N. negotiation.

I have conferred with our special envoy to Cyprus, Al Moses; and I know that he is committed to achieving success, but he needs to have the continued backing of high officials, including our President. With such support, I am confident we can produce the outcome that we have all been seeking for so long, a reunified Cyprus and a peaceful and prosperous future for all of the Cypriot people.

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TURKEY AND CYPRUS: THE TIME FOR PEACE IS NOW

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 19, 1999, the gentleman from California (Mr. FILNER) is recognized during morning hour debates for 1 minute.

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the distinguished chairman of the

House Committee on International Relations for his statement and for his long-standing support and leadership in educating us all on this issue.

I rise today to join him and other colleagues, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE), who will follow, in acknowledging this tragic invasion of Cyprus by the government of Turkey.

We are here, as we heard the Chairman say, for the 26th anniversary of the hostile assault on Cyprus which unlawfully led to the declaration of independence by the Turkish Cypriots.

Mr. Speaker, time and time again, Turkey has violated international law, imposing a systematic campaign of harassment and intimidation in the occupied areas. This has led to severe problems such as internally displaced refugees, violations of human rights, and the disappearance of over 1,400 Greek Cypriots.

Mr. Speaker, Turkey is our ally. We give them military aid and other forms of assistance. It is about time that we demanded that this ally comply with the United Nations and end this deplorable crisis.

The time for peace is now.

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THE BEST OF TIMES AND THE WORST OF TIMES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 19, 1999, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. SMITH) is recognized during morning hour debates for 2 minutes.

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, it is the best of times and the worst of times.

In 1993, it was somewhat the worst situation in this country in terms of overspending and debt. We had a \$250 billion deficit every year, as far as the budgeters could project. Earlier this year in January, CBO and OMB predicted there was going to be a \$26 billion on-budget surplus next year—a \$28 billion surplus this year. Yesterday, they predicted a tremendous increase in tax revenues, almost three times the amount in terms of on-budget surplus this year for an estimated \$84 billion. Next year, they are projecting \$102 billion surplus. Our economy has been growing now for 18 years—steadily for the last 10 years.

But remember, back in 1993 the Clinton administration and the Democrats made a decision that we should increase taxes in order to have deficit reduction. They passed the largest tax increase in history, \$250 billion. As it turned out, half of that money was used to expand domestic social program spending. The other half used to reduce borrowing.

If the goal of that huge tax increase was to have a smaller deficit and now we are looking at a projection of \$4.6 trillion to \$5.6 trillion surplus over the next 10 years with the unified budget, it is time to give back some of that tax increase. Let us reduce that 4.3 cent

gas tax increase passed. Let us rescind and reduce the extra Social Security tax that was also part of that 1993 tax increase.

And of course the President pushed for and got an increase in the income tax going to a new top rate of 39.6 percent, increased the death tax, and increased the payroll tax on workers.

It could help make this the best of times for the American people during these times of huge surpluses, by repealing some of those tax increases that the other side of the aisle along with Mr. Clinton and Mr. GORE got passed in 1993.

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RENEWING U.S. COMMITMENT TO CYPRUS IN THEIR QUEST FOR PEACE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 19, 1999, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, as my colleagues have mentioned this morning, July 20 will be the 26th anniversary of the illegal Turkish invasion of Cyprus. Although two rounds of U.N.-sponsored proximity talks between the Cypriot and Turkish sides have been completed in recent months, the Turks are casting the shadow of failure over the negotiations by employing provocative and destabilizing behavior.

For example, the current round of proximity talks have been temporarily suspended by the Turkish Cypriot leader so he could fulfill his stated intention to postpone discussions in order to attend the so-called "Peace and Freedom Day" on July 20 in the Turkish-occupied area of Cyprus. This action sends an unmistakable message that the Turkish side is not taking the current proximity talks seriously. Rather, the Turkish side is just spinning its wheels.

Should the current round of talks end up as all previous efforts have in the last 26 years, the United States should be prepared to act forcefully. In the last 2 years or so, there have been a number of initiatives that both the international community, and the Cypriots have taken to try and jump-start this decades-old problem and make the environment more fertile for a negotiated peaceful settlement. Turkey should be held accountable by the United States if it purposefully undermines these efforts.

In December of 1998, the U.N. Security Council passed resolutions 1217 and 1218. The former, Mr. Speaker, reaffirmed that any settlement be based on the federated bi-zonal, bi-communal framework. The latter called for the Secretary General to work with the two sides to reduce tensions and arms on the island, a position consistent with the Cypriot government's offer to demilitarize all of Cyprus, an offer that has been rejected by the Turks. The United States supported both of these measures.

Following the passage of these two resolutions, the Cypriots unilaterally decided not to deploy the S-300 anti-missile system they were considering deploying in an effort to give legs to the U.N. Security Council resolutions.

Attempting to build on this momentum, in June of 1999, the group of eight industrialized nations, or G-8, urged the U.N. to invite the two sides' leaders to begin peaceful negotiations without preconditions in the fall of 1999. The U.N. Security Council in turn passed two more resolutions, 1250 and 1251, reaffirming its support for negotiations under the bi-communal, bi-zonal federation framework and requesting that such negotiations move ahead.

These events did, in fact, lead to the onset of negotiations in December of 1999. Despite the U.N.'s call for negotiations without preconditions, however, the Turkish side came to the table insisting that a number of unrealistic conditions be met before real discussions could occur.

The negotiations, Mr. Speaker, are expected to resume on July 24. While the U.N. and the United States should do whatever it takes to facilitate continued negotiations, the U.N. and the U.S. should also take note of the manner in which the Turkish side is conducting itself.

Mr. Speaker, for 26 years now, the people of Cyprus have been denied their independence and freedom because of a foreign aggressor. I urge all of my colleagues to join me in remembering what the Cypriot people have suffered and continue to suffer at the hands of the Turks. I also urge my colleagues to join me in pressuring the administration to focus American efforts to move the peace process forward on the Turkish military, which has real and substantial influence on decision-making in the Turkish Government. If and when the Turks undermine yet another peace effort, the U.S. should instantaneously do what I have been calling for for years, punish Turkey by making drastic and immediate changes to our relationship with Ankara.

As the Turks interrupt peace negotiations to celebrate their brutality as Cypriots mourn their dead and all they have lost, the United States must let the people of Cyprus know that we will have freedom and independence again and that we will help them attain it.

Mr. CAPUANO. Mr. Speaker, on July 20th 2000, we will mark the 26th anniversary of Turkey's invasion of the sovereign State of Cyprus. It was on this date in 1974, Turkish troops began a campaign of terror. During the Turkish invasion, nearly 200,000 Greek Cypriots were forced to flee their homes in the northern part of the island of Cyprus. After twenty-five years, Greek Cypriots are still prohibited from returning to their homes and remain refugees within their own country.

Over 1,400 men, women and children who vanished during the invasion have not been accounted for, and the Turkish government continues to refuse to provide information as to their whereabouts.

During these 26 years of occupation, Turkey has relocated some 80,000 Turkish citizens to

Northern Cyprus, thus changing the demographic structure in the north. Most of the homes and land that have been reoccupied by Turkish citizens were once the homes of Greek Cypriots who were evacuated during the invasion. Historical institutions of cultural and religious heritage, including archaeological sites and churches, have been pillaged and in many cases completely destroyed.

Tragically, there are only 500 Greek Cypriots still living in the occupied area, and even those few families are subject to constant and systematic campaigns of harassment and intimidation. In some instances, they are forbidden to travel and attend school, clearly being denied of their basic rights.

In 1983, Turkey encouraged a "unilateral declaration of independence" by the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (TRNC). This declaration was condemned by the U.N. Security Council, as well as the U.S. government. Consequently, the U.N. Security Council called for Turkey to withdraw from Cyprus immediately. To date, the TRNC is not officially recognized as a sovereign State by any country except for Turkey.

In June of 1999, the European Commission of Human Rights found Turkey responsible for continuing to violate several provisions of the European Convention of Human Rights, including not accounting for missing persons, limiting the living conditions of the enclaved, and failing to protect the properties of the displaced person.

Despite the continuing efforts on behalf of the U.S. and the international community to negotiate a peaceful settlement, 35,000 heavily armed Turkish troops continue to occupy more than one-third of the island. Turkey had previously thrown a wrench in the peace talks by advocating two preconditions: first, prior recognition of the TRNC, and second, Cyprus withdrawing its EU membership application. Fortunately, through international pressure and diplomatic maneuvering, a new round of proximity talks were undertaken without implementation of these conditions. The first of which took place in December 1999 under U.N. auspices, and the most recent talks commenced on July 5th in Geneva.

Mr. Speaker, I reiterate my argument from last year that the continued occupation of Northern Cyprus is clearly an affront to countless U.N. resolutions calling on Turkey to withdraw its forces and return all refugees to their homes, and for Turkey to respect the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity and unity of the Republic of Cyprus. This is an insult to the United States and the global community which has worked tirelessly to unify Greek and Turkish Cypriots in a peaceful manner.

I hope that the U.S. and the international community will continue to advocate for this new round of proximity talks and fervently work to find a peaceful solution to this conflict that has torn Cyprus apart and caused 26 years of suffering for thousands of families.

Mr. BLAGOJEVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise to denounce the illegal occupation of Cyprus by Turkey. Twenty-six years ago today, the Turkish military invaded Cyprus, driving 200,000 people from their homes. Since then, the Turkish military has continued to occupy a third of the island, in defiance of international law. During this time, nations around the globe have sent the clear, unequivocal message that the Turkish occupation of Cyprus is patently illegal and must end.