

Public demonstrations by the Turkish-Cypriot opposition in favor of the peace plan further explicitly show who will be the major losers of the failed negotiations: the Turkish Cypriots who will not enjoy the benefits of EU membership.

The United States will remain committed to finding a just and permanent solution to the Cyprus issue. This solution must be achieved within the UN framework. The Turkish Cypriot leader must thus clearly show his willingness to constructively work with the United Nations and to settle for a compromise, a fair compromise like the one that was just presented to him.

Yet, a permanent solution that involves compromise, tolerance, and understanding is not merely achieved via multilateral institutions or intergovernmental interactions, however crucial they are. More than ever, confidence-building measures to re-integrate the two communities on the island are crucial, and the U.S. must continue to support these biocommunal initiatives.

A constructive dialogue between the Greek and the Cypriot leader under the UN auspices as well as reintegration efforts between the two communities represent the best and the only way to settle the Cyprus conflict.

Mr. WEXLER. Mr. Speaker, I share the hopes of Mr. Bereuter for a peaceful, just and lasting settlement to the long-standing Cyprus issue.

Like many of my colleagues, I was disappointed that a comprehensive agreement to support the United Nation's proposal was not reached in March.

We must not allow the recent setback to get in the way of future negotiations and a lasting settlement of this issue. I hope that both Greek and Turkish Cypriot leaders will renew their commitment to bridge the divide that separates their people.

In this vein, I was very pleased to hear that Turkish Cypriot leader Mr. Denktas has taken positive steps to initiate a new process of dialogue and consultation. Last week, in a detailed letter to Greek Cypriot Leader Papadopoulos, Mr. Denktas proposed lifting all overseas trade, transport, travel and cultural activities from or to both parts of Cyprus. He also expressed his willingness to meet with Mr. Papadopoulos to discuss the core issues of a comprehensive settlement.

It is my understanding that Mr. Denktas' proposal was not accepted by the Greek Cypriots. I agree with the Greek Cypriot sentiment that talks should be concluded under the U.N. framework. However, I am hopeful that Mr. Denktas' letter can be a catalyst to restart dialogue and to achieve a comprehensive settlement.

As for Turkey's role, which I know has been criticized by some in Washington and Europe, I am optimistic that Prime Minister Erdogan and his government are truly committed to a fair settlement on the issue. Mr. Erdogan has offered to bring Turkish and Greek Cypriots together "with the three guarantor countries, Turkey, Greece and Britain." Furthermore, Mr. Erdogan and Foreign Minister Gul will be attending a Balkans summit in Belgrade this week, where they will meet with Greek leaders to discuss steps to resolve the Cyprus issue.

Mr. Speaker, it is going to take an even greater commitment from the United States and the international community to achieve lasting settlement of the Cyprus issue. I be-

lieve the debate we are engaged in today is a clear signal that Congress will remain firmly engaged on this issue, and that we are serious about achieving a comprehensive settlement that benefits both Greek and Turkish Cypriots as well as the entire region.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, today I want to thank Mr. BEREUTER for his leadership in introducing H. Con. Res. 165, expressing support for a renewed effort to find a peaceful, just, and lasting settlement to the Cyprus problem, and I want to take this opportunity to voice my strong support for this resolution.

In today's uncertain world, where conflict and instability abound, one such long-standing dispute was quietly moving toward a resolution.

However, while the world has been focused on Iraq and deadlines on the Hussein regime came and went, another deadline, one vitally important to a resolution to the conflict on Cyprus, passed with little fanfare.

The stakes in Cyprus are high, and while the United States is rightly focusing on more pressing foreign policy problems like the war on terrorism, the war in Iraq and other issues in the Middle East, we should also devote attention to bringing an end to this conflict.

The outcome of a peaceful resolution to the division of Cyprus will have a significant impact on Turkey and Greece, two key NATO players whose antagonistic relationship has too often roiled the alliance.

It would benefit U.S. interests in the eastern Mediterranean, would strengthen NATO by improving relations between our two key allies, and defuse an ongoing regional arms race.

Just as they are standing shoulder-to-shoulder with the United States in the war against terror, so too must they play a constructive role in resolving this longstanding dispute.

The European Commission clearly and unequivocally has linked Turkey's ambitions to join the EU to a solution to the conflict. Turkey is eager to join the EU, and the Turks of Cyprus, isolated and living in poverty, look forward to sharing the benefits of EU membership. One only has to look to the massive rallies recently held by Turkish Cypriots in support of a resolution.

Just today, the Greek and Turkish Prime Ministers met in Belgrade and agreed on the need to reach a solution to the political problem in Cyprus. The moment of truth is at hand, and time is running short. The two communities should play an important role in the efforts toward a solution and move their leadership to the negotiating table.

They must show genuine commitment to forge an agreement on the terms of reunification. As the President of the Republic of Cyprus recently stated: "Non-solution is not a solution. It is not even the conclusion of the Cyprus problem. On the contrary, it will mean the beginning of new dangers and new problems. The eventual solution to the Cyprus problem will be a compromise. . . ."

However, "if the solution is not functional it cannot be viable. If it is not viable it will not be permanent." A solution cannot include the possibility of the permanence of division. After nearly 30 years, it is time for the bitter division of Cyprus to come to an end. It is time for a peaceful, just, and lasting settlement to the Cyprus problem. I am confident my colleagues share this hope and I ask them to vote for this resolution.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BASS). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. BEREUTER) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 165, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds of those present have voted in the affirmative.

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

RECOGNIZING 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF LABORERS' INTERNATIONAL UNION OF NORTH AMERICA

Mr. LOBIONDO. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Education and the Workforce be discharged from further consideration of the resolution (H. Res. 186) recognizing the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Laborers' International Union of North America and congratulating the members and officers of the Laborers' International Union of North America for the Union's many achievements, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

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

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, reserving the right to object, I do not intend to object, and I yield to the gentleman to explain his request.

Mr. LOBIONDO. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. I yield to the gentleman from New Jersey.

Mr. LOBIONDO. Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight to offer, with the gentleman from California (Mr. GEORGE MILLER), a resolution honoring the 100th anniversary of the Laborers' International Union of North America and to congratulate their members on the union's many achievements over this century.

On April 13, 1903, laborers from across America rose to the challenge set forth by American Federation of Labor President Samuel Gompers to come to Washington and to meet and form a union to represent their interests. Made up of hardworking immigrants and minorities focused on construction work, these workers formed the Laborers' Union, and for 100 years, this union has helped build America into the strong Nation that it is today.

The union also pioneered equal treatment on the job for all workers, regardless of race, established union-led training and career development centers, and fought hard to improve worker safety.

In 1965, the Laborers' Union officially changed its name to the Laborers' International Union of North America to show a growing diversification from construction into health care, food service, shipbuilding, mail handling, as well as local, State and government service.

While the name of the union has changed, the spirit and dedication of those laborers 100 years ago has neither changed nor diminished, but instead has grown into a mighty work force for a better America. I wish the hard-working men and women a very much deserved happy 100th birthday, and I encourage them to keep up their impressive work well into the future.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, continuing under my reservation, I want to join the gentleman in supporting this resolution congratulating the Laborers' International Union for the 100th anniversary of the founding of this union.

Our resolution cites the grand history of this union from its beginning, when Samuel Gompers, the first president of the American Federation of Labor, challenged laborers across the country to coordinate their activities into one cohesive unit; and in response, 25 delegates from over 17 cities, representing 8,000 laborers, met in Washington, D.C., on April 13 in 1903.

From that date to this date, again the laborers meet in this city under the leadership of Mr. Terry O'Sullivan, their current president, to deal with the issues confronted by this union.

This is a union, if we look across the American landscape, that has simply built America. The laborers were there first on most construction projects, be they public or private projects. It is a grand union that has undergone many reiterations in the past and represented many different kinds of workers, but most of us know today it is the hard-working members of the Laborers' International Union; and I want to extend my congratulations. And I also want to recognize the work of their director of legislative affairs, Don Kaniewski, who does such outstanding work on Capitol Hill on behalf of the Laborers' Union.

Mr. Speaker, I withdraw my reservation of objection.

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

There was no objection.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 186

Whereas Samuel Gompers, the first president of the American Federation of Labor, challenged laborers across the country to coordinate their activities into one cohesive unit, and in response 25 delegates from 17 cities—representing more than 8,000 laborers—met in Washington, D.C. on April 13, 1903;

Whereas after four days of meetings these representatives formed the "International Hod Carriers' and Building Laborers' Union of America" (Laborers' Union);

Whereas the Laborers' Union was started and built by immigrants and minorities, and

today immigrants and minorities continue to be the fastest growing segment of the Union's membership;

Whereas, in 1920, the Laborers' Union backed efforts by African-Americans to win equal treatment in other United States labor unions;

Whereas by the late 1920s a boom in construction caused the Laborers' Union membership rolls to approach 100,000, and during this period the merger and addition of three other unions—the International Compressed Air and Foundation Workers Union; the Tunnel and Subway Constructors International Union; and the International Union of Pavers, Rammermen, Flag Layers, Bridge and Curb Setters and Sheet Asphalt Pavers—further added to the Laborers' Union's size;

Whereas the members of the Laborers' Union provided crucial support to the National defense effort during World War II, and during the post-World War II industrial boom the Laborers' Union began organizing nonconstruction workers in the labor force;

Whereas, in 1950, the Laborers' Union built their own training center in Kansas City, opening an era of high-quality training to help workers advance in their jobs and careers by providing more opportunities for them and their families;

Whereas, in 1955, the Laborers' Union affiliated itself with the AFL-CIO Industrial Union Department in order to effectively represent the 60,000 laborers working under the jurisdiction of the Industrial Union Department;

Whereas, in 1965, the Laborers' Union officially changed its name to the "Laborers' International Union of North America" (LIUNA) to better reflect the continual expansion of the union beyond the construction field;

Whereas, during the 1960s, LIUNA successfully organized municipal, State, and university employees, and in 1968 added the 20,000 Mail Handlers Union to their ranks;

Whereas, in 1970, intensive lobbying by LIUNA and other unions resulted in the creation of the Occupational Safety and Health Administration;

Whereas more than 3,000 LIUNA members worked round-the-clock to clean up the site of the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks on New York City, completing the clean-up three months ahead of schedule and under budget;

Whereas LIUNA currently consists of approximately 800,000 members in more than 650 locals;

Whereas LIUNA has long played a vital role in building the United States by constructing highways, bridges, tunnels, subways, dams, power plants, factories, office buildings, schools, churches, hospitals, and apartment buildings and houses;

Whereas LIUNA members work in a variety of fields such as local, State, and Federal government service, health care, mail handling, custodial services, shipbuilding, food service, and hazardous waste removal;

Whereas LIUNA is one of the most innovative unions in the labor movement, with 69 state-of-the-art training centers across North America, and is among the most successful unions at organizing within the labor movement;

Whereas LIUNA is an extraordinary union whose leadership works hard to protect its members' health and safety, to provide laborers a strong voice in the workplace and extensive skill training designed to empower members to reach their full potential, and perhaps most important, to ensure the dignity, respect, and security of laborers in the workplace; and

Whereas LIUNA's efforts are deserving of our attention and admiration: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) recognizes the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Laborers' International Union of North America and acknowledges the tremendous contributions LIUNA has made to the structural development and building of the United States and to the well-being of countless laborers;

(2) congratulates the members and officers of the Laborers' International Union of North America for LIUNA's many achievements and the strength of its membership; and

(3) looks forward to the continuation of LIUNA's efforts and believes that LIUNA will have an even greater impact in the 21st century and beyond, enhancing the standard of the living and work environments for future laborers.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LOBIONDO. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on H. Res. 186.

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

There was no objection.

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CONGRATULATING SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY MEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM FOR WINNING 2003 NCAA DIVISION I MEN'S BASKETBALL NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Education and the Workforce be discharged from further consideration of the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 142) congratulating the Syracuse University men's basketball team for winning the 2003 NCAA Division I men's basketball national championship, and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BASS). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New Jersey?

There was no objection.

The Clerk read the concurrent resolution, as follows:

H. CON. RES. 142

Whereas on Monday, April 7, 2003, the Syracuse University Orangemen men's basketball team won its first Division I national basketball championship;

Whereas Syracuse University won the championship game by defeating the University of Kansas Jayhawks 81-78;

Whereas the Syracuse University team was led by freshman Carmelo Anthony, who was voted the Most Outstanding Player of the Final Four, and received outstanding effort and support from Gerry McNamara, Billy Edelin, Kueth Duany, Hakim Warrick, Craig Forth, Jeremy McNeil, and Josh Pace;

Whereas the roster of the Syracuse University team also included Tyrone Albright, Josh Brooks, Xzavier Gaines, Matt Gorman, Gary Hall, Ronnell Herron, and Andrew Kouwe;