

only country to approve legislation for the betterment of the African community, despite having only 2 of 166 seats in their House reserved for Colombians of African descent.

H. Con. Res. 175 will mark the beginning of progressive change in these communities.

Poverty levels, lack of education funding, and exploitation of human rights within these regions will be challenged as result of the passing of this bill.

This bill supports the creation of organizations to combat racial tensions, such as Brazil's Ministry for the Promotion of Racial Equality, and the National Institute against Discrimination, Xenophobia, and Racism in Argentina.

The United States and the International community will work in coalition to improve social conditions and encourage more participation of Afro-descendant populations to exercise their rights and not be oppressed as a result of their ancestry.

The creation of more education assistance programs, racial equality initiatives, housing policies, and healthcare programs will no longer be far from reach in this population as a result of this bill's passing.

This resolution will allow Afro-descendants to enjoy the prosperity of their culture and heritage, contribute to their communities without being ostracized, and be recognized publicly for their efforts.

These groups lack an organized process by which they can exercise their rights and opinions efficiently. With one in three Afro-Brazilians attending middle school, this is a population that desperately needs visibility and international aid.

As a representative of a large Colombian population within my district, this is an issue that has directly affected my constituents.

I am extremely hopeful that this bill will create more opportunities for all Latin Americans of African descent in their home country, allowing them to play an equal role to that of the entire population in the affairs of their society.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. STEARNS). The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 175, 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. LANTOS. 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.

#### COMMENDING THE CONTINUING IMPROVEMENT IN RELATIONS BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND THE REPUBLIC OF INDIA

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 364) com-

mending the continuing improvement in relations between the United States and the Republic of India.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 364

Whereas the Republic of India achieved its independence from the British Empire on August 15, 1947, and has since that time maintained a democratic system of government;

Whereas India has in recent years opened its economy to a considerable extent to trade and investment and has liberalized its internal economic system;

Whereas India's relationship with the United States has deepened in past years and encompasses cooperation on matters relating to international security, political stability, world trade, technology, science, and health;

Whereas India and Pakistan, neighbors who have fought bitter wars in past decades, have increased their efforts to settle their differences by peaceful means;

Whereas Americans of Indian origin have made critical contributions to the culture and economy of the United States;

Whereas the Prime Minister of India, His Excellency Dr. Manmohan Singh, has, in his previous capacity as Finance Minister, helped shape India's economic policies to permit the growth of free markets, which has led to much greater economic prosperity for many people in India and the creation of a large middle class; and

Whereas Prime Minister Singh has accepted an invitation by the United States to make an official visit to Washington, D.C.: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That it is the sense of the House of Representatives that the continuing improvement in relations between the United States and the Republic of India, exemplified by the current official visit of the Prime Minister of India, His Excellency Dr. Manmohan Singh, is to be commended, supported, and expanded in the interest of the people of India and the people of the United States.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) and the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN).

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H. Res. 364, the resolution under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Florida?

There was no objection.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

When the House considers resolutions at a time coinciding with visits of foreign leaders about the relations between their countries and the United States, it is because of the immense value that the Congress places on that relationship and the critical nature of the issues and policies that bind our nations.

Taking this into consideration, Mr. Speaker, I would like to express my

deepest gratitude to the House leadership for having authored and brought forward this particular resolution for our consideration. The visit of the Prime Minister of India is anything but routine, and the expansion and the strengthening of our relations with India is anything but routine.

I have the honor of co-chairing the India Caucus in the House of Representatives and have had the opportunity to witness this ever growing bond between our nations, a bond based on our shared democratic values and our common goals of safeguarding liberty of combating oppression and of confronting terrorism. His Excellency, Dr. Singh, the Prime Minister of India, will address a joint session tomorrow morning, where we shall have the opportunity to hear directly from him his vision of our relationship.

□ 1615

From the U.S. standpoint, we will always honor Dr. Singh for his pioneering efforts to liberalize the Indian economy internally and to open that economy to the world. His work became the basis of a consensus that was carried on by Indian governments of other parties. It contributed to the economic development of India and to the improvement of conditions for those who are poverty stricken in that nation; and although that effort is not yet complete, it has contributed to the building of a greater middle class.

The trade that was fostered by India's opening to the world has benefited American and Indian consumers and producers. America needs trade partners who, once an agreement is made, will honor that agreement. We can count on India in this respect because those agreements are made under democratic procedures.

Mr. Speaker, we are also coming to recognize the contribution that India can make to the achievement of peace and security in this region and in the world and the potential that it has to make an even greater contribution over time. It would be wrong to fail to mention the enormous contributions that Americans born in India or of Indian descent have made to the moral, economic, and scientific welfare of this Nation as a whole.

Indian-Americans have shared with Americans of other origins their love of their ancestral homeland and have made it clear how the Indus Valley civilization's ancient insights can speak to this hemisphere in contemporary times.

It is my pleasure to welcome Dr. Singh to the Halls of Congress, and I ask my colleagues to support this resolution.

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

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this resolution.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to be one of the four co-sponsors of this resolution along with the distinguished majority leader, the distinguished Democratic leader, and my good friend, the chairman of the Committee on International Relations, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HYDE), our resolution commending the continuing improvement in relations between the United States and the Republic of India.

We do so in the midst of an official visit by the distinguished Prime Minister of India, Dr. Singh, who will address us in a joint session of Congress tomorrow morning to be followed by a private meeting with members of the Committee on International Relations.

In the 5 years since President Clinton traveled to India and opened a new chapter in the bilateral relationship between that country and the United States, we have ushered in new and unprecedented forms of cooperation between our two great democratic nations in areas ranging from global trade to technology.

Security cooperation between the United States and India has dramatically increased with Washington providing funds for military assistance, counternarcotics aid, and other forms of military training.

Mr. Speaker, we all remember well India's eager offer of cooperation in the war on terrorism after the September 11 tragedy and its willingness to allow the use of Indian bases for counterterrorism operations. Both of our countries have been democracies since our inception, and we are natural allies.

In recent years, India has opened its economy to a great extent to trade and investment. India has liberalized its internal economic system, steps that have served, and will continue to serve, to accelerate India's growth. Our distinguished guest, Dr. Singh, played a key role in getting these reforms under way in his earlier capacity as the Finance Minister of India. They have created a vastly enlarged middle class enjoying the benefits of a well-run economic system. And Indians have Dr. Singh to thank for that.

India of late has been a model partner in the ongoing rapprochement with its neighbor, Pakistan, despite memories of bitter wars and nuclear oneupsmanship. Both countries have shown good will in an ongoing attempt to settle their differences by peaceful and diplomatic means.

Mr. Speaker, during a recent visit to New Dehli, Secretary of State Dr. Condoleezza Rice praised the positive recent development in relations between our countries, and the administration put out the word that one of its goals is to help India become a major world power in the 21st century. To that end, Mr. Speaker, I wish to take this opportunity to press again for strong U.S. support for India to become a permanent member of the United Nations Security Council, in long overdue recognition by the international community of India's rightful place as a great democracy.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I want to take a moment to acknowledge the contributions of Americans of Indian origin for whom the visit of Prime Minister Singh this week has special resonance.

The United States is a Nation of immigrants, and we are the world's preeminent power due in large part to the diversity of our people. It is hard to think of an ethnic group, Mr. Speaker, that has made such enormous contributions to the strength of our Nation in such a compressed period of time as America's 1.5 million citizens of Indian decent. In business, science, academia, medicine and culture, Indian-Americans have assumed leadership roles, and they have given back to the communities in which they live.

Indian-Americans have made enormous contributions to the economy of my congressional district in the San Francisco Bay area, particularly to the technology firms of our Silicon Valley. Over 300,000 Indian-Americans work in the cutting-edge technology firms in my area, and they play a critical role in generating new start-up high-tech companies.

So, Mr. Speaker, on behalf of my constituents and all of our colleagues in the Congress, I extend our congratulations to Prime Minister Singh on the achievement his country has made and on the great relations between India and the United States. I urge all of my colleagues to support this resolution.

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the gentleman from Texas resolution commending the increase in bilateral relations between the United States and the Republic of India.

As the former co-chair of the House of Representatives Caucus on India and Indian Americans I have been working hard to increase the engagement by our two governments.

It is an honor for me to represent one of the largest populations of Indian Americans in the United States.

At my constituents urging I have worked to create a stronger relationship between the United States and India.

I had the opportunity to travel to India three times and led the largest Congressional delegation to India and for many of my colleagues who traveled with me it was their first time to India.

Seeing a nation that you deal with on a regular basis first hand is an incredibly important tool for making policy.

In fact two years ago in India I sat next to a quiet economist and member of the opposition Congress Party at the time and now this gentleman will be speaking before a joint session of Congress tomorrow.

I look forward to Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's remarks on the state of relations between our two nations.

As architect of the Indian economic reforms in the 1990's, he cut India's deficit and opened the economy, leading to India's status as a primary figure in the global economy.

I would like to thank the gentleman for introducing this resolution and I urge all of my colleagues to support it.

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

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. STEARNS). The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 364.

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. LANTOS. 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.

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#### RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 6:30 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 4 o'clock and 25 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until approximately 6:30 p.m.

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#### AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. KLINE) at 6 o'clock and 32 minutes p.m.

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#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, proceedings will resume on motions to suspend the rules previously postponed.

Votes will be taken in the following order:

H. Res. 328, by the yeas and nays,

H. Con. Res. 175, by the yeas and nays; and

H. Res. 364, by the yeas and nays.

The first and third electronic votes will be conducted as 15-minute votes. The second vote in this series will be a 5-minute vote.

Further proceedings on H. Res. 326 will be resumed tomorrow.

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#### RECOGNIZING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SOLIDARITY MOVEMENT IN POLAND

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The pending business is the question of suspending the rules and agreeing to the resolution, H. Res. 328, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 328, as amended, on which the yeas and nays are ordered.