

residence. Mossadegh surrendered and was arrested on the 19th of August 1953, tried for treason, and sentenced to 3 years in prison.

□ 1615

Now, keep in mind that on March 8 of 1951, Mossadegh submitted to the Iranian mullahs his proposal to nationalize Iran's oil. According to the Cornell University library, the Anglo-Iranian Oil Company, most of whose stock was owned by the British Government, had been paying Iran much less than the British Government took from the company in taxes. Mossadegh's nationalization bill scared the company into concessions that were made too late. The Premier was committed to nationalization. Much to the surprise of the British, he went through with it right down to the expulsion of British technicians without whom the Iranians could not run the Abadan refinery. Results? The West lost the Iranian oil supply, and the Iranian Government lost the oil payments.

When we are talking about democracy in Iran, Iran had a democratic government which was overthrown because of oil. So let's celebrate democracy and not try to at the same time praise a process that resulted in an overthrow of democracy.

I think when we look at this particular resolution, you have to read these resolutions to the letter to get an idea of what is going on here.

Here we are expressing the profound hope that the people of Iran will once again enjoy a democratic government in the spirit of the Iranian Constitution of 1906. They had a democratic government. The U.S. helped overthrow it.

One of the last resolutions, we talked about initiating an active and consistent dialogue with other governments in the European Union in order to persuade the Government of Iran to rectify its human rights practices. We should be talking to the Government of Iran if we object to their human rights practices.

Resolution 415 says human rights will be considered a significant factor in the foreign policy of the United States with regard to Iran, but we are not stating that with the other countries that have violated the human rights of their citizens.

My concern is that while these resolutions in and of themselves may have elements that are salutary, at the same time you have to put them in the context of the administration's policy, which is a buildup to war against Iran. That is why I am raising a note of caution here. You have to see why we have three resolutions on the floor of the House dealing with Iran on the same day our President is before the United Nations making a statement which characterizes Iran in much the same way that Iraq was characterized before the United Nations in another visit by the President. I think we have to be very cautious about the path this country is taking.

We can stand for democracy and human rights in Iran. We can do all of those things without taking steps and letting our efforts, which might be in good faith, by the way, without letting those efforts be used as a buildup towards war. I am saying look at all of this in the context in which it is occurring.

Look at Time magazine this week and look at the stories that have been published in The New Yorker. Watch the development of this administration with respect to covert activities in Iran.

Madam Speaker, you might be interested to know that our House Subcommittee on Government Operations, which has jurisdiction over national security and international relations, we were supposed to have a classified briefing by the State Department and by the Department of Defense on this issue on what is going on in Iran. They refused to appear. They still refuse to appear. They are not accountable to Congress. I am raising this issue so my colleagues know that you have to look at the context in which these resolutions are being offered.

Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman from California for the opportunity to present these observations.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 942, recognizing the centennial anniversary on August 5, 2006, of the Iranian constitution of 1906. I, too, introduced a resolution recognizing the 100th anniversary of the Iranian Constitutional Revolution at the same time as Mr. KING, H. Res. 967.

The Iranian Constitutional Revolution was a pivotal event in Persian and Middle Eastern history. In the face of a corrupt and authoritarian Qajar monarchy, and in order to defend Persian interests against British and Russian imperialism, the Persian people rose up and forced the creation of a parliament and the adoption of a constitution containing basic democratic rights for the first time in Iranian history.

In this time that the United States faces very serious and difficult issues with regards to Iran, this historic event demonstrates that the Iranian people's long-standing desire for democratic self-government, free from authoritarian rule or foreign interference. I believe that understanding these values common to the Iranian and American peoples, as well as Iran's political history, will help us develop a constructive policy towards Iran. It is also an important sign of support for the Iranian people and our Iranian-American constituents.

Mr. LANTOS. Madam Speaker, we have no additional requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

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. 942.

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 question will be postponed.

EXPRESSING SENSE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES THAT THE SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM NEEDS TO DO MORE TO RESOLVE CLAIMS FOR CONFISCATED REAL AND PERSONAL PROPERTY

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 415) expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the Socialist Republic of Vietnam needs to do more to resolve claims for confiscated real and personal property, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 415

Whereas during the establishment of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam as a 1-party state ruled and controlled by the Vietnamese Communist Party, uncompensated confiscation of real and personal property from Vietnamese citizens was a widespread occurrence;

Whereas Article 23 of the Constitution of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam provides that "[t]he lawful property of individuals and organizations shall not be nationalized";

Whereas according to the Department of State, more work is necessary to adequately protect property rights in Vietnam; and

Whereas the people of the United States are firmly committed to freedom, democracy, and basic human rights for the citizens of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That—

(1) The House of Representatives—

(A) welcomes recent attempts by the Government of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam to establish private land use rights for its citizens, and hopes that these rights are quickly expanded to encompass all Vietnamese citizens;

(B) calls on the Government of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam to more fully recognize its responsibility to provide equitable, prompt, and fair restitution of property that was confiscated by the government;

(C) calls on the Government of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam to direct local officials, particularly in the Central Highlands region, to promptly investigate and resolve complaints about discriminatory and uncompensated confiscation of land;

(D) urges the Government of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam to form a national commission for processing restitution claims, and to obligate local government officials, bodies, and agencies to provide all necessary documentation and cooperation to facilitate the implementation of decisions issued by the national commission; and

(E) strongly urges the Government of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam—

(i) to ensure that implementation of land use reforms by local officials does not result in increased inequity in access to land, particularly for the poor and for those out of favor with the Communist Party; and

(ii) to ensure that the government provides fair, prompt, and equitable restitution to former landowners for the property rights of all confiscated lands; and

(2) it is the sense of the House of Representatives that—

(A) the President should specifically consider land use rights for individuals in determining whether the Socialist Republic of Vietnam is a country of particular concern for religious freedom under section 402(b)(1)(A) of the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6442(b)(1)(A)); and

(B) the President should direct the Secretary of State to include, in the Secretary of State's annual Country Reports on Human Rights Practices submitted to the Congress under the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, the status of land use rights and restitution claims in the Socialist Republic of Vietnam.

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.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on 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. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

House Resolution 415 expresses the sense of the House that the Socialist Republic of Vietnam needs to do more to resolve claims for confiscated real and personal property. This resolution notes the widespread confiscation of real and personal property that occurred during the establishment of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam as a one-party state ruled by the Vietnamese Communist Party.

Many individuals and entities, including the Catholic Church and the United Buddhist Church of Vietnam, still have not been adequately compensated for those extensive takings.

Unfortunately, property confiscation is not just a thing of the past. Earlier this year, the State Department noted reports that Vietnamese officials had forced some ethnic minority Protestants to leave their homes without adequate compensation, and that land was seized from other minorities and given to state-owned coffee and rubber plantations. These events underscore the continuing need for equitable restitution and better protection of property rights in Vietnam.

House Resolution 415 urges the Vietnamese Government to investigate confiscation complaints and to provide restitution. It also expresses the sense of the House that our President should consider land rights issues in determining whether Vietnam is a country of particular concern for religious freedom under the International Religious

Freedom Act, and should include reporting on land rights and restitution issues in the annual Country Reports on Human Rights Practices.

We appreciate the efforts of this resolution's lead sponsors, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ) and the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON), and we thank Chairman HYDE and the Committee on International Relations for moving this resolution forward.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

I first want to commend my good friend and fellow Californian Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ for introducing this resolution. Her leadership in Congress on matters related to Vietnam is deeply appreciated.

Since the fall of Saigon more than three decades ago, the Vietnamese Government has confiscated private property of thousands of Vietnamese families. Some of these Vietnamese have fled abroad, while others have continued to live under the repression of the Vietnamese Communist Party.

Sadly, the confiscation of private property by the Vietnamese Government is not a matter of ancient history. Many Vietnamese today complain that local authorities are confiscating their lands without compensation and due process, and that these confiscations are being carried out in a singularly discriminatory fashion.

The Montagnards in Vietnam's Central Highlands, many of whom are Christians, have been particularly subjected to land confiscations. Many Christian Montagnards have lost access to their ancestral lands, and they have been severely marginalized in an economic sense. In some cases, confiscated Montagnard land has been turned over to Vietnamese from lowland areas.

Madam Speaker, the Vietnamese Government has recently made efforts to improve its land reform policies. It is imperative that the government uses this process to end discriminatory land seizures and to ensure that everyone receives adequate compensation for their property.

I urge all of my colleagues to support this resolution.

Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the author of this important resolution, my good friend from California (Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ).

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Madam Speaker, I thank Mr. LANTOS for yielding me this time.

I would also like to thank my original cosponsor, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON), and Chairman HYDE, and all of the members of the Committee on International Relations who thought this was an important resolution and who helped me bring it to the floor.

I introduced H. Res. 415 in June 2005 because we began to see a very big pat-

tern of confiscation of land. Now, this had been happening in Vietnam since the fall of Saigon back in 1975 by the Socialist government. But we have seen it happen even more, and particularly to religious institutions and to minorities, including the Montagnards who live up in the highlands.

It is a growing concern, and illegal seizures of personal property from Vietnamese citizens and private organizations just shouldn't be happening. Even though Article 23 of the Vietnamese Constitution prohibits seizure of property without compensation, this has not been enforced.

We must support the people within Vietnam who continue to fight for the right to keep their land. Believe me, they do. They have been demonstrating now for almost 6 months in front of the government buildings in Hanoi asking for land reform, asking to get their lands back. We need to make sure if their lands are taken and they are not gotten back, they should at least be compensated correctly for having them taken from them.

The government claims it is working to improve its human rights record. Well, this Congress can send a clear message that we are looking at what they are doing, and in order to show progress in the area of human rights, we are going to evaluate it step by step, and the first part is to end property seizures and to fairly compensate the citizens and organizations whose land has been unfairly taken.

Congress must be clear with the Government of Vietnam that promises alone are not satisfactory, and that implementation and enforcement are the real measures of this progress. As the President prepares to go to Vietnam, and as Vietnam is looking at entrance into WTO, and as we are looking at normal trade relations with Vietnam, I think it is incredibly important for this Congress to remember how important human rights are here in the United States and for every citizen of the world.

I urge my colleagues to support the people of Vietnam and to send a clear message to the Government of Vietnam by voting for this resolution today.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE).

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise to support the effort, the legislation and the work of Congresswoman SANCHEZ, who has worked on these issues for a very long time. I also thank the ranking member Mr. LANTOS and the manager Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN for their leadership on these issues.

It is interesting that now, with most of the world's leaders at the United Nations, you would almost hope that they would accomplish something. Certainly that would mean to many of the nations that would be appearing there

that they would address some of the questions that have oppressed their citizens for years.

□ 1630

After the Vietnam War, we remain with a divided Vietnam, the North and South Vietnam; but over the years, this Congress and these administrations have moved more closely to try to develop alliances with the United States and North and South Vietnam, under the argument that engagement is responsible and it helps to promote democracy.

I would say that many of the Vietnamese in the Vietnamese community of the United States know that that is still a difficult road. Many are still fighting for family reunification, for the right to visit their families, or the right for their families to be reunited with them. Even though we move closer and closer to trade relationships, we still have harsh conditions in the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, and that has to do with the ongoing fight for confiscated and personal property that has not been returned.

Unfortunately, as the one-party system was established under the Vietnamese Communist Party, uncompensated confiscation of real and personal property from Vietnamese citizens was widespread and there was no solution. Unfortunately, under this government the confiscation of land as a tool of repression against certain ethnic minorities continued, and it continues even today. Article 23 of the Constitution of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam provides that the lawful property of individuals and organizations shall not be nationalized.

So I rise today to ask that more attention be given to the providing of this property back to the rightful owners and that the government is asked by the world community to establish a private land use right for some of its citizens and also to establish a way to return this property. We, likewise, believe that this government should remove itself from engaging in repressive procedures that do not allow the right of private property ownership to exist in North Vietnam. We believe it is very important for tools to be put in place so that the rights of the people can be restored.

I hope in this time that the United Nations is gathered that issues dealing with individual rights of citizens and countries that are still repressive become high on their agenda. We need to discuss Sudan. We need to discuss the rights of the people in Iran, and, certainly, Vietnam is one in particular.

So I join in support of H. Res. 415 and ask this Congress to support a strong statement being made to North Vietnam about the rights of its people and the right for the return of private and personal property. This is a time that the statement should be made, but more importantly, this is a time for action.

Mr. LANTOS. Madam Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

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. 415, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the resolution, as amended, was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

—————

**REQUESTING THE PRESIDENT TO
ISSUE A PROCLAMATION CALLING
FOR OBSERVANCE OF GLOBAL
FAMILY DAY, ONE DAY OF
PEACE AND SHARING**

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Con. Res. 317) requesting the President to issue a proclamation annually calling upon the people of the United States to observe Global Family Day, One Day of Peace and Sharing, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. CON. RES. 317

Whereas, in the year 2005, the people of the world suffered many calamitous events, including devastation from tsunami, terror attacks, war, famine, genocide, hurricanes, earthquakes, political and religious conflict, disease, poverty, and rioting, all necessitating global cooperation, compassion, and unity previously unprecedented among diverse cultures, faiths, and economic classes;

Whereas grave global challenges in the year 2006 may require cooperation and innovative problem-solving among citizens and nations on an even greater scale;

Whereas, on December 15, 2000, Congress adopted Senate Concurrent Resolution 138, expressing the sense of Congress that the President of the United States should issue a proclamation each year calling upon the people of the United States and interested organizations to observe an international day of peace and sharing at the beginning of each year;

Whereas, in 2001, the United Nations General Assembly adopted Resolution 56/2, which invited "Member States, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and all the peoples of the world to celebrate One Day in Peace, 1 January 2002, and every year thereafter";

Whereas many foreign heads of state have recognized the importance of establishing Global Family Day, a special day of international unity, peace, and sharing, on the first day of each year; and

Whereas family is the basic structure of humanity, thus, we must all look to the stability and love within our individual families to create stability in the global community: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That Congress urgently requests the following:

(1) That the President issue a proclamation annually calling upon the people of the United States to observe Global Family Day, One Day of Peace and Sharing, a day which is dedicated—

(A) to eradicating violence, hunger, poverty, and suffering; and

(B) to establishing greater trust and fellowship among peace-loving nations and families everywhere.

(2) That the President invite former Presidents of the United States, Nobel laureates, and other notables, including American business, labor, faith, and civic leaders, to join the President in promoting appropriate activities for Americans and in extending appropriate greetings from the families of America to families in the rest of the world.

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.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

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

I rise in support of House Con. Res. 317, requesting the President to issue a proclamation setting aside a day dedicated to eradicating violence and establishing greater trust among peace-loving nations and families everywhere.

This resolution has a distinguished history, Madam Speaker. In the year 2000, Congress unanimously agreed to a similar resolution. The previous legislation, authored by the late Senator Paul Wellstone from Minnesota, expressed the sense of Congress that a day of peace and sharing should be established at the beginning of each year. This day would encourage people around the world to gather with family, their faith community, and neighbors to share a meal and to pledge to work for peace in the new year. It called upon Americans to match or multiply the cost of that year's meal with a contribution to fight hunger.

In the following year, 2001, the United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution asking the global community to set aside the first day of the year to recognize the importance of international unity, peace, and sharing.

Today, Madam Speaker, we are considering House Concurrent Resolution 317, sponsored by my colleague Congressman CONYERS, recognizing that in order to implement these resolutions calling for peace and the alleviation of worldwide suffering, we must rely heavily on the family. It is the family that is the basic unit of a civil society. The family is where our values are learned and carried out. Stability and peace in the global community can only be accomplished one family at a time.

A special day where families worldwide can sit down to a meal and pledge