

H. CON. RES. 352, H. RES. 500, H. CON. RES.
297, H. CON. RES. 275, AND H. RES. 259

MARKUP
BEFORE THE
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INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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297, H. CON. RES. 275, AND H. RES. 259**

THURSDAY, JUNE 15, 2000

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS,
Washington, DC.

The Committee met, pursuant to notice, at 10 a.m. in room 2172, Rayburn House Office Building, Hon. Benjamin A. Gilman (Chairman of the Committee) presiding.

Chairman GILMAN. The Committee will be in order. Ladies and gentlemen of the Committee, we will meet today in open session pursuant to notice to mark up several resolutions.

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 352, REGARDING PRESS FREEDOM IN
RUSSIA

The first resolution will be House Concurrent Resolution 352, relating to press freedom in Russia. The Chair lays the resolution before the Committee. The clerk will report the title of the resolution.

Ms. BLOOMER. H. Con. Res. 352, concurrent resolution expressing the sense of the Congress regarding manipulation of the mass media and intimidation of the independent press and the Russian Federation, expressing support for freedom of speech and the independent media in the Russian Federation, and calling on the President of the United States to express his strong concern for freedom of speech and the independent media in the Russian Federation.

[The resolution appears in the appendix.]

Chairman GILMAN. Without objection, the preamble and operative language of the resolution will be read in that order for the amendment. Clerk will read.

Ms. BLOOMER. Whereas almost all of the large printing plants, publishing houses, and newspaper—

Chairman GILMAN. Without objection, the resolution is considered as having been read and is open to amendment at any point. This resolution is in the original jurisdiction of the Full Committee. I now recognize myself briefly on the resolution.

House Concurrent Resolution 352, which I have introduced along with Mr. Lantos and Mr. Smith, makes it clear that the Congress is greatly concerned by the treatment of the Russian media by President Vladimir Putin and by his government's increasingly apparent lack of respect for freedom of expression in general in Russia.

After years of extensive privatization of Russian state-owned enterprises, little privatization has been carried in major segments of the Russian media.

Important segments, such as large printing and publishing houses and nationwide television frequencies and broadcasting facilities, have been only partially privatized if they have been privatized at all.

That failure to privatize key segments of the media presents a tempting opportunity for Russian officials to manipulate the state-run media for their own ends, and in the recent parliamentary and Presidential elections, we saw clear evidence that Russian officials have succumbed to that temptation.

As this resolution points out, the Russian Government's immense influence over the state-run media was used during those elections to openly support friends of the party in power in the Kremlin and to attack blatantly and viciously those who opposed that party of power.

Mr. Putin might very well not be president of Russia today if such media manipulation had not been used to his advantage.

In addition to that manipulation of the state-run media, this resolution points out that the Russian Government and its officials and agencies have also sought to intimidate the independent media.

A new Russian ministry for the press was created last July, and the minister for the press stated quite openly that his job was to address the so-called aggression of the Russian press.

Leading Russian editors complained, in an open letter to former president Boris Yeltsin in August, that government officials were putting pressure on the media, particularly through unwarranted raids by tax police.

In fact, as recently as May 11, masked officers of the Russian Federal security service raided the headquarters of Media Most, which operates NTV, the largest independent national television station in Russia.

Then just this week the owner of Media Most, Vladimir Gusinsky, was arrested on rather vague charges.

In addition, Russian reporters have been beaten and murdered, and police investigations have tended to fail more often than not to identify the perpetrators, much less bring them to justice.

Andre Babitsky, a Russian reporter working for Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty covering the war in Chechnya, was arrested by the Russian military and then exchanged to unidentified Chechens for Russian POWs, a blatant violation of his rights as a Russian citizen.

Another reporter was ordered by police to enter a psychiatric clinic for an examination after he wrote articles critical of certain Russian officials.

Beyond these examples of the ongoing intimidation of the press by Mr. Putin's government, this resolution points out a disturbing fact that is very relevant to freedom of expression in general in Russia.

The Russian Federal security service is now moving to ensure total surveillance over the Internet in Russia by installing a system by which all transmissions and e-mails originating within Russia and sent to parties in Russia can be read by its personnel.

My colleagues in this manner, new structures of surveillance over all of Russia's citizens are being created.

This resolution makes it clear that the Russian government's manipulation and intimidation of the media threaten the chances for democracy and rule of law in Russia and makes it clear that freedom of expression by Russians in general is also under attack by that government and its agencies.

This measure calls on our President to make it clear to President Putin that the United States insists on respect for freedom of speech and of the press in Russia.

Mr. Lantos.

Mr. LANTOS. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We are dealing here with one of the most serious developments since the end of the Cold War. I think it is important that we put this outrageous incarceration of the head of the only free media in Russia in some perspective.

Boris Yeltsin was not feeling very comfortable with the free press, and several years ago, he attempted to intimidate this same media operation and demanded that its most successful television program, a program which is made up of brilliantly designed little puppets with faces of political leaders be taken off the air. The leadership of the independent media, asked me to go to Moscow and hold a press conference on this issue, which I did, and the pressure on the Yeltsin regime, apparently from a variety of sources, was sufficient that they allowed this political satire to continue. Now, Mr. Putin was inducted as the president of Russia with pomp and circumstance, which would have made the most status conscious czar rejoice, and he is giving the impression that he is the ruler of all the Russias.

When he was asked in Madrid about this outrageous incarceration of the head of the independent media, and by the way, this incarceration took place in the most notorious prison of the Gulag system in Poterka Prison, where the most dangerous common criminals are housed and where the lives of people who are in that prison are unsafe from their fellow inmates—Putin indicated that all this came as a surprise to him.

Now, there are two possibilities, Mr. Chairman. Putin either was lying or he was telling the truth. If he was lying, this is an attempt by him to shift the blame for this outrageous attack on the free media away from himself and on to the shoulders of the so-called independent prosecutor. If, in fact, he was telling the truth, my conclusion is even more ominous, namely, he is not in control of the Kremlin and even more sinister forces are playing political games designed to silence for good the last remaining component of free media in Russia.

Our resolution outlines the case clearly and I wish to place in the record today's editorials from The New York Times, The Washington Post, and The Wall Street Journal on this subject.

Chairman GILMAN. Without objection, it will be made part of the record.

Mr. LANTOS. The only reservation I have about our resolution, Mr. Chairman, and I agreed to cosponsor your version of this resolution because I think it is important we act on it and the whole House act on it—

Chairman GILMAN. We appreciate your cooperation.

Mr. LANTOS [continuing]. Is the calling on the administration to do all kinds of things. Let me state for the record that our Ambassador in Moscow, Jim Collins, has been on this case full-time since Mr. Gusinsky's arrest, that our acting Secretary of State, Strobe Talbott, the Vice President and the President, have done everything in their power to persuade the Russian Government to put an end to this outrageous spectacle. So our calling on the administration to do things is gratuitous. There is nothing wrong with it, but I want the record to show that our administration is doing its utmost to have Mr. Gusinsky released, and at a broader level, to have respect for free media observed in Russia.

I think it is extremely important in dealing with this most important matter that no hint of partisanship be present in any of our public pronouncements. Our Republican colleagues and our Democratic colleagues stand shoulder to shoulder with those of us who introduced this resolution, irrespective of political partisan and political affiliation. So I strongly ask my colleagues to vote for this resolution, but I regret that there are hints of political partisanship which have been included in this resolution which, in fact, have no place in it.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman GILMAN. Thank you, Mr. Lantos.

Mr. Smith.

Mr. SMITH. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman, for bringing this very important resolution before the Committee today. We all know that freedom of press is vital, an absolutely essential element in a Democratic society. Those of us who are concerned about democracy, and I believe that is all of us, and human rights around the world are deeply alarmed about what has been happening in Russia in recent weeks and months.

Your outstanding work on this issue and that of our colleague and friend, Tom Lantos, is an indication of how seriously the Committee and the entire Congress takes this issue. The arrest of Vladimir Gusinsky is an alarming development that not only reflects the Russian Government's antagonism toward one individual, but will certainly have a chilling and, more precisely, a freezing effect on the media freedom in Russia. His arrest serves as a warning to anyone exercising their freedom of expression regardless of their point of view that they may be next.

Mr. Chairman, as you probably know, yesterday 17 influential business leaders wrote to President Putin to protest the arrest of Mr. Gusinsky. They wrote, a precedent has been established. One day all of us, practically the entire business community, could be listed as political opponents. As a matter of fact, Mr. Chairman, on May 23, the Helsinki Commission, which I chair, held congressional hearings on the human rights picture under the Putin administration, and that picture is very bleak. The trend line is going in the opposite direction that it should be. Among the witnesses was Igor Maleshinko, the first deputy chairman of Media Most. In his testimony, Mr. Maleshinko called the May 11 raid on Media Most and NTV, "vengeance for material already published or aired an act of intimidation to prevent further investigative reporting by the media not only in Moscow, but all over the country." Clearly Mr. Gusinsky had not been sufficiently intimidated by the raid.

The move against Mr. Gusinsky is another downward indicator in Russia's human rights picture as we see increasing reports of harassment of independent media throughout Russia as well as independent political and ecological groups.

I would make this note that when we journey to Bucharest for the OSCE, parliamentary assembly in Bucharest, I will be leading that delegation, I can assure you we will aggressively raise the issue with the members of the Duma. Hopefully, the speaker of the Duma will be there, like he was last year, to try to get Mr. Gusinsky out of prison as quickly as possible, and also to stop the trend line which, again, is going in the wrong direction.

Great resolution, Mr. Chairman. I hope everybody supports it.

Chairman GILMAN. Thank you, Mr. Smith.

Mr. Gejdenson.

Mr. GEJDENSON. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just want to join with my colleagues to say that these kinds of activities in any society would be a frightening development, but to see them happening in a country for so long that epitomized assault on a free press and a free citizenry is truly frightening. We know where Mr. Putin came from, the KGB and the origins of the KGB and the NKBD. These kinds of actions would be more understandable if they came from a society still controlled by the old Soviet KGB and not one supposedly operating under democratic institutions.

The world is watching as Mr. Putin tries to bring order to a somewhat chaotic economic and political system in Russia. Closing down and assaulting the press will not get the response that Mr. Putin is looking for. He will only reignite the tensions that have existed for all too long in this century between Russia and democratic societies. It will also not bring any progress to Russia, but only bring the darkness that existed for so long under Stalin. It is clear we all speak with one voice here, and I urge the Chairman to move this expeditiously to the floor.

Chairman GILMAN. Thank you, Mr. Gejdenson. The Committee will stand in recess for the vote.

[Recess.]

Mr. BEREUTER [presiding]. The Committee will be in order. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona under the 5-minute rule.

Mr. SALMON. Thank you. First of all, I would like to congratulate Mr. Lantos for addressing this issue early on. He introduced a resolution himself about a week ago which I was original cosponsor of. We had a hearing with the Helsinki Commission about 3 weeks ago in which representatives from Media One were able to come and address the body to talk about major problems in Russia, and I must agree, I think that our message needs to be very, very clear.

It should not, in my mind, have political overtones within the context of our own political system here in this country, but it should be very, very clear in the denunciation of the atrocities being perpetuated in Russia right now. I am very, very concerned about the fact that not long ago, Media One was raided first and foremost, and they were raided not because, to our understanding, they have done anything illegally or criminal, but simply because they spoke in opposition to some of the policies of the Putin government.

So I believe that our message needs to be very, very clear from this Congress. I know that Congressman Lantos has been working with the administration to address this problem, and I believe that they have been doing their part to try to address the problems.

When the President was in Russia a few weeks ago, I know he brought up the issue of press freedom. I know it is a concern to him. So let's make our message very, very clear that we in this country, as partners with Russia, demand that they show more sympathy to the freedom of the press, and if they truly want to grow as a democracy, if they truly want to reform themselves, if they truly want the support of the free world, then we have got to give more than just lip service to the concept of freedom of the press, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BEREUTER. Are there other Members who wish to be heard on the resolution?

Mr. Lantos, do you know if there are other Members who would be returning who want to be heard on this?

Mr. LANTOS. I don't, Mr. Chairman, but if I may take another couple of minutes, I would like to add a few thoughts.

Mr. BEREUTER. Without objection, the gentleman is recognized.

Mr. LANTOS. Thank you very much.

This resolution is one of the most important ones we will consider in this current session of Congress. Russia is at the crossroads. It can move in the direction of developing into a democratic and prosperous and peaceful society which will be a friend and ally of the United States, and our colleagues in western Europe in building a prosperous and peaceful global community. Or it can return back to its totalitarian, authoritarian, dictatorial directions.

It is my impression that Mr. Putin is potentially educable. If that is a reasonable assumption, this is a very important pedagogic device. I think it is extremely important to note that the international community of media people has condemned this outrageous arrest of the head of the free media. I think it is important our European allies speak out as forcefully as we are.

Prime Minister Tony Blair, who has had early and good relations where Mr. Putin is in a particularly propitious position to exert whatever influence he has, but I think it is extremely important for us to realize, since we passed so many resolutions, not many of them waiting, that this one is an extremely significant one. It is a historic one. We are telling the Russian government and the Russian people that we understand they are a long ways from a free and democratic society, but if they wish to move in that direction, they must do it with a free press.

A free press which is free to criticize the government, whether in its military actions as in Chechnya, or whether in its domestic policies as the acceptance of political satire as part of the game of democratic life. I strongly urge my colleagues to vote for this resolution. I yield back, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. BEREUTER. Thank you, Mr. Lantos. Despite the other duties that Members have in Committee markups and elsewhere, I do hope that the public will regard this as a unanimous approval of the resolution. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

Mr. ROHRABACHER. Thank you very much. Just a couple of thoughts. First of all, I salute Mr. Lantos on, again, providing leadership on a very important pro-freedom, human rights issue that will be of great significance to our future and to the future of peace and for the world, not just for Russia but for the world.

It has brought to mind something that happened to me 10 years ago. I was just a freshman here in Congress, that there were some visiting Russians in the city, and some of them had been directed to my office, and I was going to be spending the weekend here, and it was on a Friday whether they came to my office. So I suggested that we all go out and play touch football the next day, and they all showed up to play touch football the next day, and then I suggested after the football game that we all go to the local pub for some intellectual discourse and they all went to this—actually, it was the Irish Times Pub right here on Capitol Hill, and as the discussion became more relevant to the occasion, we decided to find out about competition, to teach them what competition was all about.

And we began to have arm wrestling matches with these Russians who were visiting the United States, and it just so happens that the fellow that I was teamed up against is now the president of Russia, Mr. Putin. And I don't know whether I should report whether he beat me or not, but I think it is important whether you are arm wrestling or whether you are engaged in this type of activity that those are people that need to feel the pressure, and they need to understand that we are not just going to sit by and idly do nothing as they are going in the wrong direction.

We need to put the full force, we need to put some muscle, pardon for the pun, but we need to put some muscle behind our words, but we need, most of all, to express these thoughts that Mr. Lantos has been talking about with our whole heart, so that these words will be heard in Russia and will be heard by Mr. Putin, because these people are not experienced in democracy. They are not experienced in taking criticism. They do not understand that in a system for it to succeed, they have to be able to accept criticism from the press and from opponents, and by speaking forcefully today and giving them this type of direction, I think that we are letting Mr. Putin understand more about the way the system works, and we are not expressing hostility toward them.

We are expressing that we want Russia to succeed. We want Russia to be prosperous and free and at peace and democratic, and they are not going to get that way if they end up censoring the press. And just like I think we talked to them a little bit about American football and Indian wrestling that day, I think that maybe today, we can try to express a lesson—

Mr. LANTOS. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. ROHRABACHER. Yes, sir, I certainly will.

Mr. LANTOS. Knowing of my friend's extraordinary diplomatic skills, I am sure he allowed Mr. Putin to win. Therefore, you better call him now to sort of urge him to act in the correct way.

Mr. ROHRABACHER. Thank you very much. Mr. Chairman, would you like me to move forward with this.

Mr. BEREUTER. Let me see for the record if there are any other Members seeking recognition. There is a Member seeking recognition. The gentleman from California, Mr. Sherman.

Mr. SHERMAN. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just want to commend Mr. Lantos for his excellent work on this resolution. I think we should praise the courage of Vladimir Gusinsky because here is a man who had his offices invaded and then the next week the puppets were back on television and then they were back on television the week after with the Putin puppeteer face. This is a man who has shown a dedication to his country, toward democracy in his country, toward the free expression of thought in his country that should be a model for media tycoons in the United States and elsewhere. This man has put his country above profitability or even his own freedom.

The other point I think we can make is that American companies should be reluctant to invest in a country that does not follow the rule of law and does not protect press freedom, does not have real democracy. No one in Russia can be safe to criticize that regime. No one in Russia can believe that they have a free press when the most powerful of all of the critics, the one most likely to be able to defend himself is now in a Russian prison, and in fact I am told one of the worst of the Russian prisons. So I commend Mr. Lantos for bringing this resolution to the Committee.

Chairman GILMAN [presiding]. Are there any other Members seeking recognition? If not, I recognize the gentleman from California, Mr. Rohrabacher, for a motion.

Mr. ROHRABACHER. Yes, Mr. Chairman. I move that the Chairman be requested to seek consideration of the pending resolution on the suspension calendar.

Chairman GILMAN. The question is on the motion by the gentleman from California, Mr. Rohrabacher. All those in favor of the motion signify by saying "aye." All those opposed signify by saying "no." The ayes have it. The motion is agreed to. Further proceedings on this measure are postponed.

H. RES. 500, RELATING TO THE SITUATION IN ZIMBABWE

We will now move to consideration of H. Res. 500, relating to the situation in Zimbabwe. The Chair lays the resolution before the Committee. The clerk will report the title of the resolution.

Ms. BLOOMER. H. Res. 500, resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives concerning the violence, breakdown of rule of law, and troubled preelection period in the Republic of Zimbabwe.

[The resolution appears in the appendix.]

Chairman GILMAN. Without objection, the clerk will read the preamble and operative language of the resolution in that order for amendment. The clerk will read.

Ms. BLOOMER. Whereas people around the world supported the Republic—

Chairman GILMAN. Without objection, the resolution is considered as having been read and is open to amendment at any point. Anyone seeking recognition? Mr. Royce.

Mr. ROYCE. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Let me begin by applauding you on moving quickly with this resolution because critical elec-

tions are going to be held in Zimbabwe on the 24th and 25th. You and Mr. Hastings, working with the Africa Subcommittee staff, have put together an important resolution I am a cosponsor of, and my hope is that this could be on the House floor next week.

The Africa Subcommittee held a hearing on Zimbabwe on Tuesday and in that hearing we heard from Zimbabwe's leading opposition figure over the phone and I am more convinced than ever that we need to send a strong message to the government in Zimbabwe that the United States and the international community will be making a hard-nosed assessment of the legitimacy of those elections.

Unfortunately, it is quite clear that these elections leave much to be desired because we have seen the spectacle of ruling party supporters attacking schools, having taken their cue from the Justice Minister who accused the teachers of the country of polluting the minds of the young people. The Zimbabwe Teachers Association says that at least 200 schools have now been attacked, disrupted, and the teachers intimidated. Teachers, they report, have been stripped naked in front of their students and forced to chant pro-Mugabe slogans. Teachers have been beaten unconscious in front of their students. This is instigated by a government which professes a concern for education. It is no coincidence that teachers served as the poll workers in the previous election 4 months ago in which the government lost that referendum by a 55-45 margin on expanding President Mugabe's powers. So there could be no mistake that a message is being sent now to the teachers who are the potential poll workers in the upcoming elections.

The political intimidation has been deadly over the last few weeks. At least 31 persons, mostly Black Movement for Democratic Change supporters have been killed. Hundreds others have been beaten, raped, or forced to flee their homes. There are often knocks in the dead of night on the door and requests by the secret police to see if you are carrying the papers of the party in power or if you are instead associated with the opposition.

Sadly, the rule of law and democracy has long been compromised in post-independence of Zimbabwe. It has been a de facto one-party state where political opponents have been intimidated and physically abused. The United States and the international community have swept these troubling realities under the rug for years while indulging the Mugabe government with aid. U.S. bilateral aid alone has totaled three-quarters of a billion dollars.

This resolution notes that donor-supported land reform efforts have been ineffective due to government corruption. In fact, the land that has been transferred has been transferred to cabinet members and other political associates of President Mugabe. It has not gone to Zimbabwean farmers.

So the results are in. After President Mugabe has played the donors like a fiddle for years, Zimbabwe is staring into the abyss. It is time we learn from the past. The democratic activists in Zimbabwe have shown tremendous courage in the face of terrifying and cowardly government attacks while practicing nonviolence on their part.

I know for a fact that this resolution has bolstered their morale. This is an important statement, Mr. Chairman, and the Congress

should be looking to do more. It should be looking to do more, yet if the government of Zimbabwe continues on its present course, and many of us will be watching the human rights and rule-of-law situation during and after these elections, and if things don't improve, I will be moving to end aid to Zimbabwe. I know many of my colleagues feel likewise. We all hope for the best, but it is important that the Mugabe government understand that things are different today. There is little tolerance for this rule at any cost and I thank you, Mr. Chairman, for sponsoring this important resolution.

Chairman GILMAN. Thank you, Mr. Royce.

Judge Hastings.

Mr. HASTINGS. Thank you so very much, Mr. Chairman. I thank the Chairman of the Africa Subcommittee, Mr. Royce, as well for expediting this matter. I would like to express my strong support for H.Res. 500, concerning the recent situation in Zimbabwe. Mr. Chairman, this resolution is offered to condemn the ongoing spiral of political violence in Zimbabwe eloquently spoken to by the Africa Subcommittee chair, my good friend Mr. Royce. It urges President Mugabe and the ruling party to enforce the rule of law and support international efforts to assist land reform.

Further, it condemns violence directed against farm workers and recommends that a bipartisan delegation travel to Zimbabwe under the auspices of the International Republican Institute and the National Democratic Institute for International Affairs for the purpose of monitoring elections scheduled for June 24 and 25 of this year.

It is quite unequivocal that the time for gentle prodding and subtle messages to the government of Zimbabwe has passed. President Mugabe is evidently not listening. He evidently is not responding. Thus, the time for quiet diplomacy and behind the scenes negotiations should come to an end.

The United States must voice our loud dissent over the existing conditions in this southern Africa nation. We must heed the call of all the world's citizens seeking peaceful, political, and social justice, whether it is Zimbabwe or Bosnia or Kosovo. It is very risky for us to associate ourselves with leaders who no longer have the support of their people and regimes with undemocratic values. And we must not wait too long to answer the cries for liberty in Zimbabwe, for there has already been enough bloodshed and loss of lives in that tiny nation.

Mr. Chairman, we must act swiftly to avoid further disaster. I continue to believe that with Sierra Leone in a state of anarchy, the Democratic Republic of the Congo in a battlefield, Ethiopia and Eritrea back in war and other parts of the African continent ongoing cataclysmic upheavals, we certainly cannot allow Zimbabwe to collapse as well. There is still time but only if President Mugabe returns to his senses.

I implore our colleagues to join you, Mr. Chairman, and all of us in sending a strong message to President Mugabe and his ruling body to end the violence now, conduct free, fair, and transparent elections as scheduled, and uphold the rule of law. We also must support the vast majority of people in Zimbabwe who are committed to peace and economic prosperity and let them know that their aspirations for peace and democracy are not lost. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman GILMAN. Thank you, Judge Hastings.

Mr. Payne.

Mr. PAYNE. Thank you very much. Let me commend the Chairman Royce for introducing this legislation and Judge Hastings. I join in support of the recommendation. I think that on our recent trip led by Amo Houghton and Speaker Gephardt—Leader Gephardt, excuse me, we had a good opportunity to meet with Mr. Mugabe and members of the opposition forces. We were of course primarily concerned about the problem of HIV virus and AIDS and for the first time Mr. Mugabe did acquiesce to the fact that it has been known that there is a problem with AIDS and for the first time has publicly said that he was willing to lend all of the government resources that were available to fight this.

But as we met with that and had a success as relates to the dreaded disease there, we certainly were confronted with the fact that there had been unfair tactics as relates to the upcoming elections.

The resolution here certainly expresses our concern for the violence and a breakdown of law in the preelection period in Zimbabwe and it calls for the citizens of Zimbabwe to—we support the peaceful demonstrations that have been going on by the opposition. We urge the government to uphold the rule of law and support international efforts to support land reform. It encourages all parties and local media in society to work together for a free and fair election and encourages monitors to visit there in the upcoming elections.

There are still two problems, though, going into the election. One is about the autonomy of the Electoral Supervisory Commission, the ESC and, second, the accreditation of observers and polling agents. I think that these issues must be dealt with and overcome. I do think that with the adventurism by President Mugabe into the Congo, that local support has eroded because people felt there were problems at home, the unemployment rate, the inflation, and I do believe that in order to make a dramatic statement President Mugabe has used the question of land reform, which has been a several decade problem, but making this the No. 1 issue to attempt to gain support for those who are shut out and knocked down. But I do urge that President Mugabe allow free and fair elections. I do think there are some underlying problems that we ought to assist the country of Zimbabwe in once the elections are over, and hopefully they are fair and free so that we can add our assistance to trying to help them sort out the problems of real land reform, the same problems that we have seen in South Africa with the distribution of land, the same problem we have seen in Namibia, the same problem that was in Zambia. But I think once the elections are over, fair and free, hopefully the people's voice will be heard and hopefully we will be able to sit down with the government of Zimbabwe, with the British, with those who are part of the Lancaster House agreement of 20 years ago, which has never really been fully implemented, and perhaps we can resolve the land problem once and for all and move toward a better day for the people of Zimbabwe who certainly deserve it.

Thank you very much.

Chairman GILMAN. Thank you, Mr. Payne.

Mr. Royce, for an amendment.

Mr. ROYCE. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have really just a technical amendment. The resolution currently reads, Whereas no date has been set for parliamentary elections, those dates have been set for June 24 and 25. We should make note of that and this technical amendment does so.

Chairman GILMAN. The clerk will report the amendment.

Ms. BLOOMER. Amendment offered by Mr. Royce: In the final Whereas clause on page two strike the words "no date has" and insert "June 24 and June 25 have".

[The amendment appears in the appendix.]

Chairman GILMAN. Without objection, the amendment is agreed to.

I will now speak briefly to the resolution.

There was a time when President Robert Mugabe of Zimbabwe spoke passionately and persuasively for justice, liberty and majority rule, but destiny led this Jesuit trade schoolteacher to become the leader of a liberation movement. But at some point during the past 20 years that vision of a peaceful democratic Zimbabwe has become twisted and the President seems to believe that it is his birth right to rule and that he will live forever.

Earlier this year, the people of Zimbabwe sadly rejected the constitutional referendum that would have given the President even greater powers. Commercial farmers, both black and white, as well as the commercial farmer, who comprise 26 percent of Zimbabwe's labor force, fought the referendum and won.

Surprised that anyone should dare question his authority, the ruling party, at the direction of the President, launched a brutal and cynical campaign to cower its political opponents into submission. These activities have not gone unnoticed among Zimbabwe's neighbors and democratic nations around the world. Zimbabwe's law requires that parliamentary elections be held within the next few months. The intimidation in state sponsored violence that we have observed these past few months are designed to keep all power in the hands of the ruling party, which currently holds 147 of the—150 seats of the parliament. These tactics are not just misjudged. They are also destined to fail.

Every time a farm worker is beaten for asserting his right to free speech, ZANU loses support. Every time a Zimbabwe soldier dies in the Congo, a war that means nothing to his family, ZANU loses its support. President Mugabe has made the greatest mistake any politician can make. He has underestimated the people he covers.

H. Res. 500 expresses the House's profound dismay at the practices of Zimbabwe's current leadership. It is our sincere wish that the people of Zimbabwe who deserve the political freedom, as many have fought for, will remain steadfast in a peaceful pursuit of democratic reform.

I commend the Subcommittee on African Affairs, ably led by Mr. Royce and Mr. Payne for their excellent hearing on this topic yesterday, and I would also like to thank Judge Hastings for his original cosponsorship of this resolution and many other Members who have offered their sponsorship since the resolution was introduced, and I ask that my full statement be made part of the record.

[The prepared statement of Chairman Gilman appears in the appendix.]

Chairman GILMAN. Are there any other Members seeking recognition?

Mr. Sherman.

Mr. SHERMAN. I want to associate myself with the preceding speakers. I think this is an important resolution and the recent comments indicate why. I want to add a plea to the embassy of the United States in Zimbabwe that it will take extraordinary efforts to protect Americans and American businesses in Zimbabwe during this period of unrest because it is those business activities and tourism that will help Zimbabwe in the years to come rebuild its economy.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman GILMAN. Thank you. Mr. Lantos, is that on a motion on your bill?

Mr. LANTOS. No.

Chairman GILMAN. Mr. Lantos.

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Chairman, for the sake of saving time, I want to associate myself with the comments of my good friends Congressman Hastings and Congressman Payne and to recognize their enormous contributions to issues on behalf of human rights and democracy globally.

Chairman GILMAN. Thank you, Mr. Lantos.

Mr. Bereuter.

Mr. BEREUTER. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I was just going to make a comment or two as I offered in a motion. I would like to commend the Chairman and Mr. Hastings for this initiative. The Chairman has just given a very strong statement of our concerns or actually our outrage over what has happened and, as Mr. Hastings says, the time for subtle message has passed. I have a hard time referring to Mr. Mugabe as president. It is an honorable title. I don't think he deserves it.

When the gentleman from New Jersey went to speak along with others about the scourge of HIV/AIDS, it must have been difficult for them to meet with the gentleman despite the importance of that issue. I think what Mugabe has done has been outrageous. He has encouraged violence. His actions have been despicable. He ought to be regarded as an international pariah.

And I would hope that when this bill is managed on the floor that the manager, the Chairman or whoever he might designate, would request a record vote on it so that we might have unanimous expression of the House of Representatives about the conduct that has been going on in Zimbabwe, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Chairman GILMAN. Thank you, Mr. Bereuter.

Mr. Payne.

Mr. PAYNE. I might just add that the embassy that was referred to by Mr. Sherman, the embassy has really been engaged in this. I receive several calls a week from the U.S. Ambassador to Zimbabwe. They are moving around the country. They are really on top of the issue and has shown a tremendous concern by like I said, by several calls, and I am sure Mr. Hastings and Mr. Royce and

others of us have received calls from our embassy. So they are really seemingly on target in this instance.

Thank you.

Chairman GILMAN. Ms. Lee.

Ms. LEE. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and let me just say that I also want to associate myself with the remarks of Judge Hastings and especially Congressman Payne with regard to particularly the issues around land reform, and I think we must remember that during the liberation struggle and the independence struggle the issue was land reform then. Here we are now many, many years, what is it, 20 years later in a new election and the same issue prevails. The issue is land reform.

It is important, I believe, for the United States once these elections take place, and I fully support this resolution. I think it is going to be very important for us to not just be bystanders as we move forward in this process because I don't want to see us 20 years from now still dealing with these issues, especially as they relate to land reform, because I think that that has got to be addressed very quickly. If not, we will be in the same place 20 years from now.

Thank you.

Chairman GILMAN. Thank you, Ms. Lee. If there are no other Members seeking recognition, the gentleman from Nebraska, Mr. Bereuter, is recognized to offer a motion.

Mr. BEREUTER. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I move that the Chairman be requested to seek consideration of the pending resolution on the suspension calendar.

Chairman GILMAN. The question is now on the motion of the gentleman from Nebraska. All those in favor of the motion signify by saying aye. All those opposed signify by saying no. The ayes have it. The motion is agreed to. Further proceedings on this measure are postponed.

Mr. Lantos.

H. CON. RES. 297, CONGRATULATING THE REPUBLIC OF HUNGARY ON THE MILLENNIUM

We will now consider H. Con Res. 297, relating to the millennium of the founding of Hungary as a state. The Chair lays the resolution before the Committee. The clerk will report the title of the resolution.

Ms. BLOOMER. H. Con. Res. 297, a resolution congratulating the Republic of Hungary on the millennium of its foundation as a state. [The resolution appears in the appendix.]

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Chairman.

Chairman GILMAN. Mr. Lantos.

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Chairman, I move to postpone consideration of H. Con. Res. 297 until June 28, 2000 so as to give us sufficient time to make it a more balanced and more realistic resolution.

Chairman GILMAN. The gentleman is recognized for any further time he may seek with regard to his motion.

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Chairman, the two authors of the resolution proceeded with the best of intentions, but there is a subtext in the resolution given the current political situation of Hungary which compels me to ask for a postponement. The resolution, as it can be

read and will be read in Hungary, has singularly negative connotations which I think will need to be corrected. The far right in Hungary is making considerable headway. They will use this resolution for their own nefarious purposes, and I believe it is imperative that we revise and make the resolution more——

Mr. BEREUTER. Will the gentleman yield.

Mr. LANTOS. I will be happy to yield.

Mr. BEREUTER. I thank the gentleman for yielding. I want to support the gentleman's motion. I believe there is no one in the Congress past or present who understands more about Hungary than the gentleman from California. I respect his opinion on Hungary from my knowledge of how this resolution would be received with the particular provision in it. I believe the gentleman is entirely right. I bow to his judgment and I know that the gentleman will work to try to advance a resolution that would be appropriate and avoid that problem.

I certainly support you, Mr. Lantos, in your request. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman GILMAN. Thank you, Mr. Bereuter. Without objection, the motion of the gentleman from California is now agreed to.

H. CON. RES. 275, REGARDING KUWAITI POWS

We will now consider H. Con. Res. 275, relating to Kuwaiti prisoners of war. The Chair lays the resolution before the Committee. The clerk will report the title of the resolution.

Ms. BLOOMER. H. Con. Res. 275, concurrent resolution expressing the sense of the Congress with regard to Iraq's failure to release prisoners of war from Kuwait and nine other nations in violation of international agreements.

[The resolution appears in the appendix.]

Chairman GILMAN. Without objection, the preamble and operative language of the resolution will be read in that order for amendment. The clerk will read.

Ms. BLOOMER. Whereas in 1990 and 1991, thousands of Kuwaitis were randomly——

Chairman GILMAN. Without objection, the resolution is considered as having been read and is open to amendment at any point. The resolution is in the original jurisdiction of the Full Committee, and I now recognize the gentleman from Florida, Mr. Wexler.

Mr. WEXLER. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I want to thank you, Mr. Chairman and Congressman Gejdenson, for bringing House Concurrent Resolution 275 to the Full Committee for a vote. I also want to thank Congressman Rohrabacher and Congressman Royce for joining me in introducing this important resolution to highlight the unfortunate plight of 605 Kuwaiti POWs who remain detained in Iraqi prisons. I know they share my view that there is no cause more compelling than the return of missing citizens and soldiers.

In January I traveled to Kuwait, where I met with Kuwaiti officials and representatives from the National Committee for Missing and POW Affairs and learned about the horrors that took place a decade ago when Saddam Hussein's Iraq brutally occupied Kuwait for several months in 1990 and 1991. During the occupation thousands of Kuwaitis were literally swept off the streets and detained in Iraqi prisons. Some were released after the end of the Gulf War.

There remain, however, 605 Kuwaiti POWs in Iraq whose status and well-being are unknown to their families and the international community.

Over the last decade the United States and the international community have made every effort to assist the Kuwaiti government to secure the release of the missing POWs. After the Gulf War the United Nations Security Council passed two resolutions calling upon Iraq to arrange for immediate access to and release of all prisoners of war under the auspices of the International Committee of the Red Cross. Iraq has failed to fulfill its obligations to release the prisoners. They have hindered and blocked efforts of the tripartite commission to locate and secure the release and return of the remaining prisoners of war.

Iraq has also violated article 126 of the Third Geneva Convention to which they are a signatory by denying the Red Cross access to Iraqi prisons. Although Iraq has thwarted the efforts of the Red Cross and the tripartite commission, there is strong evidence that the POWs may still be alive in Iraq. Iraqi documents left behind in Kuwait chronicle in detail the arrest, imprisonment and transfer of a significant number of Kuwaitis, including those who are still missing. Eyewitness reports from Iraq indicate that many missing soldiers were seen alive in Iraqi prisons.

This resolution will add in securing the release and return of the remaining Kuwaiti prisoners of war. The resolution condemns Iraq for its refusal to comply with international human rights agreements to which it is a party. It also urges Iraq to disclose the names and whereabouts of those prisoners who are still alive and allow humanitarian organizations to visit with the living prisoners.

Mr. Chairman, the entire nation of Kuwait continues to suffer 10 years after the end of the Gulf War. The uncertainty surrounding the whereabouts of the missing Kuwaitis has had a devastating psychological effect on the people of Kuwait. No Kuwaiti family is unaffected by the tragedy. For 10 years Kuwaitis have banded together, united and determined to secure and return those who were taken without warning and without reason.

I believe this resolution will help keep this powerful humanitarian issue at the forefront of international consciousness so that individuals and governments throughout the world cannot ignore it.

Mr. Chairman, I also welcome the amendment by Congressman Rohrabacher, pertaining to American Navy Lieutenant Commander Michael Speicher whose F-18 fighter jet was shot down over Iraq on January 16, 1991 and his fate remains uncertain.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman GILMAN. Thank you. Mr. Rohrabacher.

Mr. ROHRABACHER. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. There are 605 Kuwaiti MIAs, many of whom are civilians and they have been held for over 10 years now. To put this in proportion for the people of the United States, this would be the equivalent if an enemy of the United States was holding 200,000 Americans for a period of 10 years. Think of what the suffering among our people and the emotional upheaval in our country would be if 200,000 Americans were being held by an enemy of the United States.

The fact that Saddam Hussein still holds these people and refuses to give an accounting, now obviously some of them are dead, but many of them are likely to be alive and many of those who are alive or dead are civilians and not military personnel. So we must send a message to Saddam Hussein that we take this issue very seriously. This is a humanitarian issue. It is a human rights issue. It is an issue from which all Americans agree is an outrage against humanity as we hear the call go up for an end of the sanctions against Iraq. You know we have the oil sanctions against Iraq now. We permit them to sell enough oil to pay for their food and their medicine. Saddam Hussein instead decides to use his discretion to use those resources to buy more weapons and to buy more instruments of repression of his own people.

But as these people keep knocking on our door, saying end these sanctions against Iraq, let us remind them of the 605 Kuwaiti MIAs who Saddam Hussein refuses to even give us an accounting for, and I would say until he does there should be no movement toward opening up any type of relationship with Saddam Hussein or Iraq.

I have an amendment at the desk, Mr. Chairman, which I will offer in a moment dealing with Lieutenant Commander Michael Speicher, and I will just say like the 605 Kuwaiti MIAs this is a man, an American citizen who is yet to be accounted for, and this is a serious issue.

And one last thought before we go on, and that is, it is important that we maintain a friendly relationship with the people of Kuwait and the government of Kuwait. The fact is that our destinies are tied. If for some reason Saddam Hussein were to come back into that country and would commit another act of aggression, the prestige of the United States of America, our ability to deter aggression around the world would be severely undermined.

With that in mind, I think this resolution of Mr. Wexler's is vital, but I think it is also vital for the Kuwaitis to understand that they have to act as if they are friends of the United States as well, and when they are handling their economic affairs in terms of their decisions in OPEC, they should act as a friend of the United States. We must act as their friend because it is in our interest to do so. They should act as our friend because it is in their interest to do so.

And with that I strongly support and commend Mr. Wexler for his amendment and this great stand, and it is a stand for values, for decency, for the things that we should be standing for in the United States, and it is in our interest as well. So congratulations, Mr. Wexler, and I strongly support your amendment. I do have an amendment at the end of the general debate to add to this.

Chairman GILMAN. Mr. Gejdenson.

Mr. GEJDENSON. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think none of us can be shocked by the savagery of Saddam Hussein, a savagery that continues to inflict terrible pain on his own people, diverting resources away from feeding his children and providing medical care. He takes those resources to build lavish palaces and to pursue more of his military needs, trying to increase his access to weaponry.

This savagery continues against the people of Kuwait with the holding of the Kuwaiti hostages for so long after the Kuwaitis, who complied with the U.N. Resolutions, released all the Iraqi prisoners they held.

This savagery cannot be allowed to continue and we cannot sit by quietly. I commend my colleague from Florida, Mr. Wexler, for his fine effort here and also the gentleman from California for the addition of the American pilot and also for his reference to the supply of petroleum that affects the common security of the United States.

Americans have taken courageous action, appropriately, to protect the Kuwaitis. They have taken every effort to continue to contain Saddam Hussein, taking the lead in that role, and this Congress cannot sit by as this one more savage act by Saddam Hussein continues to inflict pain on the Kuwaiti people.

Chairman GILMAN. Thank you, Mr. Gejdenson.

Mr. Lantos.

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Chairman, I want to commend my friend from Florida for his very carefully crafted and very important resolution, and I want to commend my friend from California Mr. Rohrabacher for his amendment.

I think it is extremely important that we do not allow Saddam Hussein to blame the Western powers for whatever deprivations are unfolding with respect to the Iraqi people. It is fully within Saddam Hussein's power and it is only within his power to see to it that the sanctions are lifted and the Iraqi people rejoin the community of nations. He has persistently refused and sabotaged and undermined the attempts of the United Nations to get to the bottom of his attempt to build weapons of mass destruction, nuclear, biological, chemical and the missile technology for their delivery.

We must stand firm until Saddam Hussein changes his policy or until he is replaced. We deeply regret whatever problems the people of Iraq have as a result of his actions but the blame must be placed squarely on the shoulders of his outrageous dictatorial regime.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman GILMAN. Thank you, Mr. Lantos.

Mr. Rohrabacher, for his amendment.

Mr. ROHRABACHER. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As original cosponsor I am in strong support of Mr. Wexler's resolution as I just said, but my amendment calls for the government of the United States—

Chairman GILMAN. Mr. Rohrabacher, let us call up the amendment.

Mr. ROHRABACHER. Yes, sir.

Chairman GILMAN. The clerk will read the amendment. And the clerk will distribute the amendment.

Ms. BLOOMER. Amendment offered by Mr. Rohrabacher, "After the last whereas clause, add the following, whereas significant questions remain—"

[The amendment appears in the appendix.]

Chairman GILMAN. Without objection, the amendment is considered as having been read. Mr. Rohrabacher, on his amendment.

Mr. ROHRABACHER. Thank you very much. My amendment calls for the governments of the United States, Kuwait and international community to make every effort possible to resolve the case of Lieutenant Commander Michael Speicher, a U.S. Navy fighter pilot who was shot down over Iraq on January 16, 1991. The Navy declared him killed in action, body not recovered the day after the shootdown. However, the military did not conduct any search and rescue for him during the war.

Importantly, since the end of Desert Storm significant evidence has been discovered that raises serious questions about the fate of this heroic American. Saddam has a history of secretly holding on to prisoners for years. Iraq, for example, recently released Iranian prisoners of war who Saddam had denied holding until the time of their release. Earlier this month following a CBS 60 Minutes exposé on this case, a Navy spokesman told the Washington Post that Lieutenant Commander Speicher's status, "remains very much an open issue. Clearly, we dropped the ball."

As in the case of the Kuwaiti missing prisoners, Iraq has not answered any U.S. inquiries about the pilot. Last week bipartisan legislation by the U.S. Senate has called for full disclosure of all U.S. defense and intelligence reports regarding Lieutenant Commander Speicher.

Michael Speicher, a patriotic young American who volunteered to serve his country, has not been well served by his country. During visits to Kuwait in 1998 and again in 1999, I asked intelligence officials at the American embassy about Lieutenant Commander Speicher. They told me that there is a legitimate reason for concern about whether he survived his crash and was taken prisoner. These officials told me that they welcome congressional support for the United States Government's efforts to determine Lieutenant Commander Speicher's fate.

Recently in Jordan, an Iraqi defector told a U.S. official that he had driven an American prisoner from the desert to Baghdad during the war and this same fellow identified Speicher's photo out of a photo lineup as the prisoner he had encountered.

My amendment calls for the United States, the Kuwaiti government, and the international community to do everything possible to seek information that will resolve the fate of Lieutenant Commander Speicher. It also calls on Iraq to immediately return this American hero or his remains to the International Red Cross for return to the United States.

My office has already spoken to the Kuwaiti embassy in regard to this issue. They are supportive of this amendment. This reflects their gratitude toward all Americans who served in the Gulf War and liberated their country from Saddam's brutal occupation forces. It coincides and parallels directly with Mr. Wexler's fine amendment about Kuwaiti MIAs, and I would urge my colleagues to support this amendment.

Chairman GILMAN. Thank you, Mr. Rohrabacher. Is a Member seeking recognition on the Rohrabacher amendment? If not, without objection, the amendment is agreed to.

I ask that my full statement be made part of the record. During the Gulf War thousands of Kuwaitis were randomly arrested during the Iraqi occupation. The government in Kuwait compiled evi-

dence documenting the evidence of 605 prisoners of war. It submitted its file to the International Committee of the Red Cross, which passed its files on to Iraq and the United Nations.

I want to commend the gentleman from Florida, Mr. Wexler, for his concern in this matter, and for his sponsorship for this important humanitarian issue.

Are any other Members seeking recognition? If not, the gentleman from Nebraska Mr. Bereuter is recognized to offer a motion.

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Chairman, I move that the Chairman be requested to seek consideration of the pending resolution as amended on the suspension calendar.

Chairman GILMAN. The question is on the motion of the gentleman from Nebraska. All those in favor of the motion signify by saying "aye." All those opposed signify by saying "no." The ayes have it. The motion is agreed to. Further proceedings on this measure are postponed.

H. RES. 259, SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF THE OLYMPICS

We will now proceed to H. Res. 259.

I would like to remind our colleagues that we will be going into a Full Committee hearing. We will reconvene at the close of this meeting into a hearing on the State Department's overseas presence to hear Under Secretary Bonnie Cohen, and we thank her for her patience while we went through the markup.

We will now consider H. Res. 259, supporting the goals and ideals of the Olympics. The Chair lays the resolution before the Committee. The clerk will report the title of the resolution.

Ms. BLOOMER. H. Res. 259, resolution supporting the goals and ideals of the Olympics.

[The resolution appears in the appendix.]

Chairman GILMAN. The resolution is within the jurisdiction of the Full Committee. Without objection, the clerk will read the preamble and operative language of the resolution, in that order, for amendment. The clerk will read.

Ms. BLOOMER. Whereas for over 100 years—

Chairman GILMAN. Without objection, the resolution is considered as having been read and is now open for amendment at any point.

Mr. Lantos.

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Chairman, I obviously support this resolution, but I would like to make a point that relates to the location of future Olympic games. A few years ago the Chinese Communist government put on a full court press with enormous resources to obtain the privilege of holding the Olympics this year in Beijing.

You may recall at that time I introduced a resolution and conducted a campaign which resulted in congressional action disapproving of Beijing as the location of the 2000 Olympics because of the outrageous human rights violations that the Chinese Communist regime engaged in at the time and continues to engage in. Partly as a result of congressional action, partly as a result of action by other democratic nations, by a very narrow margin Sydney, Australia, got the opportunity of hosting the Olympic games this year, and I certainly welcome this outcome, as did all people who

consider human rights an important element in awarding the venue of Olympic games.

I would merely like to urge my colleagues as we consider locations of future Olympics, both summer and winter, that the human rights policies of the government seeking to host Olympic games be considered before we indicate by whatever means, resolution or speeches, that we favor or oppose these locations.

It is not a matter of indifference as to where Olympic games are held. Hosting the Olympic games bestows on a country a tremendous degree of international prestige and international attention. Hundreds of millions of people watch these on television. These become the leading news event during the whole period of the Olympics, and I would merely urge my colleagues in the future to be vigilant in seeing to it that totalitarian countries which suppress human rights not be given the privilege of hosting Olympic events.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman GILMAN. Thank you, Mr. Lantos.

Mr. Bereuter.

Mr. BEREUTER. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As we consider this resolution today, I think we should also consider that the 2004 Olympics will be held in Athens, which is the 100th anniversary of the modern Olympic games, and I would hope that our valued Greek-American constituents can attempt to have some impact on the government of Greece with respect to the terrorist organizations that have been plaguing foreigners and civilian citizens of that country.

I am not sure how many people are aware of the fact that not too many years ago we had a rocket attack against the U.S. embassy in Athens. It was only because of the ineptness of the terrorist group that we didn't have severe damage and loss of life there, and this terrorist organization seems to go on with its killings and its intimidation almost unchecked.

There are people in the Greek government that are extraordinarily concerned and attempting to do something about this, and they deserve the support of Greek citizens. They deserve encouragement from the U.S. Government and from all governments so that we don't have another tragedy like that that befell the British brigadier in the last several days.

I would hope that those friends of Greece, be they Greek-American or of any other ethnic background, will give every encouragement to the government of Greece to come down hard and effectively and successfully on this terrorist organization which has killed Americans and other foreign nationals as well as many Greek citizens.

I cannot imagine how we can conduct a 2004 Olympics in Athens unless this scourge is stopped. We can't have a repeat of Munich, where you had strong security and, in fact, you still had the tragedy that befell the Israeli delegation participation at that point.

Mr. Chairman, I think it is time for us to say a few words about the upcoming 2004 Olympics before it is too late for the Greek government to make effective changes in dealing with the terrorist organization that is by nature a Marxist organization in that country.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman GILMAN. Thank you, Mr. Bereuter.

Mr. Lantos.

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Chairman, I merely wish to identify myself and associate myself with the comments of my friend from Nebraska.

Chairman GILMAN. Thank you, Mr. Lantos. Next week on June 23rd, the international community will be marking the anniversary of the founding of the modern Olympic games. The Olympics are aimed at bringing together the world's athletes to participate in friendly, though hard fought competition regardless of politics, ideology or other matters extraneous to the sport. Our own Olympic champion, the gentleman from Kansas Jim Ryun, has introduced this resolution seeking the Congress and the American people's recognition of the goals and ideals of the modern Olympic movement. I believe that all of the Members of our Committee agree that these goals and ideals are indeed laudable and worthy of our recognition and support. Accordingly, I ask our Committee to unanimously agree to seek scheduling of this resolution on the suspension calendar.

Mr. Bereuter.

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Chairman, I move that the Chairman be requested to seek consideration of the pending resolution on the suspension calendar.

Chairman GILMAN. Without objection, the motion is agreed to. We will now proceed with our—reconvene into our hearing. We will break for just a few minutes, to allow the witnesses to take their seats.

[Whereupon, at 11:40 a.m., the Committee proceeded to other business.]

A P P E N D I X

JUNE 15, 2000

Statement of Hon. Benjamin A. Gilman
Consideration of H.Con.Res.352
Thursday, June 15th, 2000
10 A.M. 2172 Rayburn Building

House Concurrent Resolution 352 --- which I have introduced in cooperation with my colleagues Mr. Lantos and Mr. Smith — makes it clear that the Congress is greatly concerned by the treatment of the Russian media at the hands of the government of Russian President Vladimir Putin and by the increasingly apparent lack of respect on the part of that government for freedom of the press and freedom of expression in general in Russia.

After years of extensive privatization of state-owned enterprises in Russia, very little privatization has been carried out when it comes to major sectors of the media in Russia.

Important media enterprises — such as large printing and publishing houses and nationwide television frequencies and broadcasting facilities — have been only partially privatized, if they have been privatized at all.

The failure to extensively privatize key segments of the Russian media presents a tempting opportunity for government officials to manipulate the media under state control for their own ends.

In fact, in the recent parliamentary and presidential elections in Russia, we saw clear evidence that Russian government officials have succumbed to that temptation.

As this resolution points out, the immense influence over the media exercised by the Russian government was used during those elections to openly support those who were friends of the party in power in the Kremlin — while blatantly and viciously attacking those who opposed that “party of power.”

Vladimir Putin might very well not be President of Russia today if such media manipulation had not been used to his advantage.

In addition to the manipulation of the media that took place during those recent Russian elections, this resolution points out that the Russian government and its officials and agencies have taken steps intended to simply intimidate those in the media that it could not manipulate.

A new Russian Ministry for the Press was created last July.

In one of his earliest statements, the Minister in charge of that agency stated quite openly that his job was to address the “aggression” of the Russian press.

Leading Russian editors complained in an open letter to former Russian President Boris Yeltsin last August that high-ranking government officials were putting pressure on the mass

media, particularly through unwarranted raids by tax police.

In fact, as recently as May 11th, masked officers of the Russian Federal Security Service mounted an armed raid on the headquarters of "Media-Most," which operates "NTV," the largest independent national television station in Russia.

Then, just this week, the owner of Media-Most, Vladimir Gusinsky, was arrested on what I understand to be rather vague charges.

Russian reporters have been beaten and murdered, and police investigations have tended to fail, more often than not, to identify the perpetrators, much less bring them to justice.

Andrei Babitsky, a Russian reporter working for Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty covering the war in Chechnya, was arrested by the Russian military and then exchanged to unidentified Chechens for Russian POWs, a blatant violation of his rights as a Russian citizen.

A reporter for "Moskovsky Komsomolets," was ordered by the Federal Security Service to enter a psychiatric clinic far from Moscow for an examination after he wrote critical articles concerning alleged illegal activities by Russian officials.

These are just a few examples of the on-going intimidation of the press that we see in Mr. Putin's Russia today.

But, this resolution also points out a very disturbing fact that is very relevant to freedom of expression in Russia in general.

The Russian Federal Security Service is right now moving to ensure total surveillance over the Internet in Russia.

That agency is installing a system by which all transmissions and e-mails within Russia and all such transmissions to parties in Russia can be read by its personnel.

By this means, a new structure of surveillance over all of Russia's citizens is being created.

The Russian government's efforts to intimidate the mass media in that country threaten the chances for democracy and rule of law there.

I believe that this resolution makes that fact clear, but also makes it clear that the freedom of expression of Russians in general is under attack by the current Russian government and its agencies.

Finally, this resolution makes it clear that the United States continues to support freedom of speech and freedom of the press in Russia.

By its passage, this measure will insist that the President of the United States make that fact clear to the President of Russia and emphasize the fact that such intimidation and manipulation of the media in Russia is incompatible with true democracy.

I hope my colleagues will join Mr. Lantos, Mr. Smith and I in supporting passage of this important resolution.

Statement of Hon. Benjamin A. Gilman
H. Res. 500
June 15, 2000

There was a time when President Robert Mugabe of Zimbabwe spoke passionately and persuasively of justice, liberty, and majority rule. Destiny led this Jesuit-trained school teacher to become the leader of a liberation movement. His passionate intensity aroused sympathy for his cause from people around the world.

But at some point during the past twenty years, that vision of a peaceful, democratic Zimbabwe has become twisted and bent. The president seems to believe that it is his birthright to rule and that he will live forever. The ruling party seems to equate legitimate political competition with treasonable offenses. And officials throughout the government seem to regard their positions of public trust as licenses to steal from their own citizens.

Earlier this year, the people of Zimbabwe soundly rejected a constitutional referendum that would have given the president even greater powers. Commercial farmers, both black and white, as well as the commercial farm workers who comprise 26% of Zimbabwe's labor force, fought the referendum and won.

Surprised that anyone should dare question its authority, the ruling party, at the direction of the president, launched a brutal and cynical campaign to cow its political opponents into submission. Peaceful opposition demonstrators have been beaten, harassed, and detained by state security forces. Roving bands of political thugs for hire have beaten farm workers, killed farmers and livestock, burned crops, and stolen equipment. Corruption, greed, and dirty tactics have become the defining characteristics of a once-proud ZANU party leadership.

These activities have not gone unnoticed among Zimbabwe's neighbors and democratic nations around the world. Zimbabwe's law requires that parliamentary elections be held within the next few months. The intimidation and state-sponsored violence we have observed these past few months are designed to keep all power in the hands of the ruling party, which currently holds 147 of the 150 seats of parliament.

These tactics are not just misguided; they are also destined to fail. The people of Zimbabwe are patient. They are loyal. They are respectful of those who fought for liberation. But they are not cowards. They are not ignorant. And their patience is limited.

Every time a farm worker is beaten for asserting his right of free speech, ZANU loses support. Every time a Zimbabwean soldier dies in Congo for a war that means nothing to his family, ZANU loses support. Every time a field lies fallow because the farmers have been driven off, ZANU loses support. And every time land promised to the people winds up in the hands of a corrupt party official, ZANU loses support.

President Mugabe has made the gravest mistake any politician can make: he has underestimated the people he governs.

H. Res. 500 expresses the House of Representatives profound dismay at the practices of Zimbabwe's current leadership and our sincere wish that the people of Zimbabwe, who deserve the political freedoms many of them fought for, will remain steadfast in their peaceful pursuit of democratic reform.

I commend the Subcommittee on African Affairs, ably led by Mr. Royce and Mr. Payne, for its excellent hearing on this topic yesterday. I would also like to thank Mr. Hastings for his original co-sponsorship of this resolution and the many other members who have offered their sponsorship since the resolution was introduced.

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106TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION**H. CON. RES. 352**

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FOR HIMSELF, Mr. LANTOS, AND Mr. SMITH OF NEW JERSEYMr. GILMAN submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred
to the Committee on _____**CONCURRENT RESOLUTION**

Expressing the sense of the Congress regarding manipulation of the mass media and intimidation of the independent press in the Russian Federation, expressing support for freedom of speech and the independent media in the Russian Federation, and calling on the President of the United States to express his strong concern for freedom of speech and the independent media in the Russian Federation.

Whereas almost all of the large printing plants, publishing houses, and newspaper distribution companies, several leading news agencies, and almost all of the nationwide television frequencies and broadcasting facilities in the Russian Federation remain under government control, despite the extensive privatization of state-owned enterprises in other sectors of the Russian economy;



Whereas the "Press Freedom Survey 2000" reported by "Freedom House" of Washington, DC, stated that the approximately 2,500 regional and rural newspapers in Russia outside of Moscow are almost completely owned by local or provincial governments;

Whereas the Government of Russia is able to suspend or revoke broadcast and publishing licenses and apply exorbitant taxes and fees on the independent media;

Whereas, in 1999, a major television network controlled by the Russian Government canceled the program "Top Secret" after it reported on alleged corruption at high levels of the government;

Whereas, in July 1999, the Government of Russia created a new Ministry for Press, Television and Radio Broadcasting, and Mass Communications;

Whereas, in August 1999, the editors of fourteen of Russia's leading news publications sent an open letter to then Russian President Boris Yeltsin stating that high-ranking officials of the government were putting pressure on the mass media, particularly through unwarranted raids by tax police;

Whereas Mikhail Lesin, Minister for Press, Television and Radio Broadcasting, and Mass Communications, stated in October 1999 that the Russian Government would change its policies towards the mass media so as to address "aggression" by the Russian press;

Whereas the Russian Federal Security Service or "FSB" is reportedly implementing a technical regulation known as "SORM-2" by which it could reroute, in real time, all electronic transmissions over the Internet through FSB offices for purposes of surveillance, a likely violation of



the Russian constitution's provisions concerning the right to privacy of private communications, according to Aleksei Simonov, President of the Russian "Glasnost Defense Foundation,"¹⁰ a nongovernmental human rights organization;

Whereas such surveillance under SORM-2 would allow the Russian Federal Security Service access to passwords, financial transactions, and confidential company information, among other transmissions;

Whereas Russian naval journalist Grigory Paskov, a former Captain in the Russian Navy and former correspondent for "Boyovaya Vakhhta", has been prosecuted by the Russian Government for providing reports to the Japanese media regarding the secret dumping of nuclear waste in the Pacific Ocean by the Russian Navy;

~~Whereas Alexander Nikitin, a former Captain in the Russian Navy, has been prosecuted by the Russian Government for assisting a Norwegian environmental group to report on the Russian Navy's radioactive pollution of areas above the Arctic Circle.~~

Whereas it is reported that over one hundred Russian journalists have been killed over the past decade, with few if any of the government investigations into those murders resulting in arrests, prosecutions, or convictions;

Whereas numerous observers of Russian politics have noted the blatant misuse of the leading Russian television channels, controlled by the Russian Government, to undermine popular support for political rivals of those supporting the government in the run-up to parliamentary elections held in December 1999;



~~Whereas the misuse of the leading Russian television stations presented in a positive light the new "Unity" party, a supporter of the Russian Government, despite its lack of any truly defined political platform;~~

Whereas it has been reported that Russian television stations controlled by the Russian Government were used to disparage opponents of Vladimir Putin during the campaign for the presidency in the beginning of this year⁶ and whereas it has been reported that political advertisements by those candidates were routinely relegated by those stations to slots outside of prime time coverage;

Whereas manipulation of the media by the Russian Government appeared intent on portraying the Russian military attack on the separatist Republic of Chechnya to the maximum political advantage of the Russian Government;

Whereas in December 1999 two correspondents for "Reuters News Agency" and the "Associated Press" were reportedly accused of being foreign spies after reporting high Russian casualty figures in the war in Chechnya;

Whereas the arrest in January 2000, subsequent treatment by the Russian military, and prosecution by the Russian Government of Andrei Babitsky, a correspondent for Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty covering the war in Chechnya, have constituted a violation of commitments made by the Russian Government to foster freedom of speech and of the press, and have reportedly constituted a violation of the Criminal Code of the Russian Federation;

Whereas in January 2000 Aleksandr Khinshtein, a reporter for the newspaper "Moskovsky Komsomolets", was ordered by the Russian Federal Security Service to enter



a clinic over 100 miles from his home for a psychiatric examination after he accused top Russian officials of illegal activities, and such detainment in psychiatric wards was previously employed by the former Soviet regime to stifle dissent;

Whereas the Russian newspaper "Novaya Gazeta" was officially warned by the Russian Ministry of the Press for its printing of an interview with Aslan Maskhadov, the elected President of the Republic of Chechnya; an entire issue of "Novaya Gazeta", including several articles alleging massive campaign finance violations by the presidential campaign of Vladimir Putin, was lost to unidentified computer "hackers"; and a journalist for "Novaya Gazeta" was savagely beaten in May of this year;

Whereas President Thomas Dine of Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty on March 14th, 2000, condemned the Russian Government's expanding efforts to intimidate the mass media, stating that those actions threaten the chances for democracy and rule of law in Russia;

Whereas "NTV", the only national independent television station, which reaches half of Russia and is credited with professional and balanced news programs, has frequently broadcast news stories critical of Russian Government policies;

Whereas on May 11, 2000, masked officers of the Russian Federal Security Service carrying assault weapons raided the offices of "Media-Most", the corporate owner of NTV and other independent media;

Whereas the May 11th raid on Media-Most represented a failure of recourse to normal legal mechanisms and con-



veyed the appearance of a politically-motivated attack on Russian independent media;

Whereas the raid on Media-Most was carried out under the authority of President Putin and Russian Government ministers who have not criticized or repudiated that action;

Whereas on June 12, 2000, Vladimir Gusinsky, owner of NTV and other leading independent media was suddenly arrested;

Whereas President Putin claimed not to have known of the planned arrest of Vladimir Gusinsky;

Whereas the continued functioning of an independent media is a vital attribute of Russian democracy and an important obstacle to the return of authoritarian or totalitarian dictatorship in Russia; and

Whereas a free news media can exist only in an environment that is free of state control of the news media, that is free of any form of state censorship or official coercion of any kind, and that is protected and guaranteed by the rule of law: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate*
2 *concurring)*, That the Congress—

3 (1) expresses its continuing, strong support for
4 freedom of speech and the independent media in the
5 Russian Federation;

6 (2) expresses its strong concern over the failure
7 of the government of the Russian Federation to pri-
8 vatize major segments of the Russian media, thus



1 retaining the ability of Russian officials to manipu-
2 late the media for political or corrupt ends;

3 (3) expresses its strong concern over the pat-
4 tern of Russian officials' surveillance and physical,
5 economic, legal, and political intimidation of Russian
6 citizens and of the Russian media that has now be-
7 come apparent in Russia;

8 (4) expresses its strong concern over the pat-
9 tern of manipulation of the Russian media by Rus-
10 sian Government officials for political and possibly
11 corrupt purposes that has now become apparent;

12 (5) expresses profound regret and dismay at the
13 detention and continued prosecution of Radio Free
14 Europe/Radio Liberty journalist Andrei Babitsky
15 and condemns those breaches of Russian legal proce-
16 dure and of Russian Government commitments to
17 the rights of Russian citizens that have reportedly
18 occurred in his detention and prosecution;

19 (6) expresses strong concern over the breaches
20 of Russian legal procedure that have reportedly oc-
21 curred in the course of the May 11th raid by the
22 Russian Federal Security Service on Media-Most
23 and the June 12th arrest of Vladimir Gusinsky;

24 (7) calls on the President of the United States
25 to express to the President of the Russian Federa-



1 tion his strong concern for freedom of speech and
2 the independent media in the Russian Federation
3 and to emphasize the concern of the United States
4 that official pressures against the independent media
5 and the political manipulation of the state-owned
6 media in Russia are incompatible with democratic
7 norms; and

8 ~~(S) expresses its insistence that the United~~
9 ~~States Government should take into account the ex-~~
10 ~~tent to which Russian Government authorities sup-~~
11 ~~port the full and unfettered operation of both the~~
12 ~~independent and state-owned news media without in-~~
13 ~~terference by the state and freedom of expression in~~
14 ~~deciding whether to support requests by the Russian~~
15 ~~Government for loans or other economic assistance~~
16 ~~from the International Monetary Fund and other~~
17 ~~international financial institutions.~~

18 **SEC. 2. TRANSMITTAL TO SECRETARY OF STATE.**

19 The Clerk of the House of Representatives shall
20 transmit a copy of this resolution to the Secretary of State
21 with the request that it be forwarded to the President of
22 the Russian Federation.



106TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. RES. 500

Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives concerning the violence, breakdown of rule of law, and troubled pre-election period in the Republic of Zimbabwe.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 10, 2000

Mr. GILMAN (for himself and Mr. HASTINGS of Florida) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on International Relations

RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives concerning the violence, breakdown of rule of law, and troubled pre-election period in the Republic of Zimbabwe.

Whereas people around the world supported the Republic of Zimbabwe's quest for independence, majority rule, and the protection of human rights and the rule of law;

Whereas Zimbabwe, at the time of independence in 1980, showed bright prospects for democracy, economic development, and racial reconciliation;

Whereas the people of Zimbabwe are now suffering the destabilizing effects of a serious, government-sanctioned breakdown in the rule of law, which is critical to economic development as well as domestic tranquility;

Whereas a free and fair national referendum was held in Zimbabwe in February 2000 in which voters rejected proposed constitutional amendments to increase the president's authorities to expropriate land without payment;

Whereas the President of Zimbabwe has defied two high court decisions declaring land seizures to be illegal;

Whereas previous land reform efforts have been ineffective largely due to corrupt practices and inefficiencies within the Government of Zimbabwe;

Whereas recent violence in Zimbabwe has resulted in several murders and brutal attacks on innocent individuals, including the murder of farm workers and owners;

Whereas violence has been directed toward individuals of all races;

Whereas the ruling party and its supporters have specifically directed violence at democratic reform activists seeking to prepare for upcoming parliamentary elections;

Whereas the offices of a leading independent newspaper in Zimbabwe have been bombed;

Whereas the Government of Zimbabwe has not yet publicly condemned the recent violence;

Whereas President Mugabe's statement that thousands of law-abiding citizens are enemies of the state has further incited violence;

Whereas 147 out of 150 members of the Parliament in Zimbabwe (98 percent) belong to the same political party;

Whereas no date has been set for parliamentary elections in Zimbabwe;

Whereas the unemployment rate in Zimbabwe now exceeds 60 percent and political turmoil is on the brink of destroying Zimbabwe's economy;

Whereas the economy is being further damaged by the Government of Zimbabwe's ongoing involvement in the war in the Democratic Republic of the Congo;

Whereas the United Nations Food and Agricultural Organization has issued a warning that Zimbabwe faces a food emergency due to shortages caused by violence against farmers and farm workers; and

Whereas events in Zimbabwe could threaten stability and economic development in the entire region: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

2 (1) extends its support to the vast majority of
3 citizens of the Republic of Zimbabwe who are com-
4 mitted to peace, economic prosperity, and an open,
5 transparent parliamentary election process;

6 (2) strongly urges the Government of Zimbabwe
7 to enforce the rule of law and fulfill its responsibility
8 to protect the political and civil rights of all citizens;

9 (3) supports those international efforts to assist
10 with land reform which are consistent with accepted
11 principles of international law and which take place
12 after the holding of free and fair parliamentary elec-
13 tions;

1 (4) condemns government-directed violence
2 against farm workers, farmers, and opposition party
3 members;

4 (5) encourages the local media, civil society,
5 and all political parties to work together toward a
6 campaign environment conducive to free, trans-
7 parent and fair elections within the legally pre-
8 scribed period;

9 (6) recommends international support for voter
10 education, domestic election monitoring, and violence
11 monitoring activities;

12 (7) urges the United States to continue to mon-
13 itor violence and condemn brutality against law
14 abiding citizens;

15 (8) congratulates all the democratic reform ac-
16 tivists in Zimbabwe for their resolve to bring about
17 political change peacefully, even in the face of vio-
18 lence and intimidation;

19 (9) recommends that the United States send a
20 bipartisan delegation under the auspices of the
21 International Republican Institute and the National
22 Democratic Institute for International Affairs to ob-
23 serve the parliamentary election process in
24 Zimbabwe; and

- 1 (10) desires a lasting, warm, and mutually ben-
- 2 efcial relationship between the United States and a
- 3 democratic, peaceful Zimbabwe.

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Amendment offered by Mr. Royce to H. Res 500

In the final whereas clause, on page 2, strike the words, " no date has ", and insert " June 24 and June 25, have "

106TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. CON. RES. 297

Congratulating the Republic of Hungary on the millennium of its foundation
as a state.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 3, 2000

Mr. PALLONE (for himself and Mr. ISTOOK) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on International Relations

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Congratulating the Republic of Hungary on the millennium
of its foundation as a state.

Whereas the ancestors of the Hungarian nation, seven tribes
excelling in horsemanship and handicrafts, settled in the
Carpathian basin around the end of the 9th century;

Whereas during the next century this tribal association had
accommodated itself to a permanently settled status;

Whereas the ruler of the nation at the end of the first millennium, Prince Stephen, realized with great foresight, that the survival of his nation depends on its adapting itself to its surroundings by becoming a Christian kingdom;

Whereas in 1000 A.D. Stephen, later canonized as Saint Stephen, adopted the Christian faith and had himself

crowned with a crown requested from Pope Sylvester II of Rome;

Whereas, by those acts, King Saint Stephen established Hungary as one of the seven Christian kingdoms of Europe of the time and anchored his nation in Western civilization forever;

Whereas during the past 1000 years, in spite of residing on the traditional warpath of invaders from the East and the West, the Hungarian nation showed great vitality in preserving its unique identity, language, culture, and traditions;

Whereas our own nation has benefited immensely from the hard work, dedication, scientific knowledge, and cultural gifts of hundreds of thousands of immigrants from Hungary; and

Whereas in this year Hungary also celebrates the tenth anniversary of its first post-communist free and democratic elections, the first such elections within the former Soviet empire: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate*
2 *concurring)*, That the Congress—

3 (1) congratulates the Republic of Hungary, and
4 Hungarians everywhere, on the one thousandth anniversary of the foundation of the Kingdom of Hungary by King Saint Stephen; and

7 (2) commends the Republic of Hungary for the
8 great determination, skill, and sense of purpose it
9 demonstrated in its recent transition to a democratic
10 state dedicated to upholding universal rights and lib-

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3

- 1 erties, a free market economy, and integration into
- 2 European and transatlantic institutions.

○

106TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. CON. RES. 275

Expressing the sense of the Congress with regard to Iraq's failure to release prisoners of war from Kuwait and nine other nations in violation of international agreements.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 9, 2000

Mr. WEXLER (for himself, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Mr. ROHRABACHER, Mr. KUCINICH, and Mr. MEEKS of New York) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on International Relations

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the Congress with regard to Iraq's failure to release prisoners of war from Kuwait and nine other nations in violation of international agreements.

Whereas in 1990 and 1991, thousands of Kuwaitis were randomly arrested on the streets of Kuwait during the Iraqi occupation;

Whereas in February 1993, the Government of Kuwait compiled evidence documenting the existence of 605 prisoners of war and submitted its files to the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), which passed those files on to Iraq, the United Nations, and the Arab League;

Whereas numerous testimonials exist from family members who witnessed the arrest and forcible removal of their relatives by Iraqi armed forces during the occupation;

Whereas eyewitness reports from released prisoners of war indicate that many of those who are still missing were seen and contacted in Iraqi prisons;

Whereas official Iraqi documents left behind in Kuwait chronicle in detail the arrest, imprisonment, and transfer of significant numbers of Kuwaitis, including those who are still missing;

Whereas in 1991, the United Nations Security Council overwhelmingly passed Security Council Resolutions 686 and 687 that were part of the broad cease-fire agreement accepted by the Iraqi regime;

Whereas United Nations Security Council Resolution 686 calls upon Iraq to arrange for immediate access to and release of all prisoners of war under the auspices of the ICRC and to return the remains of the deceased personnel of the forces of Kuwait and the Member States cooperating with Kuwait;

Whereas United Nations Security Resolution 687 calls upon Iraq to cooperate with the ICRC in the repatriation of all Kuwaiti and third-country nationals, to provide the ICRC with access to the prisoners wherever they are located or detained, and to facilitate the ICRC search for those unaccounted for;

Whereas the Government of Kuwait, in accordance with United Nations Security Council Resolution 686, immediately released all Iraqi prisoners of war as required by the terms of the Geneva Convention;

Whereas immediately following the cease-fire in March 1991, Iraq repatriated 5,722 Kuwaiti prisoners of war under the aegis of the ICRC and freed 500 Kuwaitis held by rebels in southern Iraq;

Whereas Iraq has hindered and blocked efforts of the Tripartite Commission, the eight-country commission chaired by the ICRC and responsible for locating and securing the release of the remaining prisoners of war;

Whereas Iraq has denied the ICRC access to Iraqi prisons in violation of Article 126 of the Third Geneva Convention, to which Iraq is a signatory; and

Whereas Iraq—under the direction and control of Saddam Hussein—has failed to locate and secure the return of all prisoners of war being held in Iraq, including prisoners from Kuwait and nine other nations: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate*
2 *concurring), That—*

3 (1) the Congress—

4 (A) acknowledges that there remain 605
5 prisoners of war imprisoned in Iraq, although
6 Kuwait was liberated from Iraq's brutal inva-
7 sion and occupation on February 26, 1991;

8 (B) condemns and denounces the Iraqi
9 Government's refusal to comply with inter-
10 national human rights instruments to which it
11 is a party;

1 (C) urges Iraq immediately to disclose the
2 names and whereabouts of those who are still
3 alive among the Kuwaiti prisoners of war and
4 other nations to bring relief to their families;
5 and

6 (D) insists that Iraq immediately allow hu-
7 manitarian organizations such as the Inter-
8 national Committee of the Red Cross to visit
9 the living prisoners and to recover the remains
10 of those who have died while in captivity; and

11 (2) it is the sense of the Congress that the
12 United States Government should—

13 (A) actively and urgently work with the
14 international community and the Government of
15 Kuwait, in accordance with United Nations Se-
16 curity Council Resolutions 686 and 687, to se-
17 cure the release of Kuwaiti prisoners of war
18 and other prisoners of war who are still missing
19 nine years after the end of the Gulf War; and

20 (B) exert pressure, as a permanent mem-
21 ber of the United Nations Security Council, on
22 Iraq to bring this issue to a close, to release all
23 remaining prisoners of the Iraqi occupation of
24 Kuwait, and to rejoin the community of nations

1 with a humane gesture of good will and de-
2 cency.

○

Amendment to H.Con.Res. 275
Congressman Dana Rohrabacher

After the last Whereas clause, add the following:

Whereas significant questions remain regarding the status of U.S. Navy Lieutenant Commander Michael Speicher, who was shot down over Iraq on January 16, 1991, and was declared dead by the U.S. Navy without conducting an adequate search and rescue operation during Desert Storm, however subsequent information obtained after the war by U.S. officials has raised the possibility of his survival and capture by Iraqi forces;

At the end of Resolved clause (1), insert the following:

(E) urges Iraq to immediately release all information regarding the fate of U.S. Navy Lieutenant Commander Michael Speicher and to deliver Lt. Commander Speicher or his remains to the International Committee of the Red Cross for return to the United States

At the end of Resolved clause (2), add the following:

(C) actively and urgently work with the international community and Government of Kuwait to actively seek information on the status and make every effort to expedite the return of U.S. Navy Lt. Commander Micheal Speicher or his remains from Iraq

106TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 259

Supporting the goals and ideals of the Olympics.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 21, 1999

Mr. RYUN of Kansas submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on International Relations

RESOLUTION

Supporting the goals and ideals of the Olympics.

Whereas for over 100 years, the Olympic movement has built a more peaceful and better world by educating young people through amateur athletics, by bringing together athletes from many countries in friendly competition, and by forging new relationships bound by friendship, solidarity, and fair play;

Whereas the United States Olympic Committee is dedicated to coordinating and developing amateur athletic activity in the United States to foster productive working relationships among sports-related organizations;

Whereas the United States Olympic Committee promotes and supports amateur athletic activities involving the United States and foreign nations;

Whereas the United States Olympic Committee promotes and encourages physical fitness and public participation in amateur athletic activities;

Whereas the United States Olympic Committee assists organizations and persons concerned with sports in the development of athletic programs for amateur athletes;

Whereas the United States Olympic Committee protects the opportunity of each amateur athlete, coach, trainer, manager, administrator, and official to participate in amateur athletic competition;

Whereas athletes representing the United States at the Olympic games have achieved great success personally and for the Nation;

Whereas thousands of men and women of the United States are focusing their energy and skill on becoming part of the United States Olympic team and aspire to compete in the 2000 summer Olympic games in Sydney, Australia, and the 2002 winter Olympic games in Salt Lake City, Utah;

Whereas the Nation takes great pride in the qualities of commitment to excellence, grace under pressure, and good will toward other competitors exhibited by the athletes of the United States Olympic team; and

Whereas June 23 is the anniversary of the founding of the modern Olympic movement, representing the date on which the Congress of Paris approved the proposal of Pierre de Coubertin to found the modern Olympics: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

1 (1) supports the goals and ideals of the Olym-
2 pics;

3 (2) calls upon the President to issue a procla-
4 mation recognizing the anniversary of the founding
5 of the modern Olympic movement; and

6 (3) calls upon the people of the United States
7 to observe such anniversary with appropriate cere-
8 monies and activities.

