

TUESDAY, MARCH 19, 1996 (30)

The House was called to order by the SPEAKER at 12:30 p.m.

¶30.1 MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message in writing from the President of the United States was communicated to the House by Mr. Edwin Thomas, one of his secretaries.

¶30.2 "MORNING HOUR" DEBATES

The SPEAKER, pursuant to the order of the House of Friday, May 12, 1995, recognized Members for "morning hour" debates.

¶30.3 RECESS—1:21 P.M.

The SPEAKER pro tempore, Mr. NETHERCUTT, pursuant to clause 12 of rule I, declared the House in recess until 2 o'clock p.m.

¶30.4 AFTER RECESS—2:00 P.M.

The SPEAKER pro tempore, Mr. HUTCHINSON, called the House to order.

¶30.5 APPROVAL OF THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore, Mr. HUTCHINSON, announced he had examined and approved the Journal of the proceedings of Monday, March 18, 1996.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal was approved.

¶30.6 COMMUNICATIONS

Executive and other communications, pursuant to clause 2, rule XXIV, were referred as follows:

2258. A letter from the Acting Director, Defense Security Assistance Agency, transmitting the quarterly reports in accordance with sections 36(a) and 26(b) of the Arms Export Control Act, the March 24, 1979 report by the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and the seventh report by the Committee on Government Operations for the first quarter of fiscal year 1996, October 1, 1995—December 31, 1995, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2776(a); to the Committee on International Relations.

2259. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting a report of activities under the Freedom of Information Act for the calendar year 1995, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552(e); to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

2260. A letter from the Director of Communications, Department of Agriculture, transmitting a report of activities under the Freedom of Information Act for the calendar year 1995, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552(e); to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

2261. A letter from the Archivist of the United States, National Archives, transmitting a report of activities under the Freedom of Information Act for the calendar year 1995, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552(d); to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

2262. A letter from the Executive Director, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, transmitting a report of activities under the Freedom of Information Act for the calendar year 1995, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552(a); to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

2263. A letter from the Acting Chairman, U.S. Commodity Futures Trading Commission, transmitting a report of activities under the Freedom of Information Act for the calendar year 1995, pursuant to 5 U.S.C.

552(b); to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

2264. A letter from the President, National Park Foundation, transmitting the Foundation's annual report for fiscal year 1995, pursuant to 16 U.S.C. 19n and 19dd(f); to the Committee on Resources.

2265. A letter from the Secretary of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's report entitled "Southeast Alaska Public Lands Information Center, Hydaburg Branch" report to Congress, April 1995, pursuant to Public Law 99-664, section 11(f) (100 Stat. 4309); to the Committee on Resources.

2266. A letter from the Assistant Attorney General, Department of Justice, transmitting the 1994 annual report on the activities and operations of the Department's Public Integrity Section, Criminal Division, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. 529; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

¶30.7 COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore, Mr. HUTCHINSON, laid before the House a communication, which was read as follows:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
Washington, DC, March 19, 1996.

Hon. NEWT GINGRICH,
The Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 5 of Rule III of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, I have the honor to transmit a sealed envelope received from the White House on Monday, March 18th at 2:55 p.m. and said to contain a message from the President whereby he transmits the text of a proposed agreement between the U.S. Government and the Government of the Argentine Republic Regarding the Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy.

With warm regards,

ROBIN H. CARLE,
Clerk, House of Representatives.

¶30.8 U.S.-ARGENTINA NUCLEAR ENERGY AGREEMENT

The Clerk then read the message from the President, as follows:

To the Congress of the United States:

I am pleased to transmit to the Congress, pursuant to sections 123 b. and 123 d. of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended (42 U.S.C. 2153(b), (d)), the text of a proposed Agreement for Cooperation Between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Argentine Republic Concerning Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy with accompanying annex and agreed minute. I am also pleased to transmit my written approval, authorization, and determination concerning the agreement, and the memorandum of the Director of the United States Arms Control and Disarmament Agency with the Nuclear Proliferation Assessment Statement concerning the agreement. The joint memorandum submitted to me by the Secretary of State and the Secretary of Energy, which includes a summary of the provisions of the agreement and various other attachments, including agency views, is also enclosed.

The proposed agreement with the Argentine Republic has been negotiated in accordance with the Atomic Energy

Act of 1954, as amended by the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Act of 1978 (NNPA) and as otherwise amended. In my judgment, the proposed agreement meets all statutory requirements and will advance the non-proliferation and other foreign policy interests of the United States. The agreement provides a comprehensive framework for peaceful nuclear cooperation between the United States and Argentina under appropriate conditions and controls reflecting a strong common commitment to nuclear non-proliferation goals.

The proposed new agreement will replace an existing U.S.-Argentina agreement for peaceful nuclear cooperation that entered into force on July 25, 1969, and by its terms would expire on July 25, 1999. The United States suspended cooperation with Argentina under the 1969 agreement in the late 1970's because Argentina did not satisfy a provision of section 128 of the Atomic Energy Act (added by the NNPA) that required full-scope International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) safeguards in nonnuclear weapon states such as Argentina as a condition for continued significant U.S. nuclear exports.

On December 13, 1991, Argentina, together with Brazil, the Argentine-Brazilian Agency for Accounting and Control of Nuclear Materials (ABACC) and the IAEA signed a quadrilateral agreement calling for the application of full-scope IAEA safeguards in Argentina and Brazil. This safeguards agreement was brought into force in March 1994. Resumption of cooperation would be possible under the 1969 U.S.-Argentina agreement for cooperation. However, both the United States and Argentina believe it is preferable to launch a new era of cooperation with a new agreement that reflects, among other things:

- An updating of terms and conditions to take account of intervening changes in the respective domestic legal and regulatory frameworks of the parties in the area of peaceful nuclear cooperation;
- Reciprocity in the application of the terms and conditions of cooperation between the parties; and
- Additional international non-proliferation commitments entered into by the parties since 1969.

Over the past several years Argentina has made a definitive break with earlier ambivalent nuclear policies and has embraced wholeheartedly a series of important steps demonstrating its firm commitment to the exclusively peaceful uses of nuclear energy. In addition to its full-scope safeguards agreement with the IAEA, Argentina has made the following major non-proliferation commitments:

- It brought the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (Treaty of Tlatelolco) into force for itself on January 18, 1994;
- It became a full member of the Nuclear Suppliers Group in April 1994; and