

President should be broadly commended: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the House of Representatives, That the House—*

(1) congratulates the Government and the people of the Republic of El Salvador for the successful completion of democratic multiparty elections held on March 7, 1999, for President and Vice President;

(2) congratulates President-elect Francisco Guillermo Flores Perez and Vice President-elect Carlos Quintanilla Schmidt on their recent victory and their continued strong commitment to democracy, national reconciliation, and reconstruction;

(3) congratulates El Salvadoran President Armando Calderón Sol for his personal commitment to democracy, which has helped in the building of national unity in the Republic of El Salvador;

(4) commends all Salvadoran citizens and political parties for their efforts to work together to take risks for democracy and to willfully pursue national reconciliation in order to cement a lasting peace and to strengthen democratic traditions in El Salvador;

(5) supports Salvadoran attempts to continue their cooperation in order to ensure democracy, national reconciliation, and economic prosperity; and

(6) reaffirms that the United States is unequivocally committed to encouraging democracy and peaceful development throughout Central America.

The SPEAKER pro tempore, Mr. EWING, recognized Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN and Ms. LEE, each for 20 minutes.

After debate,

The question being put, *viva voce*,

Will the House suspend the rules and agree to said resolution?

The SPEAKER pro tempore, Mr. EWING, announced that two-thirds of the Members present had voted in the affirmative.

So, two-thirds of the Members present having voted in favor thereof, the rules were suspended and said resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider the vote whereby the rules were suspended and said resolution was agreed to was, by unanimous consent, laid on the table.

¶31.11 STATE OF QATAR ELECTIONS

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN moved to suspend the rules and agree to the following concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 35); as amended:

Whereas His Highness, Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani, the Emir of Qatar, issued a decree creating a central municipal council, the first of its kind in Qatar;

Whereas on March 8, 1999, the people of the State of Qatar held direct elections for a central municipal council;

Whereas the central municipal council has been structured to have members from 29 election districts serving 4-year terms;

Whereas Qatari women were granted the right to participate in this historic first municipal election, both as candidates and voters;

Whereas this election demonstrates the strength and diversity of the State of Qatar's commitment to democratic expression;

Whereas the United States highly values democracy and women's rights;

Whereas March 8 is recognized as International Women's Day, and is an occasion to assess the progress of the advancement of women and girls throughout the world; and

Whereas this historic event of democratic elections and women's suffrage in the State

of Qatar should be honored: Now, therefore, be it

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

(1) commends His Highness, Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani, the Emir of Qatar, for his leadership and commitment to suffrage and the principles of democracy;

(2) congratulates the citizens of the State of Qatar as they celebrate the historic election for a central municipal council; and

(3) reaffirms that the United States is strongly committed to encouraging the suffrage of women, democratic ideals, and peaceful development throughout the Middle East.

The SPEAKER pro tempore, Mr. EWING, recognized Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN and Ms. LEE, each for 20 minutes.

After debate,

The question being put, *viva voce*,

Will the House suspend the rules and agree to said concurrent resolution, as amended?

The SPEAKER pro tempore, Mr. EWING, announced that two-thirds of the Members present had voted in the affirmative.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN demanded that the vote be taken by the yeas and nays, which demand was supported by one-fifth of the Members present, so the yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore, Mr. EWING, pursuant to clause 8, rule XX, announced that further proceedings on the motion were postponed.

¶31.12 PROVIDING FOR THE CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 1143

Mr. DIAZ-BALART, by direction of the Committee on Rules, called up the following resolution (H. Res. 136):

*Resolved*, That at any time after the adoption of this resolution the Speaker may, pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1143) to establish a program to provide assistance for programs of credit and other financial services for microenterprises in developing countries, and for other purposes. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. Points of order against consideration of the bill for failure to comply with clause 4(a) of rule XIII are waived. General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed one hour equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on International Relations. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. Each section of the bill shall be considered as read. During consideration of the bill for amendment, the chairman of the Committee of the Whole may accord priority in recognition on the basis of whether the Member offering an amendment has caused it to be printed in the portion of the Congressional Record designated for that purpose in clause 8 of rule XVIII. Amendments so printed shall be considered as read. The chairman of the Committee of the Whole may: (1) postpone until a time during further consideration in the Committee of the Whole a request for a recorded vote on any amendment; and (2) reduce to five minutes the minimum time for electronic voting on any postponed question that follows another electronic vote without intervening business, provided that the minimum time for electronic voting on the first in any series of questions shall be 15 minutes. At the conclu-

sion of consideration of the bill for amendment the Committee shall rise and report the bill to the House with such amendments as may have been adopted. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and amendments thereto to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

When said resolution was considered. After debate,

On motion of Mr. DIAZ-BALART, the previous question was ordered on the resolution to its adoption or rejection and under the operation thereof, the resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider the vote whereby said resolution was agreed to was, by unanimous consent, laid on the table.

¶31.13 MICROENTERPRISE PROGRAMS IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

The SPEAKER pro tempore, Mr. GILLMOR, pursuant to House Resolution 136 and rule XVIII, declared the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the consideration of the bill (H.R. 1143) to establish a program to provide assistance for programs of credit and other financial services for microenterprises in developing countries, and for other purposes.

The SPEAKER pro tempore, Mr. GILLMOR, by unanimous consent, designated Mr. EWING as Chairman of the Committee of the Whole; and after some time spent therein,

The SPEAKER pro tempore, Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky, assumed the Chair.

When Mr. EWING, Chairman, pursuant to House Resolution 136, reported the bill back to the House with an amendment adopted by the Committee.

The previous question having been ordered by said resolution.

The following amendment, reported from the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union, was agreed to:

Page 3, beginning on line 22, strike "While this scale" and all that follows through line 25.

Page 17, line 15, strike "part 1" and insert "part I".

Page 19, line 2, strike ", and" and insert ", or".

Page 19, after line 16, insert the following: "(d) GENERAL PROVISIONS.—

"(1) POLICY PROVISIONS.—In providing the credit assistance authorized by this section, the board should apply, as appropriate, the policy provisions in this part applicable to development assistance activities.

"(2) DEFAULT AND PROCUREMENT PROVISIONS.—

"(A) DEFAULT PROVISION.—The provisions of section 620(q) of this Act, or any comparable provisions of law, shall not be construed to prohibit assistance to a country in the event that a private sector recipient of assistance furnished under this section is in default in its payment to the United States for the period specified in such section.

"(B) PROCUREMENT PROVISION.—Assistance may be provided under this section without regard to section 604(a) of this Act.

"(3) TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF CREDIT ASSISTANCE.—(A) Credit assistance provided under this section shall be offered on such terms and conditions, including fees charged, as the board may determine.