

AMERICAN OVERSEAS INTERESTS
ACT OF 1995

SPEECH OF

HON. WILLIAM P. LUTHER

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 8, 1995

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1561), to consolidate the foreign affairs agencies of the United States; to authorize appropriations for the Department of State and related agencies for fiscal year 1996 and 1997; to responsibly reduce the authorizations of appropriations for United States foreign assistance programs for fiscal year 1996 and 1997, and for other purposes:

Mr. LUTHER. Mr. Chairman, I am committed to ensuring that all efforts are taken to recover our American POW's and MIA's from the Vietnam and Korean wars. After 27 years of families waiting for news and information about loved ones, the time has come to renew our national commitment to those American soldiers still unaccounted for in Southeast Asia.

We must do all we can to achieve the fullest possible accounting of our POW/MIA's. We must reach out to the families of POW/MIA's and listen to their stories. We must continue to seek answers to the questions that remain, and we must address our past failures and develop more positive future solutions.

One of those stories is the story of Joan O'Brien, a constituent of mine and an active member of the Minnesota League of POW/MIA's. Her brother, Sgt. Eugene Allen Handrahan has been missing in action since October 10, 1968. She is convinced that the POW/MIA's issue has been seriously mishandled and is frustrated by our inability to adequately address the lack of information available to her family about her brother. She feels as though our Government has stopped looking for positive solutions. I understand her feelings and am concerned with the Department of Defense's unwillingness to provide this family with complete information.

Today we have before us a positive approach. I applaud my colleague, Representative FRED UPTON for his provision in the American Overseas Interest Act, adopted in the manager's amendment, which I voted for and fully support. Representative UPTON's language enables us to reach out to citizens of countries who may have access to information about our missing service personnel. This provision grants asylum in the United States to any citizen of Laos, Vietnam, or Cambodia who personally delivers into the custody of the U.S. Government a living American POW or MIA from the Vietnam war, and to any citizen of North Korea, South Korea, or China who delivers an American POW or MIA from the Korean war.

Mr. Chairman, this is the least we can do to show our support and appreciation to those who risk their lives to bring American soldiers home. It is the least we can do to answer to the millions of families still waiting for positive solutions.

SAUDI ARABIA STILL DELAYS
PAYMENT TO UNITED STATES
COMPANY**HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 14, 1995

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to voice my continued and growing concern and frustration over the delay by the Saudi Arabian Government in paying the \$43.4 million claim of my constituent Gibbs & Hill Inc. I have risen numerous times on the floor of this House to urge Saudi Ambassador Bandar to favorably resolve this last remaining claim, as has been committed to repeatedly by the Kingdom, and thereby complete his mandate for satisfactory resolution of these claims under the special claims process.

On Friday, we passed the American Oversight Interest Act (HR 1561) which contained a provision sponsored by myself and Representative SMITH to further this policy objective of our Nation. Section 3312, Notification of Arms Sales to Saudi Arabia, requires the President to notify to Congress of all arms sales to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia until such a time as the Secretary of State certifies that the Kingdom has satisfactorily resolved all claims identified in the June 30, 1993, report of the Secretary of Defense pursuant to the section 9401(c) of the fiscal year 1993 Department of Defense Appropriations Act.

Now is the time for Ambassador Bandar to address this issue, meet with the company, and implement the payment of the claim. Ambassador Bandar's authority to implement payment of the claim is certain as was confirmed to Members of Congress and the company as recently as May 2, 1995, by U.S. Ambassador Raymond Mabus. Ambassador Mabus has steadfastly advocated the State Department's position that the claims be satisfactorily resolved by Ambassador Bandar under this mandate. In his May 22, 1995, conversation with the company and Members of Congress, Ambassador Mabus noted that he had been assured by a member of the Saudi royal court, on the authority of the King, that the claim would soon be paid. Despite this direct and unequivocal commitment, the Kingdom has yet to pay the claim. The unresolved claims between American companies and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia continue to place a strain on our relationship with the Kingdom. On April 7, 1995, I and several of my colleagues wrote to Chairman GILMAN requesting that a hearing be scheduled as soon as practical to consider U.S. bilateral relations with the Kingdom. I renew my call to Chairman GILMAN to schedule hearings on this subject so that we may fully explore our commercial relationship with the Kingdom.

AMERICAN OVERSEAS INTERESTS
ACT OF 1995

SPEECH OF

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 8, 1995

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under

consideration the bill (H.R. 1561), to consolidate the foreign affairs agencies of the United States; to authorize appropriations for the Department of State and related agencies for fiscal year 1996 and 1997; to responsibly reduce the authorizations of appropriations for United States foreign assistance programs for fiscal year 1996 and 1997, and for other purposes:

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Chairman, I want to express my opposition to the amendment proposed by my distinguished friend from Illinois, Mr. HYDE. I have the highest regard for my friend from Illinois. He and I have worked together on many issues, and we agree on many of the most fundamental of those issues. I respect his principled opposition to the War Powers Act, and I have heard him express his disagreement with that legislation on many different occasions over the years as we have served together on the Foreign Relations Committee.

Like Congressman HYDE, I have serious reservations about the way in which fundamental questions regarding the decision to commit United States troops abroad have been made over the years. I have had disagreements with Republican presidents and with Democratic presidents, and it will come as no surprise to my colleagues to know that I have not hesitated to express those differences both publicly and privately. As Chairman of the Subcommittee on International Security, International Organizations, and Human Rights in the last Congress, I chaired a number of hearings related to this issue.

I have the highest regard for my distinguished friend from Illinois, and I acknowledge that his amendment to repeal the War Powers Act and to establish provisions that provide for Executive-Legislative consultations is a serious and thoughtful effort to deal with the problem of the commitment and involvement of American military forces abroad.

At the same time, however, Mr. HYDE's amendment suffers from the same fundamental flaw that undermines the entire bill that is before us today, Mr. Chairman. It is a partisan document that has been imposed by the Republican majority, first in the International Relations Committee and now, I fear, in the House of Representatives. Our foreign policy should be a bipartisan effort that jointly involves the Administration and the Congress, and both of our political parties. Furthermore, it is again being done without thoughtful deliberate consideration and evaluation by the Committee of jurisdiction.

There were no hearings in the International Relations Committee on the specific amendment Mr. HYDE is presenting to us here today; There was no effort to solicit the thoughtful views of the Administration about mechanisms to assure consultation between the Administration and the Congress; there was no effort to seek the views of scholars and lawyers and historians about the potential impact of those changes; there was no attempt to develop an amendment that had input from and reflected the concerns of the Democratic members of the International Relations Committee.

Regrettably, Mr. Chairman, with Mr. HYDE's amendment we are simply continuing the partisan politicization of our foreign policy at the very time that we should be working together to deal with the serious challenges that our Nation faces in the post-cold war world. There