advances and the role it will play in a more united, cooperative Europe.

The ties between Portugal and the United States are deep and old. Expo '98 will be a celebration of these ties, a celebration of an old and valued friendship.

I urge my colleague to support this resolution, and thank all of those who have already supported this resolution.

□ 1100

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Rhode Island [Mr. KENNEDY] for his supporting remarks.

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

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BUNN of Oregon). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York [Mr. GILMAN] that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, House Concurrent Resolution 91.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on International Relations be discharged from further consideration of the Senate concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 22) expressing the sense of the Congress that the United States should participate in Expo '98 in Lisbon, Portugal, and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the title of the Senate concurrent resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

Mr. HAMILTON. Mr. Speaker, reserving the right to object, and, of course, I do not intend to object, I yield to the gentleman from New York [Mr. GILMAN] for an explanation.

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, by this action we will be completing action on this matter, which had already passed the Senate. Senate Concurrent Resolution 22 is identical to the House Concurrent Resolution No. 91, which the House passed a few moments ago.

Mr. HAMILTON. Mr. Speaker, I withdraw my reservation of objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

The Clerk read the Senate concurrent resolution, as follows:

S. CON. RES. 22

Whereas there was international concern expressed at the Rio Conference of 1992 about conservation of the seas;

Whereas 1998 has been declared the ''International Year of the Ocean'' by the United Nations in an effort to alert the world to the need for improving the physical and cultural assets offered by the world's oceans;

Whereas the theme of Expo '98 is ''The Oceans, a Heritage for the Future'';

Whereas Expo '98 has a fundamental aim of alerting political, economic, and public opinion to the growing importance of the world's oceans;

Whereas Portugal has established a vast network of relationships through ocean exploration;

Whereas Portugal's history is rich with examples of the courage and exploits of Portuguese explorers;

Whereas Portugal and the United States have a relationship based on mutual respect, and a sharing of interests and ideals, particularly the deeply held commitment to democratic values;

Whereas today over 2,000,000 Americans can trace their ancestry to Portugal; and

Whereas the United States and Portugal agreed in the 1995 Agreement on Cooperation and Defense that in 1998 the 2 countries would consider and develop appropriate means of commemorating the upcoming quincentennial anniversary of the historic voyage of discovery by Vasco da Gama: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurrent), That the United States should fully participate in Expo '98 in Lisbon, Portugal, and encourage the private sector to support this worthwhile undertaking.

The Senate concurrent resolution was concurred in.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

A similar House concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 91) was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on the two concurrent resolutions just agreed to.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

CONCERNING HUMAN RIGHTS AND DEMOCRACY IN BURMA

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 274) concerning human rights and democracy in Burma and a United Nations General Assembly resolution, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 274

Whereas the military government of Burma, as a member of the United Nations, is obligated to uphold the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and all other international human rights standards and conventions to which it is a signatory;

Whereas the ruling State Law and Order Restoration Council (hereinafter referred to as the ''SLORC'') in Burma has refused to recognize the results of the May 1990 elections, which the National League for Democracy, led by Aung San Suu Kyi, won by a landslide;

Whereas the United Nations Commission on Human Rights in March 1995 unanimously condemned the SLORC's refusal to ''take all necessary steps towards democracy in light of those elections'';

Whereas the United Nations Commission on Human Rights also expressed grave concern about violations of fundamental human rights in Burma, including torture, summary and arbitrary executions, massive use of forced labor including forced portering for the military, abuse of women, political arrests and detentions, restrictions on freedom of expression and association, and oppressive measures directed at ethnic and religious minorities;

Whereas the United Nations Commission on Human Rights noted that most of the 1990 democratically elected representatives have been excluded from the SLORC's ''National Convention'' and concluded that the convention does not ''appear to constitute the necessary steps towards the restoration of democracy,'';

Whereas Burma continues to be one of the world's leading sites of narcotics production and trafficking and, according to the United States State Department, production of opium nearly doubled in Burma since the SLORC took power in a violent coup in 1988;

Whereas, according to the State Department's International Narcotics Control Strategy Report of March 1995, the SLORC's antinarcotics efforts last year fell far short of the measures necessary to make serious progress against the drug trade, and in addition, the SLORC's lack of control over heroin-producing areas is due to the SLORC's allowing wide-ranging, local autonomy (to ethnic armies) in exchange for halting their active insurgencies against Rangoon;

Whereas the peace agreements signed by the SLORC with ethnic insurgencies since 1989 were supposed to lead to both a decrease in opium production and economic development, but according to the State Department's report, ''neither development nor a reduction in opium cultivation has occurred'';

Whereas in 1948 when Burma became independent, the annual production of opium was 30 tons, Burma was then a democracy, it exported rice to its neighbors and the world, and it enjoyed a free-market system;

Whereas today Burma is one of the poorest nations in the world and its opium production has increased some 8,000 percent to about 2,575 tons (1992–1993);

Whereas the drug production increase is the consequence in large degree of the inability of the successive military governments in Rangoon to come to terms with the country's ethnic minorities and the refusal of post-1962 military-dominated regimes to permit an open pluralistic society;

Whereas it is primarily through a democratically elected civilian government in Burma, supported by the Burmese people including the ethnic minorities, that Burma can make significant progress in controlling narcotics production and trafficking;

Whereas on July 10, 1995, the SLORC responded to international pressure, including 5 resolutions by the United Nations General Assembly, by releasing Aung San Suu Kyi, who had been held under house arrest for 6 years;

Whereas 16 elected Members of Parliament remain in detention in Burma, along with thousands of other political prisoners, according to Human Rights Watch/Asia, Amnesty International, and other human rights monitoring groups;

Whereas in July 1995 the International Committee of the Red Cross (hereinafter referred to as the ''ICRC'') closed its office in Burma due to the SLORC's refusal to agree to allow the ICRC confidential regular access to prisoners;

Whereas the United States ambassador to the United Nations visited Burma in September 1995, met with Aung San Suu Kyi, and also met with leaders of the SLORC and urged them to ''choose the path'' of ''democracy, rather than continued repression and