

in Europe Agreement. Furthermore, Ukraine is an active participant in NATO's Partnership for Peace Program. Most importantly, Ukraine has dismantled its nuclear arsenal which it inherited from the Soviet Union and has signed onto the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.

The new constitution adopted overwhelmingly in June by Ukraine's Rada by a vote of 315 to 36 with 12 members abstaining, establishes Ukraine as an independent and democratic state. The new constitution guarantees the rights of minorities, including allowing for the autonomy of the Republic of Crimea within its borders. Furthermore, it sets the stage for that country's next elections to take place for Parliament in 1998 and for President in 1999.

While Ukraine still has many problems to deal with, in particular commercial law reform, Chernobyl, and its energy shortfall, the framework now exists with the new constitution to make even more substantial progress over the next few years. Such progress deserves the support of the United States.

I urge all my colleagues to vote for the resolution and take a good hard look at Ukraine. Congress needs to provide assistance to ensure that this country remains on the path toward democracy and a free market economy.

The House should soon get its chance if an agreement is reached on the fiscal year 1997 Foreign Operations appropriation which will hopefully include \$225 million in earmarked aid for Ukraine. This money will be used to help support needed infrastructure changes within Ukraine and help to shore up Ukraine's nuclear energy program.

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of House Concurrent Resolution 120, a resolution acknowledging Ukraine's commitment to democracy. Ukraine is one of our most important allies among the New Independent States [NIS] of the former Soviet Union. Since its independence in 1991, Ukraine has instituted democratic reforms, making it the most stable country in the region.

In 1994, Ukraine held democratic elections, voting in a new parliament and a new president. Ukraine has accepted all of our requests, including the ratification of START and NPT, and instituted economic reforms that have won praise from the IMF and G-7.

I am proud to congratulate Ukraine on its democratic record. Ukraine has the sixth largest population in Europe, and plays an integral role in European peace and stability. Given Ukraine's importance in the region, it is critical that the United States show strong economic support for Ukraine.

Although there have been reductions in the foreign aid budget, we must continue to make our international priorities very clear. We must send a clear signal to Ukraine, and other emerging democracies, that the United States supports efforts to adopt democratic reforms, maintain a good human rights record, progress with economic reforms, and unilaterally disarm their nuclear arsenal.

Mr. Speaker, Ukraine is deserving of our respect, praise, and commitment.

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman of the International Relations Committee for his effort and insight in bringing this important resolution to the floor of the House today. I am pleased to join him as a cosponsor of this important resolution congratulating Ukraine on the progress that this newly independent country has made toward achieving a

democratic society and a functioning market economy.

Mr. Speaker, we in the United States have an important stake in the future success and prosperity and democratic progress of the Ukraine—and what takes place in Ukraine will reverberate well beyond the borders of that country. It can rightfully be said, Mr. Speaker, that as Ukraine goes, so will go the newly independent republics of the former Soviet Union, including Russia.

With the exception of Russia, Ukraine has the largest population of the former Soviet republics. It also has the largest, most advanced and most highly diversified economy of all of the independent former Soviet Republics. If Ukraine is able to maintain its sovereignty and its independence from Russia while at the same time establishing the economic and political ties with its closest and largest neighbor, this will bring us a good deal closer to our goal of seeing democracy take root throughout the former Soviet Union. We must encourage Russia to recognize, respect, and observe in practice the full sovereignty of Ukraine. This is as important a consideration for the policy of the United States toward Russia as it is of our policy toward Ukraine.

We have reason for considerable optimism in regard to the progress of democracy in Ukraine, Mr. Speaker. The Presidential election on July 19, 1994, and parliamentary elections that took place just a few months earlier on March 27, 1994, are important milestones in democracy in Ukraine. For a population that has not had the benefit of a tradition of a free and open and democratic electoral process, the people of Ukraine have shown a remarkable commitment to democracy through their participation in these elections.

Mr. Speaker, an important marker that is on the horizon is the adoption of a new constitution for Ukraine. As the people and the Government of Ukraine make progress in working on their new constitution, it is important that they provide assurances of full civil and human rights for all peoples of Ukraine. That is of vital importance to the future of that country, and it is vital for the future of relations between the United States and Ukraine. We in the United States have a strong commitment to respect for civil and human rights, and—as is evident from the attention and focus we give to the annual "Country Reports on Human Rights Practices"—our relationship with other countries is very much conditioned upon their respect for these important rights. We in the United States wish President Kuchma, the Government, and the Parliament success as they work out the details of this fundamental charter of democracy.

Mr. Speaker, we in the United States also have a strong interest in the success of economic reform in Ukraine. Moving ahead quickly to transform the economy is essential for democratic progress and for the prosperity of the Ukrainian people. The social and economic and political change in Ukraine has not been easy on the citizens of that country, and for this reason it is important that economic growth provide material benefits for the people. We in the United States have a stake in that success, and it is important that we here undertake all efforts to assure victory in that process.

Mr. Speaker, I join in urging continued support for the Ukrainian people in their ongoing fight to bring peace, economic success, and political democracy to Ukraine.

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his supportive remarks.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. WICKER). 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 120, as amended.

The question was taken.

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 5 of rule I and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

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 concurrent resolution just considered.

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

There was no objection.

VOICE OF AMERICA RECORDINGS

Mr. DOOLITTLE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3916) to make available certain Voice of America and Radio Marti multilingual computer readable text and voice recordings.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 3916

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. AVAILABILITY OF VOICE OF AMERICA AND RADIO MARTI MULTILINGUAL COMPUTER READABLE TEXT AND VOICE RECORDINGS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding section 208 of the Foreign Relations Authorization Act, Fiscal Years 1986 and 1987 (22 U.S.C. 1461-1a) and the second sentence of section 501 of the United States Information and Educational Exchange Act of 1948 (22 U.S.C. 1461), the Director of the United States Information Agency is authorized to make available, upon request, to the Linguistic Data Consortium of the University of Pennsylvania computer readable multilingual text and recorded speech in various languages. The Consortium shall, directly or indirectly as appropriate, reimburse the Director for any expenses involved in making such materials available.

(b) TERMINATION.—Subsection (a) shall cease to have effect 5 years after the date of the enactment of this Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New York [Mr. GILMAN] and the gentleman from Indiana [Mr. HAMILTON] will each control 20 minutes.