EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

INTRODUCING HOUSE RESOLUTION 188 URGING THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH TO TAKE ACTION REGARDING THE ACQUISITION BY IRAN OF C–802 CRUISE MISSILES

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 17, 1997

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I am submitting today a resolution that calls upon the Clinton administration to take firm action against those responsible for providing dangerous C–802 cruise missiles to Iran.

The safety and security of American servicemen and women stationed in the Persian Gulf theater of operations are at stake. The acquisition of C–802 cruise missiles by Iran is a destabilizing development and constitutes a clear threat to peace in the region. This violates the provisions of the Iran-Iraq Arms Non-Proliferation Act of 1992, and, therefore, requires the President to levy sanctions against the provider of the cruise missiles—China. To date, the administration has done nothing. I urge my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in calling on the executive branch to enforce the law with respect to the acquisition by Iran of these cruise missiles, and to take appropriate action against China for providing the weapons.

We all remember the tragic and deadly attack against the naval escort vessel U.S.S. *Stark* that occurred in the Persian Gulf in May 1987. A single cruise missile slammed into the frigate and killed 37 American sailors.

Today, 15,000 members of the United States Armed Forces are stationed in the Persian Gulf area, carrying out a variety of important foreign policy objectives: enforcing economic sanctions against Iraq; protecting United States and European aircraft that are patrolling the no-fly zone over southern Iraq; and, maintaining open sea lanes through the gulf. We owe it to our troops to minimize to the extent possible the threat they face as they conduct their mission. Prohibiting rogue regimes such as Iran from acquiring advanced conventional weapons must be a high foreign policy objective for the United States, to ensure the safety of American Armed Forces in the region.

In 1996, the China National Precision Machinery Import-Export Corp., a state-run enterprise, delivered 60 C–802 model cruise missiles to Iran. These missiles are mounted on patrol boats for use by the Iranian Revolutionary Guard Navy. The China National Precision Machinery Import-Export Corp. markets the C–802 in its sales brochure as a missile with mighty attack capability and great firepower for use against escort vessels such as the U.S.S. *Stark*. This is the same company that supplied missile technology to Pakistan, a transaction that led the United States Government to impose economic sanctions for violating United States law and the international nonproliferation guidelines.

In addition, China reportedly is supplying Iran with a land-based version of the C–802 cruise missile. Iran has been constructing several sites along its coastlines to accommodate transporter-erector-launchers [TELs], from which the Iranian Revolutionary Guard can fire these cruise missiles at targets in both the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman. The C–802 model cruise missile provides the Iranian military a weapon with greater range, accuracy, reliability, and mobility than it previously possessed.

In November 1996, Iran conducted land, sea, and air war games in the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman and successfully test-fired a C–802 anti-ship cruise missile from one of its patrol boats. Adm. Scott Redd, the former commander-in-chief of the United States Fifth Fleet, said that the C–802 missiles give Iran a ''360-degree threat which can come at you from basically anywhere.'' Deputy Assistant Secretary of State Robert Einhorn told the Senate Governmental Affairs Committee on April 11, 1997, that the C–802 cruise missiles ''pose new, direct threats to deployed United States forces.''

The Iran-Iraq Arms Non-Proliferation Act of 1992—title XVI of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1993—establishes United States policy to oppose any transfer to Iran of destabilizing numbers and types of advanced conventional weapons, including cruise missiles. The law requires the President to apply sanctions to ''those nations and persons who assist [Iran] in acquiring weapons.'' The sanctions include a 1-year suspension of U.S. assistance to the offending country and a 2-year ban on the import of any goods produced by the company found in violation of the statute.

We know that China is responsible for the transfer of these cruise missiles to Iran. The President must impose the sanctions that are stipulated in the law.

To my dismay, the administration has concluded that the known transfers of C–802 cruise missiles from China to Iran are not of a destabilizing number and type and, therefore, require no enforcement of sanctions against China. Instead, Secretary of State Madeleine Albright told a Senate Appropriations subcommittee in May 1997 that the administration has ''deep concerns'' about the acquisition of cruise missiles by Iran and will continue to review this development. I find this to be an unacceptable response.

While reasonable people can disagree over what constitutes destabilizing, there can be no argument that Iran has been engaged in a worrisome expansion of its conventional military capability, especially its navy. Iran has threatened to use its military power to close the Straits of Hormuz, disrupt international shipping, and challenge American forces active in the gulf. The Tehran government views the United States military as an unwelcome presence in the region. Our ships have had several close encounters with the Iranian navy in the past year. Fortunately these confrontations have remained small and contained.

As Elaine Sciolino points out in her April 20, 1997, article in the New York Times, the potential for real conflict between the United States and Iran is significant, ''when two enemy navies with vastly different military missions and governments that do not talk to each other are crowded into such a small, highly strategic body of water.'' The acquisition by Iran of advanced cruise missiles, like the C–802 model, must be considered a serious threat to stability, given the explosive situation that already exists. Iran's intent seems clear to me: to challenger the United States for predominance in the gulf.

Thus, the number of C–802 cruise missiles that Iran acquires becomes academic when considering application of the provisions of the Iran-Iraq Arms Non-Proliferation Act. Our men and women in uniform in the Persian Gulf now face a greater risk with at least 60 lethal cruise missiles targeted at them. The sailors aboard the U.S.S. *Stark* can remind us of the irreparable harm that one cruise missile can perform, let alone 60.

Other considerations aside, the law requires the administration to impose sanctions on China for its role in providing these weapons to Iran. I strongly recommend that the President consider applying sanctions against the Chinese Government, as spelled out in the statute, rather than only against the China National Precision Machinery Import-Export Corp. As a state-run enterprise, this company operates with Central Government complicity. Previous penalties by the U.S. Government against this corporation have not eliminated business dealings that are inimical to American security interests. The Chinese Government has sent us a message by permitting the sale of C–802 cruise missiles to Iran. It's time for the U.S. Government to deliver a crystal clear response.

Again, I urge my colleagues in the House of Representatives to support this resolution calling upon the Clinton administration to take appropriate action.

INTRODUCTION OF THE LOWER EAST SIDE TENEMENT MUSEUM BILL

HON. NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 17, 1997

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, my colleagues, today I introduced a bill that would designate the Lower East Side Tenement Museum an affiliate of the National Park Service, The Tenement Museum is located at 97 Orchard Street in Manhattan's Lower East Side, the heart of America's immigrant tradition. This building was erected in 1863 and, over the course of 69 years, served as the first American home for thousands of immigrants from around the world.

Much of America's immigrant history begins in New York. The museum on Ellis Island explains how families from around the world

journeyed to and arrived in the United States. While many newcomers set out to settle our Nation's rural frontiers, many more became urban pioneers—men, women and children who settled in the city. For this reason the next chapter of the immigrant tale, their lives in America, deserves closer exploration and recognition. Thus, in seeking a home for this story, the Museum sought the quintessential expression of urban, immigrant life—the tenement.

The Lower East Side Tenement Museum bill recognizes the museum's efforts to preserve, maintain, and interpret the themes of early tenement life, the housing reform movement, and tenement architecture in the United States. Affiliate status would allow this private nonprofit museum to fully participate in the programs and activities of the National Park Service while complimenting the Park Services trinity of Ellis Island, Clinton Castle, and the Statute of Liberty at not cost to American taxpayers.

My colleagues, this legislation enjoys wide bipartisan support among the New York State delegation and is supported by the city and State of New York, as well as civic leaders, small business owners, organized labor, the Wall Street community, and the National Park. I urge all of you to support this national treasure.

TRIBUTE TO WJGA

HON. MAC COLLINS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 17, 1997

Mr. COLLINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize a small town, community-minded radio station. Every morning in my hometown of Jackson, GA, something happens that is as anticipated as the sunrise. In fact, this daily ritual is shared by most of the residents of Jackson, one which reflects the tightness of its community bonds. Friendship like this can be found in all the facets of Jackson life, but especially when citizens tune into local radio station 92.1 FM, WJGA each day.

When the hands of local Georgians turn their radio dials to this station, the two men they hear in the morning don't echo the usual shock-jock type material that has come to characterize talk radio. Instead, audience members are treated to the down-home kindness of hosts Don Earnhart and Walter Carmichael. From these two, listeners are not only treated to the local news of Butts and Jasper counties, but also to the intangibles not measured by watt meters or ratings scales, things like friendship and allegiance.

Earnhart recently explained, ''Our listeners get to know us.'' They do soon in much the same manner as two people sitting on a park bench talking about the day. Topics might concern the menu at a local cafe or the politics of a balanced budget. With a format that is comprised of completely live programming, these two wizards of the airwaves provide the one quality representative of friendship, personal attention. As Bill Osinski of the Atlanta Journal and Constitution recently said of this idea, ''A radio station that respects its listeners—how refreshing.'' His enthusiasm for work has not faded after all these years, and with his wife Susanne working as the station's business manager, the two not only make great radio, but a great team as well.

Now, as the world continues to move at such a brisk pace, it is also refreshing to note that there are some folks content to do things the old-fashioned way. They don't need flashy logos or slogans. They don't need absurd or appalling subject matter. They simply need people like Don Earnhart and Walter Carmichael, people who care enough to care for others. How refreshing indeed.

DEPOT-LEVEL MAINTENANCE

HON. MAX SANDLIN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 17, 1997

Mr. SANDLIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation that clarifies the definition of depot-level maintenance and repair as the definition applies to the Army. The definition of depot-level maintenance currently included in the Department of Defense authorization bill should include conversions and modifications and I ask your support for such a change.

Section 333 of the Department of Defense authorization bill states:

> Depot level maintenance and repair means material maintenance or repair requiring the overhaul, upgrading, or rebuilding of parts, assemblies, or subassemblies, and the testing and reclamation of equipment as necessary, regardless of the source of funds for the maintenance or repair.

I believe this definition is vague and unclear and could undermine current BRAC laws. Further, it could potentially be interpreted to change long-existing Army definitions, and devastate attempts to gain more workload at certain depots.

I cite an example of why this definition is necessary. In 1995 Red River Army Depot in my district was realigned by the base realignment and closure process. The BRAC law stated: ''Move all maintenance missions except for that related to the Bradley Fighting Vehicle series to other depot maintenance activities including the private sector . . .'', thus leaving all maintenance of the Bradley Fighting Vehicle at Red River Army Depot.

When I was elected to Congress, I sat down with the Army to discuss the situation at Red River. The Army told me that Red River was unable to perform conversions and modifications of the Bradley Fighting Vehicle because conversions and modifications are not part of depot maintenance. However, Army Regulation 750–2 of Army Materiel Maintenance Wholesale Operations defines depot maintenance as ''that maintenance performed on materiel requiring major overhaul or a complete rebuild of parts, assemblies, subassemblies, and end items, including the manufacture of parts, *modifications and conversions,* testing and reclamation, as required. Depot maintenance serves to support lower categories of maintenance by providing technical assistance and performing that maintenance beyond their responsibility. Depot maintenance provides stocks of serviceable equipment by using more extensive facilities or repair than are available in lower level maintenance activities.'' (Emphasis Added.)

Clearly the law states that depot maintenance of Bradley Fighting Vehicles is to be performed at Red River Army Depot. Since the Army definition of depot maintenance includes modification and conversions, any modification and/or conversion of the Bradley should be performed at Red River Army Depot. Mr. Speaker, this is why we need this legislation to clearly state what the Army can and cannot do and so it can follow its own regulations.

Depots are a vital part of our Nation's military and are essential to our military readiness. The Army currently has five maintenance depots, three of which are ground maintenance depots. More and more, each ground maintenance depot is becoming increasingly specialized.

Mr. Speaker, we need to make sure these depots operate efficiently, and that in a time of need we have dependable sources of repair for our military might.

It is clear that in the post-cold-war era our military readiness levels need to reflect the demise of the Warsaw Pact and other changes in the world. However, we need to fully assess the impact that closure and realignment decisions made to date have had on our current military readiness. To our knowledge, no report or complete assessment has been prepared on how base closures, which are currently being completed, have affected our military readiness. I believe that until such a report can be reviewed, it is unwise to recommend more base closures.

The four previous rounds of the base realignment and closure [BRAC] process have resulted in the closing of 97 defense installations in the United States. We are still unable to fully assess the actual savings, if any, generated from those base closures. For this reason, we know that if there are any savings generated from further rounds of base closures, those savings will not be realized for many years to come. Further, it is also necessary to realize the amount of money spent to close military facilities. By the year 2000, we will have spent approximately $23 billion in cleanup and other costs associated with the closure of military installations.

The Quadrennial Defense Review claimed that in order to preserve combat capability and readiness, the services must compete, outsource, or privatize military department infrastructure functions that are closely related to commercial enterprises. The Secretary of Defense recently stated that ''We need to deregulate defense just as we have deregulated many other American industries.'' However, our military is not just another American industry. The civilian and military employees who currently perform these functions are experienced, dedicated, and well-skilled individuals on whom our Nation can depend in time of war. The uncertainties we would face with an inexperienced, privatized work force, pressed into service on short notice, could be a tremendous detriment to our military readiness.

AMERICAN HEROES

HON. RON PACKARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 17, 1997

Mr. PACKARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of two American heroes—retired Col. Mitchell Paige, of the U.S. Marines and retired Col. Frederick T. Flo of the U.S. Army.