preemption is usually, for most protections or legislation that is of a protective nature for health or safety on a Federal level, the Federal law reads that if the State wants to be more protective of the health or the safety or the environment, or whatever it happens to be, that they can do so. It is amazing that this bill does the opposite.

This Republican bill says that if we are more protective of the patient's health, then we are going to preempt that and the Federal law is going to hold. Usually we do the opposite, as the gentleman knows. So, again, there is clearly an effort here to do what the insurance companies want rather than do what not only is right, the right thing for the average person, but also what the norm is here when we deal with health and safety and environmental and other protections of that nature. So we know there is sort of a cynical side to this Republican bill in terms of what they are trying do.

The gentleman mentioned another thing that I think is important, and I have talked all evening about the Patients' Bill of Rights being a Democratic bill. But the fact of the matter is there are Republicans who not only cosponsored the bill but voted for the bill on the floor of the House and voted against the Republican bill. What the Republican bill is is a Republican leadership bill. There are Republicans who would join us in a bipartisan fashion, which is another indication of why the Patients' Bill of Rights really is a good bill. It is bipartisan. But, unfortunately, the Republican leadership is opposed to it.

I want to thank the gentleman again.

24TH ANNIVERSARY OF TURKEY'S INVASION OF CYPRUS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PETERSON of Pennsylvania). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 1997, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on the subject of this special order.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the 24th anniversary of Turkey's brutal invasion and illegal occupation of the Island of Cyprus. Five Americans lost their lives in the invasion and the illegal occupation continues today.

Turkey continues to illegally occupy more than one-third of Cyprus with 40,000 troops. The current status quo is unacceptable. It is also unacceptable that the United States and the international community, while publicly denouncing the invasion and occupation, allow it to continue. The resulting instability between Greece and Turkey threatens the strength of NATO and could ignite into military conflict. It is time to demand, I repeat, demand a solution in Cyprus.

I am hopeful that a solution to the division of a Cyprus is within reach. However, my optimism is tempered by the fact that I held my first Cyprus special order on the ninth anniversary of the invasion in 1983. Although much has changed since then, many issues remain the same.

In July 1974, Turkish forces, consisting of 6,000 troops and 40 tanks, landed on Cyprus's northern coast and captured almost 40 percent of the island nation.

I might add parenthetically that those 40 tanks were either American made tanks or certainly American made parts which went into them.

Cyprus, which is roughly the size of Connecticut, has not been whole since the invasion. Churches have been plundered and ransacked, beautiful frescoes have been stripped off the walls of religious institutions. Some churches have been converted into mosques, while still others were turned into cinemas and recreation centers. The Cypriots have witnessed the intentional destruction of their cultural heritage over the past 24 years.

Cyprus is an island divided by the green line, a 113-mile physical barrier which separates Greek Cypriots from the towns and communities where their families lived for generations. The division of Cyprus is most obvious in its divided capital city of Nicosia. It is the last truly divided city in the world. Armed guards stare at each other at check points around the city. In the center of the city bullet holes scar buildings and serve as a powerful reminder of the 1974 events.

More than 200,000 men, women, and children were forcibly expelled from the northern portion of Cyprus during the invasion and occupation. They remain refugees today. A people without a home. There are still 1,614 people missing from the invasion.

Mr. Speaker, I would yield to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PAPPAS) at this point.

□ 2230

Mr. PAPPAS. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend, the gentleman from Florida, for yielding and for his leadership, not just tonight but for so many years, and not just in special orders marking the very unfortunate moment in human history but for his leadership day in and day out on this issue and so many others.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today along with my friend, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS) to call attention to an injustice that is 24 years too old. On July 20, 1974, 6,000 Turkish troops and 40 tanks landed on the north coast of Cyprus, capturing nearly 40 percent of the island. Overnight, nearly 200,000 Greek Cypriotes became refugees, refugees in their own country.

Today, in defiance of United Nations resolutions, nearly 35,000 Turkish troops occupy the northern part of this island nation. The refugees that fled 24 years ago still cannot return to their homes. Sadly, over 1,600 people are still missing, including several Americans. A barbed wire fence known as the Green Line, which many of us have seen, cuts across the island separating communities and people that lived for generations together in peace.

Aside from all of this, numerous human rights abuses are still taking place. Every year, Congress addresses this problem, denouncing the unlawful and tyrannical rule that Turkey has imposed on Cyprus. It is important that we continue to acknowledge the injustice of Turkey's actions.

While this issue lacks the glamour that attracts mainstream media coverage, it does not make this issue any less important.

Problems from this conflict reach beyond the island. Mistrust and animosity have grown between our NATO partners Greece and Turkey. Now more than ever action must be taken. The United States, the European Union, NATO and the United Nations must do more now.

I remind my colleagues, though, that this problem began with a violent invasion, yes, a violent invasion, of Cyprus by Turkey, and that lasting peace and justice can only be restored when Turkish troops are fully removed.

I hope and I pray, as I know many of us do here in this country, that the vision of a peaceful resolution on Cyprus is not lost. I urge this administration to be more active in seeking the peaceful resolution that is so desperately needed. A continuance of U.N. sponsored confidence-building measures can also help bring about peace.

What will not bring peace, however, is complacency. Let us not stand by for another year, let us not allow ourselves to overlook this issue any longer. As long as the conflict continues, so will pain and human suffering.

Next year, Congress will commemorate the 25th anniversary of these sad circumstances. I pray that we stand here and tell of progress rather than oppression and resolution rather than conflict.

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from New Jersey for his contribution to this special order and his work. In the short period of time he has been here, he has become a true leader on this subject.

In 1992, Mr. Speaker, I chaired hearings of the Congressional Human Rights Caucus and heard heart-wrenching stories of people who had relatives abducted during and after the invasion. As a result of legislation that I cosponsored, our government recently discovered the remains of one of the missing, a young American named Andrew Kasapis.

Andrew disappeared when he was 17. His remains were recently found in a field in Cyprus. The administration's report to Congress on the whereabouts of the U.S. Citizens missing from Cyprus since the invasion concluded that the other four Americans are presumed dead. However, it is imperative that the administration maintain efforts to find the truth and account for these four Americans who along with 1,614 others have still not been found.

I would yield at this point to the other gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE).

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I just wanted to thank the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS), who is the cochair of our congressional caucus on Hellenic issues, for organizing this special order and for all that he does on a daily basis to try to resolve the situation in Cyprus.

It has now been, as we know, 24 years since Turkey brutally invaded Cyprus and divided the island, and the facts surrounding that occurrence are well-known. Since the time of that invasion, not a single nation in the world, not one nation, has recognized this self-proclaimed Turkish republic of northern Cyprus, with the exception of the regime in Ankara. The international community, rather, has unmistakably and unequivocally called for a negotiated peaceful settlement through a number of U.N. resolutions.

I just wanted to say, if I could, to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS) that sadly, after nearly a quarter of a century's worth of attempts to resolve this conflict, the situation appears as far away from being resolved as it ever has been.

Turkey continues to reject the Cypriot government's proposal for demilitarization of the island, a proposal that is supported by both Congress and the Clinton administration.

On May 3, Mr. Speaker, a newly-attempted American effort to resuscitate the peace talks in Cyprus, headed by Ambassador Holbrooke, collapsed when the Turkish side change its position and began insisting that three new preconditions be met for reunification.

These unfounded demands brought a public rebuke from Ambassador Holbrooke, who to his credit pointedly assailed the Turks for not being truly interested in resolving this dispute and blamed them for the collapse of the talks.

The gentleman from Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS) and my colleague, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PAPPAS) and others have pointed out how ridiculous these new Turkish demands are.

Turkey's new demands represent a clear step backward and must be met with equal resolve by those who support an independent and sovereign state of Cyprus.

I just wanted to say, if I could very quickly, that following the collapse of the May talks I sent a letter to the President which outlines the steps that I believe the U.S. should take in dealing with Turkey and I just wanted to read an excerpt from that, if I could, because I believe it describes what the true obstacle to peace in Cyprus is and what the United States needs to do.

I wrote:

> Mr. President, I believe that the administration privately shares my views that the key to progress lies in Ankara and it is time to stop focusing public and private efforts on the Turkish Cypriots and intensify American efforts to move the peace process forward on the Turkish military, which has a real and substantial influence on decision-making in the Turkish government. To that end, I urge you to convey in forceful and unequivocal terms that there will be direct consequences in U.S.-Turkish relations if Ankara does not prevail upon the Turkish Cypriot leader to abandon these new conditions and return to the negotiating process set out in the U.N. resolutions. It is also essential that the Turkish government not be allowed to interfere in the accession negotiations between Cyprus and the European Union. These negotiations are already started and Turkey must not be allowed to hold Cyprus hostage for its own political purposes.

Now, the latter part of what I just read is in response to the Turkish demand that the Cyprus government withdraw its application for membership in the European Union, and this was one of the preconditions that led to the collapse of the peace talks in May.

If I could just say that I think that this special order is a small but important part of our overall efforts, and we just need to send a very clear signal to the administration that members of this body are steadfast in their determination to monitor this situation, are increasingly frustrated with the lack of progress and that we just are not going to stand for the Turkish government's intransigence anymore.

I again want to thank the gentleman from Florida, who cochairs our caucus, for being so resolute in making it possible for us to continue to bring this point up.

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman. God knows, as the gentleman has already indicated, the Congress, the United States Government as a whole really, has to be more resolute. Otherwise a solution will never be found.

As the gentleman has already said, no government on earth recognizes the illegal occupation of northern Cyprus, except Turkey. Turkey has stationed 40,000 troops on Cyprus and has transplanted 80,000 settlers there and it is likely that the Turkish settlers and troops will soon out number the indigenous Turkish population on the island.

The Greek Cypriots have repeatedly attempted to find a just and lasting solution to this more than two decades old problem. In December of 1993, Cyprus President Glafcos Clerides submitted a reasonable and innovative proposal to the United Nations calling for the demilitarization of the island. In exchange for the withdrawal of Turkish troops, Cyprus would disband its national guard and transfer its military equipment to the U.N. peacekeeping force there. Cyprus would also fund an enlargement of the U.N. peacekeeping force. The money saved from defense spending would be used for development projects that would benefit both Greek and Turkish Cypriot communities.

Unfortunately, the Turkish side rejected this effort to end the tragic division. We have to ask ourselves who is really seeking a true peaceful solution to the problem of Cyprus?

I think it is obvious. In June, President Clerides renewed his call for the demilitarization of the island in a letter to U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan. He asked the Secretary General to undertake a personal initiative to promote efforts to achieve progress in reducing military tensions.

And this must be New Jersey evening because the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. ANDREWS) is here to take part in this special order and I hereby yield to him.

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend, the gentleman from Florida, for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I want to congratulate and thank the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS) for his persistent and consistent guidance and leadership on this issue. I thank him for inviting me to speak tonight.

Mr. Speaker, I had the opportunity to be in Cyprus with my wife and many of my friends about a year ago, and I was reminded, as I traveled there with many of my friends from New Jersey whose roots are in Cyprus, of the very real deprivation that they have felt as mothers and fathers and as grandparents.

One of the things that we find the most enjoyment from and the most richness from is showing our children the places where we were as children, the schools we attended, the parks we played in, the homes that we lived in, and also it is important to show them the graves of their ancestors, of their grandmothers and grandfathers.

I saw, Mr. Speaker, during that trip to Cyprus the very real heartache and very real pain of my friends who could not show their children those places where they had grown up, those places where they had been educated, indeed, those very places where their mothers and fathers had been buried, because as Cypriots, as citizens of a free and independent Cyprus, they were barred from crossing the Green Line and going to the occupied portion of the island.

As a matter of fact, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ), the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. KENNEDY), the gentleman from New York (Mr. HINCHEY), the gentleman from Florida (Mr. HASTINGS), a number of us on the trip, we were also barred from crossing the Green Line, and meeting with officials north of the Green Line, unless we went through what we considered to be an inappropriate and ritualistic meeting where we could hear propaganda before we did so.

We got a small taste, Mr. Speaker, on that trip of what the free people of Cyprus must feel every day.

I think it is important that at this time we do more than just condemn the atrocities which commenced long before 24 years ago but which intensified 24 years ago and have been bad ever since then. I think it is important we talk about an idea and a plan for peace and justice and progress.

These are ideas, Mr. Speaker, which I have conveyed to our diplomatic corps, to my colleagues here in the Congress, and I would like to convey them through the Speaker tonight to those who listen to us.

I believe that the time has come for us to focus, as my colleague, the gentleman from New Jersey, just said, on Ankara and not on the puppet government in northern Cyprus. It is very clear to me that the decisions are made in Turkey and they are, in fact, made by the Turkish military leadership.

I believe the United States should hold out to the Turkish military leadership not only the sanctions which we have all supported, including the elimination of military aid to Turkey in the foreign operations appropriations bill, which will be before us some time in the next few weeks, which I congratulate the chairman, the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. CALLAHAN) for, but I also believe that we should hold out incentives as well to a just and reasonable course of action by Turkey.

I believe that Cyprus' application for accession to the European Union should be supported by the United States and granted promptly, but I also believe we should hold out to Turkey the ultimate promise of its accession to the European Union, which I believe would be supported by the people of Greece as well, if the following conditions were met, and these conditions must be met:

First, Turkey must cease the atrocities against the Kurds both within Turkey and outside of Turkey.

Second, Turkey must cooperate to a peaceful solution for their Armenian people and stop its practice of perpetuating the difficulties and indeed atrocities that the Armenian people have so often felt.

Third, Turkey must immediately cease the aggression in the Aegean and make sure that it acts responsibly toward Greece and its rightful claims in the Aegean.

□ 2245

Finally, and perhaps most importantly, Turkey must make sure that its surrogates and itself respond appropriately in international negotiations on Cyprus.

I had, Mr. Speaker, the privilege of meeting President Clerides about a year ago and hearing firsthand the proposal that the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS) just outlined. It was a bold proposal that was reminiscent of what President Sadat extended to the Israelis and that Prime Minister Begin reciprocated 20 years ago. It was reminiscent of what brave people have done in South Africa to bring peace and justice there. It was reminiscent of the bold steps that Senator Mitchell was able to bring about when he went to Northern Ireland last year.

President Clerides, frankly to his own political disadvantage, offered disarmament, offered massive investment in the northern part of Cyprus so that its economy could rise and offered a long-term policy of cooperation and rapprochement. I believe that these are the terms that Turkey should accept, these are the terms that could lead us to peace, and I believe we, as Americans, Mr. Speaker, should be on record as saying that we fully embrace these positions and concur with their aims.

And, Mr. Speaker, I would just conclude by saying that I believe that we need to do more as a Congress than simply protest, although protest we will when we adopt the foreign aid appropriations bill this year and zero is next to Turkey in that bill.

We should do more than protest. We should facilitate a new growth and evolution toward peace, a path that will take Turkey toward the West, toward secularism, towards being a gateway to great promise in the Eastern part of the world, but on the conditions and only on the conditions that hostilities against the Kurds cease, that hostilities in the Aegean cease, that cooperation for the welfare of the Armenians commence and that once and for all we reach a settlement for a free, independent and sovereign Cyprus.

Mr. Speaker, I commend and thank my friend, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS).

Mr. BILIRAKIS. You put it so well, and you put it in a way that I think the average American and the average person in the world would understand.

As my colleagues know, we talk constantly about negotiations, about the offer made by President Clerides, et cetera, et cetera, and you know when you stop to think about it, we are talking about a free republic that existed for a number of years which was invaded in an illegal invasion. There is no threat from Cyprus to Turkey, to the mainland of Turkey; the Turks just came over and invaded this country, and they took this land wrongfully, and yet we are talking about negotiating to get back what was roughly Cyprus' during those many years by a regime recognized by only one country in the world.

Sort of blows your mind that really this is the situation. The Turkish side, led by Mr. Denktash, has dismissed efforts, as the gentleman said, by the United States and the international community to find a fair and comprehensive solution to the Cyprus problem. It is clear that we will not have a solution, as again the gentleman said, we will not have a solution in Cyprus until Turkey itself agrees to be part of the solution instead of part of the problem.

The Turkish-Cypriot leader recently issued two preconditions for a Cyprus solution. He demanded that his illegal entity in the occupied part of Northern Cyprus be recognized, and he also said that Cyprus must withdraw its application to join the European Union. Well, talk about something you cannot really get over. Who is he to demand that Cyprus withdraw its application, and I might add an application which, when successful, will benefit the Turkish Cypriots as well as the Greek Cypriots.

I yield to the gentleman from New Jersey.

Mr. ANDREWS. One point the gentleman just made, I would like to bring out and amplify.

Do you know the precise number of persons that Cyprus has under arms in the southern part of the island?

Mr. BILIRAKIS. I do not, but it is certainly a number considerably smaller. In fact, I am not sure that they really have an army; they have a national guard.

Mr. ANDREWS. I think probably the better description would be a national guard.

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Yes, a national guard.

Mr. ANDREWS. And, if the gentleman would yield, it is my understanding, and I repeat what he said, that there are 40,000, 40,000 Turkish troops in the northern part of Cyprus.

I recall sitting in the presidential residence with President Clerides, and he pointed out to the visiting delegation that if Turkey were to launch an attack it would take less than 5 minutes for Turkish fighter planes to reach the presidential residence where we sat that day.

This is someone who really is in a position of disadvantage militarily but who is willing to give up even his meager defenses that he has right now in order to boldly go after the cause of peace.

And again I commend what the gentleman has said. I think it explicitly and accurately states what happened, and I encourage him to continue his leadership.

Mr. BILIRAKIS. And following up what the gentleman said, and I plan to talk about this later, but a big thing is being made these days by the Turks, and I might add by our government here, regarding the ordering of S–300 missiles, defensive missiles. I emphasize defensive missiles by Cyprus, and the fact is this is going to destabilize things and what not.

Now here is a country which is really completely defenseless, as we have already indicated. They have no army to speak of. It is all a national guard, and they want to do what Turkey has been doing for years. They have certainly a defense system set up, and how, again with the use of American dollars and American arms in Turkey. So Cyprus wants to order some defensive missiles, and of course that is being resented as a destabilizing force against peace.

And so this is really what the real world is like regarding Cyprus, and it

is just amazing to me that the United States Government, which is the only entity that can really do something about this, is not showing a stronger hand.

Mr. ANDREWS. If the gentleman would yield just one more time, I want to re-emphasize what he just said, that there is a definite difference between self-defense and provocation, and I think it is very clear that the decision by President Clerides to try to defend the free people of Cyprus is self-defense and not provocation, and I am disappointed that our government has gone on record indicating its reluctance to see that happen. I believe that the proper policy should be for us to recognize the right of the free people of Cyprus to have that self-defense.

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman, and the demands that we have spoken about made by Mr. Danktesh, the Turkish leader in the occupied portion of the island, are clearly unacceptable to Congress and to the administration and to the international community and to President Clerides and his government of Cyprus, as well it should be.

I was pleased that U.S. presidential envoy and newly nominated U.S. ambassador to the U.N., Richard Holbrooke, flatly rejected the demands and signaled that neither were acceptable.

So why is it then, we have to ask ourselves, the division of Cyprus in America's best interest? It is fundamentally important to have international stability in the increasingly global economy. That is why. A divided Cyprus continues to cause tension between two of our NATO allies, Greece and Turkey. The two countries have come perilously close to war several times since that 1974 invasion. The Aegean Sea is home to the world's busiest shipping lanes. Cyprus is in a key strategic position relative to the Mediterranean region and the Suez Canal which is instrumental in supplying oil and other materials vital to the stability of the entire region. Any conflict between Greece and Turkey could disrupt trade in the region and have extremely serious consequences for many nations including the United States.

If the situation in Cyprus continues to deteriorate, there could be serious repercussions among other NATO members. These nations could be forced to choose between two allies, Greece or Turkey. A divided Cyprus also weakens American security interests in the region and serves as a source of instability in an important part of the world.

The recent dispute over Cyprus' plan to purchase, and we have just talked about, but I will repeat it, to purchase defensive antiaircraft missiles from Russia to protect itself illustrates why we must unify Cyprus. President Clerides intends to purchase a defensive system to protect Cyprus, as we have already said, from Turkish aggression. Turkey falsely claims that the missiles represent a threat to its security, and they are defensive missiles, and has made it clear that it will use force to block the scheduled deployment in November.

A Turkish Cypriot newspaper reported that Mr. Danktesh stated that, and I quote him, our position today stands at a point that you will get a response whatever you do, whatever you do you will get a response, end quotes. The United States should not lend credence to Turkey's unjustified claim that Cyprus' attempt to defend itself is a provocative action which threatens Turkey. This diverts attention from the real cause of instability in the region, and that is the illegal Turkish occupation of Cyprus.

The administration, as the gentleman from New Jersey just said, must act expeditiously to persuade Turkey to enter serious negotiations for a solution to the Cyprus problem. It should also send a clear and unmistakable message that the United States will respond swiftly and appropriately to threats of violence against Cyprus. President Clerides has already delayed the deployment once and he has offered to cancel deployment. Now this again is an indication of the fact that he really wants peace here. He has offered to cancel deployment if serious and constructive reconciliation talks with the Turkish Cypriots resume. And yet the Turkish side remains intransigent in its refusal to renew negotiations and continues to threaten Cyprus with military action.

All of the administration has pledged that finding a Cyprus solution is one of its top priorities. Turkish demands have become so completely inflexible and unacceptable that we are no closer, I am afraid, to a Cyprus solution today than we were two decades ago, and, Mr. Speaker, I would yield to Mr. Payne for the time being as a member of this special order.

Mr. PAYNE. Thank you very much, and I certainly commend the gentleman for continuing to keep this very serious issue before the American public and before people throughout the world who are looking for peaceful resolutions to situations. We should not allow aggression to be the manner in which nations operate.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join my colleagues in trying to bring a peaceful resolution to one of the most challenging foreign policy issues: Cyprus.

Let me just say briefly before I came to Congress as a National President of the YMCA and Chairman of the World Refugee Committee in Geneva, I recall the day when the invasion occurred in Cyprus back in 1974. In the capacity that I had as Chairman of the Refugee Committee, we immediately sent people to Cyprus to work in refugee camps. We sent several experts, Mr. Thompson from Scotland. We had an Australian who operated the U.N. program, Mr. Kohaut, and they also ran across the green line to meet with the Turkish authorities, the Minister of Social Services there, but they were rejected and told that their services would not be interested. The YMCA was interested in the people, people who were disrupted. And so refugee camps were set up, people were taught various crafts and set up ways and means to attempt to become self-sufficient. As I have indicated, we have always been concerned about the humanitarian issue and that we need to talk about a real solution to this problem.

I might have mentioned earlier too that a New Jersey friend of mine and I visited the island and went up past the green line and visited his old neighborhood, Mr. Andy Comadomas, and we went to his former house which was at that time deserted. They said that the Turkish person living there was out of the country and went to the home a block away of his cousin. And we there were able to go into the house, and we had a very strong discussion about how can people come in and occupy other people's territory? And a heated discussion went on. But I could see the pain and the anguish of this man who had not been in that property at that time in over 20 years to see his neighborhood, his street, his block being occupied by other people who were settlers who came into that area.

And so just as I conclude, last week Turkey was ordered by the European court of human rights in Strasbourg to pay $640,000 to a Greek Cypriot for the loss of property and mental stress. The court ruled in December 1996 that Turkey violated the convention on human rights of a person, Titina Loizidou, who had been denied access to her property in Kyrenia since 1974 but postponed a ruling on compensation for the victim.

□ 2300

In its ruling last week, the court awarded 300,000 Cypriot pounds, about $600,000, for material damage, with an additional 20,000 pounds for compensation for anguish and feelings of powerlessness and frustration which she suffered as a result of not being able to use her property. The court also awarded the costs and expenses to her, without specifying the amount, but rejected a similar cost claim made by the Cypriot government.

So as we are looking at this, as we see Special Envoy Richard Holbrook describe the situation as being on the brink of war, with the lack of progress and talks between President Clerides and Mr. Denktash. We must have a solution. The recent geo-strategic maneuvers by Israel with Turkey also have caused some uneasiness.

So we have neighbors, we have friends, we have allies in the region. We must have a firm solution to this problem. We must bring people together, because aggression should not be allowed, after 24 years, to still remain. Territory taken by war should be returned, and there must be a solution.

Cypriots will be able to come up with a solution if it is left to Cypriots, and the outside forces from Turkey, with

the settlers who were not Cypriots who have come in, have created the problem.

So, once again let me say I applaud the gentleman for his continued effort, his persistence. I know there must be a solution at hand, but only a right and just solution to this problem.

Mr. BILIRAKIS. I thank the gentleman, and he has annually been a part of this special order. I might add, I do not think it is the same trip the gentleman referred to, but we were together in Cyprus once a few years ago.

Mr. PAYNE of New Jersey. That is right.

Mr. BILIRAKIS. I thank the gentleman so very much.

This past July 20, the very date of the invasion 24 years ago, Turkish Prime Minister Mesut Yilmaz visited the illegally occupied area of Northern Cyprus and declared Turkey's support for Mr. Denktash and his illegal occupation force. He said Turkey intends to stop the missile deployment.

The Republic of Cyprus, as we already said, has every right under international law to defend itself from outside aggression. However, Mr. Denktash and opponents of a unified Cyprus have used the issue to divert attention from the illegal occupation and thwart progress towards a Cyprus solution, and, darn it, it is working. It is working.

Mr. Speaker, the Republic of Cyprus needs American support and active leadership by our government, as we have said so many times already tonight, to unify itself and stabilize the region.

One of the most effective ways to achieve this goal is for the United States to support Cyprus membership in the European Community. This membership would promote stability by permanently linking Cyprus to Europe, both economically and strategically, and, as I have said previously and the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. ANDREWS) has stated, this would greatly benefit both Greek and Turkish populations on the island.

The European parliament indicated its desire for peace on the island. Cyprus has earned its place in the European Union, and now the international community must take steps to move the peace process forward. Unfortunately, Turkey has threatened to annex the occupied area of Cyprus if it joins the European Union. It has threatened to annex the occupied area of Cyprus if it joins the European Union. Mr. Denktash has gone as far as saying, ''There will be war if Cyprus joins the European Union.'' ''There will be war,'' he says. In fact, Turkey already signed a number of agreements with the illegal Turkish regime that lay the groundwork for the eventual annexation of the occupied area. The United States must prevent such belligerent rhetoric and oppose any attempt by Turkey to annex the illegally occupied area in Cyprus.

Cyprus is ready to become an important trading partner with the United States. The Greek-Cypriot community is a democratic society known for its open and efficient economic system. Despite the violent blow dealt by the invasion, the Cypriot economy has strongly rebounded to become one of the strongest economist in the region.

In the past, our Nation has pledged its support to developing free-market democracies. The United States should consider offering trade incentives to Cyprus to allow the manufacturing sector to increase, the labor market to improve and the infrastructure to modernize.

Congress must pledge its support to building a strong trade relationship between the United States and Cyprus. The continued growth of their economy will provide for a more stable country, which is a key in the peace process. The island has seen a tremendous amount of growth through the years, mainly from tourism. However, the heart of Cyprus's potential growth has yet to be tapped, and those of us who have been there, I know, believe in that.

The case for American support of a unified and economically sound Cyprus is undeniable. That is why I was extremely dismayed that President Clinton called Greek Prime Minister Costas Simitis this past June to ask Greece to lift its reservations to Turkey's membership in the European Union. Greece should not have to change its policies on Turkey simply because Turkey refuses to participate in meaningful discussions on improving relations with Greece and demilitarizing Cyprus.

I fully support the Prime Minister's position that it is Turkey, and not Greece, that must change. I might add that there are other countries that have played a part in Turkey's refused admission in the European Union. The very reason that opposition exists to Turkish membership in the EU is its atrocious record of human rights violations, its longstanding disputes with Greece, and its illegal occupation of Cyprus.

It is not in the interest of U.S. foreign policy to reward Turkey, which I think is what we have been doing, for its hostile and inflexible stance towards Greece and Cyprus. It only serves to encourage Turkey to continue its opposition to progress in the region.

A newspaper in my Congressional district, the St. Petersburg Times, recently published an article entitled ''Why U.S. pushes Turkey into Europe's unwilling arms.'' The story noted that ''Turkey isn't yet close, either politically or economically, to qualifying for EU membership.''

In fact, Turkey's position on Cyprus is one of the major obstacles preventing it from membership in the EU. The European Community has made it clear that membership is contingent upon the resolution of the Cyprus problem.

I am also very concerned about the possibility that Turkey may have violated, and we haven't talked enough about this, I think, about the possibility that Turkey may have violated the Arms Control Export Act by transferring American weapons to Northern Cyprus without the approval of the United States Government.

In June, members of the Hellenic Caucus, which I cofounded with the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. MALONEY), met with the chairman and several members of the Defense and Foreign Affairs Committee of the Greek parliament. They suggested that American weapons were being sent to Northern Cyprus. If this is substantiated, and there are some of us who want to find out if it can be substantiated, it would destabilize an already unstable area of the world and would merit a reexamination of our own policies toward Turkey.

I would like to close by sharing with my colleagues a portion of an Associated Press wire report about Turkish celebrations on the anniversary of the invasion several weeks ago.

''Thousands of people attended festivities in Turkish controlled Nicosia, holding up pictures of the founder of modern Turkey and waiving the Turkish flag. Parachutists landed to the cheers of the crowd and civilian Turkish planes flew low in salute. Six Turkish warships were docked in Northern Cyprus ports for the week-long celebrations.''

We must ask ourselves, what were they celebrating? They were celebrating an illegal invasion which cost the lives of 5,000 people, including five Americans. They were celebrating 1,614 people who are still missing from the invasion. They were celebrating cultural destruction and violations of basic human rights. And they were celebrating their continued illegal occupation of an island and a people divided.

Mr. Speaker, we have a responsibility to use our influence as Americans to reunite Cyprus with its heritage. As Americans, as defenders of democracy, as righteous human beings, we must not and cannot further stand idle while Cyprus remains divided.

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise once again today with the gentleman from Florida and my other colleagues to mark a somber anniversary—the 24th Anniversary of the Turkish invasion of Cyprus on July 20, 1974.

Time and time again over the last 24 years the United States Congress has reaffirmed its commitment to a just and peaceful resolution to the Cyprus conflict. Last year this Congress passed the ''Peace in Cyprus'' Resolution, by overwhelming majorities, calling for the full withdrawal of Turkish occupation troops and an early substantive resolution of the conflict. Last year at this time we expressed hope in the U.S. brokered talks on Cyprus.

No matter how firm our commitment, no matter how deep our resolve, however, the breakdown of the most recent talks and indeed the repeated failures of the last 24 years, demonstrate that negotiations cannot go forward, progress cannot be made, if one of the parties is unwilling to negotiate. U.S.

Presidential Envoy Richard Holbrooke acknowledged as much, blaming the breakdown of negotiations on Turkish intransigence.

Rather than negotiate in good faith, the Turkish side set ridiculous preconditions, demanding recognition as a state and withdrawal of the Cypriot application to the EU. Recognition of the puppet regime in occupied Cyprus would violate international law and legitimize Turkish aggression. The EU's historic decision to admit Cyprus could have opened a window of opportunity for negotiation, but Turkey has used this instead as a pretext for blocking the talks.

Now Turkey threatens to attack Cyprus if the S–300 missiles are deployed. With regard to the missiles, one cannot deny a Nation's right to self-defense: Cyprus is a nation with small National Guard and no air force to speak of facing an occupation force of more than 35,000 troops and Turkish fighters within striking distance. To his credit, President Clerides has offered repeatedly to cancel the missile order in exchange for demilitarization and genuine talks.

While there has been some resolution with regard to the Americans missing in Cyprus, who we now know were killed in the Turkish invasion, key issues remain unresolved on this 24th Anniversary: the fate of the 1600 missing Greek Cypriots, the status of Farmagusta, the situation of the enclaved, the desecration of Christian sites in occupied Cyprus and the list goes on.

We can look to one victory tonight, however, as we mark this somber anniversary. In a historic decision last week, the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg ordered the government of Turkey to pay $640,000 in damages to a Greek Cypriot refugee, having found that Turkey violated the Convention on Human Rights. This acknowledgment, if belated, provides hope to the more than 200,000 Greek Cypriot refugees who lost so much in the invasion.

This year Turkey marked the 24th Anniversary of the occupation of Cyprus in quite a different fashion, with a militaristic display of force presided over by none other than Turkish Prime Minister Yilmaz. This celebration and the presense of Prime Minister Yilmaz should not only offend the world community, it should also signal to the U.S. an essential truth: Unless we bring our influence to bear on the real center of power in all this—the Turkish General Staff in Ankara—there is little hope for a resolution on Cyprus. Turkey is ultimately responsible for the division and occupation of Cyprus. We must demand that Ankara withdraw its occupation forces, tear down the Green Line and reunite the divided city of Nicosia.

Mr. Speaker, I do not want to stand here next year on the 25th Anniversary of the Turkish invasion of Cyprus. Let us not reach the quarter-century mark.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, today I join my Colleagues in commemorating the recent 24th anniversary of the Turkish invasion and occupation of Cyprus. I thank Congressman MICHAEL BILIRAKIS for the opportunity to make the public aware of the suffering of the Cypriot people.

For over 24 years, one third of the island of Cyprus has been illegally occupied and divided by over 55,000 Turkish troops. During the invasion, over 1,600 people were taken prisoner, including five Americans, and except for one of those five Americans, Andreas Kasapis, whose remains were returned to his family in Detroit, Michigan, those prisoners are still missing today.

The U.N. Secretary General has referred to the occupied area of Cyprus as one of the most highly militarized areas in the world. This area of the world remains a very volatile region and it would clearly meet anyone's criteria of a major U.S. interest that peace and stability be maintained in this area.

I hope the Administration moves quickly to replace Ambassador Richard Holbrooke for the position of Special Envoy for Cyprus and that the person is equally familiar with the history, insecurities, and cultural sensitivities of the area.

The geo-political issues are enough reasons for the US government and the American people to work with the international community to reunite Cyprus and end all foreign occupation on that little island.

But there are other more personal reasons for this to happen. The people of Cyprus are suffering and being denied their human rights by a brutal police and military occupation.

According to a United Nations report, Creek Cypriots in the occupied areas of the island, whom we call the Enclaved, suffer from a number of human rights violations and these abuses are also violations of the Vienna Three Agreement of 1975.

I have filed H. Con. Res. 181, which seeks to restore certain freedoms and liberties, and end the violations of internationally recognized human rights which the world should not tolerate and help these innocent people suffering in the illegally occupied area.

It is my firm belief that ending the suffering on the Enclaved is the first step and may make the over all Cyprus solution more attainable.

H. Con. Res. 181 is necessary because it calls on the Administration to keep working on a solution fro Cyprus. We must all keep calling on, not just the Administration, but the United Nations and the European Union as well, to all continue their efforts to find a solution fro Cyprus.

The present state of the negotiations does not appear too encouraging. The Turkish side is trying to stop Cyprus assession to the European Union even though the EU has stated it is prepared and is proceeding with negotiations with Cyprus for membership in the organization. The Turkish side has set certain preconditions before any discussions can proceed.

These preconditions are totally unacceptable and include demanding that the international community accept Cyprus as a divided island and a divided people.

Turkey and the Turkish Cypriots have made good on their threat to cut off all intercommunal discussions between Greek and Turkish Cypriots over issues such as talks to find the missing from the 1974 ware.

Furthermore, in addition to the oppressive police-state conditions the Cypriot people must endure in the illegally occupied areas of the island, the Turkish side and others are expressing concern and opposition to the Cypriot plan to acquire the S–300 defensive missiles. This is like attacking the victim fro trying to defend itself.

These critics of Cyprus make these complaints about the S–300 missiles while expressing no concern or opposition to repeated and routine violation of Cypriot airspace by the Turkish air force or the constant threats made by the Turkish government to attack Cypus. Nor do these critics of Cyprus seem to be very concerned or active in ending the illegal occupation of Cyprus which is in violation of numerous UN resolutions and Congressional expressions of oppositions.

It is the sovereign right of any nation, including Cyprus, to defend itself. It is not Cyprus that is the destabilizing element in this area but Turkish which is being provocative and amassing excessive military force in the illegal occupied areas of Cyprus.

Turkey maintains approximately 55,000 troops on Cyprus, (40,000 plus 15,000 Turkish-Cypriot soldiers), plus 400 heavy tanks, as well as heavy artillery, plus the Turkish air force is 4 minutes away. That is in stark contrast to Cyprus which maintains no standing army or air force, and only has 10,000 national guardsmen.

It is clear that these missiles are intended solely as a defensive measure to stop the Turkish violation of their airspace.

Not withstanding all the difficulties laying before, us, we must not be discouraged. We in the U.S. Congress and the American people want Cyprus to be free of foreign troops, united, and living in justice and peace, so we must keep up intransigent pressure on all parities to continue working towards a solution.

The people of Cyprus will find an agreement acceptable only if it calls for a united Cyprus. Any agreement that calls for a divided island will only serve to engender anomocity between the two communities. History has shown us that no nation can endure a line cutting through its country and Cyprus will be no different.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to join my distinguished colleague from Florida [Mr. MIKE BILIRAKIS] and all those who today acknowledge this sad date in the history of Cyprus. I rise to add my name to the long list of Members of Congress who throughout the past 24 years have decried Turkey's brutal invasion of this Mediterranean island.

After 24 years, some might be tempted to throw in the towel, to believe that these 24 years of Turkish occupation of Northern Cyprus prove the helplessness of the international community in the face of invasion, occupation, ethnic strife and injustice. Some might even say that our yearly acknowledgment of this tragic event are wasted words. I say that now more than ever, we need to voice our resolve, our ongoing commitment to building a lasting peace for all the people of Cyprus. As we've witnessed in so many parts of the world, peace building does not happen overnight-it requires hard work, vigilance, and the very resolve that we've maintained over the years and that will help us undo Turkey's wrongdoing in Cypus.

The Government of Turkey and its proxy on Cypus—the Turkish Cypriots—have a long record of ignoring international law and the will of the international community. Turks have only been able to sustain the division of Cyprus by maintaining an illegal occupation force of some 35,000 troops.

Most recently, the Turkish side demonstrated again its disrespect for international law when, on May 3d, it abruptly declared Greek Cypriots must meet three new ''preconditions'' before any meaningful negotiations to resolve the Cyprus crisis could begin. This

move undermined efforts by U.S. Ambassador Richard Holbrooke to revive peace negotiations and brought a public rebuke from the Ambassador.

Despite Turkish intransigence, however, international resolve to in support of a just settlement for Cyprus remains strong. In a June 18 letter, Cyprus President Clerides called on United Nations Secretary General Kofi Annan to undertake a personal initiative to achieve progress in reducing military tensions on Cyprus. In his letter to the Secretary General, President Clerides also reiterated his commitment to ''steps leading towards the eventual goal of demilitarization.''

President Clerides' letter was welcomed by the British government which noted on June 23rd that, ''President Clerides's letter is a step in the right direction.''

On June 29th, the United Nations Security Council unanimously reaffirmed its position for resumption of inter-communal talks on the basis of relevant United Nations resolutions regarding the conflict in Cyprus.

Once again the Security Council called upon the international community to respect the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of the Republic of Cyprus and to refrain from any actions that my cause harm to that republic. In an obvious reference to Turkey, the Security Council called on nations to refrain from any effort to partition Cyprus or to unify it with another nation.

Unfortunatley, the response from Turkey and Turkish Cypriots was the familiar one of denouncement. The president of the self-declared Republic of North Cyrus stated that his government would restrict the operations of the U.N. Peace Force in retaliation for the U.N. resolution and its use of the term Cypriot Government in reference to Greek Cyprus.

While we here in Washington and the Secretary General of the United Nations in New York are calling upon the international community to increase efforts to revive negotiations and find a peaceful, negotiated resolution to this divided island, the Turkish government engages in a flagrantly provocative action—including repeated violations of Cyprus air space, sending six new fighter planes to the occupied north, and a flotilla of naval vessels.

These are not the actions of a nation that wishes to be viewed as a leading broker of peace in the region. Rather, they are the actions of the provocateur and the promotor of instability and violence.

I was pleased to hear Under Secretary of State Thomas Pickering announce that the U.S. will continue to press aggressively for a resolution to the Cyprus conflict, in spite of the set-backs experienced by Ambassador Holbrooke.

I believe the progress made by the Republic of Cyprus to ensure the economic well-being for its people should be applauded and recognized. Yet there can be no real economic stability when 160,000 Greek Cypriots remain displaced and away from their rightful homes. There can be no real security when 35,000 Turkish troops threaten the Republic of Cyprus. And there can be no real stability when the Northern half of Cyprus languishes in economic and political isolation under a near totalitarian regime.

I urge all my colleagues, the Administration and the international community to pursue with even more vigor a negotiated resolution to Cyprus—one that is just and humane for all the citizens and residents of Cyprus; one that protects and promotes the human rights of all Cypriots; one that provides for a peaceful, unified and democratic republic; and one that resolves the outstanding humanitarian issues left unanswered over the past 24 years.

And finally, Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from Florida, Congressman BILIRAKIS, and the other Members of Congress who, for so long, have worked tirelessly to bring a just peace to the people of Cyprus; and who have been generous with their time and experience in educating the American people and their colleagues about the history and importance of this issue.

I thank him for his leadership.

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, on July 20, 1974 the world was shocked to learn of the brutal Turkish invasion of the Republic of Cyprus. I rise today to join with my colleagues in marking this sad anniversary that has led to the partition of the island nation for nearly one-quarter of a century. I would like to thank and commend Mr. BILIRAKIS of Florida and Ms. MALONEY of New York for their vigilance and commitment to a peaceful resolution to this act of terror that has brought noting but sadness and sorrow.

As we mark this anniversary, our resolve is being tested. Peace of Cyprus appears elusive. One year ago there was enthusiasm and guarded, yet high expectations. Richard Holbrooke, the President's top foreign policy trouble-shooter had just been put on the Cyprus case and there was good reason to believe that on the heels of the Dayton Accords in Bosnia, Mr. Holbrooke could bring all sides together for a meaningful and lasting peace in Cyprus.

Today, the reunification talks are stalled, mistrust on all sides hampers the peace process, and an arms buildup on the island threatens the entire region.

In the face of these obstacles some might say there is no current chance for an end to the Turkish occupation and the reunification of the island under the one legitimate Cypriot government. But now is the time for those who are truly committed to peace and justice to rededicate themselves to our collective goal. Turkey could demonstrate its commitment to peace by:

Rescinding its recognition of the so-called Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus;

Withdrawing its occupying army, 30,000 strong, which has for 24 years posed a threat to the people and government of Cyprus;

Respecting human rights;

Ceasing its tactics of intimidation in the Aegean;

Engaging the legitimate government of Cyprus in meaningful peace talks in order to halt any increase militarization of the island.

Although the United States has not been successful in restarting the peace process, Richard Holbrooke recently restated our commitment to a peaceful resolution to this crisis remains unchanged. I share this commitment to peace, and along with my colleagues support all efforts dedicated to reunification and peace for the people of Cyprus.

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I commend the gentleman from Florida, Mr. BILIRAKIS, who has over the years taken care that this House does not fail to observe the events of July 1974 whose tragic consequences still persist today nearly a quarter of a century later.

The occupation of northern Cyprus by Turkish troops, which began some twenty-four years ago, has turned into one of the most vexing problems of the international community. it has confounded the efforts of five U.S. Presidents, four United Nations Secretaries General, and many of the world's top diplomats, including our own. Most recently we had the strong effort of Ambassador Richard Holbrooke and Ambassador Tom Miller run into a brick wall as Denktash, backed by the Turkish government, came up with new conditions before they would agree to resume negotiations with President Clerides. These conditions, as the Turkish side well understood, were non-starters—the Turks insisted that northern Cyprus be regarded as a sovereign entity, and that the government of Cyprus halt negotiations on joining the EU.

We are all disappointed that the hard-fought efforts of our envoys did not produce a breakthrough. I agree with their assessment that the impasse is a result of the Turkish position, and that they key to breaking the current stalemate lies in Ankara. That being said, however, it is difficult to foresee a way around the current deadlock unless there is a change of heart on the Turkish side.

The situation in Turkey is exceedingly complex: We don't know who really is in charge—is it the government or the military? We don't know how to put the appropriate pressure on Turkey without giving the negative influences within Turkish society grounds to say that we have turned our backs on Turkey and are not truly interested in its integration into Europe and the West.

We are now hearing from certain Turkish officials commenting that the present situation on Cyprus—division of the island and 35,000 Turkish troops in occupation of one third—is the solution. This is completely unacceptable for the United States and the international community. It should also be unaccepted to Turkey because if partition is good for Cyprus, then why not for northern Iraq, or even the Kurdish areas of Turkey itself? Obviously the officials who make these ill-advised statements have not thought through the implications of partitioning Cyprus.

War-mongering threats from Turkish officials regarding the delivery of the S–300 missiles of Cyprus later this year also are unacceptable. Instead of making these outrageous threats, the Turks, if they truly believe the missiles are a threat to their own security, should work with the Government of Cyprus and other interested parties to find a way out of the problem constructively. This should include reducing their own excessive level of armaments in northern Cyprus, and getting negotiations between President Clerides and Denktash started. The decision to postpone delivery of the missiles until the fall provides more time to resolve the problem.

I have often said that Cyprus cannot be held hostage to problems within Turkey. I think that it is imperative for our government to make it crystal clear to both the Turkish civilian government and the military that Turkey's most vital long-term interests cannot be served without Turkey acting effectively to solve the Cyprus dispute. I am not convinced that all in the Turkish leadership truly believe that the U.S. is absolutely serious about resolving Cyprus, and the message needs to be reinforced. For my part I will continue to deliver the message whenever I meet with officials from Turkey, and I call upon all our members to do so as well.

Election of a new government in Turkey has been scheduled for early next year. As Turkish voters cast their ballots I hope that our government will have done all that it can to make it clear that resolving Cyprus is in Turkey's own national interest.

Although we have hit a serious obstacle to progress, the United States has no choice but to continue our efforts to get serious negotiations between the parties on Cyprus resumed. I thank the gentleman for allowing me to participate in this Special Order.

Mr. MANTON. Mr. Speaker, in 1974, Turkey invaded the island of Cyprus and, to this day, continues to illegally occupy the north end of the island. I rise today to mark the twenty-fourth anniversary of this tragic event and encourage the country of Turkey to withdraw its troops from the island of Cyprus. I particularly want to thank my colleagues, Congressman BILIRAKIS and Congresswoman MALONEY, for organizing this very important Special Order.

Mr. Speaker, when Turkey invaded Cyprus, not only did they take away the land that rightfully belongs to the Greek Cypriots, they also took away important freedoms—the right to educate their children as they see fit and the right to practice their religion. Today, Turkey continues to occupy nearly 37% of the territory of the Republic of Cyprus. We, as members of Congress, must ensure that the remainder of the island is not seized by Turkey and continue to work toward the release of these occupied lands.

The unrest that was witnessed on the island of Cyprus two years ago represented the worst violence since the invasion of 1974. Today, an uneasy calm continues to linger over this divided island. The next round of violence could further hinder any chance of a lasting and just peace for the people of Cyprus.

The six fighter planes recently sent to Turkey to occupy the North is unacceptable. Peace cannot thrive on this island until Turkey agrees to fully cooperate by withdrawing its troops and returning the Greek Cypriots homeland and allowing them to live as they see fit and accorded the full human rights of a free nation.

Mr. Speaker, as a member of the Congressional Hellenic Caucus, I have worked with my colleagues in a bi-partisan manner on a number of issues effecting the Greek people and Greek-Americans of our nation. We also commit ourselves to finding an end to the tragic situation that has plagued Cyprus and her people for far too long. It is my hope the current deadlock on peace talks in that region is soon broken.

To address the issue of peace in Cyprus, two pieces of legislation have been introduced which I encourage my colleagues in joining me as a cosponsor. The first, H. Con. Res. 81, calls for a United States' initiative seeking a just and peaceful resolution of the situation in Cyprus. H.R. 1361 would prohibit economic support fund assistance under the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 for the Government of Turkey for Fiscal Year 1999 unless they make certain improvements relating to human rights.

Mr. Speaker, as the European Union prepares for expansion, I encourage them to include Cyprus as a member. Although Cyprus has had a long association with the European Union, becoming a permanent member would allow the economy of Cyprus to flourish and would promote further progress toward peace throughout the island.

Mr. Speaker, I stand behind the people of Cyprus and President Clerides as they continue to offer a number of solutions to the Cyprus problem. The division of Cyprus has plagued the island on many levels—socially, politically and economically—that is why I urge the country of Turkey to be open minded during peace discussions.

Since Turkey first invaded Cyprus in 1974, over 1,619 people in the occupied areas of Cyprus, including four Americans, have never been accounted for. Andreas Kassapis, one of the previous missing Americans from 1974, has recently been peacefully laid to rest. I encourage the country of Turkey to open communications and exchange information about the remaining Americans who are missing as a result of the illegal invasion by Turkey twenty four years ago.

Permanent peace and justice in Cyprus lies in the hands of Turkey. It is my hope that next year we will be celebrating the freedoms of the Greek Cypriots rather than fighting for the return of their country and the human rights which were ripped away from them twenty-four years ago.

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise this evening to pay tribute to a dubious anniversary. As we sit here, after 24 years of Turkish occupation of Cyprus, it is especially appropriate to recognize the struggle for the freedom of all Cypriots that has been waged for more than two decades.

It was over two decades ago that 6,000 Turkish troops and 40 tanks landed on the north coast of Cyprus, and more than 200,000 Cypriots were driven from their homes and forced to live under foreign occupation. Over two decades ago, and Turkey still has thousands of troops on the island.

That is why I'm pleased that we have this opportunity today. This evening we remember what happened in Cyprus 24 years ago and we pledge to fight to end the occupation. We also look toward the promise of the future. President Clinton has demonstrated his commitment to solving this difficult issue by making this issue a foreign policy priority of his Administration. I hope that his commitment will lead to a just and viable solution to the Cyprus conflict, and that this time next year we will be standing here on the House floor celebrating the end of the Turkish occupation.

We must continue to fight against injustice in Cyprus. We must continue to provide aid to Cyprus to help that country deal with the terrible problems caused by more than two decades of Turkish occupation. And, above all, we must continue to keep the plight of the Cypriots on the minds of everyone around the world.

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the anniversary of the Turkish invasion of Cyprus. This act, an unprovoked use of force and flagrant violation of international law, divided the island and created a tense and dangerous situation. Sadly, almost a quarter of a century after this tragedy, the threat of renewed violence seems greater than ever. We must work together to ensure a peaceful and fair settlement to one of the world's most bitter conflicts.

I call on the leaders of Turkish-occupied Cyprus to recognize the will of the international community and make positive steps towards ending the stand-off which has plagued the once-peaceful nation of Cyprus for twenty-four years. Mr. Denktash must end his demand that the illegitimate Turkish Cypriot Republic be recognized before he agrees to negotiations with Mr. Clerides. And Turkey must not aggravate tensions in the region by threatening the use of force against the nation of Cyprus.

However, I am encouraged by the work of United Nations envoy Diego Cordovez as well as special U.S. envoy Richard Holbrooke, and I believe that a peaceful path towards reunification can be found with the cooperation of all parties. As we near the 21st century, we move towards an era of unlimited potential. The days of invasion, intimidation, and forceful coercion can no longer be tolerated and must be replaced by a system of mutual cooperation and the peaceful arbitration of disputes. In the next millennium, there will be no place for armies of occupation.

I am proud to reaffirm the close friendship between the United States and Cyprus, particularly highlighted by our commitment to ending the division of Cyprus once and for all. However, on this day we should also remember the victims of violence during and after the 1974 invasion, many of whom are still missing. The suffering experienced by them and their families, and the continuing plight of enclaved Greek Cypriots in the Turkish-occupied territory, compel us to seek a quick and peaceful solution to the Cyprus problem.

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to mark the twenty-fourth anniversary of Turkey's invasion, and subsequent occupation, of Cyprus.

It is extremely disturbing to me that every year we are compelled to gather in this chamber to remind the world of the horrible events that led to the division of Cyprus, and to remember those who were killed, injured, or displaced when Turkey invaded the island in 1974. It is clear to me and to most of my colleagues, as well as a vast majority of the international community, that Cyprus must be made whole again and Turkey must be held accountable for its reprehensible actions in dividing the island

Fourteen years after gaining its independence from Great Britain, Cyprus was illegally and brutally invaded by 6,000 Turkish troops and 40 tanks. These troops proceeded to sweep over the northern section of Cyprus, occupying nearly 40 percent of the island. The ensuring fighting killed thousands of Cypriots and forced hundreds of thousands from their homes. Today, more than 1,600 people are still unaccounted for, five of whom are United States citizens.

Twenty-four years after the invasion, we gather to remember those who died and to ensure that the world never forgets that Cyprus is a land divided. More than 35,000 Turkish troops continue to occupy Cyprus in violation of international law. A barbed wire fence and so-called ''Green Zone,'' which is patrolled by United Nations, cuts across the island, separating families from their property and splitting this once beautiful country in half. To this day, the Turkish government refuses to allow Greek-Cypriots who were forced to flee to the southern part of the island from returning to their homes.

Last year, I was encouraged when President Clinton appointed special envoy Richard Holbrooke to help broker a peaceful resolution and unify the island. Unfortunately, Turkey refused to negotiate in good faith, and no agreement was reached. As Mr. Holbrooke put it,

''There is no doubt that the Turkish side was responsible for the collapse of the talks.'' Even though Mr. Holbrooke is taking over as the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, I hope President Clinton will continue to help foster a peaceful and united Cyprus.

The occupation of Cyprus is one of the reasons that I offered an amendment to the Fiscal Year 1997 Foreign Operations appropriations bill that would have effectively cut $25 million in United States economic aid to Turkey. This amendment, which the House overwhelmingly approved by a vote of 301 to 118, sends a clear message to Turkey that its illegal and immoral occupation of Cyprus will not be tolerated by this country.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to join with my colleagues in standing up against Turkish oppression in Cyprus. I would especially like to extend my thanks to the gentleman from Florida, Mr. Bilirakis, for his tireless work to ensure that the people of Cyprus are not forgotten. Twenty-four years is a long time to wait, but it is my sincerest hope that our actions will help persuade Turkey to end its unlawful occupation of Cyprus.

Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island. Mr. Speaker, I would like first to thank my colleague from Florida, Mr. BILIRAKIS, for organizing this special order to commemorate the 24th anniversary of the Turkish occupation of the island of Cyprus.

In my state of Rhode Island we have a strong Greek and Cypriot community, which has brought the plight of Cyprus to my attention. Many of them to this day do not know what happened to their brothers, their fathers, their sisters, their mothers on that dreadful day in July of 1974.

On July 20, 1974, the Government of Turkey sent troops to Cyprus and assumed control of more than one-third of that island. On that day over 200,000 Greek Cypriots became refugees in their own country and are still denied the right to return to their homes. The assault dislocated many in the Greek Cypriot population. Over 1,600 Greek Cypriots are missing and are still unaccounted for as a result of this invasion.

In the past decades, we have witnessed tremendous changes around the world. The fall of the Berlin Wall, the beginning of peace in the Middle East, and the signing of a peace agreement in Northern Ireland. It is time to add Cyprus to that list of places where freedom will prevail.

Mr. Speaker, this Congress needs to take direct steps to indicate support for Cyprus. Only when we, in Congress, show our strong support for a unified Cyprus will the necessary changes occur.

Mr. ROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to add my voice to those of my colleagues who have eloquently spoken today on the pressing need for a just and lasting peace in Cyprus. As a member of the House International Relations Committee, one of my top priorities has been to advance a comprehensive settlement of the tragic division of Cyprus in 1974.

The cause of peace for Cyprus, the cause of freedom for Cyprus and the pursuit of unified Cyprus is in sum, not a complicated matter. To solve the Cyprus problem we need only to secure one vital element and that is the complete and unconditional withdrawal of Turkish troops from the island.

That the solution is so simple and the inability to secure it so long delayed, deeply disappoints me. Too many deliberations have been held, too many peace summits convened, too many U.S. diplomatic overtures have been made, to see the prospects for peace crumble due to the intransigence of Turkish-Cypriot political leaders. To break the stalemate in the Cyprus peace talks I am convinced that the time is ripe for the U.S. to press Ankara directly to exercise the resolve needed to withdraw its troops from Cyprus.

Notwithstanding Turkish efforts to stalemate the peace talks, I am heartened that Cyprus is on track to join the European Union (EU). With an eye to a promising and prosperous future, Cyprus's accession to the EU bodes well for the future of the island nation. As Cypriot President Clafcos Clerides remarked in June of this year, EU accession will bring Cyprus one step closer to serving as an ''important hub of economic, trade and business'' in the vitally important Mediterranean region.

Mr. Speaker, to close my remarks I want to reiterate that I believe in freedom for Cyprus. I believe in a united Cyprus. And I am committed to continuing my full support in seeking a genuine and long-lasting peace for Cyprus.

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I commend the gentleman from Florida, Mr. BILIRAKIS, who has over the years taken care that this House does not fail to observe the events of July 1974 whose tragic consequences still persist today nearly a quarter of a century later.

The occupation of northern Cyprus by Turkish troops, which began some twenty-four years ago, has turned into one of the most vexing problems of the international community. It has confounded the efforts of five U.S. Presidents, four United Nations Secretaries General, and many of the world's top diplomats, including our own. Most recently we had the strong effort of Ambassador Richard Holbrooke and Ambassador Tom Miller run into a brick wall as Denktash, backed by the Turkish government, came up with new conditions before they would agree to resume negotiations with President Clerides. These conditions, as the Turkish side well understood, were non-starters—the Turks insisted that northern Cyprus be regarded as a sovereign entity, and that the government of Cyprus halt negotiations on joining the EU.

We are all disappointed that the hard-fought efforts of our envoys did not produce a breakthrough. I agree with their assessment that the impasse is a result of the Turkish position, and that they key to breaking the current stalemate lies in Ankara. That being said, however, it is difficult to foresee a way around the current deadlock unless there is a change of heart on the Turkish side.

The situation in Turkey is exceedingly complex: We don't know who really is in charge—is it the government or the military? We don't know how to put the appropriate pressure on Turkey without giving the negative influences within Turkish society grounds to say that we have turned our backs on Turkey and are not truly interested in its integration into Europe and the West.

We are now hearing from certain Turkish officials commenting that the present situation on Cyprus—division of the island and 35,000 Turkish troops in occupation of one third—is the solution. This is completely unacceptable for the United States and the international community. It should also be unacceptable to Turkey because if partition is good for Cyprus, then why not for northern Iraq, or even the Kurdish areas of Turkey itself? Obviously the officials who make these ill-advised statements have not thought through the implications of partitioning Cyprus.

War-mongering threats from Turkish officials regarding the delivery of the S–300 missiles to Cyprus later this year also are unacceptable. Instead of making these outrageous threats, the Turks, if they truly believe the missiles are a threat to their own security, should work with the Government of Cyprus and other interested parties to find a way out of the problem constructively. This should include reducing their own excessive level of armaments in northern Cyprus, and getting negotiations between President Clerides and Denktash started. The decision to postpone delivery of the missiles until the fall provides more time to resolve this problem.

I have often said that Cyprus cannot be held hostage to problems within Turkey. I think that it is imperative for our government to make it crystal clear to both the Turkish civilian government and the military that Turkey's most vital long-term interests cannot be served without Turkey acting effectively to solve the Cyprus dispute. I am not convinced that all in the Turkish leadership truly believe that the U.S. is absolutely serious about resolving Cyprus, and the message needs to be reinforced. For my part I will continue to deliver the message whenever I meet with officials from Turkey, and I call upon all our members to do so as well.

Election of a new government in Turkey has been scheduled for early next year. As Turkish voters cast their ballots I hope that our government will have done all that it can to make it clear that resolving Cyprus is in Turkey's own national interest.

Although we have hit a serious obstacle to progress, The United States has no choice but to continue our efforts to get serious negotiations between the parties on Cyprus resumed. I thank the gentleman for allowing me to participate in this Special Order.

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, as we come to the floor today to mark the 24th anniversary of the invasion and occupation of Cyprus by Turkish forces, we have spent yet another frustrating and futile year waiting for the Administration to follow through on its promises to give resolution of this long-running problem its full attention. American policy towards Cyprus and the Aegean region can best be described as drift and react. We drift along while problems boil up, then react to the crisis du jour without a moral context or a policy framework. If we genuinely hope to solve the Cyprus problem which has plagued us for nearly a quarter of a century, we must change this haphazard approach.

Let's look at the facts: Over 35,000 heavily armed Turkish troops are stationed in the northern part of Cyprus. These forces have been upgraded and modernized; they are well-equipped from Turkey's vast military arsenal. The Turkish military is, by far, the largest and most well-trained and well-equipped in the region, thanks largely to US military assistance. The Turkish government, having occupied 38% of Cypriot territory by force, has repeatedly spoken of annexing this territory.

Cyprus has a 10,000 member voluntary national guard. Cyprus, even with its strategic relationship with Greece, would be annihilated in any conflict with Turkey. Cyprus has been the subject in widespread international crticism for

the proposed purchase of a small number of defensive missiles while Turkey's continued occupation goes largely unremarked. The Cypriot government has consistently reaffirmed its support for complete demilitarization of the island—Turkey has flatly refused to consider it. The Cypriot government has also said they would cancel the missile orders in a minute if there was genuine progress towards a solution—Turkey has responded with more threats.

Even though Cyprus met the fiscal requirements for EU membership years ago, Turkey continues to irrationally threaten both Cyprus and the EU in an effort to derail Cypriot accession talks.

No progress has been made toward peaceful resolution of the Cyprus issue in the past year. Threats and intransigence from Ankara and the north have increased. The intransigence of the Turkish side has led to the unprecedented situation of both Tom Miller and Richard Holbrooke, the top U.S. diplomats working on the issue, to lay the blame for the current impasse squarely at the feet of the Turkish side.

The answer to this long-running tragedy clearly lies in Ankara. If we buy into efforts to shift blame and create a public relations backliash by focusing on the S–300 missiles, we will only allow Ankara to retrench in their posture of annexation by force. We have to stand clearly on the side of international law and peaceful settlement of disputes, and against lawlessness and aggression. The records of both the United States Congress and the United Nations General Assembly are clear: the illegal occupation of Cyprus must end.

I join my colleagues today in calling on the Clinton Administration to be honest about the facts of the Cyprus dispute and be honest with Turkey about our expectations. We cannot resolve this dispute on the basis of half-truths and self-delusion. What a shame it will be if we are again here on the House floor next year, marking the 25th year of occupation. I strongly hope that the Administration will do everything in its power to bring about a just resolution to this issue in the coming year. Unfortunately, based on what we have seen so far, I am not optimistic.

Mr. BILIRAKIS. I would like to thank all of my colleagues who joined me tonight, it is very, very late, and also thank the staff people who are here so very late as a result of this, to help us focus attention on this grave injustice which must be remedied.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Ms. KILPATRICK (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT) for today and Tuesday, August 4, on account of official business.

Mr. ORTIZ (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT) for today through noon on Tuesday, August 4, on account of a death in the family.

Mr. POMEROY (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT) for today, on account of transportation problems.

SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. PALLONE) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. ADAM SMITH of Washington, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. FOX of Pennsylvania) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. FOX of Pennsylvania, for 5 minutes, today.

By unanimous consent, permission to revise and extend remarks was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. PALLONE) and to include extraneous material:)

Mr. MENENDEZ.
Mr. KIND.
Mr. MOAKLEY.
Mr. CRAMER.
Mr. SANDERS.
Mr. ORTIZ.
Mr. BAESLER.
Mr. ROTHMAN.
Mr. GEJDENSON.
Mr. LANTOS.
Ms. SLAUGHTER.
Mr. POMEROY.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. FOX of Pennsylvania) and to include extraneous material:)

Mr. COX of California.
Mr. BILIRAKIS.
Mr. SOLOMON.
Mr. RADANOVICH.
Mr. BLILEY.
Mr. SMITH of New Jersey.
Mrs. ROUKEMA.
Mr. GILMAN.
Mr. KIM.
Mr. PAUL.
Mr. MICA.

SENATE BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS REFERRED

Bills and joint resolutions of the Senate of the following titles were taken from the Speaker's table and, under the rule, referred as follows:

S. 1325. An act to authorize appropriations for the Technology Administration of the Department of Commerce for fiscal years 1998, 1999, and 2000, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Science.

S. 1883. An act to direct the Secretary of the Interior to convey the Marion National Fish Hatchery and the Claude Harris Aquacultural Research Center to the State of Alabama, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Resources.

S.J. Res. 35. Joint Resolution granting the consent of Congress to the Pacific Northwest Emergency Management Arrangement; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

S.J. Res. 51. Joint Resolution granting the consent of Congress to the Potomac Highlands Airport Authority Compact entered into between the States of Maryland and West Virginia; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

Mr. THOMAS, from the Committee on House Oversight, reported that that committee had examined and found truly enrolled bills of the House of the following titles, which were thereupon signed by the Speaker:

H.R. 434. An act to provide for the conveyance of small parcels of land in the Carson National Forest and the Santa Fe National Forest, New Mexico, to the village of El Rito and the town of Jemez Springs, New Mexico.

H.R. 643. An act to designate the United States courthouse to be constructed at the corner of Superior and Huron Roads, in Cleveland, Ohio, as the ''Carl B. Stokes United States Courthouse''.

H.R. 765. An act to ensure maintenance of a herd of wild horses in Cape Lookout National Seashore.

H.R. 872. An act to establish rules governing product liability actions against raw materials and bulk component suppliers to medical device manufacturers, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1085. An act to revise, codify, and enact without substantive change certain general and permanent laws, related to patriotic and national observances, ceremonies, and organizations, as title 36, United States Code, ''Patriotic and National Observances, Ceremonies, and Organizations''.

H.R. 1385. An act to consolidate, coordinate, and improve employment, training, literacy, and vocational rehabilitation programs in the United States, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3152. An act to provide that certain volunteers at private non-profit food banks are not employees for purposes of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938.

H.R. 3504. An act to amend the John F. Kennedy Center Act to authorize appropriations for the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts and to further define the criteria for capital repair and operation and maintenance.

H.R. 3731. An act to designate the auditorium located within the Sandia Technology Transfer Center in Albuquerque, New Mexico, as the ''Steve Schiff Auditorium''.

H.R. 4237. An act to amend the District of Columbia Convention Center and Sports Arena Authorization Act of 1995 to revise the revenues and activities covered under such Act, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4354. An act to establish the United States Capitol Police Memorial Fund on behalf of the families of Detective John Michael Gibson and Private First Class Jacob Joseph Chestnut of the United States Capitol Police.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 11 o'clock and 9 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Tuesday, August 4, 1998, at 9 a.m. for morning hour debates.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XXIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

10458. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Pesticide Reporting Requirements for Risk/Benefit Information [OPP–60010K; FRL–6016–2] (RIN: 2070–