

COMMENDING THE PEOPLE OF
MOZAMBIQUE

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on International Relations be discharged from further consideration of the resolution (H. Res. 610) expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the people of the Republic of Mozambique are to be commended for their commitment to rebuilding their nation after years of civil war, their willingness to live together harmoniously despite sharp political differences, and their ability to overcome poverty, health crises, and refugee outflows to build a growing economy and a positive future for their country, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

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

Ms. MCKINNEY. Mr. Speaker, reserving the right to object, although I do not intend to object, I would like to thank the chairman, the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN) and the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. GINGRICH) and the Democratic leadership for bringing this bill to the floor. This bill makes note of the positive relationship between our country and that of Mozambique and commends Mozambique for its progress in democratization and respect for human rights.

Mr. Speaker, I withdraw my reservation of objection.

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

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, reserving the right to object, and I will not object, but I yield to the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN), the chairman of the committee, for any comments that he might wish to make.

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this measure for deserving Mozambique. The gentlewoman from Georgia (Ms. MCKINNEY), a member of our committee, has done us a service by bringing these issues before us. The people of Mozambique have overcome obstacles that many of us could never imagine. Thirty years of war, grinding poverty and continued disruption of normal life.

□ 2030

According to the U.N., at least one-third of the 17 million people in Mozambique were forced to flee their homes as refugees or as internally displaced persons.

In the best of times, Mr. Speaker, Mozambique is one of the poorest nations in the world. Estimates indicate a per capita income of \$80 per year. Mozambique's civil war ended in 1992. In 1994 Mozambique held its first democratic elections, which were judged to be free and fair, and which benefited from the participation of the opposition.

Mr. Speaker, the people of Mozambique, like their neighbors in South Africa, stand as a model of political reconciliation. Other troubled regions of the world should look to the manner in which the Mozambique people have put away their political and other differences and have worked together to build a better future for their families.

Despite its many hurdles, Mozambique now boasts one of the world's fastest growing economies, having grown at 8 percent last year. Democracy is once again thriving in Mozambique, with both the government and the opposition working for a representative parliament and military.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentlewoman from Georgia (Ms. MCKINNEY) for bringing this issue before us. I urge my colleagues to support the resolution. I thank the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. BEREUTER) for his role in this.

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, under my reservation of objection, I want to thank the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN) and the gentlewoman from Georgia (Ms. MCKINNEY) for their support for this legislation. I announce my support for it.

Mr. Speaker, I withdraw my resolution of objection.

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

There was no objection.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 610

Whereas the Republic of Mozambique suffered from armed conflict for 30 years, first against Portuguese colonialism and then a brutal civil war between the FRELIMO government and RENAMO rebels;

Whereas up to one-third of Mozambique's 17,000,000 people were forced to flee their homes as refugees or internal displaced persons as a result of the civil war;

Whereas the two sides to the civil conflict reached a peace accord in 1992 and democratic elections were held in 1994 with the participation of all major political groups;

Whereas both the government of President Joachim Alberto Chissano and opposition parties have participated positively in Mozambique's representative democracy;

Whereas both the government and the opposition have made considerable strides in building a defense force that is representative of the Mozambican people;

Whereas Mozambique has rejected its communist economic policies, embraced free market principles, privatized many state enterprises, encouraged foreign investment and now enjoys one of Africa's highest economic growth rates at 8 percent per year; and

Whereas Mozambique is a fertile market for United States investment and trade: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) recognizes the achievements of the Mozambican people in overcoming political and economic obstacles to become a model of reconciliation and development;

(2) applauds those who have led Mozambique toward political reconciliation and away from armed conflict;

(3) commends the people of Mozambique for continuing to support democracy and democratic institutions;

(4) calls upon United States Government agencies to continue to work with their Mozambican counterparts in forging a close bilateral relationship;

(5) calls on the Government of Mozambique to continue to be a model of democracy, economic liberalization, and respect for human rights; and

(6) calls those nations in the world torn by civil strife to look toward the example of Mozambique for the benefits of political reconciliation and peaceful economic development.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 1997, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

WHY WOULD THE PRESIDENT
SHUT THE GOVERNMENT DOWN
OVER A ROAD BYPASS IN
SOUTHERN OHIO?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. BURR) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BURR of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I knew the administration was throwing its weight around on the budget agreement, but I simply could not believe it when I read in yesterday's USA Today that the President of the United States was willing to shut the Federal Government down over a road bypass in the State of Ohio.

So I tried to find out what all the fuss was about. I learned that there was a provision in the Omnibus budget bill that would have helped southern Ohio leverage existing State and Federal dollars, and I stress, existing, to fund six high-priority Appalachian Ohio projects. Even better, the so-called highway redesignation did not cost one dime more. We are talking about no money involved in this provision.

Then I find out that this particular highway provision has the full support of the Ohio Governor, George Voinovich; the Ohio Department of Transportation; local elected officials in 30 community and business groups across southern Ohio. So I asked myself, why was the White House willing to shut the Federal Government down on a highway designation that helped southern Ohio?

Apparently, Mr. Speaker, the White House has a political reason for opposing this small highway provision and threatening a government shutdown. I have a copy here of the actual letter from Erskine Bowles, the Chief of Staff of the President, to our Speaker stating pointblank that the President would shut down the government over this one small Ohio highway provision.

Mr. Speaker, I just cannot understand why this White House is willing to play such high-stakes political hardball over a simple Ohio bypass.