

AUTHORIZATION FOR USE OF
MILITARY FORCE AGAINST IRAQ
RESOLUTION OF 2002

SPEECH OF

HON. VITO FOSSELLA

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 10, 2002

Mr. FOSSELLA. Mr. Speaker, every so often, a people is forced to choose between fighting oppression and hoping to survive at the whim of evil.

Against all odds, facing down the world's only superpower, our forefathers fought and died to establish a nation conceived in liberty and freedom. Some years later, our nation turned upon itself so that all could bask in the glow of those freedoms. The "greatest" generation chose to go to war, and their sons and daughters endured a frosty confrontation so that people around the world would have the same opportunity to enjoy those freedoms.

Today, we are asked that very same question.

Do we have the same commitment, as did our ancestors, to beat down the forces of evil and give future generations the opportunity to live in freedom?

Over the years, Saddam Hussein has ruled Iraq as an absolute dictator. He has shackled the Iraqi people to an existence of oppression and poverty. Free speech has been banished, elections held as a sham, oppression terrorized and ethnic and religious minorities brutally and mercilessly oppressed. Hussein's tools of governance include torture, murder, rape, and poison gas.

Saddam Hussein has acted as a destabilizing force in the Middle East, often with violent and tragic results. He has used violence to repress the Kurdish minority, invaded Iran and Kuwait, and attacked Saudi Arabia and Israel. He has even attempted to assassinate current and former Heads of State including former President George Bush. In his mad blood lust, Hussein has used chemical weapons, biological weapons and ballistic missiles. By his own admission, Hussein has funded weapons programs to develop chemical, biological and nuclear weapons.

Over the years, in violation of numerous United Nations Security Council Resolutions it had agreed to abide by, Saddam Hussein has continued to develop weapons of mass destruction, refused to account for and return prisoners captured during the Persian Gulf war, refused to return property stolen during the Persian Gulf war and continued to repress its people and harbor terrorists.

Unfortunately, Saddam Hussein has intensified his efforts to develop nuclear weapons. Iraq has also sought to build and enhance delivery systems that can be used to deliver chemical, biological or nuclear weapons. The development of these weapons and systems will not only affect the Middle East, but it will give Saddam Hussein the ability to extend his influence around the world. Because the United Nations abdicated its role to enforce the various Security Council resolutions, we do not know the status of these weapons programs or how close they may be to completion and no one has been able to act as a restraint against the wishes of this dictator.

Over the past century, only two world leaders have used poison gas against their own

people and launched ballistic missiles to attack other nations. When confronted with the choice of stopping Adolf Hitler or appeasing him, the civilized world chose appeasement. Tens of millions of people paid a terrible price for that inaction.

We face a similar choice today. If we choose not to stop Saddam Hussein, history will consign on us a price for our appeasement, the cost of which will only be known with the passage of time. That price will not only be borne by us, but others as well, and we have no idea when that bill will become due. If nothing else, the tragic events of September 11, 2001, reinforced the lessons so painfully learned years ago.

If we can topple this madman through peaceful means, we shall. However, if military means are necessary, so be it. We must be open to all options to provide for the common defense of our nation and to ensure that future generations, here and abroad, have the same opportunities to live in freedom without the looming specter of fear and tyranny.

This resolution must be passed so that future generations can state—yes they were challenged, and they met the challenge—for the betterment of mankind.

Thank you Mr. Speaker and I yield the balance of my time.

H.R. 5400

SPEECH OF

HON. CHARLES A. GONZALEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 10, 2002

Mr. GONZALEZ. Mr. Speaker, I am glad that this important legislation was promptly brought to the floor and passed by unanimous consent. The North American Development Bank, NADBank, is the only development bank specifically dedicated to the infrastructure challenges of the U.S./Mexico border. This bill provides the Department of Treasury requested authorization to complete negotiations with the Mexican government by providing authorization for a new low interest loan facility and expanding the grant-making capacity of the bank. In addition it requires the Department of Treasury to annually report to the House Committee on Financial Services on efforts to improve the effectiveness of this important institution.

Mr. Speaker, I was disappointed in Treasury's initial lack of willingness to fully discuss with Congress on how best to improve NADBank. The public finance needs of the U.S./Mexico border are complex and are growing at an exponential rate. Treasury and Congress must communicate in a regular and frank basis on how best to improve this institution. I view this legislation as offering a tremendous opportunity for Treasury to work in concert with Congress on addressing the public finance challenges of the U.S./Mexico border. This is the intent of the annual reporting provisions of this bill and I thank Congressman DOUG BEREUTER for his assistance in inserting this provision.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 5400 is one step out of many that will have to be taken to ensure that NADBank achieves its intended goal of providing a flexible, competitive option for infrastructure financing for struggling U.S./Mexico

border communities. I look forward to working with my fellow Members on the Financial Services Committee on ensuring that NADBank lives up to its full potential and encourage the Senate to quickly consider this important legislation.

H.R. 5400

SPEECH OF

HON. DOUG BEREUTER

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 10, 2002

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, this Member rises today to express his support for H.R. 5400, legislation which makes necessary changes to the charter agreement of the North American Development Bank (NADBank). The bill, which this Member introduced on September 18, 2002, is being considered under unanimous consent. This important legislation contains the legislative changes requested by the Administration.

First, this Member would like to thank both the distinguished gentleman from Texas (Mr. ARMEY), the Majority Leader of the House, for initiating this unanimous consent request for H.R. 5400, and to the distinguished gentleman from Missouri (Mr. GEPHARDT) for supporting this request. Furthermore, this Member would also like to thank both the distinguished gentleman from Ohio (Mr. OXLEY), the Chairman of the House Financial Services Committee, and the distinguished gentleman from New York (Mr. LAFALCE), the Ranking Member of this Committee, for their support to this Member in my effort to bring this measure to the House Floor.

As the Chairman of the House Financial Services Subcommittee on International Monetary Policy and Trade, this Member would also like to thank the distinguished gentleman from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS), the Ranking Member of this Subcommittee, for his support of H.R. 5400. This Member especially would also like to thank the following three original cosponsors of this legislation, who are all Members of the Financial Services Committee: Mr. OSE (R-CA), Mr. GONZALEZ (D-TX), and Mr. HINOJOSA (D-TX). All three of these Members provided valuable input into the initial drafting of H.R. 5400. Subsequently, the House Financial Services Committee passed H.R. 5400 by voice vote.

With regard to H.R. 5400, this Member would like to discuss the following three items: Background on the NADBank; administration's request on the NADBank; and contents of H.R. 5400.

BACKGROUND ON THE NADBANK

During the 1993 debate of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), environmental issues emerged. A particular concern was that NAFTA could result in the industrialization and population growth in the U.S.-Mexico border region, which could further exacerbate pollution problems in this area. In addition, during the NAFTA debate, some Members of Congress were concerned that the perceived lax enforcement of environmental laws by Mexico could create a competitive advantage and give U.S. businesses incentives to relocate to Mexico. In fact, for some Members of Congress support for NAFTA was partially contingent on the identification of a structure to finance border environmental projects.