

USS *Thresher*. On board was a crew of 16 officers, 96 sailors and 17 civilians, and on April 10, 1963, the submarine was declared lost with all hands.

I am in support of the House Resolution 170, in recognizing the 40th anniversary of the sinking of the USS *Thresher*. I hope we all can take a moment to remember with profound sorrow the loss of those brave and gallant people aboard, both sailors and civilians.

I also want to take this time to express my deepest gratitude to all submariners on "eternal patrol." These men and women are forever bound together by their dedicated and honorable service to the United States, and we thank you for taking such pride in this honor.

The loss of the USS *Thresher* gave rise to the SUBSAFE program. This has kept United States Submariners safe at sea, and we have the safest and strongest submarine fleet in history. Its loss also gave rise to furthering oceanic studies, so we can continue to protect the men and women who serve our nation so well.

Mr. SNYDER. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BRADLEY of New Hampshire. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. TERRY). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New Hampshire (Mr. BRADLEY) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 170.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds of those present have voted in the affirmative.

Mr. BRADLEY of New Hampshire. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

EXPRESSING CONDOLENCES OF HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO ASSASSINATION OF PRIME MINISTER ZORAN DJINDJIC OF SERBIA

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 149) expressing the condolences of the House of Representatives in response to the assassination of Prime Minister Zoran Djindjic of Serbia, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 149

Whereas Prime Minister Zoran Djindjic symbolized the hopes of a new generation of Serbs exhausted by decades of war and turmoil until he was felled by 2 sniper bullets in front of his office in the center of Belgrade on Wednesday, March 12, 2003;

Whereas Djindjic's killing was a heinous attack on democracy;

Whereas Zoran Djindjic was born on August 1, 1952, in Bosnia and became politically active during his student years at the University of Belgrade;

Whereas after spending several months in jail for attempting to create an autonomous

noncommunist student organization with fellow students from Croatia and Slovenia, Zoran Djindjic moved to Germany, where he earned a doctorate in philosophy under Jürgen Habermas in 1979, and returned to Yugoslavia in 1989 to teach philosophy at Novi Sad University;

Whereas in 1989, Djindjic joined a group of Serb dissident writers and intellectuals to found the Democratic Party;

Whereas one year later, Djindjic was voted the Chairman of the Democratic Party Executive Board and in January 1994, he was elected the party's president;

Whereas Djindjic became a member of the Serbian Parliament in 1990, serving as the party's parliamentary group whip and a member of the Republic's Council at the Federal Parliament 3 years later;

Whereas following 88 days of mass protests over electoral manipulation during local elections in 1996, Zoran Djindjic was elected Belgrade's first noncommunist mayor since World War II;

Whereas Djindjic is widely believed to be the chief strategist and main organizer behind the Yugoslav presidential elections of September 24, 2000, and the uprising of October 5, 2000, that resulted in the overthrow and delivery of former Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic to the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY), that was investigating atrocities committed during the tragic and violent breakup of Yugoslavia;

Whereas subsequent cooperation with the ICTY has been judged to be less than optimal, but in recent months Prime Minister Djindjic moved forcefully to fight the organized criminal structures that Serbia inherited from the Milosevic era and to arrest war criminals who have remained at large;

Whereas Djindjic is also credited with mastering the Serbian elections of December 2000, in which the Democratic Opposition of Serbia (DOS), a coalition of 18 parties spanning a broad range of the political spectrum, won 65 percent of the popular vote;

Whereas the DOS elected Djindjic to be Prime Minister of Serbia on January 25, 2001;

Whereas during his 2-year tenure as Prime Minister, Zoran Djindjic sought to advance democracy, human rights, free market reforms, and the rule of law;

Whereas Djindjic's leadership raised desperately low living standards and advanced the integration of Serbia into Europe; and

Whereas Prime Minister Djindjic managed to maintain a disparate 17-party coalition government with a narrow majority in order to achieve these urgently needed reforms: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That—

(1) the House of Representatives offers its condolences and deepest sympathy to the people of Serbia and the family of Zoran Djindjic following the assassination of Prime Minister Djindjic;

(2) the House of Representatives understands that organized criminal groups within Serbian society continue to threaten the free and democratic government of Serbia and Montenegro;

(3) the House of Representatives recognizes that while implementing necessary reforms and cooperating with the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia may carry significant risks for the leadership of Serbia and Montenegro, these reforms and this cooperation are necessary and must continue; and

(4) it is the sense of the House of Representatives that the United States should support continued democratic reforms initiated by Zoran Djindjic, should urge his successors to dedicate themselves to continue to support his road to reform, and should pledge to assist Serbia and its new leadership in ac-

complishing these necessary reforms, including efforts to fight organized crime and corruption.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. BEREUTER) and the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. BEREUTER).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on the resolution under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, this Member rises today in strong support of H. Res. 149, a resolution expressing the condolences of the House of Representatives in response to the assassination of Prime Minister Zoran Djindjic of Serbia. It is with sadness that this Member brings this resolution to the floor of the House of Representatives today. Prime Minister Djindjic was assassinated on March 12. This tragic event was a shock to the people of Serbia, to the people of the Balkans, and to people around the world.

If anyone represented the present state of the Balkans, all of the changes that occurred in recent years, the hope for a free, democratic and prosperous future, it was Prime Minister Djindjic. He was the decisive leader who played a critical role in bringing democracy to Serbia. He was probably the most visible and important proponent of helping the Serbian people come to terms with the past, the destruction and the injustices of the tragic events which have been happening in the Balkans over the past decade. He was the leader most determined to integrate his country into Europe and the community of Western democracies, to provide a future of security, prosperity, and hope to the Serbian people.

However, only 2½ years after the overthrow of Slobodan Milosevic, let us not forget how fragile freedom and democracy in the region really is. During this crucial period, Prime Minister Djindjic was the leader who represented the best hope for the changes and reforms necessary to lead the former Yugoslavia to a new and different direction; but in the context of a country and a region of so much violence, hatred and corruption over the past decade, anyone who would have made these necessary forums would certainly make enemies and endanger both himself and the path of reform in his country.

Prime Minister Djindjic sought to change the political system in Serbia, sought to fight organized crime and official corruption, and sought to bring suspected war criminals to justice. He

attempted to develop better political institutions, to establish an independent judiciary, and to reform the police and the military. Although not exempt from what may have been legitimate criticism, perhaps even appearing to turn a blind or jaded eye to some of the forces that are so prevalent in Serbian society, he was seen to be making remarkable progress. He was the leader of a coalition and the leader of a younger generation who were bringing their efforts to bear to transform Serbian society. However, in the process, the forces of the past proved remarkably entrenched and widely based.

Mr. Speaker, let us recognize how significant the tragic event of March 12, 2003, is for Serbia and the Balkans. Let us recognize that the path of reform and fighting the forces of the past is not easy. Reformist leaders in Serbia and throughout the Balkans are vulnerable, and reformist and newly-democratic governments are fragile.

President Bush said Prime Minister Djindjic will be remembered for his role in bringing democracy to Serbia and for his role in bringing Slobodan Milosevic to justice.

Mr. Speaker, let us also remember Prime Minister Djindjic for his courage and bravery in fighting some of the most corrosive and virulent forces of the past in Serbia and the former Yugoslavia. This resolution shows that the House of Representatives supports the reforms that Prime Minister Djindjic spoke about most energetically and upon which he sought action. Reflecting upon the forces that brought his death must cause our country and the international community to redouble our efforts to assist the country of Serbia and Montenegro as it seeks a new and different future.

We offer our strongest encouragement to the new leaders of Serbia and Montenegro so that they may redouble their efforts in pursuit of crucial reforms. They must have the courage, the resources, and the support first of their citizenry and their country, but also the international community to aggressively fight the forces of the past, the forces of hatred and violence, the forces of organized crime and the history of official corruption in their country.

Mr. Speaker, in offering this resolution and statement, this Member offers his deepest sympathies and heartfelt condolences to the family of Prime Minister Djindjic and the people of Serbia and Montenegro.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this resolution. First, I would like to commend the gentleman from Illinois (Chairman HYDE); the chairman of the Subcommittee on Europe, the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. BEREUTER); and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. EMANUEL) for their leadership on this important resolution.

Mr. Speaker, the tragic assassination of Prime Minister Djindjic happened just a few weeks ago, but the repercussions of this barbaric act will be felt throughout the Balkans for years to come.

Prime Minister Djindjic was a courageous and bold political leader, an anti-communist and a democratic activist. He was one of the leaders of the ouster of dictator Slobodan Milosevic in the fall of 2000. Djindjic was a Serbian patriot who clearly understood that Serbia's future lay in Europe, not in the isolation nationalism that plagued the Balkans at the sunset of the 20th century.

Prime Minister Djindjic will go into history books as the man who made the brave decision to extradite former dictator Slobodan Milosevic to The Hague for trial on war crimes. It is widely believed that the renewed attempts by Mr. Djindjic and his government to go after entrenched organized crime in Serbia and war criminals in that country led to his assassination.

□ 1430

Prime Minister Djindjic was also a pragmatic politician. While pushing the Serbian nation towards Europe, Mr. Djindjic also tried to appease nationalistic elements of Serbian society. His government's cooperation with the International War Crimes Tribunal was uneven, but on balance Mr. Djindjic was leading Serbia in a positive direction, progress that will be set back as Serbia deals with the ramifications of this horrendous assassination.

Mr. Speaker, today we mourn, together with the Serbian people and with Mr. Djindjic's colleagues and loved ones. We know that the job of leading Serbia is risky and difficult, and we pledge to offer support to the continued democratic reforms initiated by Mr. Djindjic. That is why today, Mr. Speaker, I want to call on my colleagues in Congress and in our government to remain engaged in the Balkans and to offer continued support to the reformers there. Our national interest will suffer if this region backslides towards lawlessness and conflict.

The United States has unfinished business in the Balkans. The establishment of a genuine rule of law and a system of justice that benefits the citizens of these countries, the restructuring of local economies, the establishment of a vigorous civil society, the creation of independent media, and the resettlement of refugees are just a few of the tasks that remain.

Mr. Speaker, with continued U.S. leadership and engagement in the Balkans, these tasks can all be achieved. I urge all of my colleagues to support the passage of this important resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Illinois

(Mr. EMANUEL), one of the original movers of this important resolution.

(Mr. EMANUEL asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS) for yielding me this time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise as an original co-sponsor and in strong support of House Resolution 149, expressing the sorrow of the House of Representatives in response to the assassination of Serbian Prime Minister Zoran Djindjic earlier this month.

On behalf of more than 1,000 of my constituents of Serbian descent, I commend the gentleman from Illinois (Chairman HYDE); the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS) ranking member; as well as the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. BEREUTER), the Europe Subcommittee chairman; and the gentleman from Florida (Mr. WEXLER), ranking member, for their leadership in recognizing a truly remarkable reformer and a champion of democracy in the Balkans.

The world has lost a great friend and a true democrat in the Prime Minister. While our brave troops engage in another war-torn region, we identify with the war-weary citizens of Serbia and Montenegro who lived under Milosevic's cruelty.

Serbia has courageously demonstrated that it is willing to defeat a brutal tyrant and will not allow its democratic progress to unravel. As we mourn the Prime Minister's death, this resolution says loud and clear that America will work with Serbia to ensure that its path to democracy will never be deterred.

To all the young democracies of tomorrow, who, like Serbia, have also thrown off the yoke of dictatorship and totalitarianism and embraced the values of liberty and freedom, this resolution says to them that the United States, the House of Representatives, the people's House will stand with them no matter how many tomorrows it takes to achieve democracy.

The Serbian people are our fellow countrymen and allies because they embrace the values of democracy and freedom. Our nations share a mutual admiration for democracy, which is never a guarantee or a foregone conclusion. It is accomplished only through perseverance and courage. Democracy requires the force of vision and determination endowed upon great leaders like the late Prime Minister. His death at only 50 is a great loss for his family and friends, and it is also a tremendous loss for the democratic progress in the Balkans. The New York Times editorialized on the day after his murder: "In countries that lack institutions, individuals matter greatly."

After Yugoslavia fell apart following Marshal Tito's death, a common line that the nation had been held together by the force of his personality, Milosevic dragged Yugoslavia back to a darker time by igniting human genocide not seen in Europe since Hitler.

But the brilliance, the charisma, the force of vision of Zoran Djindjic steered Serbia away from an era of ethnic cleansing and towards liberty and equality. The Prime Minister was a reformer who envisioned a free and modern Europe. In less than 2 years he liberalized markets, elections, the press, and parliamentary debate. He showed that the human spirit and desire for freedom can never be extinguished.

Through calm persuasion he brokered a compromise with Montenegro, helped prevent further bloodshed in Kosovo, restored human rights and economic realization, the rule of law to a nation torn apart by four wars and two rebellions started by his predecessor, Milosevic.

After extraditing Milosevic and other war criminals, the world contributed more than \$1 billion in economic aid which proved a tremendous boost to a people whose standard of living had long been the worst in Europe. He taught his countrymen to appreciate the rewards of integrating into the Europe of tomorrow, the Europe of the 21st century, and his steadfast pursuit of reforms gave democracy a foothold in Serbia and the people of Serbia a hope of tomorrow.

In these difficult times, Mr. Speaker, we stand with our friends in the Balkans as they mourn a fallen hero and search for a new leader dedicated to fulfilling the democratic vision of modern Serbia who will always be remembered in history for his honor, his greatness, and his selfless commitment to the public good.

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I want to thank the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HYDE) for expediting the consideration of this resolution. I want to particularly note the contributions of the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. EMANUEL) who had the major role in drafting the legislation. I am grateful to have his assistance and his cosponsorship along with a substantial number of other Members who believe this is an important way for the House to recognize the contributions of the Prime Minister.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my deepest condolences to the nation of Serbia, the friends, family, admirers and supporters of Zoran Djindjic. The Serbian prime minister, who was tragically assassinated, was a leading proponent of democracy, human rights, and progress for the country of Serbia.

The assassination of Prime Minister Djindjic was more than the killing of an admirable leader; it was a heinous attack on democracy. Mr. Djindjic was elected Belgrade's first non-communist mayor since World War II. He believed in the ideal and principles of maintaining a democratic state, and dedicated himself to pursuing that cause.

We can thank Zoran Djindjic for being a chief organizer of the Yugoslav presidential elections in September 2000. We also owe him tribute as being a principal strategist for the October 2000 uprising, which led to the

delivery of Slobodan Milosevic to the International Criminal Tribunal. Mr. Djindjic understood that horrific war crimes were being committed, and was there to support his people to see their persecutor punished.

Zoran Djindjic was elected Prime Minister of Serbia on January 25, 2001. In his two year tenure, he sought to advance democracy, human rights and free market reforms. The United States values its democratic cohorts, and we can appreciate even more the people who seek to bring democracy to a region that has not had the privilege of maintaining it. Mr. Djindjic was an effective democratic leader; he raised the low living standard and opened the Serbian markets to precipitate trade throughout Europe. He was a stable Prime Minister who effectively dealt with the task of keeping a 17 party coalition government.

Zoran Djindjic understood the value of human rights, and worked tirelessly to maintain equal opportunities in a country that had been vacated of such leadership for half a century. He was an advocate of civil liberties and individual freedoms. We should feel so lucky to have had an ally of our American principles over in Eastern Europe.

The death of Prime Minister Zoran Djindjic is a travesty on so many levels. We have lost one of our democratic allies, someone who wanted the best for his country. The Serbian people have lost one of their greatest leaders. I stand firmly in support of this resolution, so the United States Congress can show its sympathy in a time of great mourning.

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, we have no additional speakers, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. TERRY). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. BEREUTER) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 149.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds of those present have voted in the affirmative.

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

SENSE OF HOUSE REGARDING SYSTEMATIC HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN CUBA COMMITTED BY CASTRO REGIME

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 179) expressing the sense of the House of Representatives regarding the systematic human rights violations in Cuba committed by the Castro regime, calling for the immediate release of all political prisoners, and supporting respect for basic human rights and free elections in Cuba.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 179

Whereas the Cuban Government continues to repress all peaceful attempts by the

Cuban people to bring democratic change to the island by denying universally recognized liberties, including freedom of speech, assembly, association, movement and of the press;

Whereas on March 9, 2003, many of Cuba's prominent dissidents issued a statement titled "Joint Statement" to the European Union, wherein they reaffirmed their view of the Cuban Government's "total vocation to immobility and its refusal to respect internationally recognized human rights or accept the existence of legitimate political opposition" and further stated that "in recent times the Cuban Government has intensified its political and social repression";

Whereas commencing on March 17, 2003, the Cuban Government carried out a massive, island wide crackdown on members of Cuba's pro-democracy movement, which included the arrest of over 80 dissidents, among them many who signed the "Joint Statement", activists of the Assembly to Promote Civil Society, promoters of the Varela Project, independent journalists, and numerous members of Cuba's nascent independent civil society;

Whereas the Cuban Government arbitrarily searched the homes and confiscated personal items belonging to pro-democracy activists;

Whereas independent journalists were among those incarcerated in this massive crackdown, including Raul Rivero, known as the dean of the dissident independent journalists in Cuba;

Whereas independent librarians, who make their homes available so that the Cuban population may have access to publications otherwise censored by the Cuban Government, also became victims of repression, as many were arrested, their homes ransacked and searched, and publications and other belongings confiscated;

Whereas Marta Beatriz Roque, and other leaders of the "Assembly to Promote Civil Society", an islandwide movement seeking to coordinate the various sectors of Cuba's nascent independent civil society who work for a democratic transition, were incarcerated and face lengthy sentences, including life sentences;

Whereas activists who have collected or signed petitions for the Varela Project were also incarcerated in this crackdown and may also face life sentences;

Whereas more than 80 pro-democracy leaders who work for a peaceful transition to democracy in Cuba have been incarcerated and sentenced under "Law 88" and "Law 91", two draconian totalitarian laws that call for long sentences of 10, 15, or 20 years, or life imprisonment, or even death for pro-democracy activity;

Whereas there is concern for the well-being and safety for all of Cuba's political prisoners, particularly Juan Carlos Gonzalez Leyva, who is a blind human rights activist incarcerated since March of 2002 without being formally charged, and Leonardo Bruzon Avila, who has been denied medical attention according to Amnesty International, despite the effects of a prolonged hunger strike while in prison.;

Whereas a plea for solidarity was made from within the notoriously harsh prison in Cuba known as "Combinado del Este" and signed by 21 political prisoners, among them Dr. Oscar Elias Biscet, Francisco Chaviano, Rafael Ibarra, and Jorge Luis Garcia Perez "Antunez" to the member states of the 59th Session of the United Nations Human Rights Commission;

Whereas the Cuban Government has carried out "summary trials" to expeditiously sentence pro-democracy leaders to try to intimidate and silence other pro-democracy activists on the island, while world attention is primarily focused on Iraq;