

(Mr. NYE) for his leadership on this very important issue.

Mr. POE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I continue to reserve.

Mr. McMAHON. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. NADLER), the chairman of the Judiciary Subcommittee on the Constitution, Civil Rights, and Civil Liberties.

Mr. NADLER of New York. Madam Speaker, we all hope for a peace agreement negotiated between Israel and the Palestinians. Such an agreement, providing for adequate security safeguards for Israel, would benefit the citizens of Israel and would benefit the Palestinians. It would also help stabilize the Middle East and would inure to the national security interests of the United States.

Every American administration for the last 40 years has recognized that prerequisite to the successful conclusion of any peace agreement is the maintenance of Israel's qualitative military superiority over any potential combination of state and nonstate aggressors. In recent years, unfortunately, we have permitted Israel's military superiority to lag, to begin to fall down.

I want to congratulate the administration, the Obama administration for recognizing this and, in the last year and a half, sharply stepping up U.S. military assistance and U.S. military cooperation with Israel.

Now we also face the threat from Iran and the threat of 40,000 rockets and missiles supplied by the Iranians in Lebanon in the possession of Hezbollah, which has said that it wants to kill every Jew. It would be nice if all the Jews moved to Israel so they could kill them with one swoop. And this accumulation of 40,000 rockets has been done in violation of U.N. Security Council Resolution 1701, which has not been enforced. So, hence, this bill.

This bill, which comes to us from the administration, to provide 200-and-some-odd million dollars for the Iron Dome antimissile system is another step in maintaining Israel's military superiority and in protecting Israel's citizens against possibly unprovoked aggression and is an absolute prerequisite if we hope to see any peaceful settlement in the Middle East.

I, therefore, congratulate the administration on taking this step and on the steps it has made to maintain Israel's military superiority. I thank the sponsors, and I urge the passage of this bill.

Mr. POE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, the State of Israel, the nation of Israel, is not a big place. It's a little, bitty country. It's smaller than the State of New Jersey. From north to south, at the longest point, it's 200 miles. East to west, it's 75 miles. And ever since their existence, nations all around them have been wanting to destroy the nation of Israel.

Let there be no mistake about it, Madam Speaker. Israel is our ally.

Israel has the absolute right of self-defense, to protect the dignity of its country and to protect its citizens. That is the first duty of every government and of every nation. This resolution helps Israel protect itself and its citizens.

Israel has the absolute right to exist. And it should be known to the world that we will stand with Israel to make sure they have the right to exist. Israel is saying to Hezbollah and Hamas, Syria, Iran, and even North Korea, Leave us alone. That is the right that Israel has, to be left alone in that region.

This resolution also says, Madam Speaker, and reaffirms a statement made 50 years ago by President John F. Kennedy when he made the comment in his inaugural address, and I quote, "Let every nation know, whether it wishes us well or ill, that we will pay any price, bear any burden, meet any hardship, support any friend and oppose any foe to assure the survival and the success of liberty. This we pledge and much more."

This resolution, Madam Speaker, reaffirms that commitment by President Kennedy over 50 years ago.

I yield back the balance of my time. Mr. McMAHON. Madam Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I shall consume.

Madam Speaker, I join in agreement with all the speakers who have spoken on this resolution, the importance of America's continuing friendship, support, and solidarity with the people of Israel.

Many speak about how this is an issue that is so important for America's national security, and that is true. I'm a New Yorker. You may have noticed that. I know with my accent I didn't have to say it. But I was also in New York on September 11, and like so many New Yorkers, we saw firsthand the threat of terrorism right at our doorstep; not just the threat, but the reality. And it's that threat and that reality that the people of Israel live with every day. They are on the front line. So, yes, it is in our national interest.

But it also speaks to the very morality and soul of our Nation that we stand by our friend, that we stand by our colleague in this world battle, and that is the nation of Israel. And so this bill is just one more step in that statement. It is important for America to do it because, if we didn't, then we would no longer be America.

Mr. MORAN of Kansas. Madam Speaker, the security of our ally Israel is threatened by the proliferation of rockets its enemies possess along its borders. In both the south and the north, millions of Israelis live within range of Hamas and Hezbollah rockets.

In the last decade, more than 16,000 rockets and mortars have been launched over Gaza and Lebanese borders into Israel. These attacks have targeted and killed innocent civilians.

With the backing and support of Iran and Syria, Hezbollah now has an arsenal of more

than 42,000 short- and long-range rockets, which are aimed at Israel. This number of rockets is more than three times larger than what Hezbollah had prior to the 2006 war with Israel. U.S. Secretary of Defense Robert Gates has warned that Hezbollah's "arsenal of rockets and missiles now dwarfs the inventory of many nation-states."

The ability of Hamas and Hezbollah to launch attacks on Israeli civilians is a threat to Israel's security that must be countered. To protect its people, Israel developed Iron Dome, a short-range rocket defense system that will protect civilians living near Israel's border. H.R. 5327, the United States-Israel Missile Defense Cooperation and Support Act, authorizes U.S. assistance to help Israel speed up production and deployment of this rocket defense system so that more Israelis are protected from the indiscriminate attacks of its enemies.

But this legislation does more than improve Israeli security; it also enhances the security of the U.S. The missile defense technology being developed in cooperation with the U.S. will help us better defend ourselves, and may one day help protect U.S. military bases in the Middle East.

I support the legislation before us and urge my colleagues to vote in favor of this legislation that will help Israel maintain its qualitative military edge.

Mr. McMAHON. Madam Speaker, at this time I have no further requests for time, and therefore, I yield the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. McMAHON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5327, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the yeas have it.

Mr. McMAHON. Madam 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.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION GRANTING AUTHORITY TO COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND LABOR FOR PURPOSES OF ITS INVESTIGATION INTO UNDERGROUND COAL MINING SAFETY

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 111-487) on the resolution (H. Res. 1363) granting the authority provided under clause 4(c)(3) of rule X of the Rules of the House of Representatives to the Committee on Education and Labor for purposes of its investigation into underground coal mining safety, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, proceedings