

February 23, 1999

and subtraction. They are experts at taking from others but strangers to giving to others. By contrast, General Scearce has selflessly given his time and talents to the United States. He has worn the badge of citizen-soldier, and by his act of patriotism, made that a badge of honor.

I am personally grateful for what General Scearce and his family have sacrificed over the years, a sacrifice so many of us take for granted. To support and defend the Constitution of the United States is sometimes a thankless deed, but it is the glue that holds our country together. Service to this great nation is a time-honored tradition that few of our citizens will ever undertake or understand. So from the bottom of my heart, thank you, General Scearce.

I am happy and proud to join Roger's family, friends, and colleagues, indeed all of America, when I say congratulations to you and your family upon your retirement from the U.S. Army after 28 years of dedicated service.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTION ON GREEK SOVEREIGNTY OVER THE ISLETS OF IMIA

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 23, 1999

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, on December 25, 1995 a Turkish bulk carrier ran ashore on the islets of Imia, one of two uninhabited islets which are part of the Dodecanese islands group in the Aegean Sea. This incident nearly escalated into armed conflict between NATO allies Turkey and Greece due to Turkey's belligerent claim that the islets, which are sovereign Greek territory, belonged to Turkey.

Hostilities were avoided after the Greek government refused to attack a detachment of Turkish commandos who had been dispatched to the islets and President Clinton personally intervened to help defuse the crisis.

Despite Turkey's continued insistence that the islets are Turkish territories, the historical record on this issue is clear. The Dodecanese islands group was ceded by Turkey to Italy in the Lausanne Treaty of 1923. The boundaries delineating the exact sovereignty between Turkey and the islands group were finalized in a December 1932 protocol between Turkey and

Italy. That protocol, which was annexed to the Convention Between Italy and Turkey for the Delimitation of Anatolia and the Island of Castellorizio, placed the islets of Imia under the sovereignty of Italy. In the 1947 Paris Treaty of Peace with Italy, Italy ceded the Dodecanese islands group to Greece.

The legal status of the Dodecanese islands group remained unchallenged by Turkey until its bulk carrier ran aground in late 1995 and Ankara began making its unfounded claims in 1996. Today, Turkey continues to promote instability in the region by ignoring the historical record with its claim of sovereignty over the islets of Imia.

This unfounded claim should not go unnoticed by Congress. To that end, today I am introducing a resolution that documents the historical record establishing Greek sovereignty over the Dodecanese islands group and expresses the sense of the Congress that: the islets of Imia in the Aegean sea are sovereign territory of Greece under international law; and Turkey should agree to bring this matter before the International Court of Justice at The Hague, Netherlands, for a resolution.

I encourage all Members to join me in reaffirming Greek sovereignty over the islets, protecting the rule of international law, and advocating a peaceful settlement to this matter.

2879