

And of course the President pushed for and got an increase in the income tax going to a new top rate of 39.6 percent, increased the death tax, and increased the payroll tax on workers.

It could help make this the best of times for the American people during these times of huge surpluses, by repealing some of those tax increases that the other side of the aisle along with Mr. Clinton and Mr. GORE got passed in 1993.

RENEWING U.S. COMMITMENT TO CYPRUS IN THEIR QUEST FOR PEACE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 19, 1999, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, as my colleagues have mentioned this morning, July 20 will be the 26th anniversary of the illegal Turkish invasion of Cyprus. Although two rounds of U.N.-sponsored proximity talks between the Cypriot and Turkish sides have been completed in recent months, the Turks are casting the shadow of failure over the negotiations by employing provocative and destabilizing behavior.

For example, the current round of proximity talks have been temporarily suspended by the Turkish Cypriot leader so he could fulfill his stated intention to postpone discussions in order to attend the so-called "Peace and Freedom Day" on July 20 in the Turkish-occupied area of Cyprus. This action sends an unmistakable message that the Turkish side is not taking the current proximity talks seriously. Rather, the Turkish side is just spinning its wheels.

Should the current round of talks end up as all previous efforts have in the last 26 years, the United States should be prepared to act forcefully. In the last 2 years or so, there have been a number of initiatives that both the international community, and the Cypriots have taken to try and jump-start this decades-old problem and make the environment more fertile for a negotiated peaceful settlement. Turkey should be held accountable by the United States if it purposefully undermines these efforts.

In December of 1998, the U.N. Security Council passed resolutions 1217 and 1218. The former, Mr. Speaker, reaffirmed that any settlement be based on the federated bi-zonal, bi-communal framework. The latter called for the Secretary General to work with the two sides to reduce tensions and arms on the island, a position consistent with the Cypriot government's offer to demilitarize all of Cyprus, an offer that has been rejected by the Turks. The United States supported both of these measures.

Following the passage of these two resolutions, the Cypriots unilaterally decided not to deploy the S-300 anti-missile system they were considering deploying in an effort to give legs to the U.N. Security Council resolutions.

Attempting to build on this momentum, in June of 1999, the group of eight industrialized nations, or G-8, urged the U.N. to invite the two sides' leaders to begin peaceful negotiations without preconditions in the fall of 1999. The U.N. Security Council in turn passed two more resolutions, 1250 and 1251, reaffirming its support for negotiations under the bi-communal, bi-zonal federation framework and requesting that such negotiations move ahead.

These events did, in fact, lead to the onset of negotiations in December of 1999. Despite the U.N.'s call for negotiations without preconditions, however, the Turkish side came to the table insisting that a number of unrealistic conditions be met before real discussions could occur.

The negotiations, Mr. Speaker, are expected to resume on July 24. While the U.N. and the United States should do whatever it takes to facilitate continued negotiations, the U.N. and the U.S. should also take note of the manner in which the Turkish side is conducting itself.

Mr. Speaker, for 26 years now, the people of Cyprus have been denied their independence and freedom because of a foreign aggressor. I urge all of my colleagues to join me in remembering what the Cypriot people have suffered and continue to suffer at the hands of the Turks. I also urge my colleagues to join me in pressuring the administration to focus American efforts to move the peace process forward on the Turkish military, which has real and substantial influence on decision-making in the Turkish Government. If and when the Turks undermine yet another peace effort, the U.S. should instantaneously do what I have been calling for for years, punish Turkey by making drastic and immediate changes to our relationship with Ankara.

As the Turks interrupt peace negotiations to celebrate their brutality as Cypriots mourn their dead and all they have lost, the United States must let the people of Cyprus know that we will have freedom and independence again and that we will help them attain it.

Mr. CAPUANO. Mr. Speaker, on July 20th 2000, we will mark the 26th anniversary of Turkey's invasion of the sovereign State of Cyprus. It was on this date in 1974, Turkish troops began a campaign of terror. During the Turkish invasion, nearly 200,000 Greek Cypriots were forced to flee their homes in the northern part of the island of Cyprus. After twenty-five years, Greek Cypriots are still prohibited from returning to their homes and remain refugees within their own country.

Over 1,400 men, women and children who vanished during the invasion have not been accounted for, and the Turkish government

continues to refuse to provide information as to their whereabouts.

During these 26 years of occupation, Turkey has relocated some 80,000 Turkish citizens to Northern Cyprus, thus changing the demographic structure in the north. Most of the homes and land that have been reoccupied by Turkish citizens were once the homes of Greek Cypriots who were evacuated during the invasion. Historical institutions of cultural and religious heritage, including archaeological sites and churches, have been pillaged and in many cases completely destroyed.

Tragically, there are only 500 Greek Cypriots still living in the occupied area, and even those few families are subject to constant and systematic campaigns of harassment and intimidation. In some instances, they are forbidden to travel and attend school, clearly being denied of their basic rights.

In 1983, Turkey encouraged a "unilateral declaration of independence" by the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (TRNC). This declaration was condemned by the U.N. Security Council, as well as the U.S. government. Consequently, the U.N. Security Council called for Turkey to withdraw from Cyprus immediately. To date, the TRNC is not officially recognized as a sovereign State by any country except for Turkey.

In June of 1999, the European Commission of Human Rights found Turkey responsible for continuing to violate several provisions of the European Convention of Human Rights, including not accounting for missing persons, limiting the living conditions of the enclaved, and failing to protect the properties of the displaced person.

Despite the continuing efforts on behalf of the U.S. and the international community to negotiate a peaceful settlement, 35,000 heavily armed Turkish troops continue to occupy more than one-third of the island. Turkey had previously thrown a wrench in the peace talks by advocating two preconditions: first, prior recognition of the TRNC, and second, Cyprus withdrawing its EU membership application. Fortunately, through international pressure and diplomatic maneuvering, a new round of proximity talks were undertaken without implementation of these conditions. The first of which took place in December 1999 under U.N. auspices, and the most recent talks commenced on July 5th in Geneva.

Mr. Speaker, I reiterate my argument from last year that the continued occupation of Northern Cyprus is clearly an affront to countless U.N. resolutions calling on Turkey to withdraw its forces and return all refugees to their homes, and for Turkey to respect the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity and unity of the Republic of Cyprus. This is an insult to the United States and the global community which has worked tirelessly to unify Greek and Turkish Cypriots in a peaceful manner.

I hope that the U.S. and the international community will continue to advocate for this new round of proximity talks and fervently work to find a peaceful solution to this conflict that has torn Cyprus apart and caused 26 years of suffering for thousands of families.

Mr. BLAGOJEVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise to denounce the illegal occupation of Cyprus by Turkey. Twenty-six years ago today, the Turkish military invaded Cyprus, driving 200,000

people from their homes. Since then, the Turkish military has continued to occupy a third of the island, in defiance of international law. During this time, nations around the globe have sent the clear, unequivocal message that the Turkish occupation of Cyprus is patently illegal and must end.

Nonetheless, Turkey continues to defy the international community, engaging a deliberate strategy to change the ethnic composition of Northern Cyprus. Since forcing out the Greek Cypriot population from the occupied area, Turkey has settled thousands of Turks from Anatolia in Northern Cyprus in a blatant attempt to prevent the return of the native Greek Cypriot population.

The recent talks held in Geneva provide a glimmer of hope that those forced out of Northern Cyprus by the Turkish invasion may finally be able to return home. But the world community will be watching carefully. There have been too many false starts, too many dashed hopes, for the Greek Cypriot refugee population to be convinced that peace is finally at hand.

In this dispute, the United States has played a positive role in bringing the parties to the table to begin their discussions. But now the United States must go further. We must clearly say to Turkey that it is time to bring the Cyprus dispute to an end. This can only happen when the Turkish military leaves Cyprus, and lets Greek and Turkish Cypriots settle their own disputes in the context of a free, unified, and democratic Cyprus.

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sadness that I rise today to recognize the 26th anniversary of Turkey's tragic invasion of Cyprus.

Cyprus gained independence from Great Britain in 1960 but its success as a new republic only lasted until 1963. After years of turmoil and violence between the majority of Cypriots of Greek ethnic origin and the minority of Cypriots of Turkish ethnic origin, Turkish troops invaded the island in 1974. Over 1,400 Greek Cypriots have been missing since the Turkish invasion and all remain unaccounted for. Today, Turkish troops continue to occupy 37 percent of Cyprus' territory.

The invasion led to the widespread displacement of the Cypriot population and to numerous related refugee and property problems. Nearly 200,000 Greek Cypriots were forcibly evicted from their homes and became refugees in their own country.

Over the last three decades, Turkish authorities in Cyprus have waged a ceaseless campaign of systematic harassment and intimidation of Greek Cypriots. The flagrant human rights abuses by Turkey have been condemned repeatedly by international authorities.

Turkey is a member of NATO and an ally of the United States. We should use all of our influence to further a negotiated settlement in Cyprus and support the United Nations in its efforts to do so. Applications by the Republic of Cyprus and Turkey to become full members of the European Union may present a fresh opportunity to resolve the conflict. Let us take this chance.

My fellow colleagues, I urge your continued support for the people of Cyprus. I also join my colleagues in encouraging President Clin-

ton to continue his efforts to promote peace in Cyprus during his last months in office.

After 26 years of forcible division it is high time to take firm steps to reach a peaceful settlement of this ongoing conflict.

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS) and the gentlelady from New York (Mrs. MALONEY) for organizing today's commemoration.

It saddens me greatly that again we are remembering the Turkish invasion of Cyprus, instead of celebrating a united island and a resolution to the Cyprus problem.

Twenty-six years ago, on July 20th, 1974, over 6,000 Turkish troops and forty tanks landed on the north coast of Cyprus and heavy fighting took place. Turkish troops pressed on to the capital city of Nicosia, where the heavy fighting continued. By the time a cease fire had been arranged on August 16th, Turkish forces had taken the northern one third of the country. Throughout the battles and subsequent occupation, there were extensive tales of atrocities, abductions, rapes and executions. It was only as those abducted or taken prisoner of war began to filter back to their homes after the cease fire that it became apparent that hundreds were missing.

Nearly 200,000 Greek Cypriots, who fell victim to ethnic cleansing, were forcibly evicted from their homes and became refugees in their own country. More than a quarter of a century later, the Turkish occupation still prevents them from returning to homes which have been in their family for generations.

35,000 Turkish troops have occupied northern Cyprus since the summer of 1974. During this time, Turkey's government has shown what it is that it is not a democracy. It is a military dictatorship in which the generals allow only as much democracy as they want. The Turkish government continues to support the illegal occupation of Cyprus, while also continuing to persecute its Kurdish population, and to spurn normal relations with Armenia.

However, today, for the first time I do see the potential for the resolution of this conflict. Not only have Presidents Denktas and Clerides recently engaged in the third round of U.N. sponsored talks, Turkey's candidacy for the European Union creates a new urgency for a solution to be found for this situation.

I want to encourage these talks to continue and for the Clinton Administration to support them in every way possible. After twenty-six years of division, it is imperative that the United States and United Nations take all steps to support the efforts to bring an end to the forcible division of the island and its people.

Mr. MARTINEZ. Mr. Speaker, I join my friend, the distinguished gentleman from Florida, and my colleagues in commemorating the 26th anniversary of Turkey's military invasion and continued illegal occupation of northern Cyprus.

Twenty-six years have passed since Turkey illegally invaded the northern part of Cyprus. On July 20, 1974, Turkey launched a full scale invasion on Cyprus, forcing more than 200,000 Greek Cypriots from their homes. To this day, these refugees are prevented from returning to their homes by the Turkish Army. Turkey's bloody invasion of this Mediterranean island state has been rightfully condemned by

the United Nations and all peace loving nations of the world.

Later on this month, Greek Cypriot President Glafcos Clerides and Turkish Cypriot leader Rauf Denktash will meet again in Geneva. I hope that this meeting will lead to a constructive outcome, but this can only occur if Mr. Denktash is willing to meet President Clerides halfway. Mr. Denktash must be willing to negotiate in good faith. Only when these two Cypriot leaders meet in good faith will there be a resolution to the Cypriot problem.

Mr. Speaker, the 26th anniversary of Turkey's cruel invasion of northern Cyprus should weigh heavily on the conscience of all civilized people of the world who share in the underlying principle that military aggression must not prevail.

Mr. Speaker, the status quo must be broken. The paralysis in U.N. sponsored negotiations must be broken. And the intercommunal strife that has torn Cypriots apart must be settled peacefully. But none of these worthy objectives can occur as long as Turkey continues to violate international law and flout U.N. resolutions condemning its oppressive occupation of 40 percent of Cypriot territory.

It is indeed a sad testament to Turkey's intransigence that more than a quarter of a century after its invasion of northern Cyprus, its troops still occupy a third of Cyprus. Turkey must realize that its military occupation stands as an obstacle to a just and permanent solution of the Cypriot problem.

Mr. Speaker, a permanent solution to the Cypriot impasse must take into consideration the anxieties and legitimate concerns of both Greek and Turkish Cypriots. However, the first step toward reconciliation and peaceful reunification must be the end of Turkey's illegal occupation of northern Cyprus.

Mr. TIERNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in commemoration of the 26th anniversary of the Turkish invasion of Cyprus. As a member of the Congressional Hellenic Caucus, I look forward to a day when peace comes to the region and we no longer have to come to the floor each year and remind the world that this occupation continues.

26 years ago, nearly 200,000 Greek Cypriots were forced from their homes during the Turkish invasion. This act of aggression resulted in the capture of over forty percent of the island, and the death of five Americans among scores of Cypriots. Since that time, more than 1,400 Greek Cypriots have gone missing and are unaccounted for. The invasion took a toll not only on the people of Cyprus, but also on the island's rich religious and architectural history as churches and other places of worship have been destroyed.

Over the years, Turkey has continuously upgraded its military presence on the island. In contrast, Greek Cypriots have been willing to compromise. The international community has also sought a decrease in tension.

As we watch the ongoing talks between the Israelis and Palestinians at Camp David, we are reminded that peace is possible—indeed it is the only option. Since the time of the invasion, the United Nations has sought to reach a just peace agreement for Cyprus. I am pleased that the recent round of talks in Geneva have been encouraging.

I look forward to July 2001 when, I hope, we will be celebrating the peace in Cyprus, and remembering the futility of aggression.

Mr. WEYGAND. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in remembrance of the invasion of Cyprus by Turkish forces in July of 1974. It was 26 years ago, Mr. Speaker, that more than six thousand Cypriots lost their lives, and more than 200,000 were displaced from their homes and communities by the advancing Turkish forces. With their culture threatened, their ancestral lands occupied, and their rights deprived, Cypriots have endured untold suffering. It is a terrible human tragedy and affront to all who support human rights that more than a quarter of a century later the situation remains unresolved.

There are several United Nations resolutions calling for a peaceful end to the situation under the guidelines of a bi-zonal, bi-communal federation based on a single sovereignty and a single citizenship with the independence and territorial integrity of Cyprus safeguarded. There have been resolutions passed through this body which have called for a peaceful conclusion to the conflict and an end to the Turkish occupation. The Cypriot government has made extraordinary efforts to reach an accord with the Turkish government, displaying goodwill, courage and a bold vision of peace. However, to date, all of this is to no avail.

Turkey employs a standing army of more than 35,000 troops, hundreds of tanks and other sophisticated weapons on the island, and maintains a substantial amphibious force permanently stationed on the Turkish mainland base closest to Cyprus. Turkey has made no serious effort to implement agreements made in good faith regarding the status of refugees, property rights and human rights and has exhibited a rather tenacious intransigence in working toward demilitarization and peace.

Mr. Speaker, the status quo is unacceptable, the occupation is illegal and a peaceful solution must be reached. Today, I am happy to say, there is hope for this solution. Negotiations between the Turks and Cypriots under United Nations auspices in Geneva are scheduled to resume on July 24 and to continue into August and even into the autumn; we can only have hope that this time, the tragedy and suffering of the Cypriots will be eased by a peaceful and true conclusion. I implore all sides to the conflict to be bold, to be courageous, to reach out for the vision peace and stability which can be achieved, and to give the world hope by closing this unfortunate chapter in the history of Cyprus.

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join my colleagues in marking the 26th year of Turkey's illegal invasion and partition of the Republic of Cyprus. I commend Congresswoman MALONEY and Congressman BILIRAKIS for their leadership on this issue and thank them for calling this special order.

This anniversary is not a happy occasion, but it is one which serves to remind us of the continuing strife that the people of Cyprus have faced everyday for over two decades.

In 1974, using United States military equipment, Turkey invaded the Republic of Cyprus, killing 4,000 Greek Cypriots and capturing over 1,600 others, including 5 United States citizens. Though the Turkish Government has been condemned by this Congress and the international community time and time again, it has not halted its unjustified occupation.

Today, Cyprus remains cruelly divided. A barbed-wire fence known as the green line cuts across the island separating thousands of Greek Cypriots from the towns and communities in which they and their families had previously lived for generations.

The human rights violations by the Turkish Government on the people of Cyprus also continue. The freedoms of religion and assembly are frequently stifled, and intimidation by the military is ongoing and ever present.

On July 5, 2000, U.N. sponsored Cyprus talks resumed in Geneva with the full support of the United States and all members of the U.N. security council. Now is the key time to resolve the Cyprus problem and the only way forward is through a sustained process of negotiations and a solution which can unite Cyprus and its people. President Clinton has emphasized that we must "work for an end to the tragic conflict on Cyprus, which is dividing too many people in too many ways."

After 26 years of division, it is urgent that all the necessary steps are taken to actively support a just and lasting solution to the island's armed conflict. A peaceful resolution of this conflict is long overdue.

Mrs. ROUKEMA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join my colleagues to remember the 26th Black Anniversary of Turkey's invasion of Cyprus that occurred on July 20, 1974.

Following the first assault and despite the fact that talks were being held in Geneva to resolve the situation, on August 14, 1974, the Turkish army mounted a second full-scale offensive. By the end of the offensive, Turkey increased its hold on Cyprus to include the booming tourist resort of Famagusta and the rich citrus-growing area of Morphou. Over 37 percent of the area of Cyprus came under Turkish military occupation, an area Turkey still holds today, despite international condemnation.

As a result, 200,000 Greek Cypriots were made refugees in their own country and 70 percent of the economic potential of Cyprus came under military occupation. Moreover, thousands of people, including civilians, were killed or ill-treated by the Turkish invaders. There are still 1,619 Greek Cypriots missing as a result of the Turkish invasion, many of whom were held in Turkish custody.

Currently, Cyprus remains divided with 35,000 Turkish troops stationed there as a constant reminder of this violation of human rights and international law. Only Turkey recognizes the Turkish Cypriot State in the north. A 2,500-member U.N. peacekeeping force patrols the buffer zone between north and south.

Mr. Speaker, this Congress must do everything we can to state our firm condemnation of the Turkish invasion and our unwavering support of the self-determination of Cyprus and the sovereignty of Greece. Thousands of families still bear the terrible scars of the invasion. They must have their land and homes back!

It is time for the United States to join its voice in calling for a solution based on the U.N. resolutions. The time is now for us to use all of our influence on Turkey to obtain peace in Cyprus.

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Mr. Speaker, today, on the 26th anniversary of Turkey's invasion of Cyprus, I rise to voice my concerns regarding that state's current efforts to gain entrance into the European Union.

On Friday, the British Broadcasting Company reported that, "Foreign Minister Ismail Cem and Guenter Verheugen, member of the EU commission responsible for enlargement, have said that relations between Turkey and the EU are 'developing rapidly' . . . and that a compromise could be reached" regarding Turkey's entrance into the European Union.

Yet, as the EU discusses Turkey's entrance into the European union, I feel that it is necessary to discuss the human rights violations and violations of the Vienna III agreement that are currently taking place in the occupied area of northern Cyprus. Turkey still occupies 37% of the Cyprus territory, which was illegally annexed in the 1974 Turkish invasion. Currently, Turkey maintains 35,000 troops in this territory and there are still 1,400 Greek Cypriots, including four Americans of Cypriot decent, who are unaccounted for. Turkey is the only state in the world that recognizes the northern Turkish Cypriot state.

In an attempt to alter the demographic make-up of the northern Cyprus region, Turkey has transplanted over 80,000 Turkish settlers to the area and has illegally distributed land belonging to evicted Cypriots—actions prohibited by articles 9 and 17 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights set forth in the Geneva Convention of 1949. Turkish soldiers are also responsible for destroying Byzantine churches and other places of worship. These violations have not gone unnoticed by the European commission of Human Rights, which issued a report in June of 1999 that found Turkey in violation of the European Convention on Human Rights in regards to the issues of missing persons, the living conditions of the enclaved, and the properties of displaced persons.

But these violations of international treaties are not new. In 1983, Turkey established unilateral independence in the area of military occupation—a direct violation of international Treaties establishing the Republic of Cyprus. Since 1974, the UN has adopted numerous resolutions calling for the withdrawal of all foreign forces from Cyprus, the return of refugees to their homes in safety, and respect for the sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity and unity of the Republic of Cyprus.

If Turkey is going to press ahead with its effort to gain acceptance into the EU and demand legitimacy in international markets, it must commit to drastic change and become more aligned with the goals and ideals central to the European Union. Eligibility for EU admittance should hinge on Turkey's willingness to abide by these treaties and withdrawal from its current position in Cyprus.

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to join with my colleagues in bringing the House's attention to the 26th anniversary of the Turkish invasion of Cyprus, a tragedy that continues to upset the peace and stability of the eastern-Mediterranean region. The Turkish invasion, which occurred on July 20, 1974, has led to the expulsion of over 200,000 Greek Cypriots from their ancestral homelands for more than a quarter of a century.

The systematic campaign of ethnic cleansing and harassment of Greek Cypriots has significantly marred the rich history of Cyprus and its people. Lootings and destruction continued to be ordered against archaeological and religious monuments in an attempt to wipe out

the Hellenic and Christian Orthodox heritage of the island. The policies of redistributing Greek Cypriots' land to the 80,000 transferred Turkish settlers brought from the mainland by the Turkish government, and of harassing those Greek Cypriot enclaves forced to live within the stifling confines to Turkish-controlled areas on the island, are offensive to our nation's values. These violations of international law, unless acknowledged and remedied, will continue to cast a grim shadow on the future of all Cypriots.

We, here in the House of Representatives, must remember the thousands of innocent Greek Cypriot victims not just for the meaning of their suffering, but also as a reminder of all those who have fallen victim to vicious ethnic, religious, and social hatred. Even today, ethnic strife remains a pox on the international community, and the unrelenting pattern of conflict around the world illustrates the importance of commemorative anniversaries such as the one we acknowledge today. Perhaps, it is only when we focus on the similarities of suffering between the people of the world that we can move beyond the differences among us. Our nation's unshakable commitment to human rights and the dignity of all people demands that we acknowledge and remember all those who have suffered at the hands of bigotry, hatred and intolerance around the world.

As a nation, we witnessed a myriad of atrocities in the last century. In response, rightly, we have committed our nation to both working for the peaceful resolution of ethnic conflicts around the world and to defending truth and memory where injustice has occurred. Today, I am proud that this House again ensures that the victims of aggression on Cyprus are not victimized in memory as they were in life.

Mr. Speaker, I am here today for a simple reason: to publicly recall that since 1974, thousands of innocent Greek Cypriots, regardless of sex or age, have been victimized by ethnic cleansing and partition for no just cause. Failure to take note of the situation in Cyprus is to become a party to this gross injustice, for as we all know, silence and inactivity amounts to acceptance.

I continue to advocate the unwavering support of this House in support of the people of Cyprus in their struggle for a peaceful and just settlement to this protracted and ugly conflict with Turkey.

Mr. Speaker, I'd like to commend and thank my colleagues Congresswoman CAROLYN MALONEY and Congressman MICHAEL BILIRAKIS, the co-chairs of the Congressional Hellenic Caucus. Thanks to their leadership, this House has again fulfilled America's commitment to memory and decency, and most importantly, has kept faith with the people of Cyprus. I'd also like to recognize and express my thanks for the tireless devotion of America's citizens of Hellenic descent. Thanks to them and their commitment, the atrocities which have occurred in Cyprus will not be forgotten. We must build on their successes and work together to find an end to this terrible injustice as soon as possible.

Mrs. KELLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join with my colleagues in marking the 26th Black Anniversary of Turkey's invasion of the island of Cyprus. On July 20, 1974, the gov-

ernment of Turkey sent troops to Cyprus and forcefully assumed control of more than one-third of the island. This action dislocated nearly 200,000 Greek Cypriots, forcibly evicting them from their homes and creating a refugee problem that exists to this day. Additionally, over 1600 Greek Cypriots are still missing or unaccounted for as a result of this brutal invasion.

The Turkish Cypriot community has historically shown its unwillingness to move towards a negotiated settlement with their Greek neighbors. The removal of the roughly 35,000 Turkish troops from the island of Cyprus is central to any such agreement, as is compliance with the previously agreed upon parameters for any solution. However, the Turkish government is doing the exact opposite. They have continued their arms buildup on the island, have abandoned reconciliation efforts begun on a bi-communal grassroots level, have added two new preconditions for the resumption of the peace talks and are now seeking the creation of a confederation of two sovereign states. The net result of these actions is to make any sort of reconciliation all the more unlikely.

The Greek Cypriots have continually demonstrated their flexibility and willingness to compromise in order to bring an end to this long-standing dispute. The Cyprus government has made numerous gestures of goodwill in an effort to move the peace process forward. In the last year, they have canceled the deployment of a Russian defensive surface to air missile system on Cyprus in an effort to head off any escalation of this conflict. In addition, Cyprus has continued to comply with the preconditions established by the United Nations Security Council resolutions, and has even put forth a plan for the demilitarization of the island.

In another positive step forward, last year for the first time in a substantive way, the leaders of the G-8 dealt with the Cyprus issue in their meeting in Cologne (June 20, 1999) and urged the UN Secretary General, in accordance with the Security Council resolutions, to invite the leaders of the two sides to comprehensive negotiations without preconditions. The UN Security Council in its resolution adopted on June 29, 1999 reiterated the G8 leaders' appeal and requested the UN Secretary General to proceed accordingly (UNSC resolution 1250 [1999]).

As a result of this coordinated international effort, a new round of proximity talks between the two communities was launched, under UN auspices, which began in December 1999. This process is still continuing, with a second round of proximity talks having taken place in Geneva in February 2000 and a third round which began on July 5, 2000, with the full support of the US and all the other members of the UN Security Council. This process has once again stalled with the Turkish Cypriot Leader's decision to leave the talks to return for Turkish Cypriot celebration of July 20, 2000.

The U.S. government must again take bold steps to show its continued resolve to the Turkish government that it is serious about moving towards peace in Cyprus. In this regard, I am pleased to be a so-sponsor of House Concurrent Resolution 100, urging the

compliance by Turkey with United Nations Resolution relating to Cyprus. It is essential that the United States and the entire international community continue to work for the long awaited resolution to this tragic event.

Mr. Speaker, it is with decisive steps such as these that we can begin to hope for a brighter future for Cyprus. I wish to commend the Gentleman from Florida, Mr. Bilirakis, and my other colleagues on the Hellenic Caucus for their steadfast work in this area. I look forward to working with him, and all who share our concerns, to achieve a unified and peaceful Cyprus in the future.

Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island. Mr. Speaker, I would like to begin by thanking my colleague from Florida, Mr. BILIRAKIS, for this special order commemorating the 26th anniversary of the Turkish occupation of the island of Cyprus.

In 1960, the Republic of Cyprus was formed after the island received its independence from Great Britain. From the start it struggled to balance the various ethnic and religious differences between its people in such a way that would provide for a harmonious and democratic nation. Both the Cypriot government and the Cypriot people sought to prosper in peace rather than fall victim to the plague of sectarian infighting. But, for the people of one third of that democratic nation, the dream of peace and prosperity has been denied.

Since the Turkish invasion of the northern third of the island in 1974, the Cypriot people have endured countless violations of their human rights at the hands of foreign invaders. Following the occupation, a Turkish policy of ethnic cleansing has resulted in nearly 200,000 Greek Cypriots being evicted from their homes. The Turkish military has prevented their repatriation ever since and many Cypriots continue to live as refugees in their own nation.

Throughout the decades following that initial suspension of human rights, international organizations have sought to compel the Turkish military to return basic human rights and freedoms to the people of northern Cyprus. But despite the signing of agreements designed to reunite Cyprus under democratic government, the Turkish military has never honored their promises with positive results. To this day they still pursue the vain and unjust goal of establishing a separate, Turkish republic in the north. The Turkish military even goes so far as to violate the Geneva Convention of 1949 by its effort to bring 80,000 mainland Turks to colonize the homes and lands of Cypriots that had been ethnically cleansed in previous decades.

Although the world is rife with instances of injustice, the frequency of that injustice is no excuse for complacency. This Congress must continue to speak out against the actions of the Turkish military to subvert the existence of the free and democratic nation of Cyprus. We must support the efforts of those who would seek peace and unity over those who would promote fear and division. We, as the Congress of the United States, must note that with great power comes great obligation, and that, therefore we are obliged to speak out against the tyranny of the Turkish occupation of Cyprus. We must speak out for a peaceful and just solution to this oft overlooked international

issue. To close, I would like to thank the strong Greek and Cypriot communities of Rhode Island for bringing this important issue to my attention and I hope that we will all honor their efforts through this commemoration today.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I commend my colleagues Congressman MICHAEL BILIRAKIS and Congresswoman CAROLYN MALONEY for calling this special order and for bringing the public's attention to this sad anniversary we commemorate this week.

This Thursday, July 20th marks the 26th anniversary of the Turkish invasion and occupation of northern Cyprus. On that sad day 26 years ago, over 50,000 heavily armed troops landed in northern Cyprus.

Today 35,000 of those troops remain in Cyprus and are used, along with Turkish police forces, to harass and terrorize the Greek-Cypriots remaining in the occupied area.

Those Greek-Cypriots remaining in the Turkish occupied area are referred to as the enclaved. They are called the enclaved because when the Turkish forces invaded the island, over 200,000 Greek-Cypriots were forcibly evicted from their homes their families had lived in for centuries.

Under an international agreement signed in 1975 called the Vienna III Agreement, 20,000 Greek-Cypriots and Maronites were to be allowed to stay in the northern area called the Karpasia Peninsula and in certain Maronite villages.

That Vienna III Agreement had not been honored because of those 20,000, only 500 remain.

This is the result of a systematic campaign of harassment and intimidation and continuing massive violations of their most basic human rights and freedoms, including those guaranteed by Turkey in the 1975 Vienna III Agreement.

In a hope to bring an end to the suffering of these brave people, I filed H. Con. Res. 80 last year, which today I am happy to report has 131 cosponsors.

H. Con. Res. 80 is a modest resolution simply seeking to bring attention to and thereby end the suffering of the enclaved and urging the President of the United States to undertake efforts to end the restrictions on the freedoms and human rights of the enclaved people of Cyprus.

The violations of the enclaved people's human rights and of the agreements signed by Turkey have been documented in UN reports.

The daily life for the enclaved is far from the normal life guaranteed by the international agreements. As stated in the 1999 case Cyprus vs. Turkey before the European Court of Human Rights, taken as a whole, the daily life of the Greek Cypriot in northern Cyprus is characterized by a multitude of adverse circumstances.

These adverse circumstances include: the absence of normal communication, the unavailability in practice of the Greek Cypriot press, the insufficient number of priests, the difficult choice before which parents and school children are put regarding secondary education, the restrictions and formalities applied to freedom of movement, the impossibility to preserve property rights upon departure or death and the various other restrictions

create a feeling among the persons concerned of being compelled to live in a hostile environment in which it is hardly possible to lead a normal private and family life.

If these Turkish created difficulties were not enough to get these enclaved people to abandon their traditional family homes, over 80,000 Turkish settlers from the mainland have been moved to the occupied area and are living in the homes the Greek Cypriots had to flee from, in violation of international law.

The history of this military occupation is a sad history with many disappointments. Presently, thanks to the efforts of the United Nations and others in the international community, the two sides are in their second round of negotiations.

My heart is full of hope that these talks find the breakthrough that all the previous talk did not find. But I believe that our Administration must do all it can to show the Turkish side that the settlement of this conflict is a high priority.

Moreover, that the plight of the enclaved will not be tolerated any longer and it must be known that Turkey's attitude toward the plight of the enclaved will affect the United States attitude towards Turkey.

The recent improved relations between Greece and Turkey does give us cause for hope but that is no reason to hold back our earnest desire that the Cyprus dispute be finally ended and that the island and its people no longer be divided.

I believe that this is a time for pressure on both sides but mostly the Turkish side. I hope our Administration plays its part during these negotiations. As for us here in Congress, I know we will continue to do our part to help the cause of freedom and justice for the enclaved people of Cyprus.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12 of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 10 a.m. today.

Accordingly (at 9 o'clock and 45 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess until 10 a.m.

□ 1000

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order at 10 a.m.

PRAYER

The Reverend Glen Warner, Pastor, Second Congregational United Church of Christ, Ashtabula, Ohio, offered the following prayer:

The Lord is my light, and my salvation.

Whom then shall I fear?

The Lord is the strength of my life.

Of whom then shall I be afraid?

Faithful, Father God, Creator of all mighty galaxies and human hearts;

May our work be worship today as minds and hearts are newly formed by Your creating spirit. We do not seek to change Your mind, but to open ours.

May common sense prevail! We thank You for the brilliance and the passion of America! Forbid that we settle today for shallow sentiments of the merely secular or values faded into pale pastel shades! Forgive our diminished expectations.

Almighty God! By Your spirit save us from ourselves and the misuse of all the good and perfect gifts we have received from Your hand! And all God's people said, Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Texas (Mr. LAMPSON) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. LAMPSON led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

WELCOME TO THE REV. GLEN W. WARNER

(Mr. LATOURETTE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LATOURETTE. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure today to welcome the Reverend Glen W. Warner as our guest chaplain today. Glen is the Pastor of the Second Congregational United Church of Christ in Ashtabula, Ohio, a post that he has held for the last 3 years.

I have had the pleasure of knowing Glen and his wife Nancy and their wonderful family for the past 6 years. Their generosity in time and spirit is well known in our community. Churches, children's services, and philanthropic causes of all stripes have benefited from Glen and Nancy's involvement. Glen was actually the Republican candidate for the seat that I have the pleasure of holding in 1982.

Glen is also blessed with an endearing sense of humor. According to a newspaper account heralding his visit here, Glen was asked what he planned to incorporate into his morning prayer with us this morning. I will quote: "Warner said he has talked to several Ashtabulans, seeking their opinion as to what he should mention in his prayer. One woman's suggestion that Warner pray for a Democratic majority obviously didn't make the cut."

Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to welcome Glen to the House this morning and thank him for his service.