

which to revise and extend their remarks on H.R. 3378, H.R. 1775, H.R. 4104 and S. 835.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PEASE). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Ohio?

There was no objection.

SENSE OF HOUSE REGARDING UNITED STATES-INDIA RELATIONS

Mr. GILMAN, Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 572) expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that it is in the interest of both the United States and the Republic of India to expand and strengthen United States-India relations, intensify bilateral cooperation in the fight against terrorism, and broaden the ongoing dialogue between the United States and India, of which the upcoming visit to the United States of the Prime Minister of India, Atal Bihari Vajpayee, is a significant step.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 572

Whereas the United States and the Republic of India are two of the world's largest democracies that together represent one-fifth of the world's population and more than one-fourth of the world's economy;

Whereas the United States and India share common ideals and a vision for the 21st century, where freedom and democracy are the strongest foundations for peace and prosperity;

Whereas in keeping with this vision India has given refuge to His Holiness the Dalai Lama, Burmese refugees fleeing repression in Burma, and is a refuge for people in the region struggling for their basic human rights;

Whereas the United States and India are partners in peace with common interests in and complementary responsibility for ensuring international security and regional peace and stability;

Whereas the United States and India are allies in the cause of democracy, sharing our experience in nurturing and strengthening democratic institutions throughout the world and fighting the challenge to democratic order from forces such as terrorism;

Whereas the growing partnership between the United States and India is reinforced by the ties of scholarship, commerce, and increasingly of kinship among our people;

Whereas the industry, enterprise, and cultural contributions of Americans of Indian heritage have enriched and enlivened the societies of both the United States and India; and

Whereas the bonds of friendship between the United States and India can be deepened and strengthened through cooperative programs in areas such as education, science and technology, information technology, finance and investment, trade, agriculture, energy, the fight against poverty, improving the environment, infrastructure development, and the eradication of human suffering, disease, and poverty: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the House of Representatives that—

(1) the United States and the Republic of India should continue to expand and strengthen bilateral security, economic, and

political ties for the mutual benefit of both countries, and for the maintenance of peace, stability, and prosperity in South Asia;

(2) the United States should consider removing existing unilateral legislative and administrative measures imposed against India, which prevent the normalization of United States-India bilateral economic and trade relations;

(3) established institutional and collaborative mechanisms between the United States and India should be maintained and enhanced to further a robust partnership between the two countries;

(4) it is vitally important that the United States and India continue to share information and intensify their cooperation in combating terrorism; and

(5) the upcoming visit of the Prime Minister of India, Atal Bihari Vajpayee, to the United States is a significant step toward broadening and deepening the friendship and cooperation between United States and India.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN) and the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. GEJDENSON) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GILMAN, Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on H. Res. 572.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, today I introduced H. Res. 572, along with the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. GEJDENSON), a resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that it is in the interest of both our Nation and India to expand and strengthen U.S.-India relations. To intensify bilateral cooperation in our fight against terrorism and to broaden the ongoing dialogue between the United States and India, of which the upcoming visit to the United States of the Prime Minister of India Atal Bihari Vajpayee, is a significant step.

This coming Thursday, Indian Prime Minister Atal Vajpayee will address a joint session of the Congress. His historic visit comes at a precious moment in U.S.-Indian relations. The world's two largest and most vibrant democracies are in the process of creating a relationship that truly reflects our mutual interests.

Both of our governments are dedicated to the protection of the rule of law, to democracy, and to freedom of religion. Our citizens share a fervent faith in these core values. It is also why India and the United States see eye to eye on so many regional concerns.

China's hegemony, the spread of Islamic terrorism spilling out of Afghan-

istan and Pakistan, the narco-dictatorship in Burma, China's illegal occupation of Tibet, are serious concerns to both of our nations.

During this past summer, the world was horror stricken when Islamic terrorists gunned down some 101 Hindu pilgrims in Kashmir. The massacre came only 2 weeks after the largest militant Kashmiri group Hezb-ul Mujahadeen called for a cease-fire. The killings apparently were intended to sabotage any attempt to peacefully broker a settlement to the Kashmir crisis.

All of us were outraged by the brutal barbaric killings of innocent civilians. Such malicious extraordinary violence reinforces my conviction that India and the United States must develop a much closer military and intelligence relationship. A special relationship is needed so that we can share our knowledge and skills in order to successfully confront our mutual enemies who wish to destroy the basic principles of our societies.

Regrettably, the State Department has confused our friends and allies in Asia by promoting a strategic partnership with China and by ignoring the fact that Beijing, in violation of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, transfers and sells nuclear and ballistic weapons technology to Pakistan, a nation that has been spreading terrorism throughout South Asia by supporting the Taliban and other repressive forces.

China has also sold billions of dollars of arms to the narco-dictatorship in Burma that borders on India. We need to lift the remaining economic sanctions that were imposed on India for testing nuclear weapons. As long as the State Department permits China to go unchecked and it continues to stoke the fires in South Asia, India will need to be able to defend itself.

India's Prime Minister's address to Congress this week will afford all of us, all Members of the House and Senate, the opportunity to hear about the issues of importance and the U.S.-India bilateral relationship, including trade, energy, investment, science, information technology, as well as our cooperative efforts to combat terrorism and to achieve regional peace and security in South Asia, a region of prime importance to our national interests.

As the current Indian government works to ensure that India remains secure, our democracy should be marching shoulder to shoulder with her during this new century. So I look forward to meeting with the prime minister and working closely with him and his government on initiatives that bring peace and prosperity to India and to Asia and even stronger bonds of friendship between our two nations. Accordingly, I urge all of our colleagues to support this resolution.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, while it is just morning in India, it is rather late in the evening here, so I will be brief. A few folks watching at home include my son, Ari, who stayed up to hear this debate. And I am sorry to see the chairman engage in some gratuitous assaults on the administration, because, indeed, it is President Clinton who lead the recent trip to India and really welding together these two great democracies.

And while Congress and many of the people in government, executive and legislative, had not recognized for a long time the important bond between India and the United States and Connecticut with the leadership of Chet Bowles, twice ambassador to India, the Congressman from my district, when I was a young man and a governor of the State of Connecticut, he understood even then how important this relationship between the United States and India was.

The present ambassador at work for Chester Bowles is doing a fine job there, as the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN) pointed out. This Thursday we will have an address by the Prime Minister of India, an address that will be greeted in this House by near bipartisan support and approval.

As we have ended the confrontation with the old Soviet Union, the natural bonds between our two democracies continue to build a stronger and stronger relationship. The United States is India's largest trading partner. The Americans in this country and Indians from abroad who have come here have built a stronger and stronger relationship, and as Indian-Americans have felt more a part of our society, they have helped build that bridge between the United States and India.

This visit by the Prime Minister is a visit that will take us to the next level, bringing America's attention squarely focused on India and the shared values we have in democracy fighting terrorism, confronting infectious diseases, and helping develop democracy around the globe. India truly is a marvelous example of people. Consider about a billion people, half of them very poor, still they sustain a civil society that most countries in the world have not yet attained.

Mr. Speaker, I join with the gentleman's statements, at least part of the gentleman's statement, and that is commending the President for having gone to India, commending the Prime Minister for coming here. And I can assure him and the Indian people that there will be no head of state that gets a warmer and friendlier greeting from the American people and from this Congress than the Prime Minister of India will get.

Mr. Speaker, I urge passage of this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this resolution, and yield myself as much time as I may consume.

On Thursday, September 14th, the United States Congress will meet in a rare joint session to hear from the prime Minister of India. It is appropriate that Prime Minister Vajpayee should be accorded this honor.

After all, world's largest democracy and the world's oldest have much in common. India is one of our most important and strategic relationships.

The visit of Indian Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee to the U.S. provides an opportunity for a further broadening and deepening of the bilateral relationship.

With the end of the Cold War and the subsequent liberalization of the Indian economy, U.S.-India relations have steadily improved. President Clinton was enthusiastically received when he visited India in March, 2000. During that visit, the two leaders set forth the framework for a new partnership between our two countries in the Joint Vision Statement.

The Prime Minister's visit provides us with an important opportunity to further the goals of the Vision Statement.

The U.S. is India's largest trading partner and largest investor. Home to one-fifth of the world's population, India continues to reduce and eliminate barriers to trade, and U.S. investment has grown from \$500 million per year in 1991 to over \$15 billion in 1999.

The Asian Development Bank has forecast a 7 percent growth in GDP for India over the next two years in light of India's stable government, proposed structural reforms and proven ability to capitalize on the global technology revolution.

The Clinton administration has identified India as one of the world's 10 major emerging markets. The waiver of economic sanctions by the U.S. and the opening up of the insurance sector in India are likely to further increase foreign direct investment in India.

India is a vital U.S. ally in the fight against global terrorism. Because there are significant links between terrorists groups operating in India and those targeting the U.S., the U.S.-India Joint Working Group on Counter-Terrorism was recently founded to coordinate antiterrorism efforts and share intelligence information. In the same manner that the United States and India have forged strong economic and commercial links, so too must we strengthen our partnership for peace and build a comprehensive regime to counter terrorism.

The million-strong Indian-American community in the U.S. provides a strong bond between India and the U.S. Indian-Americans have made immeasurable contributions to our country and are a vital part of communities from San Francisco to Miami and every where in between—even, I am proud to note, in my home state of Connecticut.

Indian Americans, who have organized themselves into a large number of associations and organizations, are playing an important role in deepening and strengthening cooperation between India and the United States.

As the President stated in his March 22 address to the Parliament of India, "India and America are natural allies, two nations conceived in liberty, each finding strength in its di-

versity, each seeing in the other a reflection of its own aspiration for a more humane and just world."

It is essential for the United States and India—the world's two largest democracies—to strengthen our growing bonds of friendship.

I urge my colleagues to support the House Resolution to welcome Prime Minister Vajpayee to the United States and encourage a robust U.S.-India partnership.

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.Res. 572, of which I am a cosponsor. Indian Prime Minister Vajpayee's state visit this week caps off a special year in U.S.-India relations that began with President Clinton's March visit to India. The Prime Minister's visit provides another excellent opportunity for the U.S. and India to advance further our rapidly improving and mutually beneficial relationship.

I want to commend Speaker HASTERT for inviting the Prime Minister to share his vision of India's relationship with the U.S. with members of the House and Senate. Thursday's speech will be the first congressional address by a foreign leader in over two years. This address will be an especially significant moment for the over 100 members of the Congressional Caucus on India and Indian Americans, who have worked hard on legislation affecting India.

I had the privilege of traveling to India with the President, and saw firsthand the country's vitality and the desire by the Indian people to develop a closer relationship with America. In New Delhi, President Clinton and Prime Minister Vajpayee signed a joint statement on "India-U.S. Relations: A Vision for the 21st Century." This is an important statement, coming after years of American indifference toward India. It is important that we treat this statement as a living document, working to ensure that its vision becomes reality.

The joint statement includes a pledge "to reduce impediments to bilateral trade and investment and to expand commerce" between our two countries. The U.S. is now not only the largest investor in India, it is also India's largest trading partner, with trade between the two countries totaling nearly \$13 billion.

The Prime Minister's state visit will also be a larger opportunity to highlight the great economic and cultural contributions of all Indo-Americans, who act as a valuable bridge between our two countries. I join my colleagues in welcoming the Prime Minister and look forward to his speech before members of the House and the Senate.

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I am so proud to join my colleagues, the Distinguished Chairman and the ranking Democratic member of the International Relations Committee in welcoming to the United States the Honorable Prime Minister of India, Atal Behari Vajpayee.

On behalf of Illinois' Indian American community and the people of Illinois in the 9th Congressional District, I want to express a most sincere welcome and best wishes for an enjoyable and meaningful visit to Prime Minister Vajpayee.

As my colleagues and the Prime Minister are aware, the Chicago Metropolitan area boasts one of our country's most diverse populations, including a thriving Indian-American community of over 100,000 that is growing every year. As a member of Congress who

values the relationship between our two nations and recognizes the significance of Prime Minister Vajpayee's visit, I believe this is an opportunity to strengthen relations between India and our country even further. The Prime Minister's visit also gives the Indian American community a chance to showcase its contributions to American society and to the U.S.-India dialogue.

I was fortunate to be one of eight members of Congress privileged to join President Clinton on his historic trip to India earlier this year. That was such an incredible and valuable experience for me, one which I learned from and which has helped me to understand the rich history and cultural traditions of a great number of my constituents who are of Indian descent.

I was so touched and honored by the warm reception the President's delegation received. I know that we will all do our best to reciprocate so that Prime Minister Vajpayee's visit is greeted with the honor and respect it deserves.

On Thursday, Prime Minister Vajpayee will address a joint session of Congress. This will be the first address to a joint session of Congress by an Indian Prime Minister in six years and the only address by a world leader to the 106th Congress.

It is important that on this historic occasion, Congress sends a strong message on the importance of our relationship with India in such critical areas as trade, national security, health, science and technology and education. The friendship between our people has never been stronger and the relationship between our governments has reached a new height of cooperation. That is why I am a proud original cosponsor of H. Res. 572. The resolution expresses the Sense of the Congress that the United States and India should continue to work together.

I urge all members to vote in support of it, and on behalf of myself, my family and my constituents, I offer a wholehearted and gracious welcome to Prime Minister Vajpayee.

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

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, House Resolution 572.

The question was taken.

Mr. GILMAN. 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.

□ 2330

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PEASE). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 1999, and under a previous order of the House,

the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

REMEMBERING THE SINKING OF THE HMT ROHNA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Washington (Mr. METCALF) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. METCALF. Mr. Speaker, the greatest naval disaster in the United States during World War II was the sinking of the USS *Arizona*. 1,177 were killed. The *Arizona* has been memorialized in the national consciousness.

On November 26, 1943, however, a loss of American military personnel of almost identical magnitude occurred when the British troop transport ship, the HMT *Rohna*, was sunk by a radio-controlled rocket-boosted bomb launched from a German bomber off the coast of North Africa. By the next day, 1,015 American troops and more than 100 British and Allied officers and crewmen had perished.

The U.S. troops aboard the *Rohna* have been largely forgotten by their country. I only learned of this disaster because a neighbor of mine on Whidbey Island had a brother who was lost when the *Rohna* was sunk. He made me aware of the issue and the book about the sinking of the *Rohna*.

It is a grim story. Hundreds died when the German missile struck. The majority, however, died from exposure and drowning when darkness and rough seas limited the rescue efforts. Less than half, over 900, survived, which was less than half.

American, British and French rescue workers worked valiantly to save those *Rohna* passengers and crew who made it off the ship and into the ocean. The USS *Pioneer* picked up two-thirds of all those that were saved, 606 GIs. Many of those in the water had to endure hours of chilling temperatures before being picked up. As the evening moved into the middle of the night and the early morning hours, some men were speechless with the cold. Many died deaths of unbelievable agony.

The United States Government had not properly acknowledged this event. Because inadequate records were kept, some survivors had to fight for years to prove that the *Rohna* even existed, let alone that survivors might be due some recognition.

Finally, at a 1996 memorial dedication honoring the Americans who died on the *Rohna*, survivor John Fievet spoke the following words:

I dedicate this memorial to the memory of those who fell in the service of our country. I dedicate it in the names of those who offered their lives that justice, freedom and democracy might survive to be the victorious ideals of the world. The lives of those who made the supreme sacrifice are glorious before us. Their deeds are an inspiration. As they served America in the time of war, yielding their last full measure of devotion,

may we serve America in time of peace. I dedicate this monument to them, and with it, I dedicate this society to the faithful service of our country and the preservation of the memory of those who died, that liberty might live.

The men who gave their lives for their country on board this ship were heroes who deserve to be recognized and not forgotten. Parents of virtually all of them died without learning how their sons had died, because this was something that was not made public. Their brothers and sisters, wives and children need to hear their story. All Americans need to learn of their bravery and sacrifice. Not only do the victims of the tragic sinking need to be honored, but also their comrades, who survived, to be sent on to the Burma-India-China theater of the war and there to serve valiantly.

On November 11, 1993, Charles Osgood featured the *Rohna* story on his wide-spread radio program. For the first time, in 1993, a broad cross-section of America got to hear the story of some of its unknown warriors. Osgood revisited the subject two weeks later. According to Osgood, "It is not that we forgot, it is just that we never knew."

Americans need to know about the *Rohna*. They need to know about the men who died on board, sacrificing their lives in the fight against tyranny. Americans need to know, and certainly must never forget.

REVISIONS OF APPROPRIATE LEVELS OF DEBT IN THE CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET RESOLUTION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. KASICH) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. KASICH. Mr. Speaker, section 213(1) of the conference report on the Concurrent Resolution on the Budget for Fiscal Year 2001 (H. Con. Res. 290) permits certain adjustments if the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) increases its estimate of the surplus. CBO recently increased its estimate of the on-budget surplus for the current fiscal year by \$57.2 billion. I submit for printing in the Congressional Record revisions to the levels of the public debt and the debt held by the public for fiscal years 2000–2005 based on that increase in the surplus.

REVISED APPROPRIATE LEVELS OF DEBT IN THE CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET RESOLUTION

(End of year in billions of dollars)

Fiscal year	Public debt	Debt held by the public
2000	5,583.0	3,413.0
2001	5,666.6	3,256.0
2002	5,757.5	3,077.9
2003	5,857.2	2,891.2
2004	5,951.6	2,689.8
2005	6,040.9	2,467.0

Questions may be directed to Dan Kowalski at 67270.