

the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 110) making further continuing appropriations for the fiscal year 2001, and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

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CONGRATULATING THE REPUBLIC OF HUNGARY ON THE MILLENNIUM OF ITS FOUNDATION AS A STATE

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on International Relations be discharged from further consideration of the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 400) congratulating the Republic of Hungary on the millennium of its foundation as a state, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

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

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, reserving the right to object, and I will not object, I would like to commend the authors of this resolution as well as all of my colleagues who, along with me, are cosponsors of this legislation. I think it is appropriate to pay tribute to a country 1,000 years old which at long last has decided to join the community of democratic and freedom loving nations.

It was my great pleasure to accompany our Secretary of State and the foreign ministers of Hungary, the Czech Republic and Poland to Independence, Missouri for the signing of the document that has made Hungary a part of NATO. I earnestly hope that Hungary, before long, will be able to join the European Union.

As we celebrate this momentous occasion, it is important, however, to hoist a flag of caution. Democracy in Hungary is functioning, but certainly not without its imperfections. There are still periodic outbursts of ethnic and racial harassment which the government needs to do more to put an end to. There are periodic attempts to destroy and desecrate Jewish cemeteries.

At soccer games, hooligans of the far right are engaging in racial and religious intimidation. There are indications that the television medium is not as objective and open as it needs to be in a free and democratic society.

So while I join my fellow sponsors of this legislation and congratulate Hungary for having put an end to its fascist and communist past and having joined the family of democratic and freedom loving nations, I call on all Hungarians to meticulously observe the rules of political democracy and pluralism without which a promising future certainly will not be there for the 10 million people who deserve a

good future. I want to congratulate my colleagues.

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield.

Mr. LANTOS. I am happy to yield to the distinguished gentleman from New York.

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from California for yielding to me.

Mr. Speaker, I support the adoption of House Concurrent Resolution 400. It is interesting to note, as this resolution does, that this year marks not just the 1,000th anniversary of the crowning of Hungarian King Stephen, Saint Stephen, by Pope Sylvester II, but also the tenth anniversary of Hungary's first postcommunist, free and democratic elections.

Just as King Stephen anchored Hungary in Europe and the Western civilization, the leadership of postcommunist Hungary has begun to anchor Hungary in Pan-European and trans-Atlantic institutions once again through that country's admission into the NATO alliance and its application to enter the European Union.

While congratulating Hungary on the 1,000th anniversary of the foundation of the Kingdom of Hungary, this resolution makes it clear that we in the United States commend Hungary's efforts to rejoin the Pan-European and trans-Atlantic community of democratic states and its efforts to move beyond the dark days of communist dictatorship to create a lasting, peaceful and prosperous democracy.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join in supporting the adoption of this important resolution.

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, under my reservation, I am delighted to yield to the distinguished gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE), one of the principal authors of this resolution.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS) for yielding to me, and I appreciate all his support in bringing this resolution to the floor.

Mr. Speaker, several months ago, I introduced this bipartisan resolution congratulating the Republic of Hungary on the millennium of its founding as a nation, and I am pleased that this bipartisan resolution has reached the House floor. The bill currently has more than 30 cosponsors from both parties, and of course the House Committee on International Relations has approved it.

As a Member of Congress representing one of the largest Hungarian-American constituencies in this country, I am particularly proud to have introduced this measure with the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. ISTOOK) and the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS) and others and to have it reach the floor. I hope it will be signed into law shortly.

More than 20,000 people of Hungarian descent reside in my congressional dis-

trict in New Jersey with New Brunswick being a major center of Hungarian-American cultural life.

Located in the very heart of Europe, Hungary has been at the center of most of the epic historical events that have swept through the continent. Throughout the last thousand years, and particularly during the turbulent 20th century, Hungary has undergone wars, invasions and foreign occupations. Nevertheless, the Hungarian people have maintained their strong sense of nationhood and have preserved their unique language and culture. While the roots of the Hungarian nation lie in the East, in the last 1,000 years Hungary has been firmly attached to the West, an attachment that 45 years of Soviet domination could not break.

Today, Hungary is a crucial part of the Western alliance. Indeed, in 1990, Hungary became the first of the captive nations of the Warsaw Pact to hold free and fair elections. Now, as the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS) mentioned, it has become a member of NATO, too.

The celebration of 1,000 years of nationhood intends to look back at Hungary's past, remembering Hungarian intellectual and cultural values that enriched European culture in the past centuries, while also looking towards the future. Thus, during this year when Hungary and its people mark 1,000 years of its history, they also celebrate a decade of democracy.

Lastly, while paying tribute to our friend and ally in Central Europe, we should also honor the hundreds of thousands of Americans of Hungarian descent who have contributed their talents and hard work to this nation.

If I could just mention to my colleagues, many of the Hungarian-Americans in my district came here after the uprising in the mid-1950s, and of course their descendents are still there and contributing to our culture and our economy in central New Jersey.

But I assure my colleagues that, for those people who left after the 1956 uprising, there was nothing that they enjoyed more than seeing Hungary become a democracy and a part of NATO and to be able to increase every year their alliance with the West and to our democratic values.

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) for his eloquent and appropriate comments.

Mr. Speaker, under my reservation, I am delighted to yield to the distinguished gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. ISTOOK), one of the principle authors of this legislation.

Mr. ISTOOK. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from California for yielding to me. I thank the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN) for bringing this legislation up.

Mr. Speaker, as a principle sponsor, I think it is good that we talk about