

605 prisoners of war and submitted its files to the International Committee of the Red Cross, which passed these files on to Iraq and to the United Nations.

U.N. Security Council Resolutions 686 and 687 call for Iraq to cooperate with the ICRC in releasing all of those prisoners of war and facilitate the search for those who remain unaccounted for. Regrettably, however, Iraq has hindered all efforts to locate and secure the release of those individuals, and Iraq has denied the ICRC access to its prisons in violation of article 126 of the third Geneva Convention to which Iraq is a signatory.

Accordingly, H. Con. Res. 275 condemns the Iraqi governments refusal to comply with the will of the international community regarding these prisoners of war and urges Iraq to fulfill both the letter and the spirit of resolution 686 and 687.

This resolution expresses the sense of Congress that our own government should continue to actively seek the release of these Kuwaiti prisoners of war as well as other prisoners of war who are still missing some 9 years after the fact.

Accordingly, I urge the adoption of H. Con. Res. 275.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. GILMAN

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I offer an amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Amendment offered by Mr. GILMAN:

Page 4, line 5, strike "and".

Page 4, after line 10, insert the following:

(E) urges Iraq to immediately release all information regarding the fate of United States Navy Lieutenant Commander Michael Speicher and to release Lieutenant Commander Speicher, or deliver his remains, to the International Committee of the Red Cross for return to the United States; and

Page 4, line 19, strike "and" at the end.

Page 5, line 2, strike the period and insert "and".

Page 5, after line 2, add the following:

(C) actively and urgently work with the international community and the Government of Kuwait to actively seek information on the status of United States Navy Lieutenant Commander Michael Speicher and make every effort to expedite the release of Lieutenant Commander Speicher, or deliver his remains, from Iraq.

The amendment was agreed to.

The concurrent resolution was agreed to.

AMENDMENT TO THE PREAMBLE OFFERED BY MR. GILMAN

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I offer an amendment to the preamble.

The Clerk read as follows:

Amendment to the Preamble Offered by Mr. GILMAN:

In the 12th clause of the preamble, strike "and" at the end.

In the 13th clause of the preamble, strike "Now, therefore, be it" and insert "and".

At the end of the preamble, add the following:

Whereas significant questions remain regarding the status of United States Navy Lieutenant Commander Michael Speicher, who was shot down over Iraq on January 16,

1991, during Operation Desert Storm and was declared dead by the United States Navy without the conduct of an adequate search and rescue operation, however subsequent information obtained after the Persian Gulf Conflict by United States officials has raised the possibility that Lieutenant Commander Speicher survived and was captured by Iraqi forces: Now, therefore, be it

The amendment to the preamble was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

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. Con. Res. 275.

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

There was no objection.

SIERRA LEONE

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

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to bring attention to the tragic situation in Sierra Leone, where the democratically elected government of this West African country has long been under attack by rebels who have relied on the most heinous tactics, including systematically chopping off the limbs of little children. In Sierra Leone, the world is seeing pure evil.

The administration's response was to encourage a deal with the rebels, which predictably feel apart and now we have a U.N. peacekeeping operation there. Well, the fact is that this peacekeeping operation is not up to the task. Its record of incompetence includes its troops having willingly turned over weapons and equipment to the rebels. This operation remains in shambles, and more troops and resources will not address its shortcomings.

The rebels could, though, be marginalized by the Nigerian military and the defense forces of the Sierra Leone government, working with strong logistical training and other backing from the British. The U.S. should be focused on backing this effort, providing support to the Nigerian troops in Sierra Leone.

Whether African states move towards great stability is very much in question. An alternative and disastrous vision of state disintegration is looming for large parts of Africa. That is why a response to Sierra Leone is so important.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of Jan-

uary 6, 1999, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

REGARDING THE NEED FOR A COMPREHENSIVE NATIONAL ENERGY POLICY

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

Mr. REGULA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address the House on the urgent need for leadership in developing a Comprehensive National Energy Policy. Those of my colleagues who have followed my floor speeches over the past 25 years know that this issue is not a new one for me. As a Member of this House during the 1970s when gasoline shortages resulted in long lines at the pump and even when the crisis subsided, I have continued to speak on the need for a balanced energy policy which provides for a diversity of energy options for Americans.

Today, Mr. Speaker, recent spikes in the world crude oil prices, the tight gasoline supply, and the resulting extremely high prices at the pump, especially across the Midwest, again focus our attention on the urgent need for a comprehensive, and I emphasize comprehensive, policy.

Today we have crossed the 50 percent threshold on oil imports. We now import 52 percent of our petroleum, and by 2020, that number is projected to reach 64 percent.

□ 1415

This number is important because, unlike in other sectors of the energy market, we are dependent on petroleum-based fuels for more than 90 percent of our transportation market, automobiles, trucks and airplanes.

In 1999, U.S. consumers used four times as much gasoline as they did 50 years ago. In the past, our tendency has been to try to solve the problem with a short-term solution, then continue with our same habits. However, I urge my colleagues to consider the long-term benefits of developing a comprehensive, balanced policy for our Nation's energy. Our Nation depends upon affordable, reliable energy in every sector to retain our strong economy. Energy is too important for us to merely hope for the best.

Mr. Speaker, today I recommend that we bring not just the Department of Energy into this debate, but the numerous other Federal agencies which have a direct impact on our Nation's energy supply through various regulations on how we produce, transport, and consume energy. These include the Department of Interior, the Department of Transportation, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, to name a few. All of these agencies impact the energy we use every day. Further, the Department of Defense and