

the European Union which is about to accept a large number of new members. Upon accession to the European Union, Cyprus will, in capacity as a full member, be firmly anchored to the western political and security structures, enhancing both geographically and qualitatively the operational capabilities of the Western world.

The Republic of Cyprus and the United States share a common tradition of respect for human rights, a faith in the power of democratic institutions, and a commitment to free market economics. Our two governments have similarly had close ties. Consequently, it is in the interest of the United States to see a strong and vibrant Cyprus which will enhance the future strength of our alliance. To that end, the most meaningful way to ensure that outcome is to promote Cyprus's membership in the European Union.

Union membership for Cyprus also has the potential to resolve some of the ongoing disputes in the Mediterranean region. At the European Council meeting in Helsinki in December 1999, Turkey was granted the status of a candidate country for accession to the EU. In accordance with the Accession Partnership Document of Turkey, which was endorsed by the European Council meeting in Nice in December 2000, Turkey must strongly support the UN Secretary General's efforts to bring about a successful conclusion to the process of finding a comprehensive settlement of the Cyprus problem.

The European Council decision taken in Helsinki in December 1999 also states that the Council's decision on accession for Cyprus will not be preconditioned on a settlement to the Cyprus problem. On the other hand, it is understood that accession negotiations with Turkey cannot begin until Turkey complies with the stipulations and conditions laid down by the European Council decisions in Helsinki, Copenhagen and Nice.

The United States government has strongly supported the Helsinki Conclusions both on the issue of Cyprus' accession and Turkey's candidacy for membership and should continue to do so. Additionally, serious efforts have been undertaken by the UN Secretary General to resume negotiations between the two communities in Cyprus. These efforts have always enjoyed the full support of the United States.

It is obvious that resolution of the perennial dispute between Greece and Turkey on Cyprus remains the key to a successful and lasting settlement of the problem. Although the Helsinki decision does not consider a Greco-Turkish agreement on Cyprus a precondition for the accession of the Republic of Cyprus to the European Union, such an agreement would remove any obstacles to the accession of Turkey to the European Union, benefitting all parties concerned in the current dispute.

First, it will act as a catalyst in resolving the problem of Cyprus, which has been poisoning the relations among the parties to the conflict, their NATO allies, and the United States. Second, improvement in the relations between Greece and Turkey will also strengthen the South-Eastern flank of NATO so it can function in its full capacity, unhindered by ancient frictions that have virtually prevented any cooperation between the two allies at periods in the past.

Third, an agreement between the conflicting parties will enhance stability and security in two troubled regions of the world, the Middle-East and the Balkans. These areas are vital to the national interests of the United States and any stabilizing influence might serve to facilitate other peace agreements.

In pursuing this goal, it should be made clear to the Turkish leadership and Mr. Denktash that their position on these issues is unsatisfactory. No effort should be made to appease the Turkish-Cypriot leader in order to entice his return to the negotiating table. Not only should he return, but he should negotiate in good faith in order to reach a comprehensive settlement within the framework provided for by the relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions. This includes the establishment of a bizonal, bi-communal federation with a single international personality, sovereignty, and a single citizenship.

It would also be in the best interest of Turkey to cooperate with the United Nations and the rest of the international community on Cyprus in order to advance its own membership in the European Union. In addition, Turkey spends more than \$200 million annually to sustain northern Cyprus; it also maintains 35,000 of its own troops illegally in the region. With settlement on the matter of Cyprus, this huge financial obligation will be removed. Northern Cyprus will perhaps be the greatest beneficiary of Cypriot membership and resolution of the entire affair. It is currently in a state of economic distress, being bolstered only by Turkish support. By joining the rest of Cyprus, it would become part of an already progressive economy, eliminating its financial dependence on Turkey.

So far we have seen that both Turkey and Mr. Denktash have sought to create preconditions on Cyprus' accession by tying that process to the resolution of a comprehensive settlement in Cyprus. The United States should remind Turkey that any threat against the Republic of Cyprus will be met with strong determination and opposition and that Turkey does not possess any veto power over European Union membership. Promotion of Cyprus' membership will remove what has been a stumbling block in comprehensive settlement negotiations, and it will allow Turkey to strive toward the laudable goal of its own accession.

We are all standing at the threshold of a historic opportunity that will shape the futures of generations of Cypriots, Greeks, and Turks. We have a responsibility to these ensuant generations to secure their futures by contributing to the efforts to create a peaceful world.

It is precisely to stress the above stated points that I have felt compelled to submit House Concurrent Resolution 164 which expresses the United States' support for Cyprus' admission to the European Union according to the Helsinki Conclusions of 1999 which state that while a solution to the political crisis in Cyprus is preferable prior to EU accession, it is not a precondition for entry.

Mr. Speaker, we have a moral and ethical obligation to use our influence as Americans to reunify Cyprus—as defenders of democracy, and as defenders of human rights. There have been twenty-seven years of illegitimate occupation, violence, and strife; let's not make it twenty-eight.

DR. ORNISH'S LIFESTYLE MODIFICATION PROGRAM

HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 27, 2001

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak on America's battle with heart disease. The Government Reform Committee, which I Chair, has been conducting an oversight investigation into the role of complementary and alternative therapies in our health care system. Dr. Dean Ornish has testified before our Committee. His program prevents heart attacks and strokes—not through expensive medication or surgery—but through lifestyle modification like diet, stress management and yoga.

It's innovative, low cost, non-invasive, and scientifically proven to be effective. Scientific research has demonstrated that Dr. Ornish's program not only helps prevent heart problems like arterial blockages, it actually reverses heart disease in people with serious conditions.

The Medicare program is currently conducting a pilot program to test Dr. Ornish's program on 1,800 Medicare patients. Last year, Congressman RANGEL and I introduced legislation to extend this demonstration program for two more years to make sure that all 1,800 patients can complete the program and be thoroughly evaluated. I really believe that this program can save lives, and save the Medicare program billions of dollars. At a time when HCFA has estimated that our health care costs will double by the year 2007, programs like this lifestyle modification program hold out real hope for reducing open-heart surgery and cutting down on the need for expensive prescription medications.

I salute Dr. Ornish for all of the hard work he has done on this issue for America.

45TH ANTIOCHIAN ARCHDIOCESE CONVENTION

HON. DARRELL E. ISSA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 27, 2001

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize all the faithful here in Los Angeles for the Forty-fifth Archdiocese Convention of the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America. In welcoming the diverse spiritual leaders of the Church that are gathering together, I especially want to recognize His Excellency, Issam Fares, Deputy Prime Minister of Lebanon.

This biennial convention is an opportunity to share the history, cultural heritage and religious dedication of the members throughout North America. The convention is an opportunity for the Archdiocese to discuss social issues facing families today. The work of Antiochian Orthodox Church through such programs as the International Orthodox Christian Charities, the bone marrow testing drive, health fairs and the Jerusalem Project, are the finest examples of the religious freedom that only we share in the United States.