

a hammerlock and be unable to make sure it works as properly intended.

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague for his thoughtful remarks.

Mr. Speaker, I have no additional requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. HYDE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS) for his tremendous contribution to this and other legislation before our committee.

Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MILLER of Florida). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HYDE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2602.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

EXPRESSING SENSE OF HOUSE THAT WORLD CONFERENCE AGAINST RACISM PRESENTS UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY TO ADDRESS GLOBAL DISCRIMINATION

Mr. BALLENGER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 212) expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia, and Related Intolerance presents a unique opportunity to address global discrimination, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 212

Whereas since the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in 1948, the international community has taken significant steps to eradicate racism, xenophobia, sexism, religious intolerance, slavery, and other forms of discrimination;

Whereas national and international measures to combat discrimination and promote equality, justice, and dignity for all individuals have proven inadequate;

Whereas the United Nations World Conference Against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia, and Related Intolerance ("WCAR"), to be held in Durban, South Africa, from August 31 through September 7, 2001, aims to create a new world vision for the fight against racism and other forms of intolerance in the twenty-first century, urge participants to adopt anti-discrimination policies and practices, and establish a mechanism for monitoring future progress toward a discrimination-free world;

Whereas the causes and manifestations of contemporary racism, xenophobia, sexism, religious intolerance, slavery, and other forms of discrimination are many and increasingly complex and subtle;

Whereas all states and societies that have sponsored, encouraged, or tolerated slavery, including states involved in the transatlantic slave trade, the Indian Ocean slave

trade, or the trans-Saharan slave trade, benefited economically while inflicting extreme pain, suffering, and humiliation on millions of African people;

Whereas victims of racism, xenophobia, sexism, religious intolerance, slavery, and other forms of discrimination have suffered and continue to suffer from the deprivation of their fundamental rights and opportunities;

Whereas to varying degrees, states, societies, and individuals have adopted the notion that racial, cultural, religious, and social diversity can enrich a country and its citizens;

Whereas participants of the WCAR currently plan to discuss remedies, redress, and other mechanisms to provide recourse at national, regional, and international levels for victims of racism, xenophobia, sexism, religious intolerance, slavery, and other forms of discrimination;

Whereas the achievement of full and effective equality between peoples requires that states, civic groups, and individuals cooperate to address the real difficulties in attaining societies free of discrimination;

Whereas some preparatory materials for the WCAR take positions on current political crises which, if adopted in the final WCAR Declaration and Program of Action, could exacerbate existing tensions;

Whereas the attempt by some to use the WCAR as a platform to resuscitate the divisive and discredited notion equating Zionism with racism, a notion that was overwhelmingly rejected when United Nations Resolution 3379 (1975) was rescinded in 1991, would undermine the goals and objectives of the conference; and

Whereas the United States encourages respect for an individual's human rights and fundamental freedoms without distinction of any kind, such as race, color, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth, or other status: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) encourages all participants in the United Nations World Conference Against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia, and Related Intolerance ("WCAR") to seize this singular opportunity to tackle the scourges of racism, xenophobia, sexism, religious intolerance, slavery, and other forms of discrimination which have divided people and wreaked immeasurable suffering on the disempowered;

(2) recognizes that since racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia, and related intolerance exist to some extent in every region and country around the world, efforts to address these prejudices should occur within a global framework and without reference to specific regions, countries, or present-day conflicts;

(3) exhorts the participants to utilize the WCAR to mitigate, rather than aggravate, racial, ethnic, and regional tensions;

(4) urges the WCAR to focus on concrete steps that may be taken to address gross human rights violations that were motivated by racially and ethnically based animus and on devising strategies to help eradicate such intolerance; and

(5) commends the efforts of the Government of the Republic of South Africa in hosting the WCAR.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. BALLENGER) and the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS) each will control 20 minutes.

Ms. MCKINNEY. Mr. Speaker, I claim the time in opposition to this resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS) opposed to the resolution?

Mr. LANTOS. I am in favor of the resolution, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman from Georgia (Ms. MCKINNEY) will control 20 minutes in opposition to the resolution.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. BALLENGER).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BALLENGER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the resolution under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from North Carolina?

There was no objection.

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

The forthcoming World Conference Against Racism ought to represent an opportunity for the people and the governments of the world to look for ways to address the ongoing harm caused by continuing racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia, and related intolerance, as the formal title of the conference refers to them.

Both in our own Nation and around the world, clashes between communities, whether at their origins, based on ethnic, tribal, clan, racial, national, religious or caste differences have a tremendously debilitating effect on our lives. This is almost self-evident. Yet it is worthwhile to provide, through the United Nations, the opportunity for representatives of governments and civil society to sit down and exchange experiences in dealing with ongoing racism and related forms of intolerance, and other vestiges. In addition, we can and should take the opportunity to frame a declaration and a plan of action on the topic of the conference that expresses the sentiments of the world's governments.

The current administration, along with the Members who are cosponsoring this resolution, hope that a conference will be a positive, forward-looking one. The gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS) has framed a sensitive, appropriate resolution that expresses our hopes with regard to this conference.

But he and I, and our administration, do not share certain concerns as we approach the conference. The opportunity of a world conference on anything always seems to present an irresistible opportunity to some in the international community to hijack the conference and move it into areas far from its real purposes, and so we have in the draft declaration language, which can

only be understood as intended to minimize the Holocaust and to indicate that the only State worthy of condemnation by name in the world is Israel. We also have efforts to bring in issues such as compensation for actions of the distant past, such as the transatlantic slave trade.

Mr. Speaker, today in Geneva, a Preparatory Conference is underway to see if some of these issues can be worked out. If they are not worked out, the administration will use the only leverage it really has, which is to absent itself, at least at the high level, from the conference. That is altogether proper as far as I am concerned.

Mr. Speaker, this resolution makes no threats. It merely sets out our position, and it does so in admirable terms, and it should be supported by my colleagues.

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

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

The Lantos resolution attempts to place tape on the mouth of the United States and the world community to say what the U.S. and the rest of the world can or cannot say in South Africa. By comparison, the chairwoman of the Congressional Black Caucus introduced a resolution that puts no words in the mouth of the Bush administration, but merely suggests that the U.S. participate in the World Conference Against Racism by sending Colin Powell as head of the U.S. delegation, and that the United States should support financially the conference.

With respect to what the U.S. can and cannot and should and should not say, the Johnson resolution urges the Bush administration to adopt policy positions at the WCAR that seek to advance an understanding of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia, and related intolerance. Amnesty International just wrote a letter to President Bush urging the same position.

On July 25, Amnesty International USA urged the Bush administration to increase its commitment to the conference by appointing a delegation led by Secretary of State Colin Powell and assuming a leadership role in the preconference preparation. In a letter sent to President Bush, AIUSA, Amnesty International USA, called on the administration to resolve controversies that have marred preparations for the WCAR. Amnesty International USA urged President Bush not to allow current controversies over draft language to serve as a pretext for nonparticipation. We believe that such problems can be best addressed by a senior delegation representing the U.S. at the conference and not through a boycott.

The letter goes on to state, the Bush administration must participate in efforts to eradicate racism at home and abroad and must seize the opportunity to move beyond the empty rhetoric on

race of previous administrations by vigorously joining the debate at the World Conference Against Racism.

Additionally, Human Rights Watch just issued a report saying that the U.S. should participate. Human Rights Watch said national and international panels should be created with maximum transparency and public participation to identify and acknowledge past abuses and to guide action to counter their present-day effect. Groups that suffer today should be compensated by governments responsible for these practices, said Kenneth Roth, Executive Director of Human Rights Watch. Those most seriously victimized today by past wrongs should be the first priority for compensation to end their victimization.

Human Rights Watch proposed the establishment of national panels. The panels should serve as truth commissions aiming to reveal the extent to which a government's past racist practices contribute to contemporary deprivation domestically and abroad, Roth said. They should educate the public, acknowledge responsibility and propose methods of redress and making amends.

Kofi Annan and President Bush are at the National Urban League today, but the National Urban League supports our position that the U.S. should agree to go and support no matter what is on the agenda. The Leadership Conference on Civil Rights wrote a letter to Bush along the exact same lines as the Johnson resolution; that is that the U.S. should go to the conference; that the U.S. should financially support the conference; and that U.S. participation will help to bring significant issues into sharper focus at home and abroad.

Importantly, the Leadership Conference letter to President Bush states, the United States should not limit its participation in this important global event, even when faced with issues that our government feels threatened fundamental American values. Rather, the U.S. should actively engage difficult topics and work to change those that belie core U.S. principles. If the U.S. does not participate in the World Conference Against Racism, what will that prove? Do we not lose by telling our friends and others what they can say and what they cannot say; do we not lose friends and prestige by doing that? I do not believe that the Bush administration has to be told what to say and what not to say. I do believe that with the moral force of our position and the strength of our argument, we should be able to prevail without the appearance of issuing threats or intimidation.

Thirty percent of the American population consists of people of color. We have a stake in this conference. I believe the majority of Americans who are not of color would like to see the United States lead in this issue to get

rid of the problems of race and intolerance at home and to help the rest of the world deal with the problem of racism and intolerance abroad.

The United States should participate in the WCAR, the House should encourage that participation, and the Johnson resolution should have been on the House floor today.

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

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

Ms. MCKINNEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS).

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, as the founding Democratic chairman of the Congressional Human Rights Caucus, I rise in strong support of the resolution.

Mr. Speaker, the scourge of racism remains one of the most tragic aspects of international life today. Slavery, xenophobia, sexism, religious intolerance, hate crimes, racial profiling, we must renew our commitment and redouble our efforts to combat each of these manifestations of racism plaguing our globe today.

□ 1430

Racism is at the root of countless international conflicts and it is a formidable barrier to international cooperation. It remains a stubborn and shameful stain on humanity.

The U.N. Conference on Racism is the first time that the world will have come together to confront this scourge in a serious and systematic way. Among other critical issues the conference will confront the plight of millions of African people who have suffered from extreme pain, hardship and humiliation from the slave trade and its lingering effects.

The conference intends to explore this issue in a comprehensive way discussing not only the transatlantic slave trade but also the Arab slave trade across the Indian Ocean and the Sahara Desert.

It is imperative, Mr. Speaker, that the United States assume a leadership role in combatting racism worldwide. Our national experience with slavery and our commitment to civil rights compels us to take a lead in the broader worldwide struggle to eradicate racism. Our resolution makes clearly that the goals and objectives of this important conference deserve the strong support of the United States. If the conference adheres to its original purposes, U.S. participation clearly will contribute to its success.

Tragically, Mr. Speaker, some are standing in the way of a genuine dialogue on these painful issues by seeking to hijack the U.N. Conference on Racism into a racist attack against specific states. A draft resolution sponsored by a number of Arab states tends to equate Zionism with racism and thereby singles out Israel for attack.

Our resolution denounces this attempt to single out an individual state and to undermine the conference by using it as a platform for a hate-filled political agenda.

I urge my colleagues to join me in support of our resolution and getting the U.N. Conference on Racism back on track. The work of combatting racial discrimination and reducing racial tensions worldwide is far too important to be sidetracked by disruptive and hateful political interests. I urge my colleagues to support H. Res. 212.

Ms. MCKINNEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. WAXMAN).

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Res. 212.

The upcoming U.N. World Conference Against Racism is an important opportunity to condemn discrimination in all forms and dispel the hatred and misunderstanding that promotes it.

By holding it in Durban, South Africa, it is supposed to be a celebration of the world's triumph over apartheid, and a call to action against the ongoing injustice of slavery, genocide, religious oppression, gender discrimination, and other forms of intolerance that continue to plague our world.

That is why I am deeply concerned that Arab countries have tried to overshadow these objectives by hijacking the conference to bash Israel. Language inserted in the draft declarations revives hateful anti-Jewish lies that Zionism is racism and that Israel practices ethnic cleansing and apartheid.

This targeted attack on Israel is another blatant attempt by the enemies of peace to undermine the peace process and make political dialogue between Israelis and Palestinians impossible. If it succeeds in poisoning the U.N. conference declarations, it will inevitably become a new platform for Palestinian incitement against Israel and fuel the cycle of terrorist attacks and violence.

This resolution underscores U.S. support for the underlying goals and objectives of the U.N. World Conference. I am hopeful, therefore, that the Bush administration will be successful in the final preconference meeting in Geneva this week in bringing the conference agenda back on track. Otherwise its domination by extremist anti-Israeli bias will be harmful to Israel, its allies, and the purpose of the U.N. Conference itself, and will earn the condemnation of those who believe in an end to racism and bigotry.

Ms. MCKINNEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. ISRAEL).

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding me this time.

Mr. Speaker, in November of 1975, Israel's Ambassador to the United Nations stepped up to the General Assembly as they debated the ludicrous prop-

osition that Zionism is racism and held that resolution aloft and said that that proposition was worth no more than the piece of paper it was written on and tore that paper apart and left the well of the General Assembly. He was right then and those of us today who combat the notion that Zionism is racism are right as well.

It is ludicrous, it defies imagination to suggest that Zionism and racism are the same thing. I would suggest to friends of the United Nations as I am a friend of the United Nations that continuing to test that proposition, that revisiting that issue 25 years later is wrongheaded. It defies common sense and it strains the patience of people like me and Members of Congress like me who believe in the value of the United Nations.

This is a bad idea. It is a senseless resolution. It is going back in time and it is not worthy of the United Nations or U.S. support in the United Nations.

Mrs. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, next month's U.N. World Conference against Racism in Durban, South Africa is an extremely important conference which offers the world community an unprecedented opportunity to address racism and global discrimination. For this dialogue to be constructive, it must take place in an atmosphere of tolerance and mutual respect. Thus, it is essential to ensure that the Conference does not degenerate into a sideshow of hateful and extreme views that revives such lies as the shameful assertion that Zionism is racism.

The Conference attendees must not be diverted from the essential task of confronting racism through a Draft Declaration for the Conference that revives the despicable falsehood that Zionism is a "movement which is based on racial superiority." Nor can the United States sit idly by and passively accept language that minimizes the historical significance of the Holocaust and the evil of anti-Semitism, or which in any way questions the legitimacy of our long-time ally, the State of Israel.

I completely reject the false choice between abandoning the United States' participation in this Conference and supporting the State of Israel. There is no inconsistency in attending this Conference and rejecting anti-Zionist, anti-Israel or anti-Semitic rhetoric. The United States can and must do both.

As Mr. LANTOS so cogently observed, racism is at the root of countless international conflicts, and is a formidable barrier to international cooperation. It remains a stubborn and shameful stain on humanity, one that I believe that the United States must address whenever it has an opportunity.

Thus, notwithstanding my concerns about certain aspects of the Draft Declaration for the Conference, I believe that the United States must attend the World Conference against Racism with a high level delegation, hopefully one led by our Secretary of State Colin Powell.

I understand and recognize the concerns have been raised about various aspects of the Conference's proposed agenda, but I fervently believe that the way to deal with these con-

troversial issues is for the United States to participate fully in all aspects of developing the Conference's agenda and in all aspects of the Conference. Thus, I support H. Res. 212, the Ballenger-Lantos Resolution. I also urge the leadership to bring Representative MCKINNEY'S Resolution, H. Res. 211, to the floor. Passing H. Res. 211 will clearly put the House on record as supporting full U.S. participation in the World Conference against Racism without any precondition.

This participation should extend to all subjects that may be covered at the Conference, including such discussion as may take place concerning the subject of slavery and reparations, an issue in which Mr. CONYERS and I and many other Members of the Congress and the American public are intensely interested.

I know that strong differences of opinion exist on the subject of reparations and I would hope and expect that this subject will be only one of a great many that may be considered at the Conference. But however much (or little) attention reparations may receive, surely, the mere consideration of this issue is not a reason for anyone to suggest that the United States not participate in the Conference.

There's a simple solution to these issues. The United States should participate fully in the Conference and take whatever steps our Delegation deems necessary to reject and disassociate the United States from any "Zionism as Racism" language or any other anti-Israel language at the Conference.

Mr. Speaker, we know who our friends and our enemies are. Our friend is Israel and all others in the Middle East who seek a just and lasting peace. Our enemy is racism. We need not, and must not, sacrifice one to pursue the other. They are entirely compatible.

In my view, we accomplish nothing if we simply duck the issues to be addressed at the Conference by not attending or by sending a low-level delegation that lacks the authority to speak forcefully for the United States on issues of such critical importance. The subject of racism is simply too important not to be addressed in a meaningful way.

Mr. Speaker, when racism is the subject, the United States must never be a "no-show," no matter what the provocation. The United States should make the most of this historic occasion to deal with racism in a systematic way through full U.S. participation in the World Conference. I urge all my Colleagues to support H. Res. 212 and yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of the resolution offered by my distinguished colleague, the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS).

Mr. Speaker, the forthcoming World Conference Against Racism ought to be a moment to look forward to ways to deal with "racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia, and related intolerance," as the formal title of the conference refers to them.

It is clear that the issue of racism needs to be dealt with. We need to allow our governments and NGOs an opportunity to share thoughts and come up with an appropriate plan of action.

The problem is that people who really do not care whether or not the conference is successful are trying to hijack it.

They have succeeded in getting language into the draft conclusions reviving the old canard that "Zionism equals racism" and minimizing the Holocaust. Of all the countries on the face of the earth, they have named only Israel as a miscreant on the issue of racism.

Of course, our Administration is working hard against this effort.

If they do not succeed, I hope that the Administration will consider several alternatives. One would be not to go. Another would be to send someone of the stature of a Colin Powell to tell the assembled nations how we have dealt with our race problem—not perfectly, but with some success over the years. And then, he should continue to denounce the document for what will be its fatal flaws, and walk out. But there should certainly be no "business as usual".

Mr. Speaker, this resolution is an excellent one. I am proud to be associated with it. It says just what needs to be said: we want a good world conference.

Accordingly, I urge my colleagues to fully support this resolution.

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 212 that expresses the importance of the Bush Administration sending a high-level delegation to participate at the United Nations World Conference Against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia, and Related Intolerance (WCAR) scheduled August 31 through September 7, 2001.

The United States of America where I am proud to be a citizen and who I proudly fought for in the Korean War, is a major global power that is called upon daily by nations around the world for leadership and guidance. As a global power, historically we have been outspoken on important matters concerning human rights abuses and civil rights offenses around the world. Our legacy is freedom for all human beings.

We as a nation must once again exhibit the strong leadership that is our heritage and do the right thing by fully participating in the upcoming World Conference Against Racism. It is unconscionable that the Administration would even consider not attending such an important conference or provide the leadership needed to address this very important issue of world racism. Our full attendance is the only way we can ensure that the conference fulfills its primary purpose of addressing the issue of racism around the world.

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, the world conference against racism is an important meeting to people of African descent, and indigenous people all over the world. It is critical that this country fully participate and demonstrate its commitment to ending racism, racial intolerance, xenophobia and other forms of intolerance in this country and all over the world. A full discussion and a strong resolution decrying racism and the support of agreed to means of addressing its impact are important to the health of our nation and the well-being of the entire global community. Having a substantive declaration decrying racism, colonialism, and the forceful subjugation of people will not in and of itself make us whole, but it will foster a long overdue healing process.

Mr. Speaker, I want my country to fully participate, to be involved in all discussions and work with the other countries of the world to

develop such a resolution and programs. It neither serves this country or the world well for it to be gagged on this important issue.

While I support this resolution in its supporting the United States participation, I feel that the resolution introduced by Congresswoman EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON which calls on the highest level of participation, for funding, and which urges the adoption and advancing of policy positions that indicate clearly that our country understands the link between racism in its current day forms and is firm in its commitment to ending its impact on indigenous communities and communities of color all over the world.

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to support H. Res. 212, expressing the Sense of Congress on the UN World Conference Against Racism.

I want to thank and express my appreciation to my colleague, Congressman LANTOS, for authorizing this legislation.

I believe this bill is a step in the right direction. In addition, I firmly believe that the United States must not boycott this conference.

The World Conference Against Racism will provide an important and credible platform to discuss slavery, xenophobia, sexism, religious intolerance, hate crimes and other forms of racism.

In addition, it is long past due for the United States to formerly acknowledge its role in the institution of Trans-Atlantic Slavery and to begin the healing process for more than 30 million African Americans—many of whom are descendants of slaves.

Representatives from the Bush administration have stated that the United States will not send an official delegation to the World Conference Against Racism in Durban, South Africa if language regarding slavery and reparations, is included in the WCAR agenda.

However, I strongly believe that the Bush Administration's position on excluding the discussion on slavery and reparations is wrong and must be reconsidered. The United States' unwillingness to address this issue sends the wrong message.

The United States Government sanctioned slavery in this country for hundreds of years, completely devastating the lives of generations and generations of Africans in America. It is imperative that this government, which played such a massive role in slavery, be at the table in discussions about slavery, its lasting impact, and on reparations.

On the International Relations Committee, we regularly question the human rights practices in other countries. I believe it is equally important that we apply this same scrutiny to our own society and examine the very visible vestiges of slavery manifested by the current racial and economic divides we experience today.

When we do, we realize that as a country, we have not yet conquered the twin problems of racism and economic inequality.

Ours is a country where people of color are regularly pulled over by our police force because they are simply the wrong color, or in the wrong neighborhood, or driving the wrong kind of car. It's happened to me, it's happened to millions of African Americans and other minorities.

Ours is a country where millions of young men of color are behind bars. Our justice sys-

tem claims to be blind, yet look at the skin color of those in prison, of those sitting on death row. Those are black and brown faces staring out from behind those bars.

Ours is a country where the votes of African Americans and other minorities are less likely to be counted than those of white Americans.

Ours is a country where blacks earn less than whites, are less likely to own homes than whites, and are still subject to the economic marginalization that has marked this nation for centuries.

Ours is also a nation that is struggling to overcome many of these deep-rooted problems. It is time for America to also recognize that many of these problems are rooted in slavery.

We can do more and we must.

Racism is a fundamental question of human rights.

Racial prejudice underlies much of the conflict and injustice in the modern world. It fuels wars, drives ethnic cleansing, and exacerbates economic inequities.

Racial barriers compound health problems: HIV/AIDS disproportionately affects communities of color. This terrible disease is sweeping across Africa where millions are dying. We may not know how to cure AIDS yet, but we know how to prevent it and we know how to treat it. We know how, but every day six thousand Africans die from AIDS. Six thousand a day.

In the United States the AIDS crisis is having a devastating effect in the African American community. Although African Americans make up only 12 percent of the population, they make up more than 34 percent of reported AIDS cases, and African American children and women comprise two-thirds, respectively, of all pediatric and female AIDS cases in the United States.

The World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia, and Related Intolerance will represent a historic opportunity to find real solutions and provide real assistance to the victims of racial discrimination.

We must send a strong message to the Bush Administration that we will no longer bury our heads in the sand.

Minimally, the United States Government should apologize for the horrific institution of slavery and explore methods to address the current economic, health, and social inequalities experienced in daily life by the descendants of slaves: African Americans.

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

Mr. BALLENGER. 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 North Carolina (Mr. BALLENGER) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 212, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds of those present have voted in the affirmative.

Mr. LANTOS. 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.

SENSE OF HOUSE THAT U.N. SHOULD TRANSFER UNCENSORED VIDEOTAPE TO ISRAELI GOVERNMENT REGARDING HEZBOLLAH ABDUCTION OF THREE ISRAELI DEFENSE SOLDIERS

Mr. BALLENGER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 191) expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the United Nations should immediately transfer to the Israeli Government an unedited and uncensored videotape that contains images which could provide material evidence for the investigation into the incident on October 7, 2000, when Hezbollah forces abducted 3 Israeli Defense Force soldiers, Adi Avitan, Binyamin Avraham, and Omar Souad.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 191

Whereas on October 7, 2000, Hezbollah forces illegally crossed the Israeli border with Lebanon and kidnapped 3 Israeli Defense Force soldiers, Adi Avitan, Binyamin Avraham, and Omar Souad;

Whereas 9 months after the kidnapping, Hezbollah released no information as to the whereabouts and conditions of these soldiers;

Whereas the events leading up to, surrounding, and immediately following the kidnapping remain unknown;

Whereas after long denial the United Nations admitted to possession of a videotape that contains images which could provide material evidence for the investigation into the incident on October 7, 2000;

Whereas this videotape would help to assess the conditions of the soldiers and assist in the investigation to determine the identities of the kidnappers and their methods; and

Whereas to date the United Nations is reluctant to transfer an uncensored form of the videotape to Israeli Government authorities investigating this incident: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That it is the sense of the House of Representatives that the United Nations should immediately transfer an unedited and uncensored form of the videotape that contains images which could provide material evidence for the investigation into the incident on October 7, 2000, when Hezbollah forces abducted 3 Israeli Defense Force soldiers, Adi Avitan, Binyamin Avraham, and Omar Souad, as well as any other material evidence the United Nations may possess, to the Israeli Government to assist its investigation of this incident.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. BALLENGER) and the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. BALLENGER).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BALLENGER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise

and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the resolution under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from North Carolina?

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 191, sponsored by my friend, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. KIRK).

The United Nations has done important work in Lebanon over the years, keeping the peace as best it could in an area where stability has been threatened by the presence of various Lebanese and Palestinian factions and by Israeli responses to them.

Recently, it seems to have failed in part of its mission. Lebanese-based Hezbollah fighters were able to cross into Israeli territory and kidnap three Israeli soldiers. It turns out that a videotape that may well provide information to help resolve the kidnapping, although not the kidnapping itself, was made by the U.N. forces.

After denying the existence of the tape for some time, it now appears that the tape does exist. The U.N. should do all it can to help resolve the disappearance of the men, including the provision of relevant evidence.

The case has attracted widespread attention, not least in northern Illinois. I appreciate the diligent efforts of the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. KIRK) and his constituents, as well as the efforts of his cosponsors, in keeping this humanitarian nightmare from fading from our memories pending its final, and I hope its peaceful and successful resolution.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, first, I want to congratulate my friend and colleague, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. KIRK) for bringing this important resolution to the body. I also want to thank my friend, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. BALLENGER), and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HYDE) for his support.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this resolution.

Mr. Speaker, this resolution concerns a matter that unfortunately illustrates the singularly biased attitude and behavior that the United Nations and its constituent bodies and some of its personnel traditionally have shown towards our ally, the Democratic State of Israel.

Mr. Speaker, on October 7 of last year, Hezbollah terrorists illegally crossed from Lebanon into Israel and kidnapped three Israeli soldiers. Nearly 10 months later, Hezbollah has neither released information about the soldiers' conditions and whereabouts, nor

has it allowed any third parties, even the International Red Cross to meet with them. Shortly after the kidnapping, Israel sources learned that U.N. peacekeepers in Lebanon had shot a videotape that likely reveals the terrorists' identities.

□ 1445

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I am delighted to yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. CROWLEY).

Mr. CROWLEY. I thank the gentleman from California for yielding me this time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 191. I want to thank the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. KIRK) for authoring this important resolution before us today.

In October of 2000, Adi Avitan, Binyamin Avraham, and Omar Souad were abducted while on routine patrol of Israel's northern border. At the present time these men are believed to be held by Hezbollah on Lebanese soil.

I am extremely troubled by the fact that the United Nations has the ability to assist in discovering the whereabouts of these men and has failed to turn over what may be pertinent information to the Israeli Government. For an organization that is a champion for human rights around the world to obstruct the recovery of these men is inconceivable.

I join my colleagues in calling on Secretary-General Kofi Annan to act expeditiously in seeing that any and all information leading to the rescue of these Israeli soldiers be handed over without further delay. Since these men were captured last year, I have been in constant contact with their families. I had the opportunity to meet their families in January of this year. The fact that the United Nations has evidence that could ultimately bring their sons, fathers and brothers back to them is the last shred of hope that any of these families have. I cannot stand by and allow that to be taken away from them as well.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I strongly urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I commend my friend from New York for his eloquent statement.

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 191, sponsored by the distinguished gentleman from Illinois (Mr. KIRK).

295 days ago, three Israeli soldiers were kidnapped from Israeli territory near the Lebanese border.

It developed months later that the United Nations had made a videotape that contains significant information that could lead to a solution to this case.

The UN, however, first concealed the existence of the tape and subsequently has refused to release an uncensored version of it to Israel.

This resolution simply calls on the UN to do what it should do—to help resolve a case that tugs at our heartstrings.