

SUPPORT FOR TENTH ANNUAL MEETING OF ASIA PACIFIC PARLIAMENTARY FORUM

Mr. BEREUTER. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and concur in the Senate concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 58) expressing support for the tenth annual meeting of the Asia Pacific Parliamentary Forum.

The Clerk read as follows:

S. CON. RES. 58

Whereas the Asia Pacific Parliamentary Forum was founded by former Japanese Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone in 1993;

Whereas the Tokyo Declaration, signed by 59 parliamentarians from 15 countries, entered into force as the founding charter of the forum on January 14 and 15, 1993, establishing the basic structure of the forum as an interparliamentary organization;

Whereas the original 15 members, one of which was the United States, have increased to 27 member countries;

Whereas the forum serves to promote regional identification and cooperation through discussion of matters of common concern to all member states and serves, to a great extent, as the legislative arm of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation;

Whereas the focus of the forum lies in resolving political, economic, environmental, security, law and order, human rights, education, and cultural issues;

Whereas the forum will hold its tenth annual meeting on January 6 through 9, 2002, which will be the first meeting of the forum hosted by the United States;

Whereas approximately 270 parliamentarians from 27 countries in the Asia Pacific region will attend this meeting;

Whereas the Secretariat of the meeting will be the Center for Cultural and Technical Exchange Between East and West in Honolulu, Hawaii;

Whereas the East-West Center is an internationally recognized education and research organization established by the United States Congress in 1960 largely through the efforts of the Eisenhower administration and the Congress;

Whereas it is the mission of the East-West Center to strengthen understanding and relations between the United States and the countries of the Asia Pacific region and to help promote the establishment of a stable, peaceful and prosperous Asia Pacific community in which the United States is a natural, valued, and leading partner; and

Whereas it is the agenda of this meeting to advance democracy, peace, and prosperity in the Asia Pacific region: Now, therefore be it Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That the Congress—

(1) expresses support for the tenth annual meeting of the Asia Pacific Parliamentary Forum and for the ideals and concerns of this body;

(2) commends the East-West Center for hosting the meeting of the Asia Pacific Parliamentary Forum and the representatives of the 27 member countries; and

(3) calls upon all parties to support the endeavors of the Asia Pacific Parliamentary Forum and to work toward achieving the goals of the meeting.

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. BEREUTER).

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

Mr. BEREUTER. Madam Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the distinguished gentleman from New York (Mr. HOUGHTON), who is the sponsor of this legislation; and he has been the leading force in the House participation in the Asia Pacific Parliamentary Forum.

Mr. HOUGHTON. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding time to me.

Madam Speaker, I would like to talk very briefly on Senate Concurrent Resolution 58, which really supports the tenth annual meeting of the Asia Pacific Parliamentary Forum.

Madam Speaker, this is a forum, I think it is important to know, that was organized by parliamentarians in the Pacific Rim, including about 27 different nations. The reason we are part of it is because of California, Oregon, Washington, Alaska, and Hawaii. It was started by former Prime Minister Nakasone of Japan, and also Senator William Roth, who worked very, very closely together; and it is loosely modeled on the APEC forum.

The forum is hosted in a different country every year, and we have been to Australia and Chile and Japan and Canada and many other nations. This is the first year that this forum will be held in the United States, and we are hoping that this resolution will pass in order to authenticate that.

It starts on January 6 and it goes through January 9. We will meet in Honolulu. Senator AKAKA, who is the Senate co-chair, had introduced this resolution in the Senate earlier.

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It is really going to be hosted by the East-West Center which is headed by a group out in Honolulu. Dr. Charles Morrison has a great program, and he has worked very hard, and we are going to be discussing issues, I think, that are important for all of us: terrorism, the economy, the environmental issues, defense cooperation, cultural ties and things like that.

Also, we are delighted that the Speaker, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HASTERT), will speak at the forum's opening ceremony. We have had participation from many distinguished people, including the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. BEREUTER), and we hope to have others out there.

Essentially this bill, Madam Speaker, expresses support for this meeting,

our hosting of the meeting and commends the East-West Center for their hosting and also hopes that other people will join us in the process.

Mr. LANTOS. Madam Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I might consume.

I rise in strong support of S. Con. Res. 58. I want to thank the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. BEREUTER) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HYDE) for bringing this legislation to the floor, but I particularly want to express my appreciation to the gentleman from New York (Mr. HOUGHTON), my dear friend, our distinguished colleague, for having provided extraordinary leadership on this and on so many other issues that our Committee on International Relations deals with.

I also want to recognize the contribution of my good friend, Senator AKAKA of Hawaii, for his co-chairmanship of this important conference. The resolution before us today expresses the support of our Members for the 10th annual meeting of the Asia Pacific Parliamentary Forum to be held next January in Honolulu. It also commends the East-West Center, an outstanding academic institution, for hosting the meeting and for supporting the endeavors of the forum.

Madam Speaker, we are fortunate as a Nation to have our bright and talented foreign service personnel working overtime to promote our interests throughout the Asia Pacific region. Our diplomats have many opportunities to meet with their colleagues and to develop positive solutions to the challenges we face in the Pacific area.

Until the Asia Pacific Parliamentary Forum was founded a decade ago, there were few opportunities for the region's parliamentarians to meet as a group to discuss key foreign policy and economic matters. The forum has tackled such critical issues as terrorism, weapons of mass destruction, cross boundary environmental pollution, human rights and the need to combat corruption in the region.

The upcoming meeting will tackle these important issues, and hopefully, they will contribute to a partial resolution of many of these matters. I strongly urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. BEREUTER. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of S. Con. Res. 58.

The distinguished gentleman from New York (Mr. HOUGHTON) has explained the purpose of this legislation, and I want to commend him not only for the legislation but, as I mentioned earlier, for his leadership for the U.S. House of Representatives in our participation in the Asia Pacific Parliamentary Forum. He, along with the

former distinguished senior Senator from Delaware, William Roth, provided that initial leadership and continue today through the work of the gentleman from New York (Mr. HOUGHTON). And, the gentleman from American Samoa (Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA) has also been a very important participant, as have Senator AKAKA and others. It was my pleasure to participate in the meeting in Seoul.

This forum, which is really the creation in some ways of the former Prime Minister Nakasone of Japan, has provided an important opportunity for the parliamentarians of the Asia Pacific region to address a whole range of important National mutual interests and concerns. To some extent it also has served as a legislative arm for APEC, the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation organization, since the forum's inception almost a decade ago.

The fact is that its 10th annual meeting will take place at the East-West Center, as the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS) mentioned. The East-West Center is a distinguished research and academic institution that is our creation here in the Congress. A meeting of the forum on U.S. soil for its first time is an honor not only for the State of Hawaii, but for the United States.

The parliamentary cooperation and consultation with key Pacific and Asian countries, has become more critical today as a result of the tragic events of September 11th. I urge Madam Speaker, all Members to express their unqualified support for this resolution, and I encourage interested Members to participate in the upcoming meeting of the Asia Pacific Parliamentary tours at upcoming meeting of the Asia Pacific Parliamentary Tours at the East-West Center.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LANTOS. Madam Speaker, I am delighted to yield as much time as he might consume to the gentleman from American Samoa (Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA), my dear friend and distinguished colleague, the ranking Democratic member of the Subcommittee on East Asia and the Pacific.

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of Senate Concurrent Resolution 58, a measure which expresses Congress' support for the 10th annual meeting of the Asia Pacific Parliamentarian Forum which shall be hosted by the East-West Center in Hawaii next month.

Madam Speaker, I deeply commend the distinguished Senator from Hawaii, Senator DANIEL AKAKA, for introducing and moving this important legislation. I also wish to recognize the gentleman from New York (Mr. HOUGHTON), our distinguished colleague, who for the past 10 years, has provided leadership for the U.S. delegations participating in the meetings of the Asia Pacific Parliamentary Forum.

As a member of the past U.S. delegation to the APPF, I can attest that it has been a distinct pleasure for me in working closely with the gentleman from New York (Mr. HOUGHTON) to represent U.S. interests. I further commend the House Committee on International Relations chairman, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HYDE) and the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS), our ranking Democratic member, for their assistance and support in bringing this legislation in a timely fashion.

I also want to especially commend the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. BEREUTER), not only as the manager of this legislation, my good friend, Mr. Bereuter, former chairman of the Subcommittee on East Asia and the Pacific, a subcommittee of the Committee on International Relations, who I believe, and my personal opinion, has been one of the primary moving forces for the past 10 years in his capacity as chairman of the Subcommittee on East Asia and the Pacific, and I certainly want to commend him for his outstanding leadership and service. In fact, he has been one of the primary forces in seeing that our country hosts the APPF conference now will be hosted next month in Hawaii.

I sincerely hope that our colleagues will not be intimidated by the press which always seems to be the case whenever there are conferences and meetings to be held in Hawaii. The press always takes a negative way of thinking that all we are doing is getting suntan and enjoying the beach there in a warm climate. I would like to invite all of the members of press to see how much of an opportunity we get to enjoy the sun and warm weather in Hawaii besides having these important meetings with some 270 parliamentarians from some 27 Asia-Pacific countries.

Madam Speaker, since the founding of the Asia Pacific Parliamentary Forum in 1993, its membership from the original 15 countries has now increased to some 27 members countries which includes the United States. This is a strong testament to the relevance and growing importance of the APPF as an institution where this January, over some 270 national parliamentarians from these Asia-Pacific governments shall meet to review and discuss pressing issues affecting the Asia-Pacific region as well as our own national interests.

In its deliberations, the Asia Pacific Parliamentary Forum has traditionally focussed in several areas, such as the promotion of peace, stability and security of the region through multilateral dialogue as embodied in the ASEAN Regional Forum; liberalizing trade and investment to spur increased growth and development in the Asia-Pacific economies; protecting the regions environment and resources of

clean water and air and land against degradation; and fostering respect for human rights, enforcement for the rule of law, and the expansion of universal education throughout all Asia-Pacific nations.

Madam Speaker, as noted in the legislation, this year will mark the first time that the United States shall host the Asia-Pacific Parliamentary Forum. On this auspicious occasion, I find it particularly appropriate and fitting that the internationally respected East-West Center shall be the Secretariat and the host for the APPF meeting.

As many of our colleagues know, the East-West Center was established by the Congress in 1960 to further the foreign policy interests of the United States and by promoting constructive relations and deeper understanding between the peoples and the leaders of the United States and our Asia-Pacific neighbors.

Madam Speaker, the East-West Center has done an outstanding job in this mission and today, over 47,000 government officials, scholars, businessmen, journalists and other professionals from throughout the Asia-Pacific and the United States are alumni of the East-West Centers programs of collaborative study and research. In fact, a number of the Center's graduates are now national leaders and parliamentarians, many of whom shall participate in the Asia-Pacific parliamentary forum.

I submit it is in our vital national interest that the United States continue to play a leading role in the fastest growing sector of the world, the Asia-Pacific region, where the U.S. conducts nearly \$500 billion in two-way trade and ensures regional peace and stability with over 100,000 deployed military personnel.

We can further that goal, Madam Speaker, by strong and active participation of the United States Congress in the upcoming meetings or conferences of the Asia-Pacific Parliamentary Forum.

Madam Speaker, in that regard, I urge the adoption of our colleagues of this important legislation before us.

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

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. BIGGERT). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. BEREUTER) that the House suspend the rules and concur in the Senate concurrent resolution, S. Con. Res. 58.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the Senate concurrent resolution was concurred in.