

May 14, 2001

FOREIGN RELATIONS AUTHORIZATION ACT, FISCAL YEARS 2002 AND 2003

SPEECH OF

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 10, 2001

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1646) to authorize appropriations for the Department of State for fiscal years 2002 and 2003, and for other purposes:

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Chairman, I rise today to urge the presidential appointment of a Special Envoy for Sudan to facilitate bringing an end to the atrocities associated with the eighteen-year civil war. It is time for the United States to take a strong stand against the situation in the Sudan. Slavery, aerial bombardment of civilians, and other numerous human rights abuses victimize the people of Sudan. I believe that the President's appointment of a high-profile individual with an extensive diplomatic background will send a serious message to the government of Khartoum that slavery and the violence must end.

Sudan has been at war intermittently since its independence in 1956. An estimated 2.2 million people have died as a result of war-related causes since the current conflict erupted in 1983. More than 4 million people, mostly southern Sudanese, have been displaced, largely due to the conflict.

I commend President Bush on his appointment of Andrew Narsios, as special humanitarian coordinator for Sudan to facilitate U.S. assistance. This appointment demonstrates that the United States is taking a leadership role in resolving the situation in the Sudan, however we as a nation we must continue our efforts to put an end to the atrocities in the Sudan.

I also applaud Secretary of State Powell for recognizing the tragedy that is underway in Sudan and for ordering a review of Administration policy. To begin with, the U.S. should use every means at its disposal to bring the military hostilities to an immediate end.

At the same time, we should apply every bit of moral persuasion and condemn in the loudest possible voice the unspeakable violations of human rights being perpetrated against the weakest members of that society.

In the Sudan the world is faced with a human rights nightmare of the first order. We have the opportunity, indeed the responsibility, to use our international leadership to help end the civil war and the heartbreaking enslavement of women and children which has intensified as a result of the hostilities.

As a nation with first-hand knowledge of the savagery of slavery, of the misery to its victims, and the suffering of future generations, we must recoil in horror at the practice of slavery in Sudan and work with the international community to end the war which is the root cause.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

FOREIGN RELATIONS AUTHORIZATION ACT, FISCAL YEARS 2002 AND 2003

SPEECH OF

HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 10, 2001

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1646) to authorize appropriations for the Department of State for fiscal years 2002 and 2003, and for other purposes:

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Chairman, I would like to begin by thanking Chairman HYDE and our distinguished ranking member, Mr. LANTOS, for crafting a fair and bipartisan bill. I would also like to thank staff on both sides of the aisle for their efforts to include valuable language that is of great importance to me and members of my constituency. I would like to bring your attention to a series of important provisions in the Foreign Relations Authorization Act for 2002–2003. These provisions form a core of initiatives that target what I believe that bridges the gap between the work we do on the international relations committee and the needs and desires of the people in my district.

As the representative of the most diverse district in the United States, these provisions reflect the unique composition of my district. The importance of these provisions is not limited to the residents of my district, they are important to the foreign policy goals of all Americans. They address issues central to our foreign policy toward Ecuador, Israel, human rights abuses in Indonesia, and relations between Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland. Two of these amendments request that the Secretary of State provide a report which outlines a comprehensive strategy to address the spill over effect of Plan Colombia on Ecuador and another which describes the steps that the State Department has taken and will take to facilitate better relations between Israel and other members of the international community.

I have also offered a resolution which calls for the prompt release of the autopsy report by the Indonesian Government, and the commencement of the investigation into the death of an Acehese human rights lawyer who was a permanent resident of my Congressional District in Queens, New York, Jafar Siddiq Hamzah. In addition, I successfully offered an amendment urging David Trimble to allow the Sinn Fein Ministers to take their rightful place on the North South Ministerial Council. Sinn Fein is a legitimate party to the Council and should be able to participate. I have therefore introduced sense of the Congress language calling on David Trimble to adhere to the terms of the Good Friday Agreement, and lift the ban on the Sinn Fein minister participate in the Council.

Finally, this bill addressed the ongoing health and environmental crisis related to the extensive arsenic contamination of drinking water in Bangladesh by requiring the Secretary of State report on activities to deliver arsenic-free drinking water and to treat those already affected with arsenic poisoning.

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I wholeheartedly support this bill in its current form, and I commend Congresswoman LEE for her amendment repealing the global gag rule. I urge my colleagues to oppose any efforts to detract from the quality of the provisions included in this bill.

AUTHORIZING USE OF CAPITOL GROUNDS FOR 20TH ANNUAL NATIONAL PEACE OFFICERS' MEMORIAL SERVICE

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 8, 2001

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my strong support for H. Con. Res. 74, which appropriately honors the service of officers that were killed in the line of duty. As a result of the resolution, the National Fraternal Order of Police and its auxiliary shall be permitted to sponsor a public event, the 20th annual National Police Officers' Memorial Service, on the Capitol Grounds on May 15, 2001, or on such other date that may be convenient.

So many of our law enforcement officers work so hard every year. It is appropriate that we honor those that were killed in the line of duty in the year 2000. This is an appropriate initiative because there are many officers that act heroically everyday but never receive their due credit. They must be recognized for their invaluable service because they accomplish so much for communities throughout the nation.

Let me just devote some attention to those who were killed in the line of duty in the past from the city of Houston. Officers like Troy Alan Blando assigned to the auto theft division, who was killed on May 19, 1999 when he was attempting to arrest a suspect driving a stolen Lexus. The suspect fired a 40 caliber Glock, striking Officer Blando once in the chest. Officer Blando made it back to his vehicle and radioed for back-up, giving other units his location and a description of the suspect. Officers arrived on the scene within seconds and arrested the fleeing suspect. Officer Blando died in route to Ben Taub Hospital. Officer Blando was a 19 year veteran of the Houston Police Department.

Officer K.D. Kinkaid was killed on May 23, 1998 while he was off duty and driving in his truck with his wife. As they drove past an oncoming vehicle, an object struck the windshield of the truck. Officer Kinkaid turned around and followed the other vehicle. The other vehicle stopped and Officer Kinkaid exited his truck and approached the driver's side. Officer Kinkaid identified himself as a police officer and proceeded to question the suspects in the vehicle. One of the suspects shot Officer Kinkaid and they fled the scene in the vehicle. Officer Kinkaid died from the gunshot wound a few days later.

Officer C.H. Trinh died on April 6, 1997 while working at his parents' convenience store when a man walked in and attempted to rob him. Officer Trinh was shot in the head and died at the scene. The suspect who was