

cratic, multiparty elections for 84 national legislative assembly seats and 262 mayoral and municipal council posts;

Whereas the elections were deemed by international and domestic observers to be free and fair and a legitimate non-violent expression of the will of the people of the Republic of El Salvador;

Whereas the United States has consistently supported the efforts of the people of El Salvador to consolidate their democracy and to implement the provisions of the 1992 peace accords;

Whereas these elections demonstrate the strength and diversity of El Salvador's democratic expression and promotes confidence that all political parties can work cooperatively in the new assembly and at the municipal level; and

Whereas these open, fair, and democratic elections of the new assembly and at the municipal level should be broadly commended: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That the Congress—*

(1) congratulates the Government and the people of the Republic of El Salvador for the successful completion of democratic, multiparty elections held on March 16, 1997, for 84 national legislative assembly seats and 262 mayoral and municipal council posts;

(2) congratulates El Salvadoran President Armando Calderon Sol for his personal commitment to democracy, which has helped in the building of national unity in the Republic of El Salvador;

(3) commends all Salvadorans for their efforts to work together to take risks for democracy and to willfully pursue national reconciliation in order to cement a lasting peace and democratic traditions in El Salvador;

(4) supports Salvadoran attempts to continue their cooperation in order to ensure democracy, national reconciliation, and economic prosperity; and

(5) reaffirms that the United States is unequivocally committed to encouraging democracy and peaceful development throughout Central America.

The SPEAKER pro tempore, Mr. SNOWBARGER, recognized Mr. GILMAN and Mr. LUTHER, each for 20 minutes.

After debate,

The question being put, *viva voce*,

Will the House suspend the rules and agree to said concurrent resolution?

The SPEAKER pro tempore, Mr. SNOWBARGER, announced that two-thirds of the Members present had voted in the affirmative.

Mr. LUTHER objected to the vote on the ground that a quorum was not present and not voting.

The SPEAKER pro tempore, Mr. SNOWBARGER, pursuant to clause 5, rule I, announced that further proceedings on the motion were postponed.

The point of no quorum was considered as withdrawn.

84.14 CONGO ELECTIONS AND GOVERNMENT

Mr. GILMAN moved to suspend the rules and agree to the following resolution (H. Res. 175); as amended:

Whereas President Pascal Lissouba defeated former President Denis Sassou-Nguesso in a 1992 election that was determined to be free and fair;

Whereas losing candidates raised questions concerning the results of the 1993 legislative election and used those concerns to cast

doubt on the entire democratic process in the Republic of Congo and as the rationale for creating private militias;

Whereas thousands of citizens of the Republic of Congo have been killed in intermittent fighting between Government soldiers and private militiamen since 1993;

Whereas there are concerns about the unfinished census and resulting electoral list to be used in the scheduled July 27 election;

Whereas the recent fighting resulted from the Government's attempt to disarm former President Sassou-Nguesso's "Cobra" militia in advance of the scheduled July 27 election;

Whereas the fighting and uneasy peace has caused serious loss of life and diminished ability to care for those who are without access to adequate medical care or food and water;

Whereas the fighting between Government troops and militiamen have forced the evacuation from the country of foreign nationals and endangered refugees from both Rwanda and the former Zaire; and

Whereas African governments have attempted to bring about a negotiated settlement to the current crisis: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved, That the House of Representatives—*

(1) condemns the current fighting and urges the warring parties to reach a lasting ceasefire that will allow for humanitarian needs to be addressed as soon as possible;

(2) calls on all private militia to disarm and disband immediately to end the continuing threat to peace and stability in the Republic of Congo;

(3) commends African leaders from Gabon, Equatorial Guinea, Cameroon, Benin, Central African Republic, Senegal, and Chad for their efforts to negotiate a peaceful settlement and encourages their continuing efforts to find a sustainable political settlement in this matter;

(4) supports the deployment of an African peacekeeping force to the Republic of Congo if deemed necessary;

(5) urges the Government of the Republic of Congo, in cooperation with all legal political parties, to resolve in a transparent manner questions concerning the scheduled elections and to prepare for open and transparent elections at the earliest feasible time; and

(6) encourages the United States government to provide technical assistance on election related matters if requested by the Government of the Republic of Congo.

The SPEAKER pro tempore, Mr. SNOWBARGER, recognized Mr. GILMAN and Mr. LUTHER, each for 20 minutes.

After debate,

The question being put, *viva voce*,

Will the House suspend the rules and agree to said resolution, as amended?

The SPEAKER pro tempore, Mr. SNOWBARGER, announced that two-thirds of the Members present had voted in the affirmative.

Mr. LUTHER objected to the vote on the ground that a quorum was not present and not voting.

The SPEAKER pro tempore, Mr. SNOWBARGER, pursuant to clause 5, rule I, announced that further proceedings on the motion were postponed.

The point of no quorum was considered as withdrawn.

84.15 SIERRA LEONE MILITARY COUP D'ETAT

Mr. GILMAN moved to suspend the rules and agree to the following concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 99):

Whereas for the first time in almost 30 years, the Republic of Sierra Leone held their first truly democratic multiparty elections to elect a president and parliament and put an end to military rule;

Whereas the elections held on February 26, 1996, and the subsequent runoff election held on March 15, 1996, were deemed by international and domestic observers to be free and fair and legitimate expressions of the will of the people of the Republic of Sierra Leone;

Whereas on May 25, 1997, a military coup d'etat against the democratically elected Government of the Republic of Sierra Leone, including President Ahmed Tejan Kabbah, took place;

Whereas the coup d'etat, led by Major Johnny Paul Koroma and the Armed Forces Ruling Council (AFRC) on May 25, 1997, signifies a giant step backward for freedom and democracy in the Republic of Sierra Leone;

Whereas there has been fighting, killing, looting and a disruption of relief supplies in the Republic of Sierra Leone since the coup d'etat; and

Whereas the best solution to this crisis would be a peaceful solution: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That the Congress—*

(1) condemns the leaders and members of the rebellious Armed Forces Ruling Council (AFRC) for ousting the democratically elected Government of the Republic of Sierra Leone, including President Ahmed Tejan Kabbah;

(2) urges an immediate end to all violence in the Republic of Sierra Leone;

(3) encourages the members of the AFRC to negotiate a hand-over of power back to the democratically elected Government of the Republic of Sierra Leone in order to restore order and democracy in the country;

(4) encourages all citizens of the Republic of Sierra Leone to work together to bring about a peaceful solution to the current conflict;

(5) reaffirms the United States support of the democratically elected Government of the Republic of Sierra Leone led by President Ahmed Tejan Kabbah;

(6) urges the members of the AFRC and all armed elements involved in the conflict to ensure the protection and safety of international aid agencies and personnel serving in the country, and allow them unobstructed access to affected areas to deliver emergency humanitarian relief to people in need; and

(7) commends the Organization of African Unity for calling on all African countries, and the international community at large, to refrain from recognizing the new regime or lending support in any form whatsoever to the perpetrators of the coup d'etat, the AFRC.

The SPEAKER pro tempore, Mr. SNOWBARGER, recognized Mr. GILMAN and Mr. LUTHER for 20 minutes.

After debate,

The question being put, *viva voce*,

Will the House suspend the rules and agree to said concurrent resolution?

The SPEAKER pro tempore, Mr. SNOWBARGER, announced that two-thirds of the Members present had voted in the affirmative.

Mr. LUTHER objected to the vote on the ground that a quorum was not present and not voting.

The SPEAKER pro tempore, Mr. SNOWBARGER, pursuant to clause 5, rule I, announced that further proceedings on the motion were postponed.

The point of no quorum was considered as withdrawn.