

mala from its list of countries under observation for abuses;

Whereas on Sunday, April 26, 1998, Guatemalan Roman Catholic Bishop Juan Jose Gerardi was brutally and senselessly murdered just 48 hours after presenting a landmark report detailing significant human rights atrocities associated with the 36-year civil war in Guatemala;

Whereas Bishop Gerardi, while considered a common man, dedicated to his ministry, was also considered one of Guatemala's most progressive clergymen, an outspoken human rights advocate, and was the author of the recent report "Guatemala: Never Again", the first comprehensive examination of human rights violations committed during the decades of political violence which engulfed that nation;

Whereas the slaying of Bishop Gerardi casts a pall over the effectiveness of the peace accords and raises questions regarding the national commitment to human rights and freedom of expression; and

Whereas the expeditious and successful resolution of the tragic death of Bishop Gerardi is critical for the continuation of support for the peace accords; Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That it is the sense of the House of Representatives that—

(1) the Government of Guatemala, including the national police and the military, should commit themselves to take all steps necessary to resolve the heinous murder of Guatemalan Roman Catholic Bishop Juan Jose Gerardi;

(2) in order to deter continued human rights abuses, resolve other human rights cases, and improve the citizens' sense of personal security, the Government of Guatemala should continue its efforts to establish effective civilian law enforcement and judicial institutions;

(3) the Government and people of Guatemala should make a renewed commitment to successfully implement the peace accords, especially those accords concerning human rights; and

(4) the United States Government should provide all necessary support to the investigation of the murder of Bishop Gerardi and to continue to support the full implementation of the peace accords.

The SPEAKER pro tempore, Mr. GILLMOR, recognized Mr. GILMAN and Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA, each for 20 minutes.

After debate,

The question being put, *viva voce*,

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

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

So, two-thirds of the Members present having voted in favor thereof, the rules were suspended and said resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider the vote whereby the rules were suspended and said resolution was agreed to was, by unanimous consent, laid on the table.

#### §85.17 NEW TRIBES MISSION HOSTAGE CRISIS

Mr. GILMAN, pursuant to the foregoing order of the House, moved to suspend the rules and agree to the following concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 277):

Whereas Mark Rich, David Mankins, and Rick Tenenoff of the Sanford, Florida, based New Tribes Mission were abducted on January 31, 1993, from the Kuna Indian village of Pucuro in the Darien Province of Panama;

Whereas the wives and children of these American citizens, Tania Rich (daughters—Tamra and Jessica), Nancy Mankins (son—Chad, daughter—Sarah), and Patti Tenenoff (son—Richard Lee III, daughters—Dora and Connie), have lived the past 5 years without knowledge of the safety of these 3 men;

Whereas Mark Rich, David Mankins, and Rick Tenenoff presently are believed to be the longest held United States hostages;

Whereas this kidnapping represents a gross violation of the 3 missionaries' human rights and is not an isolated incident in Colombia where, since 1980, 83 innocent Americans have been held hostage by the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) and the National Liberation Army (ELN);

Whereas the FARC and the ELN guerrilla groups in Colombia have both been designated terrorist organizations by the Department of State;

Whereas Colombia is engaged in a high-level conflict with these guerrilla insurgency groups, a number of whom are protectorates of the deadly drug trade;

Whereas the FARC has recently threatened officials of the United States Government and kidnapped additional United States citizens in Colombia;

Whereas the region of Colombia where the 3 American missionaries are believed to be held is controlled not by the Colombian Government, but rather by the FARC;

Whereas on December 9, 1997, the President of Colombia stated on an internationally televised episode of Larry King Live that the FARC "in some ways have admitted indirectly that they have the missionaries";

Whereas Human Rights Watch has stated that "The FARC has an obligation to unconditionally free the 3 missionaries, with all necessary guarantees" and Amnesty International has declared their "request that the FARC respect international humanitarian norms, guarantee the life and physical safety of the missionaries and unconditionally free them and all other hostages";

Whereas congressional inquiries regarding the 3 missionaries have been made to United States Government entities, including, the White House, the Department of State, the Department of Defense, the Department of Justice, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation;

Whereas congressional inquiries regarding the 3 missionaries have been made to Amnesty International, Pax Christi, His Holiness the Pope John Paul II, and the International Committee of the Red Cross, which has provided assurances that their Colombian delegation "is still actively working in favor of the missing members of the New Tribes Mission";

Whereas 58 Members of Congress and Senators signed letters to 8 different heads of state, including Costa Rica, Mexico, Panama, Spain, Venezuela, Guatemala, Colombia, and Portugal, in attendance at the Iberian-American Conference in Venezuela in November of 1997, requesting any and all assistance in order to bring about a favorable outcome to this unfortunate event;

Whereas no official confirmation of life or death has been made by any United States Government entity, nongovernmental organization, foreign government, or religious institution;

Whereas the distinction between a "terrorist activity" and a "criminal activity" perpetrated on an American citizen traveling abroad should not be a limiting factor in terms of United States governmental investigation; and

Whereas every consideration to safety and prudence regarding action by the United States Government, foreign governments, nongovernmental organizations, international institutions, and other groups in

this matter should be of the highest priority: Now, therefore, be it

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

(1) the President of the United States and his emissaries should raise the kidnapping of Mark Rich, David Mankins, and Rick Tenenoff of the New Tribes Mission and other American victims in Colombia to all relevant foreign governments, nongovernmental organizations, and religious institutions at every opportunity until a favorable outcome is achieved;

(2) the international community should encourage any and all groups believed to have information on this case to come forward to help the families of the kidnapped missionaries;

(3) all appropriate information obtained by the United States Government, foreign governments, international institutions, nongovernmental organizations, and religious institutions should be turned over in a timely basis to the New Tribes Mission crisis response team;

(4) a copy of this resolution shall be transmitted to the President, the Secretary of State, the National Security Advisor, the Secretary of Defense, the Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Director of Central Intelligence, the President of the Republic of Costa Rica, the President of the United Mexican States, the President of the Republic of Panama, the King of Spain, the President of the Republic of Venezuela, the President of the Republic of Guatemala, the President of the Republic of Colombia, the President of the Republic of Portugal, and His Holiness Pope John Paul II; and

(5) a copy of this resolution shall be transmitted to the New Tribes Mission, Amnesty International, Pax Christi, and the International Committee of the Red Cross.

The SPEAKER pro tempore, Mr. GILLMOR, recognized Mr. GILMAN and Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA, 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. GILLMOR, announced that two-thirds of the Members present had voted in the affirmative.

So, two-thirds of the Members present having voted in favor thereof, the rules were suspended and said concurrent resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider the vote whereby the rules were suspended and said concurrent resolution was agreed to was, by unanimous consent, laid on the table.

*Ordered*, That the Clerk request the concurrence of the Senate in said concurrent resolution.

#### §85.18 ERITREA AND ETHIOPIA CONFLICT

Mr. GILMAN pursuant to the foregoing order of the House, moved to suspend the rules and agree to the following concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 292); as amended:

Whereas the 1991 ouster of the Mengistu dictatorship led to relative peace and stability in Eritrea and Ethiopia;

Whereas in 1993 Eritrea became independent after an internationally supervised referendum and the Government of Ethiopia accepted the result of the referendum;

Whereas the Governments of Eritrea and Ethiopia have worked closely on a wide range of issues over the past several years;