

When on motion of Mr. SENSENBRENNER, it was,

Resolved, That the House disagree to the amendment of the Senate and asked for a conference with the Senate on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses thereon.

Thereupon, the SPEAKER pro tempore, Mr. BALLENGER, by unanimous consent, appointed Messrs. HYDE, SENSENBRENNER, COBLE, CONYERS, and BERMAN, as managers on the part of the House at said conference.

Ordered, That the Clerk notify the Senate thereof.

¶133.22 LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC

Mr. GILMAN moved to suspend the rules and agree to the following resolution (H. Res. 169); as amended:

Whereas since the 1975 overthrow of the existing Royal Lao Government, Laos has been under the sole control of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party;

Whereas the present Lao constitution provides for a wide range of freedoms for the Lao people, including freedom of speech, freedom of assembly, and freedom of religion, and Laos is a signatory to international conventions on genocide, racial discrimination, discrimination against women, war crimes, and rights of the child;

Whereas since July 1997, Laos has been a member of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), an organization which has set forth a vision for the year 2020 of a membership consisting of "open societies . . . governed with the consent and greater participation of the people" and "focus(ed) on the welfare and dignity of the human person and the good of the community";

Whereas, despite the Lao constitution and the membership by Laos in ASEAN, the Department of State's Laos Country Report on Human Rights Practices for 1998 states that the Lao Government's human rights record deteriorated and that the Lao Government restricts freedom of speech, assembly, association, and religion;

Whereas Amnesty International reports that serious problems persist in the Lao Government's performance in the area of human rights, including the continued detention of prisoners of conscience in extremely harsh conditions, and that in one case a prisoner of conscience held without trial since 1996 was chained and locked in wooden stocks for a period of 20 days;

Whereas Thongsouk Saysangkhi, a political prisoner sentenced to 14 years imprisonment in November 1992 after a grossly unfair trial, died in February 1998 due to complications of diabetes after having been detained in harsh conditions with no medical facilities;

Whereas there are at least 5 identified, long-term political prisoners inside the Lao Government's prison system and the possibility of others whose names are not known;

Whereas there continue to be credible reports that some members of the Lao Government's security forces commit human rights abuses, including arbitrary detention and intimidation;

Whereas two United States citizens, Mr. Houa Ly, a resident of Appleton, Wisconsin, and Mr. Michael Vang, a resident of Fresno, California, were traveling along the border between Laos and Thailand on April 19, 1999;

Whereas the families of Messrs. Ly and Vang have been able to learn very little from the United States Government regarding the whereabouts or current circumstances of their loved ones; and

Whereas the Congress will not tolerate any unjustified arrest, abduction, imprisonment, disappearance, or other act of aggression against United States citizens by a foreign government: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That—
(1) it is the sense of the House of Representatives that the present Government of Laos should—

(A) respect internationally recognized norms of human rights and the democratic freedoms of the people of Laos and honor in full its commitments to those norms and freedoms as embodied in its constitution and its participation in international organizations and agreements;

(B) issue a public statement specifically reaffirming its commitment to protecting religious freedom and other basic human rights;

(C) institute fully a democratic electoral system, with openly contested, free, and fair elections by secret ballot, beginning no later than the next National Assembly elections, currently scheduled to be held in 2002; and

(D) allow unrestricted access by international human rights monitors, including the International Committee of the Red Cross and Amnesty International, to all prisons and to all regions of the country to investigate alleged abuses of human rights, including those against the Hmong minority; and

(2) the House of Representatives—
(A) decries the disappearance of Houa Ly and Michael Vang, recognizing it as an incident worthy of congressional attention;

(B) urges the Lao Government to return Messrs. Ly and Vang, or their remains, to United States authorities and their families in America at once, if it is determined that the Lao Government is responsible for the disappearance of Messrs. Ly and Vang;

(C) warns the Lao Government of the serious consequences, including sanctions, of any unjustified arrest, abduction, imprisonment, disappearance, or other act of aggression against United States citizens; and

(D) urges the Department of State and other appropriate United States agencies to share the maximum amount of information regarding the disappearance of Messrs. Ly and Vang.

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

Mr. LANTOS demanded that the vote be taken by the yeas and nays, which demand was supported by one-fifth of the Members present, so the yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore, Mr. BALLENGER, pursuant to clause 8, rule XX, announced that further proceedings on the motion were postponed.

¶133.23 SLOVAK REPUBLIC

Mr. GILMAN moved to suspend the rules and agree to the following concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 165):

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring),

SECTION 1. FINDINGS.

The Congress finds the following:

(1) Elections held in May 1999 brought the first ever popularly elected President of the Slovak Republic to office and demonstrated

the commitment of the Slovak people to full economic reforms, democratic government, and western ideals.

(2) The parliamentary elections held in September 1998 brought to office a coalition government in the Slovak Republic which has shown its commitment to economic reforms through economic austerity measures approved in May 1999, increased foreign investments through privatization of markets that were formerly state controlled, and discipline in government and currency policies.

(3) The Government of the Slovak Republic formed after the elections of September 1998 has renewed efforts to ensure the proper treatment of its citizens, regardless of ethnic background, including those of ethnic Hungarian background through the placement of three ethnic Hungarians in the cabinet of the Government (including the Deputy Premier for Human and Minority Rights), and through the passage of the Minority Language Use Act on July 10, 1999, in accordance with European Union guidelines, which will take effect on September 1, 1999, to protect the rights of all citizens.

(4) The Government of the Slovak Republic has made Slovakia's integration into pan-European and trans-Atlantic institutions, including the European Union and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), the highest foreign policy priority, and through active participation with the Visegrad Four, the Slovak Republic has undertaken efforts to promote stability in the region.

(5) The Government of the Slovak Republic has stated its continuing support for the mission of NATO in supporting democratization and stability across Europe, and the Government demonstrated its commitment to these principles by fully cooperating with NATO during the recent conflict in Kosovo, allowing NATO full access to Slovak airspace, highways, and railways.

(6) The Slovak Republic subsequently provided military engineers to assist the peacekeeping force of NATO in Kosovo (KFOR), approved a \$2,000,000 humanitarian aid package for Kosovo, and housed over 100 refugees from the conflict.

(7) The Government of the Slovak Republic has continually worked to retain civilian control of its military through participation with NATO forces and has been an active participant in the Partnership-for-Peace program.

(8) The Slovak Republic has provided military personnel for participation in and support of multinational peacekeeping operations such as the United Nations operations in Rwanda and Liberia.

SEC. 2. POLICY TOWARD THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC.

It is the policy of the United States—

(1) to promote the development in the Slovak Republic of a market-based economy and a democratic government that respects the rights of all of its citizens, regardless of ethnic background; and

(2) to support the eventual integration of the Slovak Republic into pan-European and trans-Atlantic economic and security institutions.

SEC. 3. SENSE OF THE CONGRESS.

It is the sense of the Congress that—

(1) the Government of the Slovak Republic formed after the elections of September 1998 is to be commended—

(A) for its efforts to address the issue of proper treatment of its citizens, regardless of ethnic background, particularly those of ethnic Hungarian background;

(B) for its efforts to improve the economic situation in the Slovak Republic and for its efforts to accelerate the privatization of state-owned enterprises in a fair and transparent process; and

(C) for its support for the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) in the recent conflict in Kosovo;

(2) the Government of the Slovak Republic should continue to implement programs that may qualify the Slovak Republic for entrance into the European Union and NATO and is to be commended for its continued support of the NATO effort to ensure stability and democratization across Europe; and

(3) the United States should support efforts for the eventual integration of the Slovak Republic into pan-European and trans-Atlantic institutions and should view such integration as an important factor in consolidating democratic government and economic stability in the Slovak Republic.

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

Mr. LANTOS demanded that the vote be taken by the yeas and nays, which demand was supported by one-fifth of the Members present, so the yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore, Mr. SHIMKUS, pursuant to clause 8, rule XX, announced that further proceedings on the motion were postponed.

¶133.24 NORTH CAUCASUS REGION OF RUSSIAN FEDERATION

Mr. GILMAN moved to suspend the rules and agree to the following concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 206); as amended:

Whereas during the Russo-Chechen War of 1994-1996, Russian Federation military forces used massive force against civilians in Chechnya, causing immense human casualties, gross human rights violations, large-scale displacement of individuals, and destruction of property;

Whereas Chechnya has been the site of internal lawlessness and numerous kidnappings, including that of United States citizen Fred Cuny, whose exact fate is still unknown;

Whereas in recent months, extremist forces based in Chechnya have mounted armed incursions into the adjacent Russian Federation Republic of Dagestan and attempted to establish a political entity therein against the wishes of the majority of the population of Dagestan;

Whereas almost 300 persons have died as a result of unsolved terrorist bombings in Russia that coincided with the armed incursions into Dagestan and Russian authorities have attributed the terrorist bombings to Chechen insurgents;

Whereas the United States recognizes the territorial integrity of the Russian Federation;

Whereas Russian Federation armed forces have conducted armed attacks against Chechnya and positioned forces with the stated intention of sealing Chechnya's borders and creating a security zone in the region;

Whereas such attacks and indiscriminate and disproportionate use of force have harmed innocent civilians and given rise to over 100,000 internally displaced persons, most of whom have escaped into neighboring regions of Russia;

Whereas such indiscriminate attacks are a violation of paragraph 19 of the Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security,

approved at the 1994 Summit of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, held in Budapest, Hungary, which states that in the event of armed conflict, participating States "will seek to create conditions favorable to the political solution of the conflict. They will cooperate in support of humanitarian assistance to alleviate suffering among the civilian population, including facilitating the movement of personnel and resources to such tasks", and paragraph 36, which states, "If recourse to force cannot be avoided in performing internal security missions, each participating State will ensure that its use must be commensurate with the needs for enforcement. The armed forces will take due care to avoid injury to civilians or their property.";

Whereas the conflict in the North Caucasus may threaten democratic development, the rule of law, and respect for human rights throughout Russia;

Whereas authorities in Moscow and other cities of the Russian Federation have used terrorist bombings as a pretext to intensify a campaign against individuals from the North Caucasus region, including the detention and forcible expulsion of such individuals from these cities; and

Whereas in response to Russian attacks the elected Government of Chechnya has declared its solidarity with renegade Chechen forces in opposing Russian attacks: Now, therefore, be it

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

(1) urges the Government of the Russian Federation and all parties to cease the indiscriminate use of force against the civilian population in Chechnya, in accordance with commitments of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe;

(2) urges all parties, including the Government of the Russian Federation, to enter into negotiations on the North Caucasus conflict with legitimate political representatives of the region, including President Maskhadov and his Government, and to avail itself of the conflict prevention and crisis management capabilities of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, which helped broker an end to the 1994-1996 War;

(3) urges the Chechen authorities to use every appropriate means to deny extremist forces located in its territory a base of operations for the mounting of armed incursions that threaten peace and stability in the North Caucasus region;

(4) urges the Chechen authorities to create a rule of law environment with legal norms based upon internationally accepted standards;

(5) cautions that forcible resettlement of internally displaced persons would evoke outrage from the international community;

(6) urges that the Government of the Russian Federation seek and accept international humanitarian assistance to alleviate the suffering of the internally displaced persons from Chechnya, so as to reduce the risk of civilian casualties; and

(7) calls on the Government of the United States to express to all parties the necessity of resolving the conflict peacefully, with full respect to the human rights of all the citizens of the Russian Federation, and to support the provision of appropriate international humanitarian assistance.

The SPEAKER pro tempore, Mr. SHIMKUS, recognized Mr. GILMAN and Mr. LANTOS, each for 20 minutes.

After debate,

The question being put, viva voce,

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

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

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey demanded that the vote be taken by the yeas and nays, which demand was supported by one-fifth of the Members present, so the yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore, Mr. SHIMKUS, pursuant to clause 8, rule XX, announced that further proceedings on the motion were postponed.

¶133.25 FUNDING FOR DIABETES

Mr. BILIRAKIS moved to suspend the rules and agree to the following resolution (H. Res. 325):

Whereas diabetes is a devastating, lifelong condition that affects people of every age, race, income level, and nationality;

Whereas diabetes is a serious disease that has a devastating impact, in both human and economic terms, on Americans of all ages;

Whereas an estimated 16 million Americans suffer from diabetes, and millions more are at greater risk for diabetes;

Whereas the number of Americans with diabetes has increased nearly 700 percent in the last 40 years, leading the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to call it the "epidemic of our time";

Whereas approximately 800,000 people will be diagnosed with diabetes in 1999, and diabetes will contribute to an estimated 198,000 deaths this year, making diabetes the sixth leading cause of death;

Whereas diabetes costs our Nation an estimated \$105 billion each year;

Whereas more than 1 out of every 10 health care dollars in the United States and about 1 out of every 4 Medicare dollars is spent on the care of people with diabetes;

Whereas more than \$40 billion a year in tax dollars are spent treating people with diabetes through Medicare, Medicaid, veterans care, Federal employee health benefits, and other Federal health programs;

Whereas diabetes frequently goes undiagnosed and an estimated 5.4 million Americans have the disease but do not know it;

Whereas diabetes is the leading cause of kidney failure, blindness in adults, and amputations;

Whereas diabetes is a major risk factor for heart disease, stroke, and birth defects and shortens average life expectancy by up to 15 years;

Whereas 800,000 Americans have type one diabetes, formerly known as juvenile diabetes, and 15.2 million have type two diabetes, formerly known as adult onset diabetes;

Whereas 18.4 percent of Americans age 65 years or older have diabetes and 8.2 percent of Americans age 20 years or older have diabetes;

Whereas Hispanic, African, Asian, and Native Americans suffer from diabetes at rates much higher than the general population, including children as young as eight years old who are now being diagnosed with type two diabetes;

Whereas there is currently no method to prevent or cure diabetes and available treatments have only limited success in controlling its devastating consequences;

Whereas reducing the tremendous health and human burden of diabetes and its enormous economic toll depends on identifying the factors responsible for the disease and developing new methods for treatment and prevention;

Whereas improvements in technology and the general growth in scientific knowledge