

has been a vigorous participant in NATO-related activities, NATO-related activities which keep peace in the whole area.

Moldova's desire to become a part of Western institutions, Mr. Speaker, is so important, and for that we should be grateful. For that we should support Moldova's efforts to free itself from Russian occupation.

We can serve both of these ends by passing this resolution unanimously here today, and I urge support for that. Again my hat is off to Chairman GILMAN and to the gentleman from New Jersey, CHRIS SMITH, for bringing this vital legislation to this floor.

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume to thank the gentleman from New York [Mr. SOLOMON] for his supportive remarks. He has been a consistent supporter of doing the right thing in the former Soviet states.

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

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time, and I again urge the adoption of this resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York [Mr. GILMAN] that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, House Concurrent Resolution 145.

The question was taken.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 5 of rule I and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

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#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on the subject of the measure just considered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GOODLATTE). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

#### REGARDING UNITED STATES MEMBERSHIP IN SOUTH PACIFIC ORGANIZATIONS

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 189) expressing the sense of the Congress regarding the importance of United States membership in regional South Pacific organizations, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. CON. RES. 189

Whereas the United States and the South Pacific region enjoy a close and historic

partnership built on a strong foundation of shared values and an unshakable commitment to democracy, development, and human rights;

Whereas the Pacific Island Nations and Governments, together with New Zealand and Australia, share many of the global objectives of the United States, including the nonproliferation of nuclear weapons, the protection of unique ecosystems, and sustainable economic development consistent with good resource management practices;

Whereas the United States, through support of the East-West Center in Hawaii, has facilitated establishment of the Pacific Islands Conference, wherein the heads of Pacific Island governments have met triennially to target critical research in furtherance of the region's trade, environment, and development; and

Whereas the United States is a member of the regional economic and social development body, the South Pacific Commission, participates in and plans to become a party to the regional environment body, the South Pacific Regional Environment Program, as well as being a dialogue partner for the regional political body, the South Pacific Forum: Now, therefore, be it

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

(1) recognizes the traditional and close ties between the United States and the South Pacific region and reaffirms the value of these ties;

(2)(A) notes the need to continue to support the efforts of the nations and governments of the region to enhance the sustainable development of the more fragile island economies and their integration into the regional economy, while helping to ensure the protection of the unique ecosystems of the region; and

(B) recognizes the efforts of the East-West Center and Pacific Islands Conference in furtherance of the efforts described in subparagraph (A);

(3) commands the South Pacific Commission for the process of managerial and organizational reform currently being undertaken, and recognizes the important role the United States financial contribution to, and participation in, the organization makes in assisting it to realize the gradual economic self-sufficiency to all members of the organization; and

(4) reaffirms the commitment of the United States as a member of the South Pacific Commission and a participant in the South Pacific Regional Environment Programme, and a member of the post-Forum dialogue partnership of the United States with the South Pacific Forum.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New York [Mr. GILMAN] and the gentleman from American Samoa [Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA] each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York [Mr. GILMAN].

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

(Mr. GILMAN asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the chairman and ranking minority member of our Asia and Pacific Subcommittee for this support of House Concurrent Resolution 189, a resolution expressing the sense of the Congress regarding the importance of United States membership in regional South Pacific organizations.

In the post colonial era, regional cooperation has become one of the key elements in the development of the South Pacific. While the programs that the South Pacific Commission, the South Pacific Regional Environment Program and other regional organizations undertake are small in scale, the impact on regional stability is critical. In short the small investment is for a high return.

Nations in the South Pacific share our values and a commitment to the democratic process. These values are of course also shared by our friends in the North Pacific, many of whom such as the Federated States of Micronesia and the Republic of the Marshall Islands are also members of these important regional organizations. Their support has been important to the United States in the United Nations and other international fora. However, we cannot continue to take it for granted.

In the post-cold-war era we need to ensure that we remain engaged in this key strategic region on the doorstep of Asia. In order to do this we must continue to support the work of regional organizations such as the South Pacific Commission, the South Pacific Regional Environment Program and the South Pacific Forum.

Accordingly, I urge my colleagues to support the resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

(Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Guam [Mr. UNDERWOOD], a distinguished colleague and friend of mine, a very valued member of the Committee on National Security.

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me the time.

I want to extend my personal congratulations to the gentleman from New York [Mr. GILMAN], the gentleman from Nebraska [Mr. BEREUTER], the gentleman from American Samoa [Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA], and the gentleman from California [Mr. BERMAN], for co-sponsoring this resolution. This resolution draws attention to some very important islands and a very important ocean in this world and it is perhaps a mark of the changing world dynamics that we have to seek through a resolution to bring attention to this. I also want to personally thank the chairman of the subcommittee, Mr. BEREUTER, for his hearing yesterday in which he drew attention to the condition of the freely associated States in the North Pacific.

I have to make the point that as a former social studies teacher, although this resolution refers to areas in the South Pacific, that it includes the Northern Pacific as well, as indicated by Mr. GILMAN. Those of us who live in the Northern Pacific are sometimes lumped as part of the South Pacific, and it is an important item at least to those us who live north of the equator.