

I hope the President will reconsider his decision not to lead efforts at the U.N. Human Rights Commission later this month, and I urge all Members to support the adoption of this resolution.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on House Resolution 364.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BARRETT of Nebraska). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New Jersey?

There was no objection.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

□ 1545

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BARRETT of Nebraska). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 364, as amended.

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.

COMMENDING DEMOCRACY IN BOTSWANA

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 373) commending democracy in Botswana.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 373

Whereas Sir Ketumile Masire has been involved in politics in his country since he co-founded the Bechuanaland Democratic Party (later the Botswana Democratic Party) with Seretse Khama in 1962;

Whereas Sir Ketumile Masire was elected to Botswana's first Parliament in 1965, later became Vice President under President Seretse Khama, and succeeded President Khama as President upon his death in 1980;

Whereas under President Masire's administration Botswana has maintained a successful multiparty constitutional democracy with regular free and fair elections;

Whereas President Masire plans to retire from the presidency on March 31, 1998;

Whereas the Government of Botswana has worked constructively with the Organization of African Unity, the Southern African Development Community, and other organizations to promote democracy in Africa;

Whereas Botswana is a long standing friend of the United States and was selected as the site of a major Voice of America radio relay station because of its stability; and

Whereas President Clinton plans to enhance United States relations with Botswana through an upcoming official visit to Botswana: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) commends the people of Botswana for their commitment to democracy;

(2) commends Sir Ketumile Masire for his long and distinguished service to his country and the cause of democracy in Africa;

(3) calls on President Masire's successor to pursue the course set by President Masire by maintaining a democratic Botswana;

(4) calls on the Government of Botswana to continue playing a positive role in African and world affairs; and

(5) encourages the Government of Botswana to continue promoting peace, democracy, respect for human rights, and economic reform in Africa.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE) and the gentleman from Florida (Mr. DAVIS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE).

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

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on H. Res. 373.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, this resolution recognizes the government of Botswana and the people of Botswana for their long-standing commitment to democracy. Since he took office in 1980, President Ketumile Masire has presided over a government that has honored the democratic process. His government has been a model of democratically-rooted stability and development for Africa, and it has been a model for the world.

Botswana also is a long-standing friend of the United States and has played a constructive diplomatic role in Africa and in the world. Yet Botswana is a bit of a forgotten African country. This bill brings attention to Botswana by commending its people for their democratic commitment.

After nearly 18 years in office, President Masire is stepping down within days of our action here today. The resolution commends him for his service to his country. All too often, we criticize African leaders for the things they do wrong, but we seldom take the opportunity to commend them for a job well done. This resolution offers us the chance to send such a positive message.

Botswana has been at the vanguard of African democratic and economic reform. This southern African nation has been a model for its neighbors and in several forums has worked diligently to promote peace and cooperation. At this time of renaissance for Africa, it is altogether appropriate for us to acknowledge the positive role Botswana has made in Africa and on the world stage.

The bill has bipartisan support, as demonstrated by its unanimous approval by the Committee on International Relations last week.

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

Mr. DAVIS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak in support of the resolution.

Botswana is a success story. It is one of Africa's oldest continuous democracies. It has been active in promoting regional integration in southern Africa. Its military has a very professional reputation; and Botswana has been active in social programs, including conservation efforts.

Congress is going on record today in recognition of that success and commending President Masire for his leadership on the eve of his retirement. I hope this resolution will encourage Botswana to continue its democratic tradition and to continue its constructive foreign policies.

I would like to urge my colleagues to join the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE) and me in recognizing Botswana's success by voting yes on this resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN), the distinguished chairman of the Committee on International Relations.

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

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE), the distinguished chairman of our Subcommittee on Africa, and the cosponsors of this resolution, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ), the ranking Democrat on the Subcommittee on Africa, and the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. CHABOT) and the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PAYNE). This resolution passed our committee by a voice vote March 12.

Botswana is highly deserving of the praise contained in this resolution. Its great progress on democracy and free-market economics since independence is a model for other nations in the region and elsewhere. I am pleased that President Clinton is going to be visiting Botswana later this month during his historic trip to Africa.

Botswana's neighborhood is southern Africa, which today is an island of stability on the troubled continent of Africa. Peace has taken hold in Mozambique, apartheid has been vanquished in South Africa, and the senseless killing in Angola appears to be over.

Even when this region was not so stable and when Botswana was surrounded by wars and oppressive regimes, Botswana managed to embrace the best of Western values and to provide its people with an increasingly higher standard of living. This is no small accomplishment in that part of the world.

Accordingly, I urge my colleagues to support this worthy resolution.

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. BEREUTER), a member of the Committee on International Relations.

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

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, I do want to thank my colleague, the chairman of the Subcommittee on Africa, for yielding me the time. I want to commend him and the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) and all the cosponsors of this resolution.

As the gentleman from California mentioned a few minutes ago, sometimes it appears we only bring resolutions which criticize other countries. Here is an example of a country which has moved in a very exemplary fashion in so many areas.

Since its independence in September of 1996, Botswana has been a successful multiparty democracy. It has consistently scored high in human rights reports by the State Department. It has been a long-standing ally of the United States, and it has consistently supported U.S. positions in international fora. Through increased adherence to free-market principles, Botswana has experienced remarkable economic growth, it has made U.S. economic assistance unnecessary, and it has done it in a part of a continent where that is not always the case.

We often encourage African countries to spend money on social concerns such as education and health, and the President Masire government has done exactly that. Unlike so many other leaders in many countries and certainly in Africa, the President is stepping down voluntarily. The ruling Botswana Democratic Party offered him the chance to be exempt from new term limits on the presidency, but he refused. I think he is setting an outstanding example for the future in this multiparty democracy.

It is entirely appropriate that we do commend Botswana for the very impressive progress they have made. I commend my colleague for bringing this to the attention of the House.

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, President Clinton is scheduled to visit Botswana later this month. I am scheduled to accompany him on that trip. We have spoken with the administration about this resolution, and they strongly support this measure as a positive sign to our friends in Botswana.

It would be my honor to present this resolution to President Masire on behalf of this House. I urge my colleagues to make this possible by approving this resolution today.

Mr. DAVIS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the distinguished gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PAYNE).

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this Botswana resolution. President Clinton will be traveling to Botswana in March. He chose Botswana not only for the country's strong democratic values but the increase in economic growth. The economy is market oriented, with strong encouragement for private enterprise. The diamond revenues and solid economic and fiscal

policies has resulted in improved growth. Per capita gross domestic product was approximately \$2800 last year, and it is increasing at a robust annual rate of approximately 7 percent. I understand that elections should take place soon and the Botswana Democratic Party leader, Mr. Masire, will be handing over the reins to his Vice President. Many years ago in Africa when a President took over, he was President for life. We have seen that in Malawi where life President Banda just recently after 30 years handed it over. This is a step really in the right direction.

Let me say that I had the opportunity to participate in a forum to voice my concerns to the NSC and State Department before the President embarks upon his journey to Africa. One thing that came out of the dialogue is that women are a dominant and important part of the economy throughout Africa. Ghanaian women account for almost 90 percent of the market economy. I know the government of Botswana is working to make improvements in this area. Two years ago I applauded the government for taking the initiative to formulate a long-term plan of action to implement the National Policy on Women specifically working on property rights.

In conclusion, let me say that we should congratulate countries like Botswana and that they are eager to be in the first round of the Growth and Opportunity Act. As a matter of fact, for the last 4 or 5 years, Botswana has had a surplus of over a billion dollars each year which has been put aside into the coffers of that country. I would once again like to congratulate that outstanding country and look forward to visiting there with the President in the coming week.

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. CHABOT).

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me this time. I rise in strong support of the resolution. I want to commend the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE), the distinguished chairman of the Subcommittee on Africa, for offering this thoughtful and timely resolution. As a member of the subcommittee, I have had the pleasure of working closely with the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE). I think I speak for all the Members when I say we appreciate his able leadership. I also want to commend the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN), the chairman of the committee; the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ), the ranking member of the subcommittee; and the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PAYNE) for their work on this resolution.

Mr. Speaker, Botswana is one of the great success stories of sub-Saharan Africa. As the President prepares to embark on his historic trip to that part of the world, it is fitting that we send along a message of commendation and encouragement to the government and

the people of Botswana. Under the leadership of President Masire, Botswana has maintained a successful, multiparty constitutional democracy with free and fair elections. This resolution commends Mr. Masire on the occasion of his retirement and calls upon his political successors to continue promoting peace, democracy, respect for human rights and economic reform in Africa.

Mr. Speaker, this is a well-crafted resolution that deserves the support of every Member of this body. I want to again commend the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE) and the other Members that I referred to. I also want to commend the President on making this trip to Africa. I urge support for the resolution.

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, House Resolution 373.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

CALLING FOR FREE AND IMPARTIAL ELECTIONS IN CAMBODIA

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H.Res. 361) calling for free and impartial elections in Cambodia, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 361

Whereas Cambodia continues to recover from years of political conflict, civil war, the era of Khmer Rouge genocide, and subsequent foreign invasion;

Whereas the 1991 Paris Peace Accords contributed significantly to a process of political accommodation, national conciliation, and the establishment of a state based on democratic ideals;

Whereas the people of Cambodia overwhelmingly demonstrated their support for the democratic process through the participation of over 93 percent of eligible voters in the United Nations-sponsored 1993 elections;

Whereas the commitment of the Cambodian people to democracy and stability is reflected in the national constitution guaranteeing fundamental human rights;

Whereas the international donor community has supported the democratic process in Cambodia by contributing over \$3,000,000,000 to peacekeeping and national reconstruction efforts;

Whereas notwithstanding the notable societal and economic reforms made subsequent to the 1993 elections, tensions within the Cambodian Government continued to mount, culminating in the July 5, 1997, military coup by which Second Prime Minister Hun Sen deposed the duly elected First Prime Minister Prince Ranariddh;

Whereas the Hun Sen government has yet to adequately investigate the killings and human rights abuses which occurred at the time of the July 5, 1997, coup and which were detailed in the August 21, 1997, Hammarberg report;