

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

There was no objection.

The Clerk read the Senate bill, as follows:

S. 2468

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Dante Fascell Biscayne National Park Visitor Center Designation Act".

SEC. 2. DESIGNATION OF THE DANTE FASCELL VISITOR CENTER AT BISCAYNE NATIONAL PARK.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The Biscayne National Park visitor center, located on the shore of Biscayne Bay on Convoy Point, Florida, is designated as the "Dante Fascell Visitor Center."

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other document of the United States to the Biscayne National Park visitor center shall be deemed to be a reference to the "Dante Fascell Visitor Center."

The Senate bill was ordered to be read a third time, was read the third time, and passed, and a motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. HANSEN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bills just passed.

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

There was no objection.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the provisions of clause 5 of rule I, the Chair announces that he will postpone further proceedings today on each motion to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote is objected to under clause 4 of rule XV.

Such rollcall votes, if postponed, will be taken Monday, October 12, 1998.

CONDEMNING THE TERROR, VENGEANCE, AND HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES AGAINST SIERRA LEONE

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H.Res. 559) condemning the terror, vengeance, and human rights abuses against the civilian population of Sierra Leone, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 559

Whereas the ousted Armed Forces Revolutionary Council (AFRC) military junta and the rebel fighters of the Revolutionary United Front (RUF) have mounted a campaign of terror, vengeance, and human rights

abuses on the civilian population of Sierra Leone;

Whereas the AFRC/RUF violence against civilians continues with at least 1,200 persons having hands or feet amputated by rebels (and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) estimates that every victim who makes it to medical help is only 1 of 4 who have been mutilated);

Whereas the AFRC/RUF continues to abduct children and forcibly train them as combatants, in numbers estimated by UNICEF to exceed 3,000 since March 1998;

Whereas the humanitarian consequences of this campaign have been the flight of more than 250,000 refugees to Guinea and Liberia in the last 6 months and the increase of internally displaced Sierra Leoneans to over 250,000 in camps and towns in the north and east;

Whereas the governments of Guinea and Liberia are having great difficulty caring for the huge number of refugees, now totaling 600,000 in Guinea and Liberia, and emergency appeals have been issued by the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) for \$7,300,000 for emergency food, shelter, sanitation, medical, educational, psychological, and social services;

Whereas starvation and hunger-related deaths have begun in the north with more than 500 people dying since August 1, 1998, a situation that will only get worse in the next months;

Whereas the humanitarian community is unable, because of continuing security concerns, to deliver food and medicine to the vulnerable groups within the north and east of Sierra Leone;

Whereas the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and its military peacekeeping arm called ECOMOG are doing their best, but require additional logistic support to either bring this AFRC/RUF rebel war to a conclusion or force a negotiated settlement;

Whereas arms and weapons continue to be supplied to the AFRC/RUF in direct violation of a United Nations arms embargo;

Whereas United Nations Under Secretary for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator Sergio Vieira de Melo, Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, and Refugees International, following May through June 1998 visits to Sierra Leone, have condemned, in the strongest terms, the terrible human rights violations done by the AFRC/RUF rebels to civilians; and

Whereas the Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary General for Children and Armed Conflict, Olara Otunu, following a May 1998 visit to Sierra Leone, called upon the United Nations to make Sierra Leone one of the pilot projects in the rehabilitation of child combatants: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) urges the President and the Secretary of State to give high priority to solving the conflict in Sierra Leone and to bring stability to West Africa in general;

(2) urges the State Department to give the needed logistical support to ECOMOG and the Government of Sierra Leone to bring this conflict to a rapid conclusion;

(3) condemns the use of children as combatants in the conflict in Sierra Leone;

(4) urges the establishment of a secure humanitarian corridor to strategic areas in the north and east of Sierra Leone for the safe delivery of food and medicines by the Government of Sierra Leone and humanitarian agencies already in the country mandated to deliver this aid;

(5) urges the President and the Secretary of State to strictly enforce the United Nations arms embargo on the Armed Forces

Revolutionary Council and Revolutionary United Front (AFRC/RUF) rebel forces;

(6) urges the President and the Secretary of State to work with the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) nations to ensure there are sufficient African forces and arms provided to its military peacekeeping arm ECOMOG;

(7) urges the President and the Secretary of State to support the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) appeal for aid to the Sierra Leonean refugees in Guinea, Liberia, and other countries;

(8) urges the President and the State Department to support the United Nations agencies and nongovernmental organizations working in Sierra Leone to bring humanitarian relief and peace to the country;

(9) urges the President and the State Department to support the Government of Sierra Leone in its demobilization, disarmament, and reconstruction plan for the country as peace becomes a reality; and

(10) encourages and supports, Olara Otunu, United Nations Special Representative of the Secretary General for Children and Armed Conflict, to continue in his efforts to work in Sierra Leone in the establishment of programs designed to rehabilitate child combatants.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN) and the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. CLEMENT) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks on this measure.

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

There was no objection.

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 am pleased to support this resolution offered by the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. EHLERS) and cosponsored by the distinguished chairman of our Subcommittee on Africa, the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE).

Mr. Speaker, the situation in Sierra Leone is horrifying. Rebel soldiers are terrorizing the civilian population, killing and maiming innocent people, including women and children. The instability in Sierra Leone has overflowed its borders and is impacting on neighboring Liberia and Guinea. Hundreds of thousands of people have been displaced from their homes and are foraging for sustenance or relying on the generosity of the international community.

Mr. Speaker, there is a peacekeeping force in Sierra Leone known as the Economic Community of West African States Monitoring Group, ECOMOG, made up of soldiers from other African nations. In many cases ECOMOG is all that stands between innocent civilians and ethnic atrocities. This resolution