

offer safe passage to South Korea, the U.S. and Canada, to offer a new life for North Korean refugees. Our law commits us to reach out to a person with a "well-founded fear of persecution." I would put it to this House that anyone forced to return to the DPRK has such a fear.

Finally, our third mission is to reunite Korean Americans with their relations in North Korea. 500,000 Americans have relations in North Korea, and hundreds of South Koreans have seen their kin, but no Americans. Three months ago, the Korean-American Coalition of the Midwest assembled 30,000 signatures from Korean Americans calling on the Nation to take up the issue of reunifying Americans with their North Korean relations. I am pleased to report Secretary Powell accepted their petition and agreed to put the case of reunification on the U.S.-DPRK agenda.

I commend the gentleman for the resolution and urge its rapid adoption.

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker. I rise to voice my strong support for H. Con. Res. 213, regarding North Korean refugees who are detained in China and forcibly returned to North Korea where they face torture, imprisonment, and execution. I thank the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE) for bringing this important resolution before us today.

In recent years, endemic persecution and famine in North Korea has resulted in tens of thousands of starving North Koreans fleeing their country, and crossing over into China's northeastern provinces. Some hide in the hills along the border and only survive by scavenging, begging or stealing. Others are employed at near-slave wages.

Despite their desperate situation, North Korean refugees in China are constantly pursued by the North Korean Public Security Service with the assistance of Chinese authorities. Many are apprehended and forcibly returned to North Korea, where they may face imprisonment and even the death penalty under the North Korean Criminal Law.

The Chinese government has repeatedly failed to take into account the plight of those in need of protection, and continue to define all North Koreans as "illegal immigrants." It is imperative that the Government of China act to protect refugees from North Korea residing in China and honor its obligations under the United Nations Convention relating to the Status of Refugees of 1951.

Accordingly, I urge my colleagues to support H. Con. Res. 213 and join in urging the Chinese government to review its policy towards North Korean refugees and asylum seekers, and to cease the detention and forcible repatriation of those who are merely fleeing starvation and persecution.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of House Concurrent Resolution 213. I have followed the hearings on North Korea in the Subcommittee on East Asia and the Pacific and have heard the plight of the refugees who are fleeing the country in the tens of thousands to escape political and personal persecution. I have concluded, as this resolution expresses, that the Congress must show support for the fleeing refugees of North Korea. As Chairman HYDE stated, North Korea is a place so feared by the thousands

of refugees on the run that they have chosen a homeless existence where they are subject to exploitation, trafficking, and sexual abuse. He learned that some are so desperate that they threaten suicide rather than return to what they call a "hell on earth."

An estimated 50,000 North Korean refugees were in China at the end of 2001. As many as 100,000 North Koreans were displaced inside North Korea. Other North Korean refugees, a number that varies, are in Russia and elsewhere, while many others find refuge in South Korea. The government of Korea has been brutal in punishing those who seek to leave in the midst of a famine that has been going on since the mid-1990's. Nearly 2 million North Koreans, or about 10 percent of the population, have died from hunger or famine-related disease since 1994. Still, the government grants only limited access to the country's most vulnerable people to NGOs and other aid groups and imposes capital crime punishment on citizens who leave or attempt to leave the country. Leaving for better conditions or for food is classified by the Government as "defection" punishable by torture, placement in work camps or even execution.

There is no doubt that these people are refugees by any definition. The U.S. Committee for Refugees (USCR) believes that North Koreans who flee their country without government permission have prima facie claims to refugee status, based on the likelihood of being prosecuted for having exercised the right to leave the country.

As a recipient of these desperate people, we must encourage China not to arrest and forcibly repatriate North Korean asylum seekers. We must encourage the Government of China to honor its obligations under the United Nations Convention relating to the Status of Refugees of 1951, as modified by the Protocol relating to the Status of Refugees of 1967 as expressed in this measure.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. DAN MILLER of Florida). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. LEACH) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 213), as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds of those present have voted in the affirmative.

Mr. LEACH. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

UNITED STATES PARTICIPATION IN THE UNITED NATIONS—MES- SAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, without

objection, referred to the Committee on International Relations:

To the Congress of the United States:

I am pleased to transmit herewith the final version of a report, prepared by my Administration, on the participation of the United States in the United Nations and its affiliated agencies during the calendar year 2000. The report is submitted pursuant to the United Nations Participation Act (Public Law 264, 79th Congress) (22 U.S.C. 287b).

GEORGE W. BUSH.
THE WHITE HOUSE, June 11, 2002.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12 of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 6:30 p.m.

Accordingly (at 5 o'clock and 43 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until approximately 6:30 p.m.

□ 1830

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. WHITFIELD) at 6 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will now put the question on motions to suspend the rules on which further proceedings were postponed earlier today in the order in which that motion was entertained.

Votes will be taken in the following order:

H. Res. 438, de novo;

H. Con. Res. 394, by the yeas and nays; and

H. Con. Res. 213, by the yeas and nays.

The Chair will reduce to 5 minutes the time for any electronic vote after the first such vote in this series.

SENSE OF CONGRESS ON IMPROVING MEN'S HEALTH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The pending business is the question of suspending the rules and agreeing to the resolution, H. Res. 438.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. FOSSELLA) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 438.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds of those present have voted in the affirmative.

Mr. WALDEN of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground