

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to be one of the four co-sponsors of this resolution along with the distinguished majority leader, the distinguished Democratic leader, and my good friend, the chairman of the Committee on International Relations, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HYDE), our resolution commending the continuing improvement in relations between the United States and the Republic of India.

We do so in the midst of an official visit by the distinguished Prime Minister of India, Dr. Singh, who will address us in a joint session of Congress tomorrow morning to be followed by a private meeting with members of the Committee on International Relations.

In the 5 years since President Clinton traveled to India and opened a new chapter in the bilateral relationship between that country and the United States, we have ushered in new and unprecedented forms of cooperation between our two great democratic nations in areas ranging from global trade to technology.

Security cooperation between the United States and India has dramatically increased with Washington providing funds for military assistance, counternarcotics aid, and other forms of military training.

Mr. Speaker, we all remember well India's eager offer of cooperation in the war on terrorism after the September 11 tragedy and its willingness to allow the use of Indian bases for counterterrorism operations. Both of our countries have been democracies since our inception, and we are natural allies.

In recent years, India has opened its economy to a great extent to trade and investment. India has liberalized its internal economic system, steps that have served, and will continue to serve, to accelerate India's growth. Our distinguished guest, Dr. Singh, played a key role in getting these reforms under way in his earlier capacity as the Finance Minister of India. They have created a vastly enlarged middle class enjoying the benefits of a well-run economic system. And Indians have Dr. Singh to thank for that.

India of late has been a model partner in the ongoing rapprochement with its neighbor, Pakistan, despite memories of bitter wars and nuclear oneupsmanship. Both countries have shown good will in an ongoing attempt to settle their differences by peaceful and diplomatic means.

Mr. Speaker, during a recent visit to New Dehli, Secretary of State Dr. Condoleezza Rice praised the positive recent development in relations between our countries, and the administration put out the word that one of its goals is to help India become a major world power in the 21st century. To that end, Mr. Speaker, I wish to take this opportunity to press again for strong U.S. support for India to become a permanent member of the United Nations Security Council, in long overdue recognition by the international community of India's rightful place as a great democracy.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I want to take a moment to acknowledge the contributions of Americans of Indian origin for whom the visit of Prime Minister Singh this week has special resonance.

The United States is a Nation of immigrants, and we are the world's preeminent power due in large part to the diversity of our people. It is hard to think of an ethnic group, Mr. Speaker, that has made such enormous contributions to the strength of our Nation in such a compressed period of time as America's 1.5 million citizens of Indian decent. In business, science, academia, medicine and culture, Indian-Americans have assumed leadership roles, and they have given back to the communities in which they live.

Indian-Americans have made enormous contributions to the economy of my congressional district in the San Francisco Bay area, particularly to the technology firms of our Silicon Valley. Over 300,000 Indian-Americans work in the cutting-edge technology firms in my area, and they play a critical role in generating new start-up high-tech companies.

So, Mr. Speaker, on behalf of my constituents and all of our colleagues in the Congress, I extend our congratulations to Prime Minister Singh on the achievement his country has made and on the great relations between India and the United States. I urge all of my colleagues to support this resolution.

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the gentleman from Texas resolution commending the increase in bilateral relations between the United States and the Republic of India.

As the former co-chair of the House of Representatives Caucus on India and Indian Americans I have been working hard to increase the engagement by our two governments.

It is an honor for me to represent one of the largest populations of Indian Americans in the United States.

At my constituents urging I have worked to create a stronger relationship between the United States and India.

I had the opportunity to travel to India three times and led the largest Congressional delegation to India and for many of my colleagues who traveled with me it was their first time to India.

Seeing a nation that you deal with on a regular basis first hand is an incredibly important tool for making policy.

In fact two years ago in India I sat next to a quiet economist and member of the opposition Congress Party at the time and now this gentleman will be speaking before a joint session of Congress tomorrow.

I look forward to Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's remarks on the state of relations between our two nations.

As architect of the Indian economic reforms in the 1990's, he cut India's deficit and opened the economy, leading to India's status as a primary figure in the global economy.

I would like to thank the gentleman for introducing this resolution and I urge all of my colleagues to support it.

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

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. STEARNS). The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 364.

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. LANTOS. 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.

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#### RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 4 o'clock and 25 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until approximately 6:30 p.m.

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#### AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. KLINE) at 6 o'clock and 32 minutes p.m.

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#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, proceedings will resume on motions to suspend the rules previously postponed.

Votes will be taken in the following order:

H. Res. 328, by the yeas and nays,

H. Con. Res. 175, by the yeas and nays; and

H. Res. 364, by the yeas and nays.

The first and third electronic votes will be conducted as 15-minute votes. The second vote in this series will be a 5-minute vote.

Further proceedings on H. Res. 326 will be resumed tomorrow.

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#### RECOGNIZING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SOLIDARITY MOVEMENT IN POLAND

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The pending business is the question of suspending the rules and agreeing to the resolution, H. Res. 328, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 328, as amended, on which the yeas and nays are ordered.