

While so much of the world's attention is rightfully focused on Russia's atrocities in Ukraine, Vladimir Putin and his minions are also at work elsewhere around the world.

This is especially true in Africa, where we see the extensive presence of Russian Private Military Contractors, or PMCs, in particular the notorious Wagner Group, and extensive Russian entanglement in countries with mining and strategic mineral reserves.

In some cases, such as in the Central African Republic, we see mines guarded by Wagner Group mercenaries. Wagner Group PMCs are said to have also appeared recently in Sudan, where there had been earlier reports of Russia seeking a naval base.

We have also seen Wagner mercenaries implicated in atrocities in Mali, which seems to have taken a bizarre turn recently, with France accusing Russia of staging a false flag operation seeking to implicate the French.

Thus, the Chairman's bill is especially timely, and can serve as a template for other bills addressing Russian involvement around the world, including the Western Hemisphere, as came up during our markup.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. CONNOLLY) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 7311, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 3(s) of House Resolution 8, the yeas and nays are ordered.

Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion are postponed.

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CARIBBEAN BASIN SECURITY INITIATIVE AUTHORIZATION ACT

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4133) to authorize appropriations for the Caribbean Basin Security Initiative, enhance the United States-Caribbean security partnership, prioritize disaster resilience, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4133

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 “Caribbean Basin Security Initiative Authorization Act”.

SEC. 2. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE CARIBBEAN BASIN SECURITY INITIATIVE.

(a) **AUTHORIZATION.**—There is authorized to be appropriated \$74,800,000 for each of fiscal years 2022 through 2026 to carry out the Caribbean Basin Security Initiative to achieve the purposes described in subsection (b).

(b) **PURPOSES.**—The purposes described in this subsection are the following:

(1) To promote citizen safety, security, and the rule of law in the Caribbean through in-

creased strategic engagement with the governments of beneficiary countries and with elements of local civil society, including the private sector, in such countries.

(2) To carry out the promotion of such safety, security, and the rule of law through efforts including the following:

(A) Capacity building for law enforcement and military units, including professionalization, anti-corruption and human rights training, vetting, and community-based policing.

(B) Maritime and aerial security cooperation, including assistance to strengthen Caribbean maritime and aerial interdiction operations capability and the provision of support systems and equipment, training, and maintenance.

(C) Border and port security cooperation, including support to strengthen capacity for screening and to intercept narcotics, weapons, bulk cash, and other contraband at airports and seaports.

(D) Support for justice sector reform and strengthening of the rule of law, including capacity building for prosecutors, judges, and other justice officials, and support to increase the efficacy of criminal courts.

(E) Cybersecurity and cybercrime cooperation, including capacity-building and support for cybersecurity systems.

(F) Countering transnational criminal organizations and local gang activity, including capacity-building, equipment, and support for operations targeting the finances and illegal activities of transnational criminal networks and local gangs such as their recruitment of at-risk youth, and the provision of assistance to populations vulnerable to being victims of extortion and crime by criminal networks.

(G) Strengthening special prosecutorial offices and providing technical assistance to combat corruption, money laundering, financial crimes, extortion, and human rights crimes, and conduct asset forfeitures and criminal analysis.

(H) Strengthening the ability of the security sector to respond to and become more resilient in the face of natural disasters, including by carrying out training exercises to ensure critical infrastructure and ports are able to come back online rapidly following disasters and providing preparedness training to police and first responders.

(I) Supporting training for civilian police and appropriate security services in criminal investigations, best practices for citizen security, and the protection of human rights.

(J) Improving community and law enforcement cooperation to improve effectiveness and professionalism of police and increase mutual trust.

(K) Increasing economic opportunities for at-risk youth and vulnerable populations, including workforce development training and remedial education programs for at-risk youth.

(L) Improving juvenile justice sectors through regulatory reforms, separating youth from traditional prison systems, and improving support and services in juvenile detention centers.

(3) To prioritize efforts to combat corruption and include anti-corruption components to programs, including by—

(A) strengthening national justice systems and attorneys general and supporting independent media and investigative reporting;

(B) supporting multilateral anti-corruption mechanisms; and

(C) encouraging cooperative agreements between the Department of State, other relevant Federal departments and agencies, and the attorneys general of relevant countries to fight corruption in the Caribbean.

(4) To promote the rule of law in the Caribbean and counter malign influence from au-

thoritarian regimes, including China and Russia, by:

(A) Monitoring security assistance from authoritarian regimes and taking steps necessary to ensure that this assistance does not undermine or jeopardize U.S. security assistance.

(B) Evaluating and, as appropriate, restricting United States involvement in investment and infrastructure projects financed by authoritarian regimes that might obstruct or otherwise impact United States security assistance to beneficiary countries.

(C) Monitoring and restricting equipment and support from high risk vendors for telecommunications infrastructure in beneficiary countries.

(D) Countering disinformation by promoting transparency and accountability from beneficiary countries.

(E) Eliminating corruption linked to investment and infrastructure facilitated by authoritarian regimes through support for investment screening, competitive tendering and bidding processes, the implementation of investment law, and contractual transparency.

(5) To promote strategic engagement with the governments of beneficiary countries through effective branding and messaging of United States assistance and security cooperation, including by developing a public diplomacy strategy for educating citizens of beneficiary countries about United States assistance and security cooperation programs and benefits.

SEC. 3. STRATEGY TO IMPROVE DISASTER RESILIENCE.

(a) **PRIORITIZATION.**—During the 5-year period beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State shall, in consultation with the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development and the President and Chief Executive Officer of the Inter-American Foundation, prioritize efforts to increase disaster response and resilience by carrying out programs in beneficiary countries for the following purposes:

(1) Encouraging coordination between beneficiary countries and relevant Federal departments and agencies to provide expertise and information sharing.

(2) Supporting sharing of best practices on disaster resilience including constructing resilient infrastructure and rebuilding after natural disasters.

(3) Improving rapid-response mechanisms and cross-government organizational preparedness for natural disasters.

(b) **STRATEGY.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State shall, in coordination with the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development and in consultation with the President and Chief Economic Officer of the Inter-American Foundation, submit to the appropriate congressional committees a strategy that incorporates specific, measurable benchmarks to achieve the purposes described in subsection (a) and to inform citizens of beneficiary countries about the extent and benefits of United States assistance to such countries. In developing such strategy, the Secretary of State shall also consult with nongovernmental organizations in beneficiary countries and in the United States.

(c) **ANNUAL PROGRESS UPDATE.**—The Secretary, in coordination with the Administrator, shall annually submit to the appropriate congressional committees a written description of the progress made as of the date of such submission in meeting the benchmarks included in the strategy submitted pursuant to subsection (b).

SEC. 4. MONITORING AND REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.

Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State, in coordination with the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development, shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees an implementation plan that includes a timeline and stated objectives for actions to be taken with respect to the Caribbean Basin Security Initiative. The plan shall also include the following elements:

(1) A multi-year strategy with a timeline, overview of objectives, and anticipated outcomes for the region and for each beneficiary country, with respect to each program area described in section 2.

(2) Specific, measurable benchmarks to track the progress of the Initiative towards accomplishing the outcomes described pursuant to paragraph (1).

(3) A plan for the delineation of the roles to be carried out by the Department of State, the United States Agency for International Development, the Department of Justice, the Department of Defense, and any other Federal department or agency in carrying out the Initiative, to prevent overlap and unintended competition between activities and resources.

(4) A plan to coordinate and track all activities carried out under the Initiative between all relevant Federal departments and agencies, in accordance with the publication requirements described in section 4 of the Foreign Aid Transparency and Accountability Act of 2016 (Public Law 114-191; 22 U.S.C. 2394c).

(5) The results achieved during the previous year—

(A) of monitoring and evaluation measures to track the progress of the Initiative in accomplishing the benchmarks included pursuant to paragraph (2); and

(B) of the implementation of the strategy and plans described in paragraphs (1), (3), and (4).

(6) A description of the process for co-locating Caribbean Basin Security Initiative projects funded by the United States Agency for International Development and the Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs of the Department of State, to ensure that crime prevention funding and enforcement funding are used in the same localities as necessary.

SEC. 5. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) **APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.**—The term “appropriate congressional committees” means—

(A) the Committee on Foreign Affairs and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives; and

(B) the Committee on Foreign Relations and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate.

(2) **BENEFICIARY COUNTRIES.**—The term “beneficiary countries” means the beneficiary countries of the Caribbean Basin Security Initiative.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. CONNOLLY) and the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MEUSER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 4133.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 4133, the Caribbean Basin Security Initiative Authorization Act of 2022.

Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague, Representative ESPAILLAT, for drafting this important measure.

CBSI has been essential in helping our partners in the Caribbean improve their capacity to combat transnational crime, violence, and regional instability while also enhancing our own security and strengthening our critical partnerships in the region.

By supporting a multiyear authorization, we can effectively assist our Caribbean partners in citizen safety, security, and the rule of law in the Caribbean Basin; reducing corruption and the malign influence of authoritarian regimes like Xi Jinping's China and Vladimir Putin's Russia; and strengthening the ability of countries in the region to prepare for and respond to natural disasters.

According to a status report from the State Department's U.S. Strategy for Engagement in the Caribbean released in July of 2019 is says: “Rising crime and endemic corruption threaten governments' ability to provide security and good governance” in many of the nations in the region.

With ongoing efforts to mitigate transnational organized crime in Central America and Mexico, the drug trade and in other illegal activities likely will move further into the Caribbean, particularly as the regional economic outlook deteriorates due to the continuing economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Given the tragic impacts of the recent hurricane season in the Caribbean and trends pointing toward more frequent and intense natural disasters, this renewed support for CBSI can also help make it possible for our friends in the region to become more climate resilient by building robust rapid-response mechanisms and resilient infrastructure responses throughout the region.

The support from CBSI can help to avoid a climate of fear and uncertainty among citizens that leads to diminished economic growth.

Mr. Speaker, I support this bill and urge my colleagues to do the same, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, narcotics trafficking and illicit money from the Caribbean is fueling America's drug crisis and is destabilizing the Western Hemisphere. The same groups that traffic narcotics, weapons, and humans also spread misery throughout the region and into the U.S. homeland.

At the same time, malign actors like the Chinese Communist Party spread

their web of influence in the region. This problem is especially troubling since the Caribbean is home to a large concentration of Taiwan's diplomatic allies.

As evidenced by Nicaragua's recent decision to sever long-standing ties with Taiwan, the CCP is employing a range of tools to advance its malign agenda in the Caribbean and throughout Latin America.

Congress must remain committed to working with our allies to address shared security threats, cooperating on regional challenges, and promoting democratic governance. That is why I am supporting the Caribbean Basin Security Initiative Authorization Act.

As the CCP exerts its malign influence and drugs flow into the United States, now is the time to work with our allies in the region to ensure our national security interests are protected.

This legislation will expand our Caribbean partners' ability to surveil illicit actors in the water and in the air, improve local law enforcement's ability to intercept narcotics trafficking, strengthen local criminal justice institutions, and support natural disaster response efforts.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. ESPAILLAT), my good friend and author of this legislation.

Mr. ESPAILLAT. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Virginia for this opportunity to speak about H.R. 4133, the Caribbean Basin Security Initiative.

For more than 10 years, Mr. Speaker, Congress has supported funding CBSI, appropriating during that time \$831 million, and supporting 13 Caribbean nations.

H.R. 4133, the Caribbean Basin Security Initiative Authorization Act will authorize appropriations of \$75 million each year from 2022 to 2026. It also requires the Department of State to develop a strategy to improve disaster resilience in the Caribbean—and to report progress made under the initiative.

We all know how the Caribbean stands in the pathway of hurricanes and other natural disasters. As such, they must really improve disaster resiliency in those island nations. CBSI supports our allies in the Caribbean by promoting citizen safety, citizen security, and adhering to the rule of law. It also reduces trafficking in narcotics. It will help us interdict narcotics in the Caribbean region, which is the third border of our country.

It also reduces corruption and the malign influence of foreign adversaries in the region. We all know how foreign adversaries are looking to ill-invest in that region and circumvent, in many cases, transparency measures. It strengthens the ability to respond, as I said earlier, Mr. Speaker, to natural disasters. It is so important.

These island nations are in jeopardy. They are in serious trouble with hurricanes and rising sea levels and other natural disasters. You better than anybody, Mr. Speaker, know about this. This Caribbean Basin Security Initiative would also provide funding for that.

By empowering our neighbors in the Caribbean, we will in turn bolster the national security of the United States. Our allies in the Caribbean are facing many, many challenges brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic, strained global supply chains, and increased energy costs. That seems to be a common problem in island nations: increased energy costs. As such, they are really up for grabs by some of our adversaries who often take advantage in a crisis. We must do more to really help out our neighbors, our allies in that region.

We must continue funding for CBSI. It is critical to help Caribbean nations strengthen their economies, and in turn, strengthen our very own.

It is especially important that we continue our engagement in the Caribbean as our foreign adversaries attempt to spread their influence throughout the region. A safe and prosperous Caribbean region is in the United States' national security interests.

As we prepare to host the ninth Summit of the Americas in California in June, I urge my colleagues to support CBSI and reaffirm our commitment to enhancing U.S.-Caribbean relations.

Mr. MEUSER. Mr. Speaker, the U.S. and our partners must seriously confront the growing threat posed by the CCP in the Caribbean and beyond.

As the situation at our border gets worse, deadly drugs like fentanyl are surging across our southern border from illicit actors in Latin America. We must address the issue immediately. We cannot ignore the Caribbean, America's third border.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. ESPAILLAT, Mr. MEEKS, Mr. SIRES, Mr. GREEN, and Mr. CONNOLLY for leading this measure. I urge my colleagues to join us in supporting this legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend for his leadership and bipartisanship on this important bill. I really can't add to the eloquence of our friend and colleague from New York (Mr. ESPAILLAT).

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this important and critical piece of legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. CONNOLLY) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4133.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 3(s) of House Resolution 8, the yeas and nays are ordered.

Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion are postponed.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Byrd, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed a bill of the following title in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 4089. An ACT to restore entitlement to educational assistance under Veterans Rapid Retaining Program in cases of a closure of an educational institution or a disapproval of a program of education, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the Senate has agreed to without amendment a concurrent resolution of the House of the following title:

H. Con. Res. 74. Concurrent Resolution authorizing the use of the Capitol Grounds for the National Peace Officers Memorial Service and the National Honor Guard and Pipe Band Exhibition.

The message also announced that pursuant to Public Law 68-541, as amended by the appropriate provisions of Public Law 102-246, the Chair, on behalf of the Majority Leader, and in consultation with the Republican Leader, announces the appointment of the following individuals to serve as members of the Library of Congress Trust Fund Board for a five year term:

J. Richard Fredericks of California.

Kevin Young of New York.

The message also announced that pursuant to Public Law 105-292, as amended by Public Law 106-55, Public Law 107-228, and Public Law 112-75, the Chair, on behalf of the President pro tempore, upon the recommendation of the Majority Leader, re-appointed the following individual to the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom:

Reverend Frederick A. Davie of New York.

STOP IRANIAN DRONES ACT

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 6089) to clarify that section 107 of the Countering America's Adversaries Through Sanctions Act applies sanctions with respect to unmanned combat aerial vehicles following a 2019 change by the United Nations providing additional clarity to the United Nations Register of Conventional Arms, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 6089

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 "Stop Iranian Drones Act".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) A July 15, 2013, United Nations General Assembly Report on the continuing operation of the United Nations Register of Conventional Arms and its further development

(document A/68/140) states in paragraph 45, "The Group noted the discussion of the 2006 Group that category IV already covered armed unmanned aerial vehicles and of the 2009 Group on a proposal to include a new category for such vehicles. The Group reviewed proposals for providing greater clarity to category IV."

(2) Section 107 of the Countering America's Adversaries Through Sanctions Act (22 U.S.C. 9406), enacted August 2, 2017, requires the President to impose sanctions on any person that the President determines "knowingly engages in any activity that materially contributes to the supply, sale, or transfer directly or indirectly to or from Iran, or for the use in or benefit of Iran, of any battle tanks, armored combat vehicles, large caliber artillery systems, combat aircraft, attack helicopters, warships, missiles or missile systems, as defined for the purpose of the United Nations Register of Conventional Arms, or related materiel, including spare parts".

(3) In 2019, the United Nations formally changed the heading of category IV of the United Nations Register of Conventional Arms to "combat aircraft and unmanned combat aerial vehicles".

SEC. 3. STATEMENT OF POLICY.

It shall be the policy of the United States to prevent Iran and Iranian-aligned terrorist and militia groups from acquiring unmanned aerial vehicles, including commercially available component parts, that can be used in attacks against United States persons and partner nations.

SEC. 4. AMENDMENT TO COUNTERING AMERICA'S ADVERSARIES THROUGH SANCTIONS ACT RELATING TO SANCTIONS WITH RESPECT TO IRAN.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 107 of the Countering America's Adversaries Through Sanctions Act (22 U.S.C. 9406) is amended—

(1) in the section heading, by striking "ENFORCEMENT OF ARMS EMBARGOS" and inserting "SANCTIONS WITH RESPECT TO MAJOR CONVENTIONAL ARMS"; and

(2) in subsection (a)(1), by inserting "or unmanned combat aerial vehicles" after "combat aircraft".

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents for the Countering America's Adversaries Through Sanctions Act is amended by striking the item relating to section 107 and inserting the following:

"Sec. 107. Sanctions with respect to major conventional arms."

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section take effect on the date of the enactment of this Act and apply with respect to any person that knowingly engages in any activity that materially contributes to the supply, sale, or transfer directly or indirectly to or from Iran, or for the use in or benefit of Iran, of any unmanned combat aerial vehicles, as defined for the purpose of the United Nations Register of Conventional Arms, before, on, or after such date of enactment.

SEC. 5. DETERMINATION OF BUDGETARY EFFECTS.

The budgetary effects of this Act, for the purpose of complying with the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010, shall be determined by reference to the latest statement titled "Budgetary Effects of PAYGO Legislation" for this Act, submitted for printing in the Congressional Record by the Chairman of the House Budget Committee, provided that such statement has been submitted prior to the vote on passage.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. CONNOLLY) and the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MEUSER) each will control 20 minutes.