

the gentleman from Guam (Mr. MOYLAN) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 554, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution, as amended, was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

REAFFIRMING THE TIES BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND THE PHILIPPINES

Mr. MOYLAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 837) reaffirming the ties between the United States and the Philippines, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 837

Whereas the United States established diplomatic relations with the Philippines on July 4, 1946, and the two countries have since enjoyed expanded and positive relations;

Whereas there are over 4,000,000 United States citizens of Philippine ancestry in the United States;

Whereas the United States and the Philippines have a strong and mutually beneficial trade relationship, with more than \$18,900,000,000 in goods and services traded during 2020;

Whereas the People's Republic of China continues to use its Coast Guard and its Merchant Marine to violate the Philippines sovereignty, including in the Scarborough Shoal,

Whereas Chinese Communist Party propaganda now assert claims based on a so-called "ten-dash line", after a United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea arbitral tribunal ruled that China's nine-dashed line had "no legal basis";

Whereas in 1994, the People's Republic of China unlawfully seized Mischief Reef and have since constructed 20 artificial islands that extends the operational capabilities of the People's Liberation Army with the aim of expanding its presence and reinforcing their illegitimate claims to the South China Sea;

Whereas the People's Republic of China is asserting its sweeping claims over the South China Sea by disrupting the regular resupply of the BRP Sierra Madre, a Philippine Navy transport ship, based in the Second Thomas Shoal, by shooting water cannons at Philippine Coast Guard vessels and using military-grade lasers to blind its crew;

Whereas, on April 3, 2023, the Biden administration announced plans today to expand the Enhanced Defense Cooperation Arrangement to include four new sites to strengthen interoperability and allow the United States and the Philippines to better address shared challenges in the Indo-Pacific region;

Whereas, on August 5, 2023, the United States Department of State reaffirmed that "an armed attack on Philippine public vessels, aircraft, and armed forces—including those of its Coast Guard in the South China Sea—would invoke U.S. mutual defense commitments under Article IV of the 1951 U.S. Philippines Mutual Defense Treaty";

Whereas, on October 22, 2023, the Chinese Coast Guard rammed a Philippines Coast Guard cutter escorting supplies to the Second Thomas Shoal within the Philippines exclusive economic zone;

Whereas, on April 11, 2024, the leaders of Japan, the Philippines, and the United States held a trilateral summit in Washington, D.C., to expand trilateral cooperation and bolster a free and open Indo-Pacific and an international order based on international law; and

Whereas, on June 17, 2024, PRC vessels tried to deny the Philippines from lawfully delivering humanitarian supplies to service members stationed at the BRP Sierra Madre through the dangerous use of water cannons, ramming, blocking maneuvers, and towing which damaged Philippine vessels and injured Philippine service members: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) reaffirms the United States unwavering commitment to invoke its Mutual Defense Treaty with the Philippines if an armed attack against the Philippines assets, including those of the Philippine Coast Guard, is committed in the South China Sea;

(2) calls on the United States and Philippines to conduct more joint patrols in the South China Sea, including with other like-minded partners, to underscore the importance of freedom of navigation and overflight;

(3) firmly objects to the People's Republic of China's false sovereignty claims to the South China Sea;

(4) strongly condemns and calls on the People's Republic of China to cease its aggressive and dangerous actions against Philippine vessels in the South China Sea;

(5) welcomes swift implementation of the Enhanced Defense Cooperation Agreement to ensure we adhere to our commitments to the Philippine people, and to foster a free and open Indo-Pacific for all;

(6) emphasizes that respecting the shared values of democratic institutions, human rights, and the rule of law, especially with regard to the rights of trade unionists, journalists, human rights defenders, critics of the Government, faith and religious leaders, and civil society activists, will strengthen the alliance between the United States and the Philippines; and

(7) reaffirms the United States unwavering commitment to invoke its Mutual Defense Treaty with the Philippines, in accordance with constitutional processes, if an armed attack against the Philippines assets, including those of the Philippine Coast Guard, is committed in the South China Sea.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Guam (Mr. MOYLAN) and the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. MANNING) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Guam.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Res. 837, a resolution that reaffirms the enduring partnership between the United States and the Philippines.

This resolution is a testament to the deep-rooted bonds of friendship, shared

values, and mutual interests that have defined our relationship for over a century.

The Philippines is not only a close ally in the Asia-Pacific region, but also a vital partner in promoting peace, stability, and prosperity.

Our two nations share a long history of cooperation from the fight for freedom during World War II to our joint efforts in addressing global challenges today.

Whether it is combating terrorism, the Chinese Communist Party's aggression, or advancing trade, the U.S.-Philippines partnership is instrumental in shaping a safer and more secure world.

In addition to our strategic alliance, the Filipino-American community is an invaluable bridge between the two countries. More than 4 million Filipino Americans contribute to the fabric of America's society, enriching our culture and economy.

Furthermore, this resolution strongly condemns the People's Republic of China's aggressive action against the Philippine vessels in the South China Sea. These provocative maneuvers threaten the peace and stability of the region and violate international law.

We stand in full support of the Philippines' sovereignty over its territorial waters and call on China to respect the rights of all nations in the South China Sea.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H. Res. 837, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Res. 837, which reaffirms the vital partnership between the United States and the Philippines. I thank Delegate MOYLAN and Representative BOBBY SCOTT for bringing forward this important and timely resolution.

The relationship between our two democracies is more than just a long-standing alliance; it is a cornerstone for stability in the Indo-Pacific region.

Over the past year, Beijing has persistently and illegally bullied the Philippines in the South China Sea. The Chinese Coast Guard and maritime militia have intensified their harassment of Philippine fishing vessels in contested waters as well as within the Philippines' own exclusive economic zone.

Chinese security forces have used water cannons, wielded axes and machetes, engaged in ramming and blocking maneuvers, and interfered with humanitarian supply missions of the Philippine Coast Guard.

These actions are dangerous and unacceptable. Beijing's military coercion and provocation threaten the Philippines' sovereignty as well as peace and stability in the Indo-Pacific region. Philippine President Marcos has spoken passionately about the daily harassment faced by his nation's fishermen and coast guard at the hands of China's maritime militia, coast guard, and navy. His message has been clear:

The Philippines need international support to uphold international law and safeguard its sovereignty.

By passing this resolution today, we are offering that support. Amidst Beijing's flagrant and irresponsible actions, H. Res. 837 makes clear that the United States stands with the Philippines and reaffirms our commitment to defending the Philippines in the event of an armed attack against it. The resolution also upholds the importance of freedom of navigation and the rule of law on the seas, condemns the PRC's dangerous tactics, and rejects its unlawful maritime claims.

Over the past 4 years, the Biden administration has strengthened our alliance with the Philippines. We have bolstered our interoperability with the Philippines Armed Forces through a vital expansion of the Enhanced Defense Cooperation Agreement to four new sites.

The United States has also promoted partner collaboration with the Philippines, principally by hosting President Marcos in D.C. for the inaugural U.S.-Philippines-Japan Trilateral Summit and strengthening security coordination with Australia, Japan, and the Philippines.

□ 1315

Congress also did its part by passing the critical National Security Supplemental earlier this year with funds for our partners and allies in the Indo-Pacific.

Passing this resolution advances those efforts by reaffirming the alliance, as well as our shared resolve to uphold peace, stability, and the rule of law in the region.

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

Mr. MOYLAN. I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. MANNING. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SCOTT), the ranking member of the House Committee on Education and the Workforce and a strong supporter of the bilateral relationship between the U.S. and the Philippines.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 837 which reaffirms the ties between the United States and the Philippines.

This resolution highlights the important partnership between our two nations and makes it clear that we will firmly stand by our allies in the Indo-Pacific region.

I also thank the gentleman from Guam, Mr. MOYLAN, for both leading this resolution and for co-chairing the U.S.-Philippines Friendship Caucus with me.

Earlier this year, I had the opportunity to meet with the President of the Philippines, along with members of the Philippine House of Representatives, to discuss the important bilateral relationship between our two countries.

These conversations between Members of the United States Congress and elected officials in the Philippines solidify the bonds between our two nations and help identify areas of mutual interest and concern in the Indo-Pacific region. In these discussions we emphasized our shared vision of keeping peace and freedom, particularly in the South China Sea.

We are putting these goals into action. Earlier this year, Congress passed the Indo-Pacific Security Supplemental Appropriations Act, recommending \$500 million in foreign military financing go to the Philippines.

Following the passage of the amendment, Secretaries Blinken and Austin announced \$500 million in military funding to help monetize the Philippines military and Coast Guard and boost collaboration.

This resolution reaffirms the United States' commitment to invoke the 1951 U.S.-Philippines Mutual Defense Treaty if Philippine assets are attacked in the South China Sea and welcomes a swift implementation of the Enhanced Defense Cooperation Agreement.

I was pleased to see the Biden administration expand the Enhanced Defense Cooperation Agreement to include four new military training sites. This will allow the United States and the Philippines to better address shared challenges in the Indo-Pacific region.

I look forward to continuing our work to strengthen the ties between our countries. I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

Ms. MANNING. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Hawaii (Mr. CASE), a very strong supporter of our partners in the Pacific.

Mr. CASE. Mr. Speaker, I join my friend from Guam (Mr. MOYLAN) and my friend from North Carolina (Ms. MANNING) and many colleagues in strong support of H. Res. 837, reaffirming our country's enduring ties with the great Republic of the Philippines.

The strength of the U.S.-Philippines relationship endures on a foundation of shared heritage, history, and values, from Filipinos being the first documented Asian ethnic group in North America to the still-growing population of Filipino Americans today, numbering over 4.6 million, now the third largest group of Asian descent in our country, to our mutual vibrant democracies, and so much more.

In my own Hawaii, I am the very proud Representative for the congressional district with the highest number of Filipino Americans of any district in our country, some 204,000 today. For over a century, we in Hawaii have had experience in understanding how Hawaii and our Nation have greatly benefited from the significant contributions and accomplishments of our Filipino community.

The U.S.-Philippines relationship has perhaps never been as strong as it is today, and it is these people-to-people ties that are the foundation behind the security partnership outlined in the

1951 U.S.-Philippines Mutual Defense Treaty. It recognizes an attack in the Pacific on either of us would endanger the peace of both of us and that we must act in concert to meet common dangers.

This security relationship is critical today, given continued aggression by the People's Republic of China in the South China Sea and elsewhere in the Indo-Pacific. This congressional reaffirmation comes on the heels of Secretary of Defense Austin's recent visit to Palawan where he reaffirmed the ironclad U.S. commitment to the Philippines and reiterated that the U.S.-Philippines Mutual Defense Treaty extends to Armed Forces, public vessels, and aircraft of both countries, including those of the Coast Guard anywhere in the South China Sea.

That is just one of many reasons why the reaffirmation of our relationship with the Philippines by this United States Congress, as well as this resolution, is more important now than ever.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting our critical U.S.-Philippines relationship. "Thank you very much and God bless," "Maraming salamat po and Dios ti agnina."

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

Mr. Speaker, the U.S.-Philippines alliance is imperative to both our security and the security of the Indo-Pacific region. Today, the Philippines is on the front lines in Beijing's attempts to flout international law and upend the status quo in the South China Sea. As Philippine vessels face threat and intimidation from Beijing, we must work together to ensure that our friends are not alone and that they do not waver.

By agreeing to H. Res. 837, we can send a clear message: The United States stands with the Philippines against Beijing's coercion and intimidation as we work to maintain a free and open Indo-Pacific.

I hope my colleagues will join me in supporting H. Res. 837.

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

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

I thank Representative SCOTT for leading this resolution with me and my good friend, Mr. CASE, for his testimony.

This resolution sends a clear message: The United States stands firmly with the people of the Philippines and reaffirms our unwavering commitment to invoke our Mutual Defense Treaty with the Philippines in accordance with constitutional processes.

Again, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 837.

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

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I wish to underscore my strong support of H. Res. 837 introduced by Mr. MOYLAN, our colleague from Guam, on Reaffirming Ties Between the United States and the Philippines. It is both timely and critical, as we see the People's Liberation Army Navy and the Chinese

Coast Guard intrude on Philippines territorial waters and engage in increasingly belligerent and lawless behavior.

My one quibble with the Resolution is the continued use of the term “South China Sea” to refer to that term for the sea west of the Philippines. Why not “West Philippines Sea,” an important semantic change that rejects the PRC’s claims on Philippines territory and reinforces the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea arbitral panel ruling that the PRC’s maritime territorial claims have no basis?

Indeed, even the term in Chinese makes no explicit reference to China. It is simply “South Sea.”

We have seen repeated aggression by PLA naval and coast guard vessels in the West Philippines Sea. We routinely see Filipino fishing boats harassed and surrounded by a flotilla of navy and coast guard vessels.

There was also an incident this past summer where a Chinese coast guard vessel engaged in a piratical ramming attack against Filipino vessels. Eight Filipino sailors were injured, including one who lost his thumb.

The PLA Navy is playing a dangerous escalation game. A war was once fought over a sailor’s severed ear—1739’s War of Jenkins’ Ear. Will a war now be fought over a severed thumb?

Not if we are resolute. There is a quotation attributed to Lenin: “You probe with bayonets: if you find mush, you push. If you find steel, you withdraw.”

This describes the strategy of the PLA Navy. Probing with bayonets. Unfortunately, up until now, they have only encountered mush. Steely resolution is what is needed to deter war.

It is my hope that the incoming Trump Administration show resolve which sadly has been lacking, including conducting naval exercises in conjunction with our Philippines treaty ally in the West Philippines Sea, and sending ships to escort the Filipino navy in resupplying Filipino sailors and Marines who are staffing an outpost on the Second Thomas Shoal—something that was bravely done just this past week by our stalwart ally.

I thank Representative MOYLAN for his resolution, underscoring this House’s resolve to stand by an ally.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Guam (Mr. MOYLAN) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 837, 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.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

RECOGNIZING THE ACTIONS OF THE RAPID SUPPORT FORCES AND ALLIED MILITIAS IN THE DARFUR REGION OF SUDAN AGAINST NON-ARAB ETHNIC COMMUNITIES AS ACTS OF GENOCIDE

Mr. MOYLAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 1328) recognizing the actions of the Rapid Support

Forces and allied militias in the Darfur region of Sudan against non-Arab ethnic communities as acts of genocide.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 1328

Whereas Article II of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide (in this preamble referred to as the “Genocide Convention”), adopted at Paris on December 9, 1948, defines genocide as “any of the following acts committed with intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnical, racial or religious group, as such: (a) Killing members of the group; (b) Causing serious bodily or mental harm to members of the group; (c) Deliberately inflicting on the group conditions of life calculated to bring about its physical destruction in whole or in part; (d) Imposing measures intended to prevent births within the group; (e) Forcibly transferring children of the group to another group”;

Whereas the genocide that began in 2003 in Darfur perpetrated by the Government of Sudan and its proxy Janjaweed militia, explicitly targeting the Fur, Zaghawa, and Masalit ethnic communities through mass killings, forced displacement, the razing of villages and cropland, widespread rape, aerial bombings of civilians, and the blocking of humanitarian assistance, killed at least 200,000 civilians and displaced 2,000,000 people;

Whereas, on July 22, 2004, Congress declared, with the passage of House Concurrent Resolution 467 (108th Congress) and Senate Concurrent Resolution 133 (108th Congress), that atrocities occurring in Darfur were genocide, and the administration of President George W. Bush declared genocide in Darfur on September 9, 2004;

Whereas, in 2013, the Government of Sudan, under the administration of the National Intelligence and Security Service (NISS) and the command of the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF), formed the Rapid Support Forces (RSF), a formal paramilitary force composed primarily of Janjaweed militia;

Whereas Mohamed Hamdan Dagalo (commonly known as “Hemedti”), a Janjaweed militia leader during the genocide in Darfur that began in 2003, served as head of the RSF and became the deputy head of the Transitional Military Council, which took power from the President of Sudan Omar al-Bashir in 2019, and the deputy chairman of the successor Sovereign Council;

Whereas the elevation of individuals who served in leadership of the parties responsible for such genocide, including Hemedti and General Abdel Fattah al-Burhan of the SAF, into leadership roles in the transition government in 2019 only heightened the risk of atrocities recurring across Sudan, including genocide in Darfur;

Whereas fighting between the SAF and the RSF broke out in Khartoum on April 15, 2023, and quickly spread to Darfur, where the RSF has taken control of four of five regional capitals in Darfur: Nyala, Geneina, Zalingei, and El Daein;

Whereas, on August 16, 2023, CNN issued an investigative report on the June 15, 2023, atrocity in El Geneina, the capital of West Darfur, describing the atrocity as “one of the most violent incidents in the genocide-scarred Sudanese region’s history”, explaining how “the powerful paramilitary Rapid Support Forces and its allied militias hunted down non-Arab people in various parts of the city . . . reviving a genocidal playbook”, and in which survivors reported that identifying as Masalit “was a death sentence”;

Whereas, on November 3, 2023, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights stated, “We are deeply alarmed by reports that women and girls are being abducted and held in inhuman, degrading slave-like conditions in areas controlled by the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) in Darfur”;

Whereas, on November 14, 2023, the United Nations Special Adviser on the Prevention of Genocide, Alice Wairimu Nderitu, expressed extreme concern with the “serious allegations of mass killings” in Ardamata, which “may constitute acts of genocide”, citing reports that the violence killed more than 800 people and displaced 8,000 Sudanese individuals to Chad;

Whereas, on December 6, 2023, Secretary of State Antony Blinken determined that, since the fighting between the SAF and the RSF began on April 15, 2023, Sudan has experienced war crimes, crimes against humanity, and ethnic cleansing in “haunting echoes of the genocide that began almost 20 years ago in Darfur”, including Masalit civilians being “hunted down and left for dead in the streets, their homes set on fire, and told that there is no place in Sudan for them”;

Whereas a December 15, 2023, Reuters special investigative report detailed the targeted killing of Masalit men and boys by the RSF, about which an emergency protection officer for the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees explained that “the objective of the killings seems to be the elimination of future fighters as well as the line of ancestry of a specific ethnic group”, referring to the Masalit people;

Whereas the RSF has killed Masalit political and traditional leaders in El Geneina, West Darfur, including Khamis Abdullah Abbakar, the Governor of West Darfur, and Farsha Mohamed Arbab, a prominent leader of the Masalit Sultanate;

Whereas, on May 9, 2024, Human Rights Watch reported that attacks by the RSF and allied militias in El Geneina, the capital city of Sudan’s West Darfur state, killed thousands of people and left hundreds of thousands as refugees, from April to November 2023;

Whereas there is significant evidence of widespread, systematic actions against the non-Arab ethnic communities of Darfur, including the Masalit people, committed by the RSF and allied militias that meet one or more of the criteria under Article II of the Genocide Convention, including—

(1) killing members of the non-Arab ethnic communities in Darfur in mass killings of civilians, including summary executions in the streets and shootings of civilians fleeing across the Wadi Kaja river and to the Chad border, targeted killings of men and boys, targeted killings of Masalit leaders, and burials in mass graves;

(2) causing serious bodily or mental harm to members of such communities, including through extrajudicial detention, torture and beatings, extortion, sexual and gender-based violence, mass rape, sexual slavery, and forced displacement; and

(3) deliberately inflicting on such communities conditions of life calculated to bring about their physical destruction in whole or in part, including the annihilation of villages, targeted attacks on marketplaces and schools, widespread destruction of civilian infrastructure and telecommunication, the looting of homes and hospitals, assaults on camps for displaced persons, the destruction of humanitarian facilities, the killing of aid workers, and restrictions on humanitarian aid and access; and

Whereas credible descriptions of the RSF’s objective of elimination of the line of ancestry of the non-Arab tribes of Darfur, survivors’ statements reporting that identifying