

the refugees. In addition, short term accommodations will be provided for some of the refugees in Taiwan. Most important of all, Taipei will support the rehabilitation of the Kosovar area in coordination with other international agencies.

Taipei's offer of help drew a favorable response from our State Department and I think Taiwan's plan to assist Kosovar refugees and Macedonia is praiseworthy and demonstrates Taiwan's commitment to play a helpful role in the international community.

President Lee Teng-hui of the Republic of China on Taiwan should be commended for his willingness to commit his country's resources to help other countries in need. President Lee's aid initiative to the Kosovar refugees is yet another demonstration of the Republic of China's support of U.S. policies in the Balkans.

TAIPEI ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL
REPRESENTATIVE OFFICE IN THE
UNITED STATES,

Washington, DC, June 9, 1999.

Hon. SOLOMON ORTIZ,
House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN ORTIZ: As we are all eagerly awaiting a peaceful resolution of the Kosovo conflict, I am writing today to direct your attention to my country's efforts to aid the huge numbers of Kosovar refugees currently residing in other countries.

As a member of the world community committed to protecting and promoting human rights, the Republic of China on Taiwan is deeply concerned about the plight of the Kosovars and hopes to contribute to the reconstruction of their war-torn land. To that end, President Lee Teng-hui announced on June 7, 1999 that our country will grant U.S. \$300 million in an aid package to the Kosovars. The aid package will consist of the following:

1. Emergency support for food, shelters, medical care, and education, etc. for Kosovar refugees living in exile in neighboring countries.
2. Short-term accommodations for some of Kosovar refugees in Taiwan, with opportunities of job training to enable them to be better equipped for the restoration of their homeland upon their return.
3. Support for the restoration of Kosovo in coordination with international long-term recovery programs once a peace plan is implemented.

We earnestly hope that our aid will contribute to the promotion of the peace plan for Kosovo and that all the refugees will be able to return safely to their homes as soon as possible. In this regard, we hope that we may rely on your continued support and friendship as we seek to fulfill our obligations as a responsible member of the international community.

With best regards,
Sincerely yours,

STEPHEN S. F. CHEN,
Representative.

Mr. RILEY. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to this amendment.

The CHAIRMAN. The gentleman from Alabama (Mr. RILEY) is recognized for 15 minutes.

Mr. RILEY. Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. CUNNINGHAM).

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Mr. Chairman, I would like to speak directly to my friend, the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. SKELTON) on his amendment. He is my friend, but I thought it was unfair

to characterize this as a vote against our troops. As I see it, what our original base bill did was prevent the President from taking supplemental money that the House and the Senate voted for and passed for emergency supplemental, which was going directly to take care of many of the ills our military had.

The gentleman's amendment would allow the President to take money out of that fund and use it to expand Kosovo. Our position is that no money should come out of that which would detriment readiness for our military, and secondly, that it would not expand Kosovo.

Now, as I see it, the situation today, and I will have the gentleman correct me, he has had a phone call from the President that says he will not take money out of readiness. Secondly, he will come back to this Congress for a supplemental to pay for this, and the money will not come out of the hide of defense. That is good.

If that is the case, this gentleman would be willing to accept the amendment of the gentleman from Missouri.

But I have feared, and to me there is a difference between expanding a war and being able to pay to keep people separated and prepare for the problems that we have over there, even though I think NATO ought to pay for this, not the United States.

I also want to make it clear that any supplemental is going to come out of the things that both sides want to do. Those are the social issues.

So if the gentleman has that guarantee in writing, and I say writing because I would tell the gentleman I know what "is" is. Just a verbal acknowledgment that the President has promised, this is not enough.

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. REYES).

Mr. REYES. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman from Missouri for yielding me this time. Just for the record, the gentleman's word is good enough for me. It does not have to be in writing.

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Mr. Chairman, if the gentleman will yield, I did not say the word of the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. SKELTON) was not good. I said I did not believe the word of the President without its being in writing.

I totally take the word of the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. SKELTON).

Mr. REYES. Mr. Chairman, I appreciate the gentleman from California clearing that up.

Mr. Chairman, I rise today in strong support of the amendment to strike the Kosovo language from this bill.

Like many of my Democratic colleagues on the House Committee on Armed Services, my main concern with the underlying bill language has been and continues to be the inclusion of language which would basically require us to cease our operations in the Kosovo region at the end of this fiscal year.

Although I voted for the bill in the committee, I was greatly concerned with the message we were sending to Milosevic, to our military and the rest of the world. Although I do agree with the funds that we are providing in this bill, the manner in which the language is currently written will cause an unnecessary crisis on October 1 in the Balkans.

Having recently returned from that region and having heard from the refugees the horrors that they have experienced, I believe that we need to be in Kosovo and assist with the peace process.

I urge my colleagues to vote for the Skelton amendment and to make this defense authorization a truly comprehensive bill.

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Chairman, may I inquire of the time remaining on each side.

The CHAIRMAN. The gentleman from Missouri (Mr. SKELTON) has 10 minutes remaining. The gentleman from Alabama (Mr. RILEY) has 13 minutes remaining.

Mr. RILEY. Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. PAUL).

(Mr. PAUL asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to this amendment. This is a very important amendment, and what we do on it will be with us for a long time.

We are endorsing, if we vote in favor of this amendment, a policy of occupation of Kosovo for an endless period of time. We have now been fighting an undeclared war for more than 70 days. We have endlessly bombed a country the size of Kentucky killing many, many civilians.

It is an undeclared war. It is an immoral, illegal war. It violates the Constitution. It violates the War Powers resolution.

It is claimed now that we have had a great victory. But what we are doing now, after bombing a country to smithereens, is laying plans to occupy it. We are asking the American people to make an endless commitment to occupying this country.

A few years back, we were going to occupy Bosnia for a short period of time. We are still occupying Bosnia, spending between \$10 billion, \$20 billion already, depending on the estimate.

A few years back it was in our national interests to be involved in the Persian Gulf. We had to do a lot of bombing there and a lot of fighting. We are still bombing in the Persian Gulf. I mean, when will it end? Where do our borders end? What are the limits to our sovereignty? Where is our responsibility? It seems like it is endless anywhere, anywhere we have to go. We are now supporting an empire.

No wonder there is anti-American hostility existing around the world, because we believe that we can tell everybody what to do. We can deliver an

ultimatum to them. If they do not do exactly what we say, whether it is under NATO or the United Nations or by ourselves stating it, what happens, we say, "If you do not listen to us, we are going to bomb you."

I think that policy is a bad policy. If we vote for this amendment, we endorse this policy, and we should not. This is not the end of the Kosovo war; it's only the beginning of an endless occupation and the possibility of hostilities remain. The region remains destabilized and dangerous. Only a policy of non-intervention and neutrality can serve the interest of the American people. The sooner we quit accepting the role of world policemen, the better. We cannot afford to continue our recent policy of intervention to satisfy the power special interest that influences our foreign policy.

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. GEPHARDT).

(Mr. GEPHARDT asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GEPHARDT. Mr. Chairman, after 78 long days, the United States and its NATO allies have won a major victory over the forces of instability and inhumanity. Today, we are trying to snatch defeat from the jaws of victory.

We have won the war. Serbian troops are withdrawing from Kosovo under the exact terms that we have held out since the beginning of this action. We now have an opportunity to win the peace finally in the Balkans.

A vote against the Skelton amendment would prevent us from achieving the fruits of our success, restoring peace and stability to Kosovo, returning 1 million refugees to their homeland, and making sure that the bloodshed will finally end.

Even if one was against the military action, one should be for the peacekeeping effort. If one cares about the humanitarian catastrophe that has happened in the Balkans, if one cares about the future stability in Europe, the peacekeeping effort is the best way to continue this success.

Our heroic young people, men and women, for 74 days led this air campaign against the Serbian military, and therefore, we must be part of the peacekeeping effort.

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The President has said that the peacekeeping force will be overwhelmingly made up of European troops. We must continue to fulfill our obligation to NATO through our participation in this effort. Turning our backs on this effort now would send a horrible signal to NATO and to the rest of the world that the United States is turning to an isolationist stance.

Congress has been criticized for our erratic policy on Kosovo. This is our chance today to be consistent and to be united behind the policy of peace and responsible American leadership in the world. We have a responsibility to our

troops, to NATO, and to the refugees to fulfill our role in this peacekeeping effort.

I pray that Congress can put aside the actions of the last several months and join together to support this effort. It is the right thing to do, it makes sense, and it is worthy of our bipartisan support.

I urge Members on both sides of the aisle to back the Skelton amendment, to back peacekeeping, and to back what is right for the world.

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. SHADEGG).

Mr. SHADEGG. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman for yielding me this time.

What the Skelton amendment does is not what was just described. What the Skelton amendment does is give an absolute blank check.

Let me make it very, very clear. The language of the bill does not snatch defeat from the jaws of victory. Indeed, nothing in the language of the bill would in any way hamper the peacekeeping effort or the effort of our troops. What the language of the bill does, which the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. SKELTON) would like to strip out, is to say that the Congress has a proper role in deciding what our expenditures in support of the operations in Kosovo and in Yugoslavia ought to be.

It says that, in subsection (a), the President cannot spend these monies appropriated for other purposes in Kosovo. But it says in subsection (b) that the President has to, instead, come back to the Congress and ask for a supplemental appropriation in which he specifies what he wants for the operation in Kosovo.

That is perfectly logical, and I defend the product of the committee. It makes sense. It defines the proper policy and gives the Congress the role it ought to have.

But here is the problem with the Skelton language. The Skelton language would delete subsection (a), taking away the prohibition, giving the President the ability to do what he wanted to do with those funds. But then it leaves Pyrrhic language which does not protect anyone. It says if the President wants to use those monies in Yugoslavia, in Kosovo, he can go ahead the minute he transmits a request for a supplemental appropriation.

It does not say he has to get a supplemental appropriation, it does not say that Congress has to pass a supplemental appropriation. Indeed, any court reading the fact that this Congress had in the base bill subsection (a) saying the funds cannot be used and subsection (b) saying he must ask instead for a supplemental appropriation, and watching that on this floor we strip subsection (a), would read what we had left to say there is no prohibition. The President can do whatever he wants. He has a blank check.

I urge my colleagues to defeat the Skelton amendment.

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Washington (Mr. DICKS).

(Mr. DICKS asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DICKS. Mr. Chairman, I think it is very important here for the Members to hear the language that is in the bill that the gentleman from Missouri seeks to strike. It says:

Section 1006. Budgeting For Operations In Yugoslavia. (a) In General. None of the funds appropriated pursuant to the authorizations of appropriations in this act may be used for the conduct of combat or peacekeeping operations in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

Now, the gentleman from Missouri wants to strike that language, and I think every Member of this House should want to strike that language. I am on the Committee on Appropriations. It is not easy to get a supplemental appropriations bill through the Congress, and it may take us extra time to do it. We have had supplementals that get stalled for weeks.

I just think that to have an amendment like this that basically says we do not support either our troops in combat or our troops in peacekeeping is a mistake. But this one really bothers me.

We should strike this out of here. We know we are going to have our Marines going into Kosovo to conduct a peacekeeping mission, and all the legislative strategists on the other side there may say, well, but we will get a supplemental that will then do it, but we really do not support it because we passed this amendment.

Why do we not strike this thing out so it removes any ambiguity about our support for our troops in the field? That is what is wrong with this. It sends this mixed message that somehow we are not really for this and, therefore, we are going to come up with language that says we do not support either combat or peacekeeping.

Now, I do not see why we have to have this in this. This war is over. The peace is about to be established, and I think the Skelton amendment should be passed overwhelmingly; should be accepted by the majority.

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself 2 minutes.

First, I want to address my friend from Washington (Mr. DICKS). When the President asked for \$6 billion within a supplemental for this operation, I wanted to give him \$28.7 billion. We ended up, on this side of the aisle, giving the people in uniform, the people who count, \$12 billion. We came up with twice as much for combat operations and for military accounts, for ammunition, for spare parts, for equipment than the President wanted. In fact, he complained he had too much.

The gentleman knows what the problem is here. The problem is in the fiscal year 2000 budget the President did not come up with a doggone cent for this operation. Everything that we