Madam Speaker,

I move to suspend the rules and

agree to the concurrent resolution (H.

Con. Res. 145) calling for universal condemnation

of the North Korean missile

launch of December 12, 2012, as amended.

Mr. Speaker, I

ask unanimous consent that all Members

may have 5 legislative days to revise

and extend their remarks and to

include extraneous material in the

RECORD on this bill.

I yield myself

such time as I may consume.

I rise to support this strongly bipartisan

measure which condemns the latest

provocation by North Korea.

Pyongyang has once again flagrantly

violated past United Nations Security

Council resolutions and the assurances

given to Six-Party partners.

I would also like to take this opportunity,

Mr. Speaker, to sincerely congratulate

President-elect Park for her

victory in South Korea’s hard-fought

presidential election.

The Republic of Korea is one of our

Nation’s closest friends in Asia. Ours is

a steadfast alliance forged in the crucible

of war. Two decades ago, with all

eyes on Europe, the United States prematurely

celebrated victory over communism

and an end to the Cold War.

But in 1989, the same year the Berlin

Wall fell, tanks rolled into Tiananmen

Square, crushing, in a bloody massacre,

the democracy movement of the Chinese

people. So while communism fell

in Europe, it was revitalized in the

world’s most populous nation and preserved

in North Korea and in my native

homeland of Cuba.

Pyongyang’s recent missile launch

awakens America to the fact that the

shadow of communism still casts a

long shadow over Asia. North Korea’s

expanding nuclear and missile proliferation

threaten not only our allies

in the Pacific, but potentially our own

people as well. In Asia, the Cold War

never ended, and the United States and

South Korean forces stand guard together

on this last frontier.

Attempts to engage Pyongyang over

the past 4 years have been met with repeated

provocations: the kidnapping of

two American journalists, repeated

missile launches, one more nuclear

test, the sinking of a South Korean

naval vessel with the loss of 46 lives,

and the shelling of a South Korean island.

How much more should we endure before

we say, Enough is enough?

Sweet-talking Pyongyang only seems

to inspire further belligerence. Our extended

hand is met not only with a

clenched fist but a fist grasping a

knife. Those who had hoped for openness

and reform from this new generation

of the Kim dynasty saw their

dreams go up in smoke on a North Korean

launch pad. The only answer appears

to be a coordinated, firm, international

strategy in which current

sanctions are reinforced and strengthened.

This, of course, requires the cooperation

of Beijing, a U.N. Security

Council permanent member who deceptively

seems to tell one thing to Washington

and yet another to Pyongyang.

Press articles hailed the fact that

China, in anticipation of the recent

launch, had begun inspecting cargo on

North Korean ships in search of contraband.

The question this raises is: Why

has China not been inspecting North

Korean ships since 2006, as was first

called for in a U.N. resolution, which

was reinforced by another resolution in

the year 2009? If U.N. member states

would only enforce the sanctions currently

on the books, North Korea

would be unable to ignore the international

community and the civilized

world.

The time for coordinated international

action is now. The time, in

fact, is long overdue.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I reserve the

balance of my time.

I would like to

yield such time as he may consume to

the gentleman from California (Mr.

ROYCE), the chairman of the Foreign

Affairs Subcommittee on Terrorism,

Nonproliferation, and Trade and the

chairman-designate of the full committee

in the next Congress. I thank

him for his leadership on this and

many of the issues that are facing our

Foreign Affairs Committee.

Mr. Speaker, I

also have no further requests for time,

and I yield back the balance of my

time.