AMENDMENT TO DIVISION G OF RULES
COMMITTEE PRINT 115–31
OFFERED BY MR. BILIRAKIS OF FLORIDA

At the end of division G (before the short title), insert the following:

SENSE OF CONGRESS FOR A FIVE-YEAR OR LONG-TERM
MUTUAL DEFENSE COOPERATION AGREEMENT AT
SOUDA BAY

SEC. ___. (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the fol-
lowing:

(1) Since World War II, the Mediterranean Sea
has been the home to the United States Sixth Fleet,
with a mission “to conduct the full range of Mar-
time Operations and Theater Security Cooperation
missions to advance security and stability in Europe
and Africa”.

(2) The Eastern Mediterranean and Aegean
Seas are of supreme importance to United States in-
terests in Southeastern Europe, the Middle East,
Northern Africa and the Black Sea. The United
States currently faces increased regional security
challenges led by the surging influences of Russia,
China, and Iran.
(3) Further dangers emanate from Iranian proxies in Damascus, Beirut, and Gaza, providing the radical Shiite state sponsor of terror with critical regional bases for malignant behavior while the Islamic State retains a foothold along Libya’s eastern coast.

(4) Just 785 miles from Syria, 570 miles from Suez and 200 miles from eastern Libya, Naval Support Activity Souda Bay routinely functions as a Naval Operating Base, Naval Air Station, and Naval Weapons Station, enabling United States Sixth Fleet and North Atlantic Treaty Organization counterterrorism and anti-ballistic missile defense patrols, reconnaissance missions, and air-refueling support for multinational operations such as “Odyssey Lighting” to defeat the Islamic State in Libya.

(5) Souda Bay, in Greece, offers the largest deep-water port in the entire Mediterranean Sea, the only one between Norfolk, Virginia and the Indian Ocean that can accommodate a nuclear carrier pier-side to an airfield facility, allowing the Navy fleet to dock and carry out repairs, maintenance, and resupply functions.

(6) The United States use of these facilities is governed principally by a Mutual Defense Coopera-
tion Agreement between the United States and Greece, first signed in 1990. Since 1998, the agreement has been renewed annually.

(b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that a 5-year or longer-term renewal of the Mutual Defense Cooperation Agreement between the United States and Greece should be negotiated with respect to Souda Bay.