

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:

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

4 SEC. _____. (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the fol-
5 lowing:

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

12 (2) The Eastern Mediterranean and Aegean
13 Seas are of supreme importance to United States in-
14 terests in Southeastern Europe, the Middle East,
15 Northern Africa and the Black Sea. The United
16 States currently faces increased regional security
17 challenges led by the surging influences of Russia,
18 China, and Iran.

1 (3) Further dangers emanate from Iranian
2 proxies in Damascus, Beirut, and Gaza, providing
3 the radical Shiite state sponsor of terror with critical
4 regional bases for malignant behavior while the Is-
5 lamic State retains a foothold along Libya's eastern
6 coast.

7 (4) Just 785 miles from Syria, 570 miles from
8 Suez and 200 miles from eastern Libya, Naval Sup-
9 port Activity Souda Bay routinely functions as a
10 Naval Operating Base, Naval Air Station, and Naval
11 Weapons Station, enabling United States Sixth Fleet
12 and North Atlantic Treaty Organization
13 counterterrorism and anti-ballistic missile defense
14 patrols, reconnaissance missions, and air-refueling
15 support for multinational operations such as "Odys-
16 sey Lighting" to defeat the Islamic State in Libya.

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

24 (6) The United States use of these facilities is
25 governed principally by a Mutual Defense Coopera-

1 tion Agreement between the United States and
2 Greece, first signed in 1990. Since 1998, the agree-
3 ment has been renewed annually.

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

