AMENDMENT TO THE RULES COMMITTEE PRINT
FOR H.R. 4435
OFFERED BY MR. SHIMKUS OF ILLINOIS

At the end of subtitle F of title XII insert the following new section:

SEC. 1266. RECOGNITION OF VICTIMS OF SOVIET COMMUNIST AND NAZI REGIMES.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following findings:

(1) On August 13, 1941, President Franklin D. Roosevelt and Prime Minister Winston Churchill issued a joint declaration “of certain common principles in the national policies of their respective countries on which they based their hopes for a better future for the world” and “the right of all peoples to choose the form of government under which they will live and self government restored to those who have been forcibly deprived of them” and that the people of countries may live in freedom.

(2) The United States Government has actively advocated for and continues to support the principles of the United Nations Universal Declaration
of Human Rights and the United Nations General
Assembly resolution 260 (III) of December 9, 1948.

(3) Captive Nations Week, signed into law by
President Dwight D. Eisenhower in 1959, raised
public awareness of the oppression of nations under
the control of Communist and other nondemocratic
governments.

(4) The European Parliament resolution on Eu-
ropean conscience and totalitarianism of April 2,
2009, and the “Black Ribbon Day” resolution
adopted by the Parliament of Canada on November
30, 2009, establish a day of remembrance for vic-
tims of Communist and Nazi regimes to remember
and commemorate their victims.

(5) The extreme forms of totalitarian rule prac-
ticed by the Soviet Communist and Nazi regimes led
to premeditated and vast crimes committed against
millions of human beings and their basic and in-
alienable rights on a scale unseen before in history.

(6) Fleeing the Nazi and Soviet Communist
crimes, hundreds of thousands of people sought and
found refuge in the United States.

(7) August 23 would be an appropriate date to
designate as “Black Ribbon Day” to remember and
never forget the terror millions of citizens in Central
and Eastern Europe experienced for more than 40 years by ruthless military, economic, and political repression of the people through arbitrary executions, mass arrests, deportations, the suppression of free speech, confiscation of private property, and the destruction of cultural and moral identity and civil society, all of which deprived the vast majority of the peoples of Central and Eastern Europe of their basic human rights and dignity, separating them from the democratic world by means of the Iron Curtain and the Berlin Wall.

(8) The memories of Europe’s tragic past cannot be forgotten in order to honor the victims, condemn the perpetrators, and lay the foundation for reconciliation based on truth and remembrance.

(b) RECOGNITION.—Congress supports the designation of “Black Ribbon Day” to recognize the victims of Soviet Communist and Nazi regimes.