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P R E S S                      R E L E A S E

**Eni F.H. Faleomavaega**  
**Chairman**

**The Subcommittee on Asia, the Pacific and the Global Environment**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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Washington, D.C.

**HOUSE PASSES FALEOMAVAEGA RESOLUTION  
CALLING FOR INTERNATIONAL RESPONSE TO  
NORTH KOREAN SINKING OF SOUTH KOREAN  
SHIP BY VOTE OF 411 TO 3**

The U.S. House of Representatives yesterday passed, by a vote of 411 to 3, House Resolution 1382 introduced by Rep. Eni F.H. Faleomavaega, Chairman of the Subcommittee on Asia, the Pacific and the Global Environment. The resolution calls for a coordinated response to North Korea's sinking of the South Korean ship, the Cheonan.

"I was pleased that the House acted so quickly and overwhelmingly supported the resolution. It sends an important message to North Korea that its provocations and hostile acts have consequences. The attack on the Cheonan took place on March 26, 2010 while the ship was on a routine mission in waters off the west coast of South Korea. At 9:22 p.m., an explosion ripped through the Cheonan's hull. The ship tilted 90 degrees to starboard and sank. Of the 104 members of the crew on board, 46 died," Faleomavaega said.

"Despite the immediate suspicion that North Korea was responsible for the attack and the shocking loss of life, South Korea reacted calmly and deliberately. As the country mourned its dead, the government formed a Joint Civilian-Military Investigation Group to assess the cause of

the explosion. The 74-member team, including 24 experts from the United States, Sweden, the United Kingdom and Australia, spent several weeks examining the evidence objectively and scientifically. On May 20, 2010, the group released its final report, concluding unanimously that 'the Cheonan was attacked and sunk by a torpedo that was launched from a small North Korean submarine,'" Faleomavaega added.

"On the day of the report's release, the Chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, Congressman Howard Berman; the Committee's Ranking Member, Congresswoman Ileana Ros-Lehtinen; the Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on the Middle East and South Asia, Congressman Gary Ackerman; the Ranking Member of the Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Asia, the Pacific and the Global Environment, Congressman Don Manzullo, and I introduced House Resolution 1382. We did so to demonstrate America's strong solidarity with the Republic of Korea and to call for an appropriate and coordinated international response to North Korea's unprovoked, deadly attack. We also sought to express our condolences to the families and loved ones of those killed and to reaffirm our enduring commitment to the U.S.-ROK alliance and to the security of our friends in the Republic of Korea."

"In addition, our resolution calls for an apology by North Korea for its actions and a commitment by Pyongyang never to violate the Korean War Armistice Agreement again. It urges the international community to fully and faithfully implement all United Nations Security Council Resolutions pertaining to security on the Korean Peninsula, including Resolutions 1695, 1718 and 1874. Finally, it calls for the United States, in coordination with its allies and partners, to take appropriate steps in response to other hostile acts perpetrated by North Korea," Faleomavaega noted.

"The sinking of the Cheonan was one of the worst violations of the Korean War Armistice since the end of the Korean War. It took place in the wake of other recent North Korean provocations, such as an attempted sale of weapons to Hamas and Hezbollah late last year. Fortunately, our close friend and strong ally, Thailand, seized the plane containing the arms cache. Last month, South Korea also arrested two North Korean agents sent to Seoul to assassinate Hwang Jang-yop, the highest-ranking North Korean official ever to defect to the South."

"Yesterday, South Korea's President Lee Myung-bak said in address to his nation that in responding to the sinking of the Cheonan, 'The overriding goal of the Republic of Korea is not military confrontation. Our goal has always been the attainment of real peace and stability on the Korean Peninsula.' The President went on to say that 'North Korea will pay a price corresponding to its provocative acts.' That price will include stopping all trade and most investment with North Korea, as well as closing South Korea's sea lanes to North Korean ships."

"House Resolution 1382 shares President Lee's goal and his call for a calibrated response to North Korea's provocations. No one wants tensions to escalate to the point where another Korean war breaks out. But North Korea must understand that its actions have consequences, that it cannot violate the armistice, break international law and murder with impunity. That is why I introduced the resolution and why it passed by such a large margin," Faleomavaega concluded.

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