

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF V-E
DAY

HON. MARTIN R. HOKE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 12, 1995

Mr. HOKE. Mr. Speaker, just a few days ago we celebrated the 50th anniversary of V-E Day, signifying the defeat of Nazi Germany. But as we celebrate the end of the Second World War we must remember that we are approaching another milestone, the 50th anniversary of the birth of the nuclear age.

On July 16, 1945, at Alamogordo, NM, a small group of scientists and soldiers witnessed the detonation of a primitive implosion "Fat Man" type bomb. This was the Trinity test, the first nuclear weapons test ever conducted.

In the decades since the Trinity test we have seen the other great powers—the Soviet Union, China, Great Britain, and France—develop and deploy nuclear weapons. During the cold war the Soviet Union, with its ability to turn America into a nuclear wasteland, was the singular threat to the United States.

However, the collapse of the Soviet Union and the end of the cold war has not seen the end of the nuclear threat against the United States. Indeed, although the threat of a massive nuclear attack on the United States has receded, the possibility of one or more nuclear weapons being used against American military forces overseas or even on an American city has grown significantly.

We as a nation have only a limited number of recourses to stem the growing worldwide nuclear threat. First, we must act aggressively to stem the proliferation of nuclear weapons and ballistic missile technology. This entails not only seeking the extension of passive international agreements such as the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, but for the negotiation and rigid enforcement of international nuclear and missile technology control regimes.

Further, we must act to isolate and defang those nations that through their possession of or attempts to gain nuclear and missile technology pose serious threats to international peace.

We absolutely must develop and deploy a ballistic missile defense system that will not only protect American troops overseas but that will also protect the American people in their homes and at their workplaces from the threat of a nuclear attack with ballistic missiles. Indeed, I have personally urged Secretary of Defense William Perry to make ballistic missile defense the highest priority within the defense budget.

But most importantly, the United States must maintain its nuclear deterrent. To date, no nation has been able to ignore the possibility of its destruction by an American retaliation triggered by the use of nuclear weapons against the United States or its allies.

Of course, the size of America's nuclear deterrent can and will shrink as the strategic

arms reduction treaties are fully complied with. But while the START treaties have called for significantly lower nuclear arsenals for the United States and Russia, they cannot and do not pretend to put the nuclear genie back in the bottle.

Even with fewer nuclear weapons the United States must maintain the integrity of its nuclear deterrent and must maintain the ability to modernize and replace its existing nuclear weapons systems as they age. Since 1977 the Department of Energy has been responsible for safeguarding these capabilities, but under the current administration it has failed to adequately meet the minimum requirements of maintaining the operational readiness of our nuclear weapons stockpile.

Nuclear testing has been instrumental to the United States' nuclear deterrent by: first, testing or verifying new scientific principals and theoretical calculations; second, proving the engineering, fabrication and integration of components; and third, obtaining information on the effects of weapons for scientific and military purposes. The Clinton administration has unilaterally extended a moratorium on nuclear weapons testing and ceased nuclear weapons research and development, thus allowing a level of uncertainty to creep into the safety, reliability, and performance of our nuclear weapons.

The administration established the Stockpile Stewardship Program to explore means other than nuclear testing—such as by computer modeling—to maintain confidence in the safety, reliability, and performance of nuclear weapons, and to ensure that the United States' capability to produce nuclear weapons will not disappear. While the Stockpile Stewardship Program may eventually produce useful results, it is a highly risky strategy because much of the program is based upon the development of advanced computer and other technologies that may not be achieved.

Furthermore, according to senior officials within the Energy and Defense Departments, the research conducted under the Stockpile Stewardship Program is underfunded by at least \$400 million annually. This funding deficiency is seriously eroding the United States' ability to maintain the complex scientific and industrial base necessary to maintain a safe and reliable nuclear deterrent. The lack of new design work means that no new systems will be available to replace older weapons systems, and that maintaining the irreplaceable base of specialized scientists and technicians which make up the weapon design team will become difficult, if not impossible.

Thus, I am introducing legislation today that calls for the termination of the Department of Energy's oversight of the United States' defense-related nuclear infrastructure and establishes a civilian-controlled Department of Defense associated agency—the Defense Nuclear Programs Agency [DNPA].

The DNPA will assume responsibility for all national security functions of the Department of Energy, including defense, nonproliferation, and defense-related environmental manage-

ment programs. The DNPA will also assume direct oversight of the defense and nondefense functions and budgets of the Lawrence Livermore, Los Alamos, and Sandia National Laboratories. In addition, several Defense Department functions will be transferred to the DNPA.

The Administrator of the DNPA, who must be a civilian, will function under the direction of the Secretary of Defense, and will also serve as the principal advisor to the President and the Secretary of Defense on defense nuclear programs matters. This structure will ensure continued civilian control and management of the nuclear weapons infrastructure, and will also ensure that this infrastructure and the armed services have a more efficient and responsive relationship.

This legislation fully conforms with the 104th Congress' desire to eliminate the Department of Energy by terminating DOE's management of defense nuclear programs and establishing an organization that will ensure that the United States' nuclear deterrent remains effective.

HONORING MSGR. JOHN J.
DOHERTY

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 12, 1995

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, 1995 makes two major milestones in the life of Msgr. John Doherty. On January 27, he celebrated his 15th anniversary in the priesthood and on June 25, he will celebrate his farewell mass at Saint Gabriel's Parish, located in my congressional district.

What stands out most about Monsignor Doherty is not only his commitment to his faith but his commitment to his community. The Monsignor was a founding member and for 14 years, a member of the board of directors of the Northwest Bronx Community and Clergy Coalition, a neighborhood activist group, credited with the rehabilitation of the Bronx, restoring financial reinvestment by banks and insurance companies and the rebuilding of scores of homes and apartment houses in the north Bronx.

Monsignor Doherty has been the recipient of the Riverdalian of the Year award from the Riverdale Community Council, the Good Neighbor Award from Neighborhood House as well as numerous citations from the New York State Legislature and the New York City Council. Monsignor Doherty also honored us by offering the opening prayer for a session of the U.S. House of Representatives.

I join with the people of the Bronx in honoring Msgr. John Doherty and thank him for his years of service.

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