

I would remind Mr. Christopher that Russian Foreign Minister Yevgeny Primakov, who earlier headed the Russian Foreign Intelligence Service, has been one of the chief proponents of the reestablishment of a Russian sphere of influence in the newly independent States of the former Soviet Union, the so-called "near abroad."

Should the United States decide to pursue a formal charter between NATO and Russia several key issues must be addressed. First, the Russian Federation must not be given a veto, or implied veto, over the timing or conditions for the admission of new members into the alliance. Second, such an accord must firmly oppose any moves by Moscow to establish "spheres of influence" in East Central Europe. Third, the charter must in no way impede the development of enhanced relations between NATO and nonmembers, such as Ukraine.

Mr. Speaker, let us now lose sight of the fact that an essential element of any partnership is, and must be, trust. The reality is that much time is needed to heal the wounds inflicted by the war in Chechnya and establish Moscow's credentials as a trustworthy partner. In the meantime, the single greatest contribution Russia can make to the construction of an integrated and Democratic Europe would be to consolidate democracy, human rights, and rule of law at home.

IN HONOR OF PRABHAKAR
SHUKLA: AN EXEMPLARY INDIVIDUAL

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 27, 1996

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a very distinguished and outstanding individual from my district. Prabhakar R. Shukla has been a devoted father and an extraordinary individual who has inspired many of his fellow community members.

Mr. Shukla was born in the small village of Saras in Gujarat, India. He grew up in Saras working on his family farm while receiving his education. At the age of 12, he was sent to boarding school to pursue further studies and earned a bachelors degree in physics and chemistry, a law degree and an education degree. He also received a Vishard, an advanced degree in Hindi and Sanskrit from Beneras Hindu University. In 1958, he married a wonderful woman, Hasumati, and had one son. In 1962, he left India to work as a principal at a high school in Africa for 4 years and then worked in England as a teacher for 6 years. In 1970, he came to the United States with his family working as a substitute teacher, salesman, and insurance agent. Through hard work and dedication, he became a full time teacher. For the past 16 years, he has taught physics and chemistry at East Orange High School, has been chairman of the science department, and has been recognized as an outstanding teacher.

As an active member of his community, Mr. Shukla has sought to contribute to the vitality of Hudson County and its residents. He is a member of the North Bergen Planning Board, the Hudson County Commissioner of Human Relations and a member of the Hudson Coun-

ty Vicarage Advisory Committee. He is a founder and life member of the Hindu Cultural Society, India Cultural Society, Hindu Mandir and Bharat Cultural Society. In addition, he serves as the chairman of the board of trustees for the Bharat Cultural Society and the Brahmin Samaj.

Prabhakar Shukla is well respected by his friends, students, and neighbors. He has distinguished himself with his contributions to the citizens of New Jersey. His success is proof that America is a land of opportunity for all those willing to seize it. I ask that my colleagues join me in honoring this outstanding individual.

HONORING AMBASSADOR WILLIAM
COLBY

HON. DANA ROHRBACHER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 27, 1996

Mr. ROHRBACHER. Mr. Speaker, General Vang Pao, the Vietnam war hero and Colonel Wangyee Vang, the National President of the Lao Veterans of America, organized a major event earlier this year to commemorate the sacrifices of the Hmong and Lao combat veterans. Tragically, Ambassador William Colby, former Director of the Central Intelligence Agency [CIA], who was slated to speak at this special event, passed away just prior to it.

In honor of Ambassador Colby, and the Hmong and Lao veterans who staunchly fought as allies of the United States to defend freedom from Southeast Asia, I request to include the following article from the Washington Times in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

[From the Washington Times, May 8, 1996]
REFUGEES FROM LAOS MOURN A FRIEND,
COLBY

(By Gary Scheets)

Chia Kue was born on the CIA base of Long Chieng 24 years ago. She remembers eluding Laotian communist insurgents with her family as they followed a trail of refugees out of Laos and into Thailand, where squalid camps harbored them until, and if, they were lucky enough to get to the United States.

At that same base, William Colby, who would later direct the Central Intelligence Agency, staged operations using recruited Hmong soldiers to guard America installations and fight the North Vietnamese along the Ho Chi Minh Trail during the Vietnam War.

Miss Kue's father was a Hmong soldier fighting under Maj. Gen. Vang Pao, commander of the Royal Lao Army Region Two, who took his direction from Mr. Colby.

This Saturday and Sunday, thousands of Hmong combat veterans and refugee families will gather in Fresno, Calif., to pay tribute to Mr. Colby. At the event, originally designed as a ceremony to honor the actions of Hmong soldiers, Mr. Colby was scheduled to attend and present commendations and citations.

Instead, Hmong tribal and military honors will be staged in remembrance of Mr. Colby, whose body was found Monday along the banks of the Wicomico River. Authorities believe Mr. Colby drowned after his canoe capsized nine days earlier.

The Maryland State Medical Examiner's Office won't have autopsy results until the end of the week.

Miss Kue, of Arlington, is a first-grade teacher at the Fairfax Brewster School, a

private school in Baileys Crossroads. She and her family spent four years in Nong Chai, a refugee camp in Thailand that was closed when the Thai government began repatriation of the Laotian refugees.

She first met Mr. Colby in April 1994 at congressional hearings on the plight of Hmong refugees in the camps and their forced repatriation to Laos to face persecution and possible death for their collaboration with the CIA.

Miss Kue and Mr. Colby kept in contact on the refugee issue, meeting and talking several times.

Miss Kue said the death of Mr. Colby will be a significant loss to the Hmong community because he was one of the few in official Washington openly championing their cause.

"He was so important to the Hmong because he knew so much of what they did," Miss Kue said. "He was one of their greatest allies."

The Hmong most likely will never have someone of Mr. Colby's stature advocating their cause again, she said.

Miss Kue said Mr. Colby struck her as an honorable man who was not afraid to fight for what he believed in.

"He was someone who was willing to stand up for the truth, for what he knows and what he believes in," Miss Kue said.

Gen. Pao, who worked side-by-side with Mr. Colby in Laos during the Vietnam War, called him "a good friend to the Hmong people."

Speaking in a telephone interview from Fresno, where he is preparing for this weekend's program, Gen. Pao said Mr. Colby will be sorely missed by the people he fought for:

"Bill Colby's death is a great loss not only for all freedom-loving people," Gen. Pao said. "We are hoping that someone will step forward and fill his shoes."

During the war, the two men got to know each other quite well. "I told him in great respect," Gen. Pao said.

Philip Smith, a Washington representative for the Lao Veterans of American, said Mr. Colby was an integral part of the effort to have the wartime work of the Hmong recognized.

"Because Laos is such an obscure country, Bill Colby was so important and why no one will be able to replace him," Mr. Smith said.

Mr. Smith said Mr. Colby understood the contribution of the Hmong and how it fitted into the geostrategic picture of the Cold War.

Mr. Smith, who will attend the Fresno ceremonies this weekend, had planned to fly to California with Mr. Colby.

Now, he said, the seat next to him on the plane will be empty.

SOCIAL SECURITY

HON. THOMAS E. PETRI

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 27, 1996

Mr. PETRI. Mr. Speaker, yesterday I introduced legislation, H.R. 4215, to help put the Social Security system on a better financial footing while providing future Americans with the peace of mind that comes with their own retirement account which is their personal property.

My bill will establish a retirement account for each newborn American citizen, initially worth \$1,000. The money for the initial \$1,000 is to come from the sale of Government assets. This amount is to be invested in the same manner, and with the same choices, as the

Thrift Savings Plan available to Government employees. These choices include investment options which promise higher rates of return than can be earned by the government bonds held in the Social Security Trust Fund. The investment decisions among the fund options are to be made by the parent or guardian until the account holder reaches the age of majority when he or she is able to make such decisions. The account holder, or his or her parent, can add to the principal of the account, up to \$2,000 per year tax free, but even if that never happens the \$1,000, if invested in a stock index fund, can be expected to grow to \$651,683 by the time the account holder is ready for retirement.

It is not a sound financial practice for the Government to sell its assets and use the funds to pay for its current operating costs, as it does now. If we are going to be selling assets anyway we should be reinvesting the funds in something which will pay a return. My bill will accomplish that goal and put more money into the retirement system at the same time. This bill does not replace the Social Security system; it provides more funds for it. The funds in the account are to pay for Social Security benefits for the account holder first, and only if the account is depleted can the account holder draw on the Social Security Trust Fund. If, due to individuals adding to the account, there is more in the account than necessary to pay for Social Security benefits, the account holder will have several lump sum or annuity options for withdrawing the extra funds.

Future workers will not have to worry so much whether or not the Government will keep its promises or that the Social Security system might go bankrupt because each will have an account which is his or her personal property. I don't claim that this program will solve all the financial problems of Social Security but it will certainly help.

ANTITRUST HEALTH CARE ADVANCEMENT ACT OF 1996

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 27, 1996

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 2925, the Antitrust Health Care Advancement Act of 1996, which would ensure that the antitrust laws permit full utilization of private cooperative initiatives and help make the Nation's health care system more efficient. H.R. 2925 provides that when doctors, nurses, and hospitals form integrated joint ventures to offer health care services, their conduct will be reviewed on the basis of its reasonableness—the rule of reason test—for compliance under antitrust laws. The measure would provide more choices for consumers while allowing for greater competition in the marketplace.

Health care provider networks [HCPN's] comprised of doctors, hospitals and other entities which provide health care services—can produce increased competition for health care services. Their formation can lead to lower costs while providing a high quality of care. Physicians and other health care professionals are more than qualified to strike the proper balance between conserving costs and meeting the needs of the patient.

Current antitrust laws, however, hinder the formation of HCPN's by prohibiting them to engage in joint pricing agreements. H.R. 2925 would eliminate this obstacle by conforming agency enforcement practices to the manner in which courts have interpreted the law.

Antitrust law states that agreements among competitors that fix prices or allocate markets are per se illegal. Where competitors unite in a joint venture, however, agreements or prices or other terms of competition are not generally unlawful. Price setting conduct by these joint ventures should be evaluated under the rule of reason, that is, on the basis of reasonableness, by considering all relevant factors that may affect competition.

H.R. 2925 addresses these concerns by applying the rule of reason test to HCPN's. Enactment of this measure would lead to increased competition, greater choice of services, and the delivery of quality health care at a lower price.

While I urge the House to consider H.R. 2925 before the end of the session, I am encouraged by new guidelines recently released by the Department of Justice which state that the rule of reason test will now be applied to HCPN's. While I would still like to see H.R. 2925 enacted into law, I believe that the new guidelines are a major step towards the recognition of HCPN's as viable entities in the health care field and I commend the Justice Department for its decision.

SOUTHWESTERN PENNSYLVANIA MANUFACTURERS WEEK

HON. RON KLING

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 27, 1996

Mr. KLING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share with my colleagues that the week of October 6–12, 1996 has been designated Southwestern Pennsylvania Manufacturers Week.

Manufacturing is vital to the economy of southwestern Pennsylvania. This field employs more than 125,000 people in the counties of Allegheny, Beaver, Butler, Washington, and Westmoreland. Local manufacturers finance an annual payroll of nearly \$5 billion, the highest of all employment sectors. In southwestern Pennsylvania, the average wage for a manufacturing job is 40 percent higher than the average wage for all employees in the region.

Manufacturing provides one of every seven jobs for workers in southwestern Pennsylvania, outranking health care, construction, financial services, education, transportation, and government, in total employment. The local manufacturing payroll is crucial to the economy of our area, yielding a greater total economic impact than any other endeavor. Indeed, local manufacturers contribute nearly \$200 million in local, county, and State taxes, to help support our communities and schools in southwestern Pennsylvania.

Our manufacturers continue to uphold the proud industrial heritage of our region, and perform with a work ethic that is second to none productivity and quality. The wide range of goods produced in our region is distributed and used around the world.

The advanced manufacturing network of the Pittsburgh High Technology Council, in partnership with the Southwestern Pennsylvania

Industrial Resource Center is committed to supporting the needs of manufacturers throughout the region.

It is a pleasure and an honor to recognize the contributions of local manufacturers in southwestern Pennsylvania.

HONORING OCTOBER AS CO-OP MONTH

HON. VIC FAZIO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 27, 1996

Mr. FAZIO of California. Mr. Speaker, in the United States, cooperatives celebrate their activities and honor their history every year during October, Coop Month. Today over 40,000 cooperatives and credit unions serve nearly 100 million Americans in almost every community in our nation.

On October 24, 1844, 28 weavers incorporated the Rochdale Society of Equitable Pioneers to start their humble cooperative in Rochdale, England. The principles and practices they formulated ensured the success of the cooperative ideal. The results of their efforts gave rise to the modern cooperative movement which in 1996 counts over 750 million members.

The nearly 30 cooperatives and credit unions in Davis, CA are an important part of the daily lives of its citizens. A number of those cooperatives are unique models of "people helping people" acclaimed throughout the U.S.A. Cooperatives in Davis provide service to children in child-care cooperatives, through students in student housing cooperatives, to seniors in housing cooperatives.

The efforts of the Center for Cooperatives at the University of California at Davis has helped find new opportunities for cooperative development in rural northern California. The center's activities bring together leaders of our rural communities to offer solutions which address unemployment, recycling and sustainable and environmental economic development.

On behalf of the Congress of the United States, I would like to join the citizens of Davis in recognizing and celebrating Co-op Month.

TRIBUTE TO TWA FLIGHT 800 CRASH INVESTIGATION AND RECOVERY OPERATION PERSONNEL

HON. FLOYD SPENCE

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 27, 1996

Mr. SPENCE. Mr. Speaker, July 17, 1996, will forever be remembered as a tragic date in American history—a day in which 230 people were killed when TWA Flight 800 exploded over Long Island, NY, and plummeted into the deep water offshore.

Today, I rise to honor the men and women of the Navy, Coast Guard, and National Transportation Safety Board [NTSB] who, throughout the past 2 months, have dedicated their lives daily to recovering the victims of the crash and investigating the cause of the explosion.

First, I would like to express my gratitude to the U.S. Navy personnel working at the crash