

people for over three decades, this deplorable act should not surprise anyone. The Clinton administration took some positive steps, but unfortunately they are not strong enough to respond to Castro's cold-blooded act of murder. Instead of seeking an international embargo against Castro similar to the one implemented against Haiti over a year ago, the administration settled for lukewarm sanctions which will not do enough to push Castro out of power. How many more people have to be harassed, persecuted, and killed before the administration and the international community realize that Castro's tyranny deserves the same if not tougher international sanctions as the ones that were taken against undemocratic regimes in Haiti, in South Africa, in Iraq?

That is why we have asked the President to impose a naval blockade similar to the blockade that was placed against the illegitimate military regime of General Raoul Cedras in Haiti. That is why we have asked the President to go to the U.N. Security Council to get an international embargo against Castro's dictatorship.

For over three decades, a veil of sorrow and despair has covered the island of Cuba. The waters of the Caribbean and the Atlantic Ocean have been transformed by the blood of the thousands of Cubans who throughout the years have fallen prey to the brutal regime of Castro, a dictator whose appetite for power has victimized not only the people of Cuba but has held the principles of freedom and democracy hostage throughout the Western Hemisphere.

That beast, Fidel Castro, angered by displays of strong will and free thinking, by manifestations that the Cuban people are determined to defend their right to liberty, planned and executed the murder of four innocent civilians, members of that humanitarian organization, Brothers to the Rescue. There are no mitigating factors, there are absolutely no excuses that the Cuban regime can manufacture which could justify such a blatant act of aggression against innocent Americans whose only sin was to care about the welfare of those risking their lives to flee the Castro tyranny.

However, this most recent action sends a message to the Clinton administration that the United States should not negotiate with terrorists. It reinforces the notion to the Clinton administration and to foreign governments who support this policy of appeasement with Castro that democratic nations built on safeguarding the most basic fundamental rights of its citizens cannot and should not deal with pariah states.

It further emphasizes the need for further strengthening the United States embargo on Cuba through passage of the Helms-Burton legislation. The Castro regime must be further isolated. As the Castro regime's circle of friends continues to diminish, the pres-

sure exerted by the Helms-Burton bill will be the devastating blow which could force the Castro regime to succumb to the realities of a free world.

Clearly the time to act is now. We hold one of the keys to unlocking the chains that bind the Cuban people, and that key could very well be the Helms-Burton legislation. We must not enter into a new millennium with the people of Cuba in bondage. Let us support the Cuban people in their days of struggle.

PREVENT FUTURE TRAGEDIES OF SHOT DOWN AIRCRAFT FROM HAPPENING AGAIN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of May 12, 1995, the gentleman from New York [Mr. SERRANO] is recognized during morning business for 5 minutes.

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, I first want to join all Americans in expressing my condolences and pain to the families of the pilots who were shot by the Cuban Air Force. This is a tragedy and we should all deeply regret the death of these pilots.

I also believe that the Cuban Government should have dealt with this situation in a different way. The planes, if need be, could have been grounded and not destroyed.

My purpose in speaking on this floor today, Mr. Speaker, is to try to reach a point of understanding where we can prevent these tragic issues from taking place in the future and to prevent what I believe is a confrontation that may be coming between the Cuban Government and our Government, perhaps a violent confrontation. The question that needs to be asked is what did our Government know about prior flights by Brothers to the Rescue into Cuban airspace and what did our Government do with this knowledge?

I have the statement, which is public by now, by the Cuban Government that shows in order the documentation of violations of Cuban airspace by planes registered in the United States from May 1994 to the present. In 1994 there was a violation almost every month and similar in 1995. There have been documented press reports about the dropping of anti-Castro leaflets over Cuba by planes registered in the United States.

On the 15th of this year, the French press agency reported that the Cuban Government complained that its airspace had been violated by United States-based planes which dropped anti-Castro leaflets over Cuba. In this same article it mentions that the Miami-based group Brothers to the Rescue issued a statement saying that it had dropped half a million leaflets printed over Cuba with messages against the Castro government. Both of these actions, of dropping leaflets and in some instances buzzing buildings in Havana, were known to our Government. In fact, the White House acknowledged the incident and expressed regret about it, but it is unclear what

additional actions were taken. Did our Government take action?

This morning I had a conversation with the counsel's office at the Federal Aviation Administration. They confirmed that they had recommended the pilot license suspension of the leader and founder of the group Brothers to the Rescue. I am not clear whether this gentleman flew on this last mission with a license or without a license, but it was based on our understanding at the FAA that this group had in fact violated Cuban airspace at least on that last occasion, July 13, when they went over Havana.

The death of these pilots is an unfortunate tragic incident that could have been, in my opinion, prevented. We need to find out exactly what happened and how much of the responsibility our own Government bears for this incident. We need answers to prevent a similar tragedy from happening in the future.

Not long ago, we negotiated with the Castro government over the people that were coming over on rafts and came up with an immigration policy. Why not call the Castro government to the table now and hear their gripes about their airspace, present to them our feelings about the issue and try to at the minimum reach an agreement on this particular issue?

All of my colleagues know my position on our whole relationship with Cuba. I am in favor of lifting the embargo and normalizing relations. But I realize that this is not the time for that because once again, either through provocation or by accident, the Castro issue has been placed on the front burner, and Castro once again becomes the enemy we most love to hate. But we can negotiate and prevent this in the future.

When the President yesterday said no more flights to Cuba from the United States, I ask sincerely, not sarcastically, was he also talking about illegal flights that leave Miami and go to Cuba and run around their airspace or just the legal flights that we now have?

We will now support and take great joy in the fact that the United Nations condemned Cuba. But please understand that that does nothing to better the relationship between the two countries or to head off a confrontation. For years the United Nations has been condemning us for our embargo on Cuba, and it has not changed our policy toward the island.

I will do something today that is not part of being a good Democrat, I guess, and that is to ask the Republican leadership to conduct a congressional investigation into how much our Government knew about these incidents and the violation of Cuban airspace so that in the future we can prevent this confrontation and this loss of human life.

THE SUGAR PROGRAM SHOULD BE PHASED OUT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of May

12, 1995, the gentleman from Florida [Mr. MILLER] is recognized during morning business for 5 minutes.

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to advocate the phaseout of the Government-run sugar program in this country. The Government-run sugar program is a cartel that the Government regulates that is very much antifree enterprise, it is anticonsumer, it is antienvironment, and it is anti-jobs in this country.

We will have a chance later on this week during the farm bill reauthorization to vote on a 5-year phaseout of this program in the Federal Government. The day of big government is over, and this is a big government program that should be phased out.

The sugar program in the country today is a big government program that keeps the price of sugar at twice the world price. As part of this reauthorization program on the farm bill, there are lots of good changes in the farm program in the country. Chairman ROBERTS and the committee have done a good job to reduce the role of the Federal Government in farm policy in this country.

There are lots of changes in wheat, corn and such, but not in the sugar program. The sugar program is not being reformed in this reauthorization bill. The sugar program is a cartel where the Federal Government controls the total supply of sugar in the United States and as such keeps the price of sugar at twice the world price.

The Federal Government tells every individual sugar farmer in the United States how many pounds of sugar he can sell today. It tells different countries of the world how many pounds of sugar they can sell in the United States. In fact, it is so bad when it tells Australia, for example, that has a free market in sugar, it tells Australia how many pounds of sugar to sell. Australia does not sell it to us at the world price. They sell it to everybody else at the world price of about 12 cents a pound. But, no, no, the United States, we pay 24 cents a pound because we want to pay the U.S. price. It is a crazy big government program. Let me explain why it is a bad program.

For the American consumer, it costs \$1.4 billion a year. This is a General Accounting Office report, an independent study, that says it costs the American consumer \$1.4 billion a year in additional cost on the price of sugar in the store, on the price of the soft drinks, on the price of candy, on the price of cereal, everything that uses sugar. Why should the American consumer get gouged like that? That is absolutely wrong.

It is a corporate welfare program. It is corporate welfare because 42 percent of the benefits of this program goes to 1 percent of the plantations in this country. There are 33 plantations in this country that get over a million dollar a year benefit from the program. There is no justification for this kind of corporate welfare program.

As I have said before, it is the sugar daddy of all corporate welfare. We want

to target corporate welfare, this is one program we should target. In my home State of Florida, 75 percent of the sugar is controlled by two plantations, 75 percent by two companies. That is corporate welfare. It is not the small farmer we are talking about as some people want to make you think.

Environmentally this has been a bad program for Florida. In 1960, when I finished high school, we had 50,000 acres farmed for sugar in the State of Florida. Today we have 450,000 acres of sugar in the State of Florida. As we have increased the production of sugar every year in Florida, the quality of the Everglades and Florida Bay have been declining.

There is a direct correlation to increased sugar production and the damage that is being done to the Florida Everglades. We need to stop that damage that is hurting our environment. It is hurting our economy in Florida. Just the jobs depending on the people in the Florida Keys are impacted by this, for example. So we need to do something about the damage that sugar is causing to the Florida Everglades.

On jobs in general, the sugar program is causing a loss of jobs because refiners are closing. In the past 10 years we have had to reduce sugar refining capacity by 40 percent because under this bill there is a limited amount of sugar being allowed into this country. And the jobs of the manufacturers, Bob's Candy, the largest candy cane company in the United States, is losing jobs. They are the largest manufacturer of candy canes. Candy canes are now coming on cheaper from outside the United States because sugar is so expensive in the United States.

In Canada the price of sugar is almost half the price it is in the United States. That is wrong. The proposal that is in the freedom to farm bill that Chairman ROBERTS will be bringing to the floor does not reform sugar. It keeps the cartel, it remains anticonsumer, anti-environment, antifree enterprise, and the price of sugar is not changed. So we are not seeing any change.

Fortunately, and I hope the Committee on Rules will allow, I have a bipartisan proposal, an amendment that I will be offering with the gentleman from New York [Mr. SCHUMER]. We have over 100 cosponsors. This is a 5-year phaseout. I hope my fellow colleagues on both sides of the aisle will join me in advocating a 5-year phaseout.

FURTHER SANCTIONS AGAINST CASTRO ARE WARRANTED

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of May 12, 1995, the gentleman from New Jersey [Mr. MENENDEZ] is recognized during morning business for 5 minutes.

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise as the Representative of the second largest concentration of Americans, Americans of Cuban descent in the Nation, to condemn a brutal and cold-

blooded, premeditated killing of American citizens, two of them born in the United States, one of them a Vietnam veteran.

I am tired of hearing the word "exile." They are U.S. citizens.

Our response to the killing of American citizens in international airspace has not been sufficient. I am amazed at Members of this House who come here and in essence by their comments brush aside those facts. And they turn against our own government and look to our government as the alleged cause of the death of American lives. There is only one person who has caused the death of these four U.S. citizens, and that is the Castro dictatorship and Fidel Castro himself. No one who studies Cuba will dispute that only such an order could be given at the highest levels of that dictatorship because of the international consequences that would flow from it.

This is a brutal regime. It is a brutal regime. Castro can come to New York and he can wear an Armani suit. And he can sip Chablis with Madame Mitterrand, but that does not make him a respectable citizen of the international community. His actions would but his actions belie the appearance he tries to give when he comes to visit this country. This ruthless murder came at the end of a week of unprecedented repression in Cuba.

I hear many of my colleagues who disagree with our policy say we want to see peaceful democratic change come to Cuba. So do we. There is a group within Cuba struggling to create peaceful democratic change. Their name is Concilio Cubano, Cuban Council. It is a group of 120 different organizations who simply in the past week wanted to meet, committed to peaceful democratic change within the island, who wanted to meet and have the right to recognize under the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the right that we as Americans enjoy every day to assemble and to have a redress of grievances.

What was the Castro regime's actions? It was to create mass arrests. Over 50 of their national leadership were placed in jail. Dozens of others were placed under house arrest. Women were strip-searched so they would not participate with the organization. One of their leaders who I spoke to on the phone directly from the United States to Cuba, after I spoke with him, that evening he was arrested. He has been sentenced to a year and a half in jail. For what? For speaking out. Nothing less than speaking out, nothing more than that.

Mr. Speaker, I flew with Brothers to the Rescue over a year ago. I was on one of those planes. Their mission has been a search and rescue mission of human lives. They have saved thousands of lives in the Florida Strait. On the day that I flew with them, we saved a dozen people who were on a tiny island who had been there for several