

of optimism, of Europeanism, may be challenged by forces which are much more inward oriented, which in some cases can be more domestically narrow minded, occasionally, even ethnically or religiously xenophobic. This would not be good for Europe. It certainly would complicate Europe's relationship with us, irrespective of what would happen in the American orientation.

If we do not reach the grand bargain with Russia, there is the risk that Russia will be more antagonistic, and that is something that we want to avoid. Though in seeking to avoid it, we should not be shy in saying publicly that the expansion of NATO will in fact help a democratic Russia. We should not be shy in saying it, and we should not be shy in coupling this with saying that the expansion of NATO will hurt an imperial Russia. And we should not be shy in saying that either, because that pertains to the fundamental question regarding Russia itself, namely what will Russia be in the future. This is a large, creative dynamic nation undergoing a profound crisis of self-definition. The collapse of the Soviet Union has brought home the reality to many Russians that the four hundred year long imperial history of Russia has come to an end. But many find it very difficult to accept that and this is particularly true of the former Soviet foreign policy establishment, which is now the Russian foreign policy establishment. The idea of the multinational Russian imperial power still is deeply rooted, providing the basis, therefore, for Russia's claim to global status. What the Russians should realize—they have to realize—is that if Russia is again to be a great country, it can only be a great country if it democratizes itself and modernizes itself, and indeed, the two probably go hand-in-hand. But the quest for an imperial restoration is futile, counterproductive, and we will not support it. And we will not pay a price to avoid Russian antagonism that the for the sake of avoiding the antagonism makes that restoration, perhaps, more feasible.

So failure to have the grand bargain would be regrettable. But even worse than that would be if NATO just expands a little bit or cuts a deal with Russia which dilutes NATO's identity by de facto making Russia a member of NATO while promising that there will be no further expansion. For that I think would be profoundly demoralizing to those who would be left out, and profoundly destabilizing, in terms of the future, for it would create a zone of disappointment, psychological vulnerability, as Congressman Lantos said yesterday, and geopolitical anxiety which would be fully justified. And it would create temptations in Russia to define itself in a historically adverse fashion. So the failure to have a grand bargain would be regrettable, but a grant bargain which dilutes NATO, and which limits the progressive expansion of the Euro-Atlantic scale would be even worse.

And the worst of all would be failure to deliver on that which we have undertaken, which is to expand, because we made a decision. We have made it, all sixteen of us have made it. We are committed. And if we now fail to go through with it, either in July, or more likely in the ratification process, we will be signaling that we have neither the will nor the capacity nor the determination to shape the kind of world we want to have which is democratic, pluralistic and secure. This is a fundamental historical challenge.

Thus at issue are three great realities: what is the global role of America, and how we share our global responsibilities with Europe as a partner who partakes of the same philosophy and values; at stake is the question whether Europe will be Europe, a real Europe, and not a truncated Europe, or worse, a Europe that is divided; and, ultimately at stake is also the question of how Russia divines itself, and whether it will

someday be a party of that larger community of which America and Europe are currently engaged in constructing.

Those are the great challenges that we face. And, therefore, the kind of judgments that we were making yesterday and today are not only strategic, they are historical. And the choice, I think is clear. If we have the vision, I trust we will also have the will.

KENYA'S STRATEGIC IMPORTANCE

HON. BILL MCCOLLUM

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 10, 1997

Mr. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, just as the international trade between Europe and East Asia and the flow of oil out of the Middle East are becoming increasingly important for the well-being and growth of the U.S. economy, a new threat to the safety of maritime transportation has emerged. Iran is rapidly moving to acquire blue water capabilities—the ability to use its navy on the high seas.

The Iranians are vastly improving their naval capabilities—a development of global strategic importance. The recent completion of a few acquisition programs of naval vessels and antishipping missiles from the PRC and the arrival of the third KIL0 submarine from Russia boosted Tehran's self-confidence in its ability to conduct combat operations on a far wider area. These weapons deliveries constitute a major upgrade of Iran's naval capabilities. Moreover, the recent deliveries are but the first phase of a major and far more comprehensive naval expansion program, mainly based on the acquisition of numerous surface combatants from the PRC, that will take several years to complete. By then, Iran will have the most powerful navy in the Persian Gulf region.

Ultimately, however, most significant is the doctrinal development reflecting strategic self-confidence and audacity demonstrated by Iran's recent naval operations. Iran is increasingly looking into acquiring regional blue-water capabilities. The Iranian Navy already has proven the capability to operate over long distances. Most impressive were their operations during joint naval exercises with the Pakistani Navy throughout the Arabian Sea, and the visits to Indonesia by their naval combatants. The Iranian Navy has also operated from several port facilities in Sudan and Somalia, where Iran maintains what amounts to several military and naval bases.

The significant development of early 1997 is Iran's acquisition of access to, and use of, naval facilities in Mozambique. In return for diversified military aid, the Iranian Navy will be able to use port facilities in Maputo and Ncala, where the Soviets and Cubans built military-compatible port facilities. The agreement between Iran and Mozambique specifically permits Iran to use the port facilities for its submarines, including the stationing of technical support teams in Mozambique and the maintaining of replenishment and crew-support installations.

The true significance of all these activities becomes apparent in the context of assertive military doctrine—to forestall, perhaps even launch preemptive strikes against, U.S. intervention in case of a major escalation in the Persian Gulf region.

The key to Tehran's war plan in the Persian Gulf is preventing quick U.S. military intervention. Hence, it is imperative for Tehran to be

able to prevent the timely arrival of U.S. Naval Forces. Tehran is determined to acquire military capabilities to perform this mission. Considering the disparity between the United States and Iranian Navies, the only way the Iranians can affect an American intervention is by actually seeking out and engaging the United States Naval Forces far away from the Persian Gulf before they can affect other activities in the region.

Iran need not engage primary objectives such as carrier task forces. For example, the sinking of the prepositioned ships operating from Diego Garcia will significantly hinder any U.S. military buildup in the Middle East. Moreover, a credible threat to these resupply ships will compel the U.S. Navy to divert naval assets that could have been used offensively elsewhere to escort and protect the resupply efforts.

Iran's ability to maintain submarine patrols between Mozambique and the Arabian Sea constitutes this kind of threat, for they create a barrier between Diego Garcia and the Persian Gulf. One should remember that Iran is capable of threatening the shipping lanes along the Red Sea from its bases and facilities in Sudan and Somalia. Tehran is convinced that in case of a major war in the Persian Gulf, this kind of naval operation will be able to delay an intervention by the United States until it is too late to save the local Arab governments.

In the meantime, Teheran continues to raise the ante against the United States, the Arab States of the Persian Gulf, and specifically Saudi Arabia. Anticipating a new round of brinkmanship and a possible eruption in the Middle East, Teheran warns the Arab States against permitting the United States to operate against the Iranians. In early February 1997, Ayatollah Khomeini delivered explicit threats during his al-Quds Day sermon. "If any of these foreigners in the Persian Gulf makes one miscalculated move that could lead to instability, the first country that will burn will be the one that invited these foreigners here in the first place," he declared.

This strategic development is not irreversible. There are ways to remedy the situation. The key to countering and reversing this Iranian surge lies in the West being able to operate in the area and project power from local installations. In this context Kenya's strategic importance cannot be underestimated.

Kenya's geopolitical status is critical to the international community. It is situated in a key position to dominate sea lanes running into and out of the Red Sea/Suez Canal, as well as the sea lanes along East Africa. Therefore, Kenya's ability to act as a point of naval projection into the Indian Ocean is most important, particularly in light of possible Iranian-Sudanese attempts to close the Suez Canal, and the potential Chinese incursion into the Indian Ocean. In the event of radical Chinese moves against the Southeast Asian shipping lanes, and the eventual vulnerability of Diego Garcia, only India, Australia, South Africa, and Kenya would be able to effectively provide the springboard for Western security operations in the Indian Ocean. Kenya is the closest bastion, and its port system is at the heart of, the newly expanded theater of operations of the Iranian navy.

Teheran and Khartoum are fully aware of Kenya's importance. Kenya is situated immediately adjacent to Sudan and Somalia and acts as a containing buffer against the southward spread of radical and Islamic activity. If Kenya was to embrace the radicalism being pushed down on it from Khartoum, and the anomy flowing down from Mogadishu, then any hope for stability in eastern and central Africa would be lost.

President Daniel T. Arap Moi of Kenya has so far resisted the spread of radicalism and Islamism. Kenya acts, and could act even more, as a potential source of stability for the entire central and east Africa.

Kenya has traditionally been a pro-Western free market culture as a nation-state. In this regard, Nairobi sets an example for, and acts in a leadership capacity to, the other nations of sub-Saharan Africa. President Arap Moi's ongoing commitment to Western-type ideals acts as a benchmark in sub-Saharan Africa.

Kenya has usually aligned itself with the United States and Britain in global strategic matters, and has often provided a bridge to the developing world. Now, as the so-called developing world becomes a far more dynamic and unstable strategic element in its own right, the availability of that bridge which Kenya offers is of even greater importance to Washington.

STANDARDIZE MEDICARE COVERAGE FOR BONE DENSITY TESTING

HON. CONSTANCE A. MORELLA

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 10, 1997

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker, osteoporosis is a major public health problem affecting 28 million Americans, who either have the disease or are at risk due to low bone mass; 80 percent are women. The disease causes 1.5 million fractures annually at a cost of \$13.8 billion—\$38 million per day—in direct medical expenses, and osteoporotic fractures cost the Medicare Program 3 percent of its overall costs. In their lifetimes, one in two women and one in eight men over the age of 50 will fracture a bone due to osteoporosis. A woman's risk of a hip fracture is equal to her combined risk of contracting breast, uterine, and ovarian cancer.

Osteoporosis is largely preventable and thousands of fractures could be avoided if low bone mass was detected early and treated. We now have drugs that promise to reduce fractures by 50 percent. However, identification of risk factors alone cannot predict how much bone a person has and how strong bone is. Experts estimate that without bone density tests, up to 40 percent of women with low bone mass could be missed.

Unfortunately, Medicare's coverage of bone density tests is inconsistent. Instead of national coverage of scientifically approved types of bone density tests, Medicare leaves decisions to local Medicare insurance carriers. The definition of who is qualified to receive a bone mass measurement varies from carrier to carrier. Some carriers require beneficiaries to have suffered substantial bone loss before allowing coverage for a bone density test. For example, in about 20 States, the carriers re-

quire x-ray proof of low bone mass or other abnormalities. Unfortunately, standard x-ray tests do not reveal osteoporosis until 25 to 40 percent of bone mass has been lost.

One carrier allows a premenopausal woman to have a DXA test to determine whether hormone replacement therapy [HRT] is indicated. However, it does not allow the test to determine treatment for the postmenopausal women—the majority of Medicare beneficiaries. Other carriers have no specific rules to guide reimbursement and cover the tests on a haphazard case-by-case basis.

Frequency of testing also varies from carrier to carrier. Retesting is important to monitor treatment, yet only eight States specifically allow coverage for people who are under treatment for osteoporosis.

Inconsistency of bone mass measurement coverage policy is confusing and unfair to beneficiaries. Today, Congresswoman NANCY JOHNSON and I, along with 23 of our colleagues, are introducing the Medicare Bone Mass Measurement Coverage Standardization Act. The bill would eliminate the confusion and standardize Medicare's coverage of bone mass measurement tests in order to avoid some of the 1.5 million fractures caused annually by osteoporosis. Considering that bone density tests are already covered by every Medicare carrier, this bill will not add significantly to the cost of the Medicare Program.

I urge my colleagues to join us as cosponsors of this important legislation.

HONORING MONTEBELLO CHIEF OF POLICE "STEVE" SIMONIAN FOR 30 YEARS OF SERVICE

HON. ESTEBAN EDWARD TORRES

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 10, 1997

Mr. TORRES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Montebello Chief of Police George Stephen Simonian. On Saturday, March 8, 1997, Steve's family, friends and colleagues at the city of Montebello honored him for his many years of service to the greater Montebello community.

Steve began his career as a police officer for the city of Montebello at the young age of 21, performing duties as assigned, including traffic patrol, report writing, radio dispatcher, and desk information officer. Five years later, he was one of the first officers to achieve senior officer rank. He was given the duties of a patrol officer with merit pay, in addition to training and supervisory responsibilities. Quickly moving up the ranks, the next year, Steve was promoted to narcotics detective, where he investigated violations of narcotics laws and arrested violators. This developed into an undercover position, with Steve working as a consultant to other agencies, due to his expertise in this field.

In September 1979, Steve was again promoted, to the rank of sergeant. He remained in intelligence, supervising the unit while instilling the high standards of performance that remain today. In August 1982, Steve was selected to supervise the newly consolidated narcotics and intelligence unit. Under his leadership, narcotics seizures rose dramatically, and conviction rates increased. In 1985, Steve was promoted to the rank of captain, and 3

years later to the rank of deputy police chief. On July 1, 1989, Steve was promoted to chief of police, responsible for overseeing the operations and activities of the city of Montebello's police department.

Throughout his career with the Montebello Police Department, Steve has received over 29 awards from Federal, State and local agencies, including the American Legion's Police Officer of the Year, and has twice been bestowed with the city of Montebello's highest management award, "Manager of the Year," an accomplishment unmatched by any other city official. In addition to the numerous awards he has received, Steve has maintained membership in several professional organizations throughout his career, including the California Peace Officers Association; Latino Peace Officers Association; Oriental Peace Officers Association; International Footprint Association; San Gabriel Valley Chiefs Association; president-elect of the Los Angeles County Police Chiefs Association; and the Los Angeles County Anti-Drug Abuse Committee.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to a good friend and distinguished public servant, Montebello Chief of Police Steve Simonian. I proudly join the city of Montebello in honoring Steve for his lifetime of contributions to public safety and law enforcement in the greater Montebello community.

TRIBUTE TO ERIN WATSON

HON. CHARLES H. TAYLOR

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 10, 1997

Mr. TAYLOR of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, each year the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States and its Ladies Auxiliary conduct the Voice of Democracy broadcast scripting contest. This year more than 109,000 secondary school students participated in the contest competing for the 54 national scholarships which were distributed among the 54 national winners. The contest theme this year was "Democracy-Above and Beyond."

I am proud to announce that Ms. Erin Watson from my district won the 1997 Voice of Democracy broadcast scripting contest for the entire State of North Carolina. A senior at Franklin High School in Franklin, NC, Erin is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Mart T. Watson of Franklin. This is indeed an honor of which all North Carolinians can be proud.

The Voice of Democracy Scholarship Program was started 50 years ago by the National Association of Broadcasters, Electronic Industries Association, and State Association of Broadcasters. In 1960, the Veterans of Foreign Wars assumed sole sponsorship responsibility. That year, a total of four scholarships were presented, totaling \$3,750.

Under VFW sponsorship, the annual national scholarships have increased to 55 fully funded scholarships totaling \$125,000. During this past year, 117,000 students participated, 7,900 schools, 5,200 VFW posts, and 4,200 Ladies Auxiliaries.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in saluting Erin Watson for contributions made to her country, North Carolina, and the Franklin community. She is a shining example of what young people should be today