

see Guam as part of America rather than as "us and them" or as some, perhaps, overseas foreign area. Of course, it is not, but if they continue to behave this way, they are really threatening civilian-military relationships on the island.

To add insult to injury on this, the Department of Defense has announced that no local teachers can be hired for their DOD schools, but they would be happy to hire local custodians or other people to work in the schools in a less than professional capacity; and that while no locally hired civil service employees can attend these DOD schools, State-side hires, State-side hired civil service employees will be able to attend these DOD schools.

So the bottom line on these actions is not to build connections and bridges between communities, but certainly has the net effect of not only building more gaps between the communities but certainly is not keeping faith with the experience that I described on July 21, 1944.

In addition to this, BRAC, in 1995, decided to close down some facilities on Guam, and many military planners have now acknowledged that that was probably not a very wise decision, but, inevitably, in any event, it has occurred and the people of Guam are trying to recover from this.

In addition to this, the Navy announced earlier this year that they are conducting two A-76 studies on their military facilities to determine which civilian jobs can be privatized or let out on a contractual basis. And the two bases that they picked were in Pensacola and on Guam.

It is hard for me to understand why they would identify, in addition to the BRAC decision, in addition to all that has gone on, they identified in January of this year some 1,100 jobs as being analyzed for privatization. They said they did this after exhaustive study and careful analysis and understanding that this would not affect the readiness, but, of course, not considering how it would affect those 1,100 loyal civil service workers.

Just yesterday they wrote a letter, as required by law, to officials of this body and to officials of the administration announcing that they are adding another 534 jobs for this careful analysis, which leads me to believe that the first analysis was probably not all that careful.

But here is the kicker. The kicker is that this is only applied to Guam. It is not being applied to other locations. And when the people from Guam are only represented in this fine institution by a nonvoting delegate, and they have no representatives in the other body, and they represent a fairly small population, they always ask themselves the question: Would the Navy do this in Virginia? Would the Navy do this in Florida? Would the Navy do this in California? And, most importantly, would they do it in this way?

I think, clearly, the answer is, probably not. They probably would not do

it, and for sure they would not do it in this way.

This is not the way to treat a community that has been tested by war, that has not only evidenced its loyalty in the context of World War II, but most people who have a great deal to do with the military know the fine record of many young people from Guam in the military. Guam had the highest per capita casualty rate of any jurisdiction during the Vietnam conflict. So everybody knows the record of the people of Guam in the context of service to this country and in the context of the hardships that sometimes war imposes on people. And the people of Guam have responded well.

But now, when there are times of peace and there are times of contentment, their peaceful existence is again disturbed not by foreign enemies but by a series of misguided planners in the Department of Defense.

I ask officials at the Department of Defense, and I call upon them, especially those who are responsible for projecting American power in Asia and the Pacific, to seriously consider the ramifications of their actions on what was formerly a very good and solid relationship between the civilian and military communities on Guam.

On Guam this relationship is a three-legged stool. This relationship is founded upon the economic value of the military presence to Guam, on the fact that our kids go to the same schools, and the fact that we have a peaceful land resolution process. The one on land is a little wobbly, the one on schools has been fractured, and now DOD is carefully sawing off that other one as we speak. I ask them to take these words very seriously.

And I call upon the Members of this institution to take a serious look at the people of Guam's experience during World War II. I know there are many people who are watching, particularly those who were veterans of the conflict, of any conflict in the Pacific during World War II, who know about the viciousness and the brutality of war, and who know about the viciousness and the brutality of the battle on Guam and who remember those events fondly.

I think the people of Guam deserve the recognition on July 21 and that, indeed, all of the liberators, all of the men who participated in the liberation of what once was an American territory prior to the invasion of the Japanese deserve all of our honor and our attention and we should make good on that experience.

FEDERAL RESERVE EXERTS POWERFUL INFLUENCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. ROGAN). Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from New York [Mrs. MALONEY] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, when the Federal Reserve

speaks, people listen. When the Fed is about to make some sort of monetary decision, the world stops and watches. That is because the Federal Reserve System is comprised of powerful experts whose influence affects anyone who makes and spends money.

Some people think the Federal Reserve's primary purpose is to conduct monetary policy. Little do they know that only 1,600 of the Fed's 25,000 employees are working in monetary policy. The rest are employed in unrelated services, such as the transportation of paper checks.

The Fed pays \$36 million for this service, of which \$17 million is a Government subsidy. This money, taxpayer money, could be used to reduce the debt.

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The Federal Trade Commission staff said in a 1990 report that these subsidies drive out private competition and innovation.

My bill would end this subsidy. It is time to ask why a giant Government bureaucracy is subsidized to run something that the private sector can run far more efficiently.

I come before my colleagues tonight to point out another area of this powerful Government bureaucracy that has not received enough scrutiny, the Fed's fleet of 47 airplanes that ferries canceled checks back and forth across the country Monday through Thursday.

Since 1980, the Monetary Control Act has required the Fed to extend these check-clearing services beyond its member banks to all depository institutions at prices without a subsidy. The purpose of the Monetary Control Act of 1980 was to make sure that private companies could compete with the Federal Reserve on a level playing field in providing services to the banking industry. But the Fed, to this day, insists on subsidizing its paycheck transportation as long as it makes up the cost somewhere else in its operation.

The Democratic staff of the Committee on Banking and Financial Services conducted a 2-year investigation of the Fed's check-clearing practices and determined that, as of 1997, \$17 million of the \$36 million used to run the program is subsidized by you and me, the American taxpayer.

In effect, we are subsidizing an inefficient, overgrown operation that the private sector could provide at a lower cost and with better results. If this operation cannot be run more efficiently, the Government should check out of the check transportation business and concentrate on helping Americans make money, not waste it.

I recently introduced a bipartisan bill with my colleague the gentleman from Washington [Mr. METCALF]. This bill would end this subsidy and require the Federal Government and the Fed to operate on a level playing field with the private sector.

As we enter the 21st century, with all the revolutionary changes, it is bad

public policy and downright foolish to subsidize the Fed's transportation of paper checks. Competition and free enterprise will provide lower prices and wider consumer choices in the provision of banking service.

Support our bipartisan bill, the Efficient Check Clearing Act of 1997, H.R. 2119, and help bring our Nation's central bank into the 21st century.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks on the subject of my special order today.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. ROGAN). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Florida?

There was no objection.

THE INVASION OF THE REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 1997, the gentleman from Florida [Mr. BILIRAKIS] is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, once again, it is my sad privilege to address the House to remind all of America of the invasion of the Republic of Cyprus.

As we know, 1997 is the 23d year of divided rule on the island; 1997 has also been hailed as the year of Cyprus. Although I am greatly saddened that the northern portion of the island remains occupied by Turkish troops, on this map here, actually, this is called the green line, and in actuality, in order to see it better, we have it colored in blue here and you can see that the northern part of the island is separated from the southern portion.

I do remain hopeful and optimistic that we are 1 year closer to a just solution. It is imperative, Mr. Speaker, that we continue to build upon the progress that was made during 1996, referred to in some quarters as the year of the big push.

The divided island of Cyprus is certainly ready for peace. There are families who are certainly ready for answers as well. They want answers to what happened to their loved ones who disappeared 23 years ago during the Turkish invasion.

To this day, there are still five American citizens among the 1,619 people still missing from the invasion. These families want to end sleepless nights of wondering whether or not their loved ones are still alive. Hopefully, these questions will be answered and these families will finally be given peace of mind.

Our ultimate goal should be peace for all citizens of Cyprus. However, peace will not come without the strong and active leadership of the United States. The United Nations has unsuccessfully attempted to resolve the differences between the two Cypriot communities.

Since 1974, the United Nations has stationed over 1,000 troops on the island to prevent violence from spreading throughout Cyprus. Yet the violence has not abated. I strongly support U.N. Resolution 939, which calls for a bizonal, bicomunal single state of Cyprus. However, I submit we will not achieve this goal by maintaining the status quo.

I yield at this time to my colleague, the gentlewoman from New York [Mrs. MALONEY].

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, once again, as I have every year that I have been a Member of Congress, it is my honor and sad privilege to stand with the gentleman from Florida and remember and commemorate the 23d anniversary of the 1974 illegal Turkish invasion of Cyprus. The continued presence of Turkish troops represents a growing violation of human rights and international law.

On the positive side, I am pleased with the success that the gentleman in Florida and I have had in the formation of the Congressional Caucus on Hellenic Issues last year. We now have 62 Members from both parties and from all regions of the country. Democrats, Republicans, liberals, and conservatives have all joined together to pursue our common objectives of justice, human rights, and stronger ties between the United States and its strong democratic allies, Cyprus and Greece.

Earlier this year, many of the members of the Hellenic Caucus joined us in signing a letter to the President to stop the sale of Seahawk helicopters. We were successful. No helicopters were sold to Turkey. Over the last week, U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright mitigated a nonaggression pact with the Foreign Minister of Greece and the Foreign Minister of Turkey.

Now that Greece and Turkey have come to a peaceful agreement, it will allow the focus to be concentrated on a more peaceful solution, hopefully, in Cyprus. Last weekend, the President of Cyprus, Glafkos Clirides, and the Turkish Cypriot leader, Rauf Denktash, met in a first round of U.N. talks, and they have agreed to a second round of talks in August.

The appointment of Richard Holbrooke as United States special envoy to Cyprus shows the United States' commitment to a settlement in the region. In fact, he met with both sides this past Monday. I am pleased to be an original cosponsor of House Concurrent Resolution 81, introduced by the gentleman from New York [Mr. GILMAN], that calls for a United States initiative seeking a just and peaceful resolution in Cyprus.

I am hopeful that we will reach a peaceful solution soon, but it must be a fair solution. Turkey must withdraw its troops. Imported settlers must be returned to their countries of origin. The island must be unified without a

green line. The almost 200,000 Greek Cypriots who were expelled from their homes must have the opportunity to return home. We must know what happened to the 1,614 Greek Cypriots and 5 Americans which were seized by Turkish troops and remain unaccounted for to this day.

The pain of some of my constituents in Astoria, Queens, whose beloved family members are still missing, must be put to rest. On this issue, there can be no compromise. We will never give up the demand to know the fate of people like Chrisaci Loizoi, Andrew Kassapis, and George Anastasiou. We must have them accounted for.

I have many constituents who do not know what happened to their brothers, their fathers, their sisters, their mothers. For all they know, they are still suffering in some brutish Turkish prison. Human decency demands an accounting.

Over the past few years, we have witnessed tremendous changes around the world: The fall of the Berlin Wall, the beginning of steps in the Middle East toward peace, and the end of apartheid. It is my sincere hope that soon we will be able to add Cyprus to that list of places where peace and freedom have triumphed.

I would like to bring to the attention of my friend, the gentleman from Florida [Mr. BILIRAKIS], and to other Members of Congress that there will be a meeting and concert in Bryant Park, located in Manhattan, NY, this coming Friday to further observe the invasion of Cyprus.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I really have to commend the gentleman from Florida [Mr. BILIRAKIS], my friend and colleague from the other side of the aisle, who has worked extremely hard on this issue. Both of us have visited Cyprus and we have seen firsthand the green line that separates this country; and we both hope that in the coming talks, this line will be erased and that finally there will be peace and justice in Cyprus.

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from New York [Mrs. MALONEY]. I dare say that there are not many people, within or without Congress, who have put more time into this issue on behalf of those great people, and I thank her so very much. It is such a pleasure and honor to work with her on this issue and so many others.

Continuing with my remarks, Mr. Speaker, last year some of the worst human rights abuses occurred on the island since the Turkish invasion. Four unarmed Greek Cypriots and one unarmed Turkish Cypriot were shot and killed while protesting the division of the island. Nearly 100 protesters and 14 U.N. peacekeepers were injured throughout the year, as well.

We ask ourselves sometimes, why is an end to the division of Cyprus in America's best interest? International stability is a key factor to our increasingly global economy. A divided Cyprus