

from the past, and it is our responsibility to prevent any such atrocity in the future.

PROTECTING THE MEMORY OF
THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Mr. HORN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. HORN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from California (Mr. RADANOVICH) and the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. BONIOR) for their work to introduce the resolution this week which will ensure that the United States of America continues to play an active role in protecting the memory of the Armenian Genocide that began 85 years ago.

As we so unfortunately see in Kosovo today, documenting the horrors of genocide, or ethnic cleansing as they call it, as it is called and it is supposed to be an euphemism I am sure for the murderers, it is vital to get these records if we are ever to stop such actions from occurring again on this Earth.

The resolution that is being introduced calls upon the President of the United States to collect and house all relevant U.S. records relating to the Armenian Genocide and provide them to Congress, the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum, and the Armenian Genocide Museum in Yerevan, Armenia.

It is necessary to do this because there are many who live in denial. Sadly, among those who live in denial are those in the government of Turkey, 85 years later, that somehow continue to deny what we know from repeated testimony of thousands of immigrants, and we knew at the time from reporters and others.

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The Turkish government continues to deny what occurred at the beginning of this century, just as there are some misguided people who still deny the Jewish Holocaust, where 6 million people were murdered by the Nazi Germans, and probably some are still denying the murderous efforts of Pol Pot in Cambodia, where he and his gang of ideologues murdered 2 million Cambodians.

The innocent civilians in the Balkans, the innocent civilians in South Asia, the innocent civilians in the Middle East and in Germany, all of those are why we should talk about their problems and their genocide on the appropriate occasions.

No one can take for granted the ability of some people to clearly look at the facts and still deny that the facts do not exist. Each year we join the world commemoration of the Armenian genocide because it must not be forgotten. Time, distance, current events frequently cloud the past and reduce horrible events to little more than a footnote in history.

The Armenian genocide is not a footnote. Neither is the Jewish Holocaust.

Neither are the 2 million Cambodians murdered by Pol Pot. The 1.5 million Armenians killed by the Turkish government and others, and the deep scars left upon those who survived, deserve our vigil, because too many want us to forget.

Even in our country, on the situation in civil rights, where black citizens were beaten in the South and other parts of the United States, and we passed laws to overcome that, even this generation of young high school people does not know what this Nation went through and does not know what other nations have gone through.

Documenting the horrors of the genocide cannot stop those who would deny it, any more than the extensive documentation of the Holocaust has stopped individuals from denying that abominable period. However, we cannot begin the fight against ignorance if we do not preserve the records of those crimes as they were committed.

The Armenian genocide marked the beginning of a barbaric practice in the 20th century, and is it not ironic that we are ending the 20th century and those practices still exist in the Balkans, as vis-a-vis Serbia and its neighbors? By remembering, if we can help prevent future actions and punish the guilty in the future, this will be a noble cause.

I recall the Armenians in my own county when I grew up in San Benito County and in Long Beach, and some of the men and women who were maybe small children, and their parents got them through the Turkish lines and they escaped death. As with other immigrants, including my father, the Armenians, the Jews, the Cambodians, and we have 50,000 in Long Beach, California, from Cambodia, they know what freedom means. They know what the United States means.

I will never forget a dinner when Governor George Deukmejian, a child of Armenian parents who had escaped, had many of his Armenian friends and supporters at that dinner. Tears streamed down all of our eyes. These people were in their seventies and their eighties, and they knew those horrors. They knew the haven that America was, a haven of freedom. Some have called it the city on the Hill. What it means is this is a place where we would not tolerate that.

But we thought other countries would not tolerate that, and yet that is exactly what happened. They killed people with whom they disagreed, whether it be for religion, whether it be the color of their skin. This must not happen, and the world should do something about it.

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER
AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 987

Mr. MARTINEZ. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to have my name removed as cosponsor of H.R. 987.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

CALLING FOR SIGNIFICANT REFORMS IN AMERICA'S SANCTIONS POLICIES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Mr. DOOLEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. DOOLEY of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to be an advocate for the United States making significant reforms in our sanctions policy. It is becoming increasingly apparent that an increasing share of our gross domestic product and indeed the growth of our economy is becoming related to trade.

It is obvious, I think, too, to most Americans when we look at the fact that only 4 percent of the world's population live inside our borders, with 96 percent living outside our borders, that this country has to adopt policies to ensure that we will have the greatest access to these markets, because that is where the interests of increased job opportunities that are so important to the working men and women of this country as well as the market opportunities for the businesses lie.

I have beside me here a chart which really demonstrates one of the reasons and makes one of the most compelling arguments for sanctions reform. We currently impose some form of sanctions on over 75 countries. The most distressing aspect of this is the fact that it is costing our economy up to \$15 to \$20 billion a year in lost imports, and that means we have \$200,000 fewer jobs, high-paying jobs in this country because of the sanctions we have imposed.

I have introduced a piece of legislation with my colleague, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. Crane). It is a bipartisan piece of legislation that is asking us to adopt a new policy to ensure that we will use sanctions only as a last resort.

It does not say that Congress and this country cannot impose unilateral economic sanctions, but it does require that before we do so we have to do an analysis and make sure that when we impose a sanction, that it will indeed achieve the objective of mitigation of the behavior of a country which we are targeting.

It also goes further, to say to Members of Congress that we need to have a study to analyze what will be the cost to our economy, what will be the cost in terms of jobs lost, what will be the cost to our economy in terms of markets lost to U.S. companies by the imposition of that sanction?

I am confident that once Members of Congress have that information in front of them, they are going to realize that the policy and the utilization of unilateral economic sanctions is a policy that harms the interests of the working men and women, as well as the businesses in this country.

A group of us who work closely with the New Democrat Coalition have made

this one of our highest priorities, and we are also expanding our effort to deal with some issues which are important to the technology sector.

It is clear when we look at the fact that the United States has almost remained an island of prosperity and economic growth in the midst of a world which is suffering from financial crisis, that in large part that is due because of the fact that the United States has the relative advantage internationally in the development of new technology.

Yet, we have some sanctions and some export restrictions in place which jeopardize our opportunity to continue to have this advantage internationally. It is time for us to relax some of our restrictions on the export of technology, and particularly restrictions on encryption technology.

Unfortunately, we have a policy that restricts the sale of some of our computers embedded with an encryption technology that is using a technology that is over 10 years old. The fact that we have a policy in place now that will preclude U.S. companies from marketing some of their computers and other technology internationally because of our restrictions on encryption, how ludicrous this is witnessed by the fact that anyone in the world today can go to the Internet and download encryption that is far more powerful than that we are imposing upon or restricting our companies from selling that product overseas. That just does not make sense any longer.

We also have a policy in place in this country where we restrict the speed of computers and microprocessors that we can export outside of our borders. That might have made sense 10 years ago or even 5 years ago, when we were worried about jeopardizing the national security of this country by giving powerful computers and putting them in the hands of some of the people who threaten world peace.

But unfortunately, we have maintained an old policy that has not kept pace with the advancements in technology. Back 20 years ago when we had our Cray supercomputers, that were certainly so powerful and so important that we needed to have responsible restrictions on them, today we have reached the point where there is going to be a computer sold today, or in this next 6 months, with a chip developed by Intel which will have the capacity to perform the number of operations per second, and that chip alone will exceed the restrictions we have in place.

It is time for us to make some responsible reforms in encryption policy, our restrictions on computer technology, and the overall reform of our sanctions policy.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. KNOLLENBERG) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Mr. Speaker, I rise this afternoon in remembrance of a dark period in American history, or actually in history, period. That point is the Armenian genocide.

When most people hear the word "genocide" they immediately think of Hitler. They think of the persecution of the Jews during World War II. Most individuals are unaware that the first genocide of the 21st century occurred during World War I and was perpetrated by the Ottoman Empire against the Armenian people.

Concerned that the Armenians would move to establish their own government, the Ottoman Empire embarked on a reign of terror that resulted in the massacre of over 1.5 million Armenians. This atrocious crime began on April 15, 1915, when the Ottoman Empire arrested, exiled, and eventually killed hundreds of Armenian religious, political, and intellectual leaders.

Once they had eliminated the Armenian people's leadership, they turned their attention to the Armenians serving in the Ottoman army. These soldiers were disarmed and placed in labor camps, where they were either starved or executed.

The Armenian people, lacking political leadership and deprived of young, able-bodied men who could fight against the Ottoman onslaught, were then deported from every region of Turkish Armenia. The images of human suffering from the Armenian genocide are graphic, and are as haunting as the pictures of the Holocaust.

Why, then, it must be asked, are so many people unaware of the Armenian genocide? I believe the answer is found in the international community's response to this disturbing event.

At the end of World War I, those responsible for ordering and implementing the Armenian genocide were never brought to justice, and the world casually forgot about the pain and suffering of the Armenian people.

This proved to be a grave mistake. Just a few years later in a speech on the eve of World War II, Hitler justified his brutal tactics with the infamous statement, "Who today remembers the extermination of the Armenians?" Six years later, 6 million Jews had been exterminated by the Nazis. Never had, as the phrase goes, "Those who forget the past will be destined to repeat it," been more applicable.

If the international community had spoken out against this merciless slaughtering of the Armenian people instead of ignoring it, the horrors of the Holocaust might never have taken place.

As we commemorate the 84th anniversary of the Armenian genocide, I believe it is time to give this event its rightful place in history. So let us pay homage to those who fell victim to their Ottoman oppressors, and tell the story of the forgotten genocide, for the sake of the Armenian heritage. It is a story that must be heard.

GUN SAFETY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, my concern as a Member of Congress is that the Federal Government does everything it can to be a full partner in promoting the livability of our communities, because at the end of the day, what our families care about is that their children are safe when they go out the door to go to school in the morning, that the families are economically secure and healthy. Of those factors, the most important, I am sure, is the safety of those families.

We have had within the last 24 hours another tragic reminder that handgun and firearm violence continues to be either the first or second leading cause of death and injury to America's children. It does not have to be this way. A few weeks ago I was honored to host a forum on this topic with several distinguished scholars who discussed ideas with Members of Congress of things we can do to reduce firearm violence with our children.

For instance, we have the opportunity to make firearms safer. All we need here in Congress is the will to change Federal policy so that gun manufacturers meet consumer safety standards for their products.

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It is a shame and a national disgrace that toy guns currently have higher consumer product safety standards than real guns. It is outrageous in America that we cannot adopt the simple suggestion to require an indicator that will tell somebody whether or not a gun is loaded or require, for a few cents or maybe a couple of dollars, a device that will not let a gun fire if the clip has been removed, or requiring a trigger lock on a gun.

It is sad that, given the tragic nature of gun injuries and violence, that there is not a single source of information in the entire United States Government to help us understand the pattern, to isolate the patterns and types of violence and be able to do something about it. It is not the case in other parts of American society.

There are regulations that will in fact make a difference to disrupt this pattern of violence. We have demonstrated that by taking away the right to own guns from people who have demonstrated that they are not responsible gun owners; that we can make a difference in how those guns are used. We have shown that there are consistent areas of support to expand that pattern of denial to people who have consistently shown patterns of violent and reckless behavior. The vast majority of the American public supports it. The majority of gun owners support it.