

Nagorno Karabagh and Armenia have accepted this Common State Proposal to get the negotiations moving forward, but Azerbaijan has flatly rejected our peace proposal.

I will work, Mr. Speaker, to include language in the House foreign operations appropriations bill to urge the administration to stay the course in the Nagorno Karabagh peace process and not let the rejectionist policies of the Azerbaijan cause us to back down in the search for a just and lasting solution to this conflict, providing for the full self-determination of Nagorno Karabagh.

I do appreciate the fact that the Senate did not buy into the administration's inexplicable proposal to increase aid to Azerbaijan and decrease aid to Armenia. As I indicated, the Senate language provides for an increase in assistance to Armenia. It does not provide any specific mention of aid to Azerbaijan.

With the break-up of the Soviet Union, as the countries of the collapsing empire attained their independence, Azerbaijan attempted to militarily crush Nagorno Karabagh and drive out the Armenian population. But the Karabagh Armenians ultimately won their war of independence, and a cease-fire was signed in 1994.

American humanitarian assistance to Azerbaijan, via Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) has not been affected by Section 907. In recent years, further exemptions to Section 907 have been carved out. It is important that, at a time when Azerbaijan continues to reject good-faith efforts to achieve a negotiated settlement to the Nagorno Karabagh conflict, while illegally blockading supplies of fuel, food and other essential supplies to its neighbors, that we not reward this country with additional U.S. assistance.

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Mr. Speaker, I look forward to working with my friends on the Subcommittee on Foreign Operations, Export Financing and Related Programs to craft legislation that supports Armenia.

JUSTICE FOR THE BERGER FAMILY

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

Mr. LATOURETTE. Mr. Speaker, as Americans, we have a right to expect that justice will be served whenever an American citizen is murdered, either on our soil or on foreign land.

David Berger, the son of Dr. and Mrs. Benjamin Berger of Shaker Heights, Ohio, was murdered nearly 20 years ago, but unlike too many others whose lives are senselessly lost, his death was not relegated to the police blotter section of the local paper.

Instead, the killing of David Berger was broadcast around the world and splashed across the front page of virtually every newspaper in the world.

Still, for his family there has been no justice and no closure.

David Berger, a dual American-Israeli citizen, was one of 11 Israeli athletes killed by Palestinian terrorists in 1972 at the Olympic Games in Munich. David Berger, a championship weightlifter, had emigrated to Israel so he could compete in the Olympics as a member of the Israeli team.

Many of us remember the 1972 Olympic games perhaps from Mark Spitz and the 7 gold medals that he won in swimming. Others recall with delight the pint-sized Olga Korbut, who captured our hearts and also captured gold, but for the Berger family the 1972 Olympic games are scarred with painful images that are permanently etched in their minds and hearts, a machine gun toting terrorist with a black ski mask in the window of the dormitory where their son and his teammates were staying, the white pine coffin that held his remains when he was returned to the United States for his funeral.

Mr. Speaker, David Berger was the only American to die in this horrific act of terrorism that changed our world, that caused the Olympics to lose its innocence and forced the world to take the reality of terrorism far more seriously. If it could happen at the Olympics, it could happen anywhere.

Mr. Speaker, I share the story of David Berger now because at this very moment in history the United States has an unprecedented opportunity to deliver justice to the Berger family.

The Palestinian guerilla long suspected as the mastermind of the terrorist acts at the Munich games not only has admitted his part in this plot, but has written a book and plans to profit from it. Abu Daoud has written his autobiography, and it was recently published in France, called "Palestine: From Jerusalem to Munich." In his book he admits to being the mastermind of the hostage taking at the Munich games.

Based on those admissions the German government last week issued an Interpol arrest warrant for Abu Daoud and plans to try him as an accessory for murder for planning the attack. Now this terrorist is in Jordan. The Israeli government last week denied him access to Israel, making it impossible for him to return to his home on the West Bank.

Mr. Speaker, regrettably it appears that Abu Daoud cannot be held accountable for his crimes in the United States or in Israel. Therefore, it is imperative that the Jordanian government honor the Interpol arrest warrant and return him to Germany. I have called today, Mr. Speaker, upon President Clinton to immediately demand the Jordanian King Abdullah that he turn over Abu Daoud to Germany for prosecution. It would be reprehensible if the United States would now turn its back and refuse to do all within its power to see that an assassin of an American citizen is brought to justice.

Mr. Speaker, Abu Daoud's book is not yet available in the United States.

However, any American citizen can log on to the Internet, call up Amazon.com and read a breezy synopsis which says, "Twenty-five years ago after he masterminded the tragedy of the 1972 Munich Olympic games, one of the legendary figures of Palestinian terrorism comes out of hiding to tell his story."

Daoud has chosen this time in history to reveal to the world his role in this senseless execution of 11 Olympic athletes. While it sickens me to the core, Mr. Speaker, to think that anyone could profit from this type of terrorism, it would sicken me even more if our country were to fail to intervene and assist the Berger family of Shaker Heights, Ohio.

Mr. Speaker, Dr. Benjamin Berger is now 81 years old. He still practices medicine and is on the board of trustees at Fairmount Temple, where his eldest son was eulogized more than a quarter of century ago. He and his wife Dorothy have two grown children. The Bergers were left with many wonderful reminders of their son's life: A memorial at the Jewish Community Center, a gym at his high school, and a 19-year-old grandson named after the wonderful son they lost.

As we can imagine, it is painful for David Berger's mother Dorothy to relieve the horror that befell her family nearly 27 years ago. Mr. Speaker, Dorothy Berger cannot fathom why Abu Daoud has chosen to admit his criminal acts in a book. Maybe he is proud of it. He has gotten away with it all these years.

Mr. Speaker, an American citizen was killed nearly 27 years ago in one of the most heinous, well-known terrorist acts of this century. We must not allow Abu Daoud to get away with it one day longer.

Mr. Speaker, may justice prevail. May God bless the Berger family and the United States of America.

COMMONSENSE MEASURES TO CURB GUN VIOLENCE

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

Mr. EHRlich. Mr. Speaker, just a few thoughts on the events taking place on the floor in the last few days.

Mr. Speaker, I and most of us support the rights of law-abiding citizens to possess guns for a variety of reasons, not the least of which is self-defense. This view derives from my observation that many gun control initiatives have proven a failure in reducing crime.

For example, in the case of the Colorado shootings, the two criminals responsible for the carnage broke 19 State and Federal laws in the preparation and commission of those crimes.

Some of my constituents have written to me about gun control proposals which seek to limit gun owners to purchasing one gun a month and a minimum 3-day waiting period. Previously, waiting periods were necessary in order to allow for background checks to be

completed. The passage of the Brady bill in 1994 brought new computerized national and local criminal arrest records. The criminal background of a potential gun purchaser can now be verified in a matter of minutes through the National Instant Check System, the NICS. I believe the background investigation as initiated through the NICS is a reasonable check on gun ownership rights.

I support some new proposals brought to this floor over the past two days, as well. For instance, I do not believe juveniles convicted of serious violent crimes should be allowed to acquire guns even after they turn 21 years of age. I support the imposition of harsh penalties for adults who provide guns to juveniles with the knowledge those guns will be used in a crime of violence.

I support programs which trace the source of firearms used in the commission of a crime. Convicted felons found in the possession of any gun should be punished severely, with mandatory minimum sentences that cannot be plea-bargained away.

Further, I welcome positive changes to current law that allow current and former police officers to carry weapons to protect themselves and our communities, prohibit guns pawned for more than a year from being returned until the owner passes an instant check, and allow D.C. residents the right to protect and defend themselves and their families in their own homes.

National crime statistics reflect an 18 percent decrease in violent crime and a 28 percent decrease in the murder rate from 1993 through 1997. The downward trend continued through June of 1998. I attribute a significant percentage of this improvement to the increased use of mandatory sentencing for violent offenders. Accordingly, I will continue to insist on harsh penalties for violent criminals, particularly those who misuse weapons during the commission of a crime.

Further, I call upon prosecutors everywhere to refrain from pleading away gun-related charges and criminal indictments. Sensible gun laws do work, but not when rendered meaningless by overburdened prosecutors more interested in moving their docket than in enforcing gun statutes.

Mr. Speaker, in my view the primary causes of gun violence in our society are rather obvious. The breakdown of families and family values, failure to hold individuals accountable for their actions, the romanticizing and glorifying of drug abuse, and violent behavior and guns on television, at the movies, and in video arcade are all relevant in assigning blame for recent events pertaining to youth violence.

Youth access to guns plays a part in the total picture, as well. Accordingly, I will continue to support measures restricting youth access to guns, criminal access to guns, and the mentally impaired and their access to guns.

I will not punish responsible. Law-abiding gun owners who are often made

scapegoats by special interests and some segments of the popular press, and Members are going to see a heck of a lot of that over the coming days.

If gun control was the sole answer to the problem of violence in our country, my home State of Maryland, which has some of the strongest gun control laws in the country, would not have experienced an increased murder rate in 1998 while the national murder rate continued to fall.

The thoughts expressed herein do not make for an easy sound bite. Neither do they fall neatly under one political or philosophical label. They state, however, the views of one Member from Maryland who seeks to find positive solutions to one of our society's major ills, our fascination with violence.

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

(Mr. SMITH of Michigan addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

THE DISASTROUS WAR IN YUGOSLAVIA

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

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, fairly early on during the war in Yugoslavia I spoke on this floor and said it was obvious that Milosevic would cave and that President Clinton and his spin doctors would then try to declare a great victory. It was obvious that a country no bigger than Kentucky, with less than 4 percent of our population and an already weakened economy, and without any real ability even to fight back, could not hold out for long against the massive bombings and megabillions of the U.S. Defense Department.

The only reason this stupid, one-sided cruel joke of a war lasted as long as it did was because it became, as one columnist said, and allied farce instead of an allied force, as the military called it.

Jeffrey Gedmin, writing in the just published June 28 issue of the liberal New Republic Magazine, said this:

If the deal between Yugoslavia and NATO over Kosovo sticks, expect the Clinton administration to claim vindication and to speak of a victory for American leadership via NATO. But Europe's own early post-mortem suggests that our allies might be drawing rather different conclusions.

Privately, politically influential Europeans generally consider the U.S.-led operation in Kosovo to have been a fiasco. Calculations of an early victory proved disastrously wrong. The Kosovars, whom we started the fighting to protect, have been decimated. There were 90,000 refugees before the bombing began. Estimates of the homeless now exceed 1 million.

Mr. Gedmin ended his article by calling it a pyrrhic victory, meaning really

no victory at all. Columnist Robert Novak said the same thing. He wrote,

But the truly pyrrhic nature of NATO's victory lies in longer-term implications. Serious students of foreign policy, far from eager to join in a champagne bash, were melancholy. U.S. relations with China have been undermined. The most dangerous elements in the Russian military have been emboldened. Most worrisome, the world now sees America with different eyes.

Former Secretary of State Lawrence Eagleburger said, "We looked like the big bully to a lot of people around the world."

Senator KAY BAILEY HUTCHINSON said that we are in danger of losing prestige and good will around the world. Under this administration, we have bombed people in Afghanistan, the Sudan, Iraq, and Yugoslavia, all apparently in an attempt to show that the President and the Secretary of State are great world leaders, and to make their mark in history.

Paul Harvey called this war Monica's war, and many people believe all these bombings in Afghanistan, the Sudan, Iraq, and Yugoslavia, timed as they were, were at least in part done to try to make people forget things like the sordid Lewinsky affair and the President's sale of missile technology to the Chinese.

Columnist Tony Snow said that this was the first war we have ever entered into in which we were the unambiguous aggressor and in which there was no vital U.S. interests at stake. In the process, the President turned NATO from a purely defensive force into an offensive one for the very first time, illegally many think, because it was against the NATO charter. He turned our Defense Department into a war department, as it was once called. He violated both our constitutional law and our statutory law, the War Powers Act. But then, some people do not care as long as the stock market remains high.

Former Democratic Senator Sam Nunn said, however, "I think we have to be more mature in handling these civil wars around the globe. We have got to develop other tools beyond military force to deal with what are nonvital interests, and I consider this," Senator Nunn said, "to be a nonvital interest."

These bombings have turned people who want to be our friends into enemies. These actions have increased anti-Americanism all over the world. We will have problems years from now because of all of this when the problems will be blamed on whomever is president at the time.

In addition, this has cost us many, many billions, which could have been spent on so many better things. Our military would have plenty of money and no shortages if this administration had not so totally misused our military in so many ridiculously costly ways.

Columnist Carol THOMAS wrote, "Only a president who knows more about making love than war would declare the puny and ineffective one-sided assault on the former Yugoslavia to be a victory."