

"There won't be a next time."

The dog's missing head was left along with a similar note at Petrushova's house. Three nights later, someone threw three molotov cocktails into her office and burned it to the ground.

The political climate in this oil-rich former Soviet republic has taken a decidedly ominous turn in recent weeks, ever since the revelation that the country's president, Nursultan Nazarbayev, secretly stashed \$1 billion of state money in a Swiss bank account 6 years ago. As the scandal blossomed, opposition leaders were suddenly arrested, newspapers and television stations shut down, and critical journalists beaten in what foes of the government consider a new wave of repression.

What inspectors and regulators have not accomplished, mysterious vandals have. One of the country's leading television stations was knocked off the air when its cable was sliced in the middle of the night. Shortly after it was repaired, the cable was rendered useless again when someone shot through it.

"Everything that's been achieved over the last 10 years, it's been wiped out," Petrushova lamented.

"This political system we have is still Soviet," said Yevgeny Zhovits, director of the Kazakhstan International Bureau for Human Rights and the Rule of Law. "By its spirit, by its nature, by its attitude toward personal freedom, it's still Soviet."

The tale of intrigue emerging in Kazakhstan, while familiar across the former Soviet Union, takes on special significance in Central Asia, a region that has become far more important to the United States as it fights a war in nearby Afghanistan. The case also sheds some light on the tangled world of oil, money and politics in a country with massive energy reserves.

The U.S. Embassy and the State Department have issued statements condemning the pattern of events and fretting about the state of democracy in a country still run by its last Communist boss. But many reformers in Kazakhstan worry that the West has effectively turned its eyes away from human rights abuses to maintain the international coalition against terrorism.

"All this is happening with the silent consent of the West," said Assylbeck Kozhakhmetov, a leading figure in Democratic Choice for Kazakhstan, an opposition party founded last year. Until Sept. 11, Nazarbayev's government worried about offending the West, he noted, but not anymore. "The ostrich party of Western democracies actually unties the hands of dictators."

Nazarbayev, a burly, 61-year-old former steel mill blast-furnace operator, has run this giant, dusty country of 17 million people with an authoritarian style. Nazarbayev was a former member of the Soviet Politburo who took over as head of the republic in 1990, became president after independence in 1991, and continued to dominate Kazakhstan through uncompetitive elections and a referendum extending his term.

His relationship with oil companies has prompted investigations in Switzerland and the United States as prosecutors in both countries probe whether an American lobbyist helped steer millions of dollars in oil commissions to him and other Kazakh leaders.

The long-brewing questions about such transfers and rumors of foreign bank accounts erupted into a full-blown scandal in April when Nazarbayev's prime minister admitted to parliament that the president diverted \$1 billion to a secret Swiss bank account in 1996. The money came from the sale that year of a 20 percent stake in the valuable Tengiz offshore oil fields to Chevron.

The prime minister, Imangali Tasmagambetov, said that Nazarbayev had

sent the money abroad because he worried that such a large infusion of cash into Kazakhstan would throw the currency into a tailspin. Although he never disclosed the secret fund to parliament, Nazarbayev used it twice to help stabilize the country during subsequent financial crises, Tasmagambetov said.

In an interview last week, a top government official dismissed the significance of the revelation and the resulting furor.

"The so-called Kazakh-gate, the government officially explained this," said Ardark Doszham, the deputy minister of information. "There was a special reserve account set up by the government. It's a normal account that can be managed by officials appointed by the government. It's not managed by individuals. The money that goes into it is state money, and it's supposed to be used to meet the needs of the state."

Asked who knew about it, Doszham could identify only three men, Nazarbayev, the prime minister and the chairman of the national bank. Asked why lawmakers were never informed, he said, "It was impossible to raise this issue before parliament because it would have elicited many questions."

But opposition leaders and journalists said Nazarbayev finally revealed the account this spring only after they pushed Swiss prosecutors for information. The opposition and journalists said they believe the president announced the \$1 billion fund only as a smoke screen to obscure other matters still under investigation by the Swiss and U.S. prosecutors.

"All around there is bribe-taking and stealing and mafia," said Serikbolsyn Abdildin, the head of the Communist Party and one of two parliament deputies whose information request to prosecutors preceded the announcement. "There's corruption in the top echelon of power." The disclosure of the \$1 billion Swiss fund was designed to "fool public opinion," he said.

The disclosures have coincided with an escalating series of troublesome incidents for those who do not defer to the government.

Just days before Tasmagambetov's speech to parliament, Kazakh authorities arrested opposition politician Mukhtar Abilyazov, while his colleague, Ghalyymzhan Zhaqiyanov, avoided a similar fate only by fleeing into the French Embassy here in Almaty, the former capital, two days later.

After assurances from Kazakh authorities, he left the embassy, and promptly was also taken into custody. The government insisted it was pursuing embezzlement charges against the two, both founding members of Democratic Choice. The opposition called it blatant harassment.

Other opposition figures began to feel the heat as well. While independent media in Kazakhstan have often experienced difficulty in the decade since independence, a string of frightening episodes convinced many journalists that they were being targeted.

The government began enforcing a five-year-old law requiring television stations to ensure that 50 percent of their broadcasts were aired in the native Kazakh tongue, a language that in practice remains secondary to Russian here. Most television stations cannot afford to develop such programming and prefer to buy off-the-shelf material from Russia, including dubbed Western television shows and movies. As government agents swarmed in and began monitoring channels this spring, they began seizing licenses of those stations that did not comply.

Similarly, inspectors showed up at newspaper offices demanding to see registration papers and suspending those publications that did not have everything in order. Some that did not list their addresses properly were abruptly shut down. Printing houses

began refusing to publish other papers, and one printing house was burned down in unclear circumstances.

Tamara Kaleyeva, president of the International Foundation for Protection of Speech here, said about 20 newspapers have been forced to stop publishing and about 20 television stations have been shut down or face closure.

"It appears the Swiss accounts are the reason for a terrible persecution against free speech," she said. Added Rozlana Taukina, president of the Central Asia Independent Mass Media Association, "The country is turning into an authoritarian regime."

Doszham, the deputy minister, denied any political motivations behind the recent actions. Television stations had been flouting the language law, he said, and the government has suspended about seven or eight, and gone to court to recall the licenses of another six or seven. Similarly, he said, newspapers had been violating requirements. "The law is harsh," he said, "but the law is the law."

Even more harsh, however, has been an unofficial but often violent crackdown. It is not known who is orchestrating it. Bakbytzhon Ketebayev, president of Tan Broadcasting Co., whose Tan TV station was among the best known in Kazakhstan, has been off the air for two months following repeated attacks on his cable. Even after it was repaired following the gunshots, it was damaged yet again when someone drove three nails in it. "Once it's an accident, twice it may be an accident," he said. "But three times is a trend."

At the newspaper Soldat, which means soldier in Russian but is also a play on words in Kazakh meaning "that one demands to speak," the assault was more personal. One day in late May, four young men burst into the newspaper office and beat two workers there, bashing one woman's head so hard she remains in the hospital. They also took the computer equipment.

Ermuram Bali, the editor, said the attack came the day before the weekly was to run the second of two installments reprinting a Seymour Hersh piece from the New Yorker about oil and corruption in Kazakhstan. "This is the last warning against you," he said the assailants told his staff. Other journalists have been physically attacked as well.

And then there was Petrushova and the headless dog. Like Soldat, her newspaper, the Republic Business Review, had written about the scandal. Then the mutilated animal was found May 19, and finally the newspaper office was set aflame on May 22.

Petrushova suspects state security agencies were behind the incidents but cannot prove it. "The throne started to waver, and in order to hold it in place, all sorts of measures are being used," she said. Now she works out of borrowed offices at Tan TV headquarters, putting out the newspaper on her own typographical machine and stapling each issue. "It's just like it was in the time of the Soviet Union."

GRACE OMEGA GARCES, U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY 2002 REGION IX ENVIRONMENTAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD WINNER

HON. ROBERT A. UNDERWOOD

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 21, 2002

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this occasion to congratulate

Grace Omega Garces for having been selected for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's 2002 Environmental Achievement Award. This award recognizes individuals who have done exceptional work and have shown commitment to the environment. Grace is the public information and education officer for the Guam Environmental Protection Agency.

Under this capacity, Grace has directed and implemented the Guam EPA's public information, community outreach and environmental education programs through the use of strategic planning to create an educated and informed citizenry. She has also been in charge of enhancing the agency's public profile and credibility through media releases and updates. She has made determinations on the forms, messages, audiences and desired impacts of high-quality communications products regarding the Guam EPA and Guam's natural resources. Part of her responsibilities included serving as adjunct risk communications officer for contingencies such as the Supertyphoon Pako Disaster, the Ordot Landfill Fire, the Orote Landfill Seafood Warning, the Installation Restoration Project, the Agana Swamp PCB Warnings, the Agana Power Plant and the Base Realignment and Closure Project. She has also produced and conceptually developed the Guam EPA website.

The youngest of Joe and Nieves Garces' five children, Grace was born and raised on the island of Guam, graduating from Oceanview High School in Agat, Guam. While in high school, she was inducted into the national honor society and was elected student body president. She received the Soroptimist International of the Mariana Youth Citizenship Award and was selected as youth ambassador to Japan for the Blue Sea and Green Land Foundation Guam/Japan Youth Exchange in the summer of 1996. She was also a co-captain of the cheerleading squad.

Dedicated to the pursuit of higher education, Grace earned a Bachelor of Arts from the University of California, San Diego. She majored in both Political Science and History with minors in Economics and Advanced Calculus. In June of this year, a Master of Public Administration degree was conferred upon her by the University of Guam. While at the University of Guam, she was the recipient of the Dr. Pedro C. Sanchez Professional Scholarship.

Grace's work experience include a wide variety of posts in both the private and public sector. Prior to her employment with the Guam EPA, she worked, on several occasions, as an aide and a consultant to local senators. She has both been a freelance writer and a copy editor for the local daily newspaper. She has also been a volunteer broadcaster and radio program host for Guam Public Radio. While in college, she was the executive director of the university's Associated Students Internship Office and later became a Research Assistant and Fellow.

In addition to this recent award, Grace has also been the recipient of a number of local, regional and national honors and awards. The Government of Guam Bureau of Women's Affairs named her the Outstanding Woman of the Year for Local/Federal Government in 2002. She has received a number of awards and nominations for the Governor of Guam's Employee Recognition Program. For several years running, she has also been given the honor of making presentations in regional and national EPA conferences.

The hard work and dedication of Grace Garces brings much welcomed recognition, focus and attention to the island of Guam. I applaud her efforts and urge her to keep up the good work.

HONORING DEAN KAMEN, NEW HAMPSHIRE'S MODERN DAY THOMAS EDISON, FOR HIS WORK ON BEHALF OF ALL PEOPLE AND RECOGNITION BY THE JUVENILE DIABETES RESEARCH FOUNDATION

HON. CHARLES F. BASS

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 21, 2002

Mr. BASS. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to bring to the attention of the United States House of Representatives Assembled, the contributions that my friend Dean Kamen has made toward improving the health, productivity, freedom, and aspirations of people around the world. I therefore request the following proclamation be made part of the permanent CONGRESSIONAL RECORD of the United State of America:

Whereas, Dean Kamen and his inventions have improved the lives of millions of people around the world; and

Whereas, Dean Kamen has captured the hope and imagination of all citizens who remain convinced that he will one day unlock even more secrets of physics, engineering, and biology to revolutionize the way we live; and

Whereas, Dean Kamen has sought to inspire younger generations and many others the drive to study and surpass the known boundaries of humanity and science, by organizing and ceaselessly promoting For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology (FIRST); and

Whereas, Dean Kamen has made residents of the Great State of New Hampshire proud of his successes and appreciate his loyalty to the Granite State's way of life; and

Whereas, Dean Kamen on this day has been named "Person of the Year" by the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation New England Chapter—New Hampshire Branch;

Now, therefore, be it Resolved by the House of Representatives that Congress congratulates Dean Kamen on his award and thanks him for his many contributions to our society.

On this date, at the House of Representatives, in Washington, D.C.

A TRIBUTE TO LANDON DONOVAN AND THE U.S. WORLD CUP TEAM

HON. JERRY LEWIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 21, 2002

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, Americans have found a new set of sports heroes in the past through weeks as we have watched the breathtaking performance of the U.S. men's team in the World Cup soccer championship. While the entire team has won the hearts and cheers of the nation for going further than any U.S. team in 72 years, my

constituents and I are particularly proud of a native son, Landon Donovan of Redlands.

A former student at Redlands East Valley High School, Landon Donovan can rightfully be called a soccer prodigy. Quickly moving on from the Youth soccer leagues in my San Bernardino County district, Landon was the most valuable player for the Under17 World Championship as a 16-year-old in 1999 and played for the U.S. team in the 2000 Olympics.

His promise was recognized by one of Europe's top soccer teams when he was recruited by the German club Bayer Leverkusen. But his real potential was revealed in 2001 when he Joined the San Jose Earthquakes of the professional Major Soccer League and led the team to the national championship.

Landon Donovan's impact on the World Cup has mirrored that of the U.S. team. He has taken on some of the world's best players and shown that he can be competitive with anyone. He scored a goal in the first U.S. match against Portugal and very nearly scored another. He scored the only goal in a loss to Poland. And he was named the "Man of the Match" in the U.S. team's win over Mexico after scoring the team's second goal and nearly scoring another.

Thanks to the speed and determination of Landon Donovan and his teammates, this year's U.S. team went further in the World Cup than any time in the past 72 years. In their final match against Germany, one of the elite teams, they pressured the German goal again and again. Donovan broke away for four shots on his own, and forced the German keeper to make desperate saves each time. The German victory at 1–0 ended the U.S. run, but will in no way lessen our pride in the players' spirited performance.

Mr. Speaker, the youth of San Bernardino County have now been treated to thrilling hometown performers twice in the course of a year. Derek Parra of San Bernardino shocked and inspired the world at the Winter Olympics with his recordbreaking gold medal performance in speedskating, a sport long-dominated by cold climate European nations.

And now Landon Donovan, a product of Redlands youth soccer, has helped his team win against some of the elite teams of the World Cup. Please join me in thanking this team for showing Americans how entertaining soccer can be, and for reminding us all that with hard work and determination, anything is possible.

MILITARY PAY GAP

HON. SUSAN DAVIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 21, 2002

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure and respect for our men and women in uniform that I introduce legislation to ensure elimination of the pay gap that exists for our military personnel.

Since 1982, when military pay was last considered to have achieved "reasonable comparability" with the private sector, military raises have lagged behind those enjoyed by the average American. Legislation passed for FY2000 included a large pay raise and mandated pay raises of "inflation plus one half of one percent" through 2006.