

Instead, our State Department is, what? Our State Department is pushing that our allies in the war against the Taliban, the Northern Alliance, should, without reservation, disarm and dismantle their military forces; this at a time when those people who sided with the Taliban could well take over the central government and as the Taliban are still skirmishing throughout the country periodically. Yet our State Department wants our allies to disarm.

By the way, our allies, and I visited them 1 month ago, want one thing and one thing only: the Northern Alliance, those who fought with us against the Taliban, are asking only that they have the right to elect their local leaders, their local mayors and provision leaders. That is what they are asking for. Is that not understandable? Is this not what America is all about?

It is funny that our State Department, however, is pushing a system that is totally contrary to the American experience. They, instead, are insisting that Afghanistan have, get this, a French-like centralized system of government, in which the provision leaders and the local leaders would be appointed. The local police chief is appointed by the centralized government in Kabul, the capital city. The school masters are appointed by the centralized government in Kabul.

This is not freedom. This is not what America is all about. Yet our State Department pushes in exactly the wrong direction. We need to oversee what the State Department is doing in Afghanistan before it collapses and before the heroin production in that country destroys any hope for those people to have a decent life in the future.

MAKING PUBLIC RECORDS REGARDING RELOCATION TO ARGENTINA OF WORLD WAR II CRIMINALS

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

Mr. HINCHEY. Mr. Speaker, I would like to this evening call to the attention of the Members of the House that tomorrow I, along with 22 original co-sponsors, will introduce a resolution calling on the Government of Argentina to make public all of its official records pertaining to the relocation to Argentina of Nazis and other criminals of World War II.

Just 60 years ago, the world witnessed the most horrific crime ever perpetrated, the Holocaust. Hitler's campaign of genocide murdered 6 million Jews, 220,000 Roma, 200,000 mentally and physically disabled persons, and millions more homosexuals, Russians, Poles, and others. This campaign, known as the "Final Solution," was carried out with ruthless efficiency by Hitler's Nazi regime and its collaborators.

Following the fall of that regime in 1945, the Nuremberg Trials were estab-

lished to prosecute those responsible for carrying out the genocide campaign. While many of the Nazis and war criminals who perpetrated these atrocities were tried at Nuremberg, others escaped Europe and fled.

Many of those who escaped sought refuge in Argentina, where the government of Juan Peron offered them a safe haven. While many historians believe at least 300 war criminals fled to Argentina, there is no accurate number available.

Those we do know about include some of the Holocaust's most notorious figures: Edward Roschmann, the "Butcher of Riga," and probable organizer of the ODESSA network; Eric Priebke, the SS captain involved in massacres of Italian victims; and Adolf Eichmann, chief of the Jewish Office of the Gestapo and responsible for implementing the "Final Solution." There are many others who belong on the list.

This era of Argentina's history is over, and Argentina has attempted to come to grips with this history. Despite these efforts, there is much we do not know about this era. Two prominent examples demonstrate this fact.

The fate of Klaus Barbie is not certain, as he briefly resided in Argentina on his way to a third country. Josef Mengele spent a short time in Argentina before leaving for Paraguay, but the details of his flight are uncertain as well.

Did the Government of Argentina know that these men traveled through the country? How long did they reside in Argentina? These questions and others remain unanswered. As two of the most dangerous and destructive men during the Holocaust, their actions after World War II should be known. Access to the documents that Argentina has may provide information on the final whereabouts of these and other war criminals.

Historians and researchers, however, are still encountering obstacles to Argentina's archives as repeated requests for documentation from that time period have been disregarded or refused. The New York Times reported on this in March of this year, and other researchers and historians have confirmed this fact.

My resolution calls on Argentina to build upon the steps it has already taken to shed light on the relocation of Nazis to Argentina following the end of World War II and to make public all official records pertaining to this era.

The world must always learn from its history. Knowledge of past events can guard against such things occurring in the future. Access to these records is necessary to form a full understanding of the Holocaust's aftermath and to thwart future attempts by war criminals to avoid prosecution. And just as important, if not more, the Nazis and war criminals who avoided prosecution for their roles in the Holocaust must be exposed. The world deserves to know of their crimes and their fates. The people

of Argentina deserve nothing less than complete knowledge of their country's history. And the families of Holocaust victims deserve a full account of this time period.

Argentina should be praised for its recent efforts to investigate and bring to light the events of this time period as a member of the Task Force for International Cooperation on Holocaust Education, Remembrance, and Research. Argentina also signed the Declaration of the Stockholm International Forum on the Holocaust and therefore agreed to "throw light on the still obscured shadows of the Holocaust" and to "take all necessary steps to facilitate the opening of archives in order to ensure that all documents bearing on the Holocaust are available to researchers."

□ 2000

In 1997, Argentina created the Commission of Inquiry into the Activities of Nazism in Argentina to identify Nazis who settled in the country, determine if Nazi loot had arrived in Argentina, and evaluate the impact of Nazism on Argentine society. However, documentation and details regarding these events in Argentina's history have still not been made available, despite commitments from Argentina's Government to do so. By making these documents and information public, the Government of Argentina will be making an enormous contribution to all those who seek an accurate accounting of history.

Before I close, I want to make clear that the purpose of this resolution is not to lay blame on Argentina, but to foster a clear and complete understanding of the events following the Holocaust. It is important to note that just prior to the start of World War II, 30,000 to 40,000 Jewish immigrants entered Argentina and sought asylum, thousands more than other countries were permitting at the time, and efforts are being made by the current government to expose these facts regarding the Holocaust.

I call on the Argentine Government to fully support the efforts it has previously made on this issue and to release any and all information and documents it has on the relocation of Nazis and other war criminals to within its borders after World War II. Recognition of these events is critical for a full understanding of the Holocaust and its aftermath.

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

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

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

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

WINNING THE PEACE IN POST-WAR IRAQ

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 2003, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. HOFFEL) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. HOFFEL. Mr. Speaker, this evening I would like to talk about the situation in Iraq and discuss whether or not we are taking the necessary steps to win the peace in that country. We have just seen a remarkable and important military victory in Iraq. We were successfully able to remove the threat posed by the regime of Saddam Hussein, remove his threat that was a direct confrontation with regional peace, and even world peace, due to his murderous regime and what we believe to be his possession of weapons of mass destruction. Our Armed Forces performed brilliantly. Our young men and women in uniform were brave and courageous, did everything that their military leaders and their political leaders asked them to do, and performed in an outstanding manner. We are proud of what they have done. All of America should be proud of our armed services today.

While the military victory is ours, the military mission is not yet fully accomplished. While we have deposed Saddam Hussein, we have not yet found his weapons of mass destruction, weapons that he had in the early and mid-1990s. The United Nations inspectors were finding them then. We must find those weapons now and destroy them or find out where they have been taken or hidden and hold their new owners accountable for their safe disposal.

But now that we have achieved this wonderful military victory, the question is, can we also win the peace. I think the answer right now is that we are not yet winning the peace in Iraq. Iraq is posing very significant challenges to its own people, to the coalition partners, and to everyone in the world interested in social justice and the creation of democratic countries with economic opportunity and freedom for people.

In Iraq there are some major challenges today. Security remains a huge challenge. There has been looting, lawlessness, car-jackings, break-ins. Humanitarian aid is lagging. There is a great need for medicine, for clean water, electricity. Relief workers are reporting it hard to do their jobs because of the lack of their own personal safety in Iraq. The much-needed reconstruction has not started yet. The demands of religious and ethnic groups are loud and unresolved, and the advent of pluralism and self-government seems to be a very long way off.

Two reports today help to illustrate these problems. The International

Committee for the Red Cross, in an Iraq bulletin dated today, May 13, 2003, reports in Baghdad and central Iraq, under the general situation that security is, by far, the most important concern for Iraqis. Numerous security incidents happen daily in the capital: looting, banditry, ambushes, car-jacking, physical attacks and killings. Schools have reopened, which is very good news; but most parents are concerned about their children's safety.

The International Committee for the Red Cross reports on the medical situation in Baghdad hospitals. Hospitals and health centers are open again, functioning at about 50 percent of their capacity; but in most places, the cleaning staff have not yet returned to work. The main needs at the medical facilities are fuel to run the electricity and to simply transport the staff to and from the hospitals. Salaries and specific medical and surgical supplies are in need. Water is being distributed and electricity is available in hospitals, but only for a few hours a day.

In the community, reports the Red Cross, water and sanitation is a huge issue, again because of the lack of security. The looting of essential facilities is severely obstructing normal work. The Red Cross reports that one water plant recently visited had its generator and two main pumps stolen. Electricity production has not improved over the last 10 days, and there are huge problems in economic security as well, according to the Red Cross. They are delivering blankets and distributing food and nonfood items; market prices are much higher than they were before the war. Food stocks in average households could last for up to a month, but the average family has huge problems with a lack of cash income and the shortage of fuel and gas.

Also today, Mr. Speaker, the BBC reported from Basra in a report dated May 13, 2003, of some of the problems they are having in that area. Cholera is endemic. There have been 19 cases identified in Basra in the last 2 days alone. Dirty water is being blamed for that outbreak. They have problems with a variety of gastroenteritis and even hepatitis. The BBC reports that doctors have to function and practice in ill-equipped hospitals where they have just barely enough drugs and intravenous fluids to treat the victims, but the victims are afraid to come to the hospitals because of the lack of security. Finally, in Basra, car-jacking is a crime described by the BBC as taking off. If people go out in a decent car, the chances apparently are good that they will be walking home after being car-jacked.

So, Mr. Speaker, the problems are clear. And in the last several weeks the efforts by the United States on the ground in postconflict Iraq are certainly well-meaning, but they often seem poorly planned, reactive to events rather than anticipating events, and out of touch with the reality of post-Saddam Iraq. In every major area we

seem to have problems. The major challenges are peace-keeping, humanitarian aid, reconstruction, and new governance. And in every area we have problems. We are not projecting the confidence or success that we should project with the quick and unanticipated rotation of American officials that we are seeing in and out of Iraq. Apparently, every day, changes are being made. Most of us were just getting used to the notion of Jay Garner running the American operation. Well, he is out and Paul Bremer is in. And seven or eight of the American officials that came with Jay Garner are apparently on their way out of the country as well.

Finally, there are obvious disturbing and harmful conflicts and jealousies between our own State Department and our own Department of Defense. We are not working from the same page.

Now, what are we going to do about all of this? What has the Bush administration proposed lately to try to resolve and address all of these problems? Well, I believe they have made a startling proposal from the White House: a draft resolution asking the United Nations to recognize the United States of America and Great Britain as occupying powers in Iraq, occupying powers, for at least 1 year's duration and, most likely, far beyond. And the question is tonight, Do we want this country to be an occupying power in Iraq or anyplace else, for that matter?

I think it is worth taking a look at some of the details of the draft proposal submitted by the United States last Friday to the United Nations, a proposal that the United States hopes the U.N. Security Council will approve after reflection and debate. It suggests that the United States of America and the United Kingdom, our great ally, be recognized as occupying powers under applicable international law. The resolution goes on to designate Great Britain and the United States as the authority and calls upon the authority to promote the welfare of the Iraqi people through the effective administration of the territory to restore conditions of security and stability so that the Iraqi people may freely determine their own political future.

Now, those are worthy goals, goals that all of us can share. The question is, do we really want the United Nations Security Council to designate the United States and Great Britain as the authority responsible for making this happen, as occupying powers? The draft resolution goes on to suggest that the Secretary General work with this new authority, the United States and Great Britain and the people of Iraq, with respect to the restoration and establishment of national and local institutions for representative governance.

The resolution further calls upon the Security Council to support the formation by the people of Iraq with the help of the authority of an Iraqi interim authority as a transitional administration. The resolution further says that