

must be clear to all Cambodian democrats that the United States stands firmly and publicly with them in our common cause of democracy and the rule of law. Secretary Powell should make it a point to meet with the democrats during his short stay in Phnom Penh.

It is in America's national interest, and that of Cambodia, that new leadership—firmly committed to transparency, accountability and justice—is elected in upcoming parliamentary elections next month.

The ruling Cambodian People's Party, CPP, and its earlier manifestations have had an opportunity—nearly a quarter of a century—to develop that country. Their records is unimpressive, at best. Crimes are committed with impunity, corruption is endemic and extends to the highest office, and lawlessness provides a breeding ground for terrorism and other criminal activities.

Under CPP Prime Minister Hun Sen's leadership, opposition rallies have been attacked by grenade-throwing terrorists, a coalition government disintegrated in a coup d'etat, and government-paid gangsters, the Pagoda Boys, caused \$50 million worth of damage in anti-Thai riots that were fueled by Hun Sen's reckless nationalistic comments.

Secretary Powell should temper his comments praising the Cambodian Government for cracking down on terrorism. The reason terrorists are on Cambodian soil is because of the very lawlessness perpetuated by the CPP. Hun Sen has swatted a few flies recently, but is directly responsible for leaving the screen door wide open. A more serious response to terrorism in the region is freedom and the rule of law for the Cambodian people.

While in Phnom Penh, Secretary Powell must push for free and fair elections in July. Opposition parties must not be denied access to media or the ability to conduct rallies, demonstrations, and other forms of free expression. Secretary Powell must make clear to Hun Sen that a single, additional political killing is one too many, and that the election will be judged by international standards—which, contrary to the Prime Minister's thinking, is not reserved only for sports competition.

Let me close by saying that it has come to my attention that the ASEAN meeting is taking place at the Intercontinental Hotel, which is owned by Theng Bunma—a suspected Cambodian drug king pin and self-described financier of the 1997 coup. This epitomizes all that is wrong in Cambodia today.

Mr. President, I ask that a letter from Cambodian opposition leader Sam Rainsy to Secretary Powell calling for Suu Kyi's immediate release be printed in the RECORD following my remarks.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA,
June 13, 2002.

COLIN L. POWELL,
Secretary of State,
U.S. Department of State, Washington, DC.
c/o HE Mr. CHARLES RAY,
U.S. Ambassador,
U.S. Embassy, Phnom-Penh, Cambodia.

DEAR SECRETARY POWELL: I would like to take this opportunity to express my appreciation for your statement calling for the immediate release of Aung San Suu Kyi and increased pressure on Burma's military junta. The struggle led by Suu Kyi is an inspiration to all those who live in fear under repressive regimes, and to those who fight everyday for freedom and democracy. I proudly join you in the call for the release of Aung San Suu Kyi and hope that you will use the opportunity of your visit to Cambodia for the ASEAN Regional Forum to press for an end to the suffering of the Burmese people.

The fate of Aung San Suu Kyi and Burma's democracy is indelibly linked to the future success of the ASEAN region. The transition from communism and military dictatorship to democracy would bring untold political, economic and cultural benefits to one of the most diverse and potentially dynamic regions in the world. In this context your statement that those who oppress democracy must not be allowed to prevail has particular resonance.

In Cambodia, we are struggling to end endemic poverty, reduce appalling illiteracy rates and to provide basic nutritional needs to our children. This struggle is made all the more difficult by a government more committed to consolidating its own power than to the welfare of its people. While offering a facade of progress and stability to donors and the international community, the government has used fear and violence to support a lucrative patronage system, exploit our natural resources and suppress opposition voices. It was just today that the latest victim, a garment worker protesting low wages and poor factory conditions, was shot and killed by government riot police as they cracked down on a peaceful demonstration.

Unlike in Burma, the Cambodian people will have the opportunity to go to the polls in July to change their leadership. They must be allowed to do so in an environment free from fear and intimidation. But already we have seen that the current government is willing to sue the tools of fear and violence to suppress the Cambodian people's desire for freedom and democracy. This year's electoral process is already flawed by biased elections commission, restrictions on voter registration, restrictive media access and ongoing intimidation of opposition activists. The potential for democracy in Cambodia is being thwarted by this government and it must realize that, "its actions will not be allowed to stand."

As you prepare to participate in the ASEAN Regional Forum in Phnom Penh next week, I trust that you will continue to provide a strong and leading voice for the release of Aung San Suu Kyi. At the same time, I ask that you use the same strong voice to advocate for credible elections in Cambodia—elections that reflect the true will of the Cambodian people.

Sincerely,

SAM RAINSY,
Leader of Parliamentary Opposition,
Kingdom of Cambodia.

UNITED SERVICES ORGANIZATION

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I welcome this opportunity to pay tribute to the United Services Organization for

two vivid recent examples of the legendary support and assistance that it provides for the families of members of our Armed Forces when their loved ones are serving away from home.

The USO is rightly renowned for the joy, the comfort, and the happiness it has brought to our troops and their families over the years. It is truly an American treasure, as it has shown once again in its extraordinary support for two Massachusetts families during the recent war in Iraq.

Under the leadership of executive director Alice Harkins, the USO of New England came to the aid of Sergeant Vanessa Turner who became critically ill in Iraq while serving in Operation Enduring Freedom. Upon the onset of her illness, SGT Turner was flown back to Germany and to the community she left. Sergeant Turner's 15-year-old daughter Brittany was left in Germany while her mother was deployed to Iraq. Brittany remained strong, finishing the school year while visiting her mother in the hospital in Landstuhl, Germany. SGT Turner's family in Roxbury, MA, was desperate to fly to her bedside and to comfort Brittany. The USO of New England came to the rescue, arranging for SGT Turner's mother, sister, and brother to fly to Landstuhl, Germany. According to Alice Harkins, this was "an easy request. Their children are our responsibility; if the service members know that the community is taking care of their children, then they can relax."

In the second case, the Armours family in Athol, MA, was devastated to learn that Specialist Jamvis Armours had been critically wounded in Iraq and had been flown to the Washington Hospital Center in Washington, DC. Problems arose in getting SP Armours' wife and children to the hospital. Again, the USO came to the rescue. They assisted the family financially and emotionally, and Alice Harkins actually drove from Boston toward Athol to see them and to ensure that they had all they needed for the trip. Going the extra mile is what makes the USO so widely admired throughout our country and by all the members of our Armed Forces wherever they serve.

I commend the USO of New England in all it does so well, and for demonstrating in these two cases that its helping hand is always there when its help is needed most.

(At the request of Mr. DASCHLE, the following statement was ordered to be printed in the RECORD.)

● Mr. KERRY. Mr. President, since its inception, the United Service Organization what we all know as the USO has worked to bring a piece of home to the members of our armed forces wherever they may find themselves. From Bob Hope's legendary tours to the latest cyber-canteens that allow service members to stay in contact with family and friends via email, the USO works tirelessly to provide simple pleasures to those who venture into harm's way.

As the population of the armed forces has changed, so too have the services offered by the USO. Today, this great organization provides childcare services for kids whose parents are deployed, travel assistance for the family of wounded service members, prepaid phone cards, the ever-popular celebrity tours, and countless other services for our troops and their families.

Recently, my staff and the staff of Senator KENNEDY had very close contact with the personnel and services of the USO through its New England offices in Boston. Several weeks ago, our staff was contacted by the family of an American soldier who had become gravely ill in Iraq. She had been evacuated to the American hospital at Landstuhl, Germany, where doctors determined she was near death. She was so ill that her doctors ordered her medically retired, making her daughter eligible for retirement benefits. But that reclassification also meant that the Army could no longer pay for her family's travel to Germany to be at her bedside. That decision, made for all the right reasons, had the unintentional and regrettable consequence of bringing only more grief to a family already grappling with the prospect of losing their loved one.

And that is when USO-New England and its director, Alice Harkins, got involved. When the situation was explained to her, Alice replied simply, "We're going to do this. This is why we exist." And, as promised, the USO-New England found the money and paid for the soldier's family to travel to Germany.

Alice Harkins and her capable staff at USO-New England represent the best of us. Through their vigorous efforts, their determination, and their simple desire to help those who serve in our military, they inspire us all. They are people who recognize what's right, and who show their love of country and their love for those who serve with deeds as well as words.

The USO receives no financial support from the U.S. Government. Its success is due to the countless volunteers who contribute time and energy for the men and women of the Armed Forces in times of war and peace and the generosity of sponsors who make its operation possible.

I know I express the sentiment of the Senate and current and former members of the Armed Forces when I say thank you, USO, for your efforts to bring a slice of home to those on the frontlines and for remembering their families while they are away. We should all aspire to make such a contribution. Fortunately, the people of the USO, people like Alice Harkins, do. And we can all be grateful. ●

LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ACT OF 2003

Mr. SMITH. Mr. President, I speak about the need for hate crimes legislation. On May 1, 2003, Senator KENNEDY

and I introduced the Local Law Enforcement Act, a bill that would add new categories to current hate crimes law, sending a signal that violence of any kind is unacceptable in our society.

I would like to describe a terrible crime that occurred in Germantown, MD. A 16-year-old Arab-American girl was physically attacked by a group of unknown young adults on the Campus of Montgomery College on September 14, 2001. This was the first of three hate crimes targeting the student and her family. On September 21, her family was out driving when unknown assailants threw a firecracker in front of their car. On September 28, vandals smashed the rear window of the family's minivan while it was parked in front of their home.

I believe that government's first duty is to defend its citizens, to defend them against the harms that come out of hate. The Local Law Enforcement Enhancement Act is a symbol that can become substance. I believe that by passing this legislation and changing current law, we can change hearts and minds as well.

RALLY AGAINST HATE

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I wish to acknowledge the efforts of my colleagues and many others participating in the Rally Against Hate on Capitol Hill today.

The rally has been organized by Senators EDWARD KENNEDY and GORDON SMITH, along with the Human Rights Campaign and its coalition partners, to show support and build momentum for passage of Federal hate crimes legislation, "The Local Law Enforcement Enhancement Act."

Also participating in the rally today is a very brave and amazing constituent of mine, Trev Broudy. Trev is a handsome 34-year old actor from West Hollywood, CA, and he is also the victim of a hate crime motivated by his sexual orientation.

On September 1, 2003, Trev was hugging and saying goodbye to his friend, Teddy Ulett, on the street in West Hollywood when two men jumped out of a car without warning and began swinging at Trev's head with a baseball bat and an iron pipe.

After the attack, Trev was rushed to Cedars-Sinai Medical Center where doctors cleaned away pieces of skull from the back of his head and pieced together other parts of skull that had been crushed. He was then placed in an induced coma for over a week to guard against swelling of his brain.

Today, Trev looks and sounds fine, although he will never fully recover from the attack. He has said, "People assume because I look all right and I'm healthy and I'm walking and I'm talking, I'm all better, but I'm not."

When Trev finally left the hospital—10 weeks after the attack—he thought his injuries would eventually heal and he would soon return to work. How-

ever, Trev belatedly learned that a major part of his brain had to be removed, leaving him with only half the vision in both of his eyes.

Once having a good career as a voice-over artist, Trev now struggles with the results of his injuries every day and finds it difficult to read even the simplest sentence. He has returned home to his old apartment, but he will never be able to return to his old life.

Yet Trev is an inspiration and a hero to his family and friends back home, and particularly to other gay men and lesbians who see this heinous crime as a personal attack on their community.

Los Angeles' gay and lesbian community even came together and protested the county district attorney's decision not to file hate crime charges against the men suspected of beating Trev. Although the West Hollywood sheriff's station, which investigated the case, initially filed State hate crime charges, the district attorney's office chose not to file hate crimes enhancements in the case.

And, unfortunately, the limitations of current Federal hate crimes law prevent it from helping Trev because it does not extend basic civil rights protections to every American—only to a few and under certain circumstances.

Congress should expand the ability of the Federal Government to investigate hate crimes, and it should expand the ability to prosecute anyone who would target victims because of hate.

We can, and must, do more to prevent these types of hateful threats and acts of violence, and passing The Local Law Enforcement Enhancement Act would do just that.

The Local Law Enforcement Enhancement Act would: expand current Federal protections against hate crimes based on race, religion, and national origin; amend the criminal code to cover hate crimes based on gender, sexual orientation, and disability; authorize grants for State and local programs designed to combat and prevent hate crimes; and enable the Federal Government to assist State and local law enforcement in investigating and prosecuting hate crimes.

Enacting the Local Law Enforcement Enhancement Act is long overdue. It is necessary for the safety and well-being of millions of Americans. Until it is enacted, many hate crime victims and their families may not receive the justice they deserve.

Efforts to enact this legislation have received strong bipartisan support in the past, and the Local Law Enforcement Enhancement Act now has 48 co-sponsors in the Senate. We just have not been able to get it to the President's desk for consideration.

Today, I ask all of my colleagues to rally against hate by working to ensure that this legislation is not simply supported but actually passed and signed into law. Let us send a message to all Americans that we will no longer turn a blind eye to hate crimes in this country.