

More than 300 people died in that attack; but, in fact, Skhmeel Masaif is probably responsible for over 500 deaths in the past 3 or 4 weeks in Russia. Two airplanes lost simultaneously over Russian air space and a bomb attack outside a Russian metro station, not that much different than Metro stations that we have here in Washington, D.C., all under the direction of Skhmeel Masaif.

I want the House to look at the piece of metal that was removed from little Alan's chest. His mother is holding it here in her hands. And you look at it and you think, well, what is that? That is just a piece of junk. That is a little piece of metallic shrapnel that was recovered from a junk yard or a landfill or somewhere. It was placed into that bomb. Those small pieces of metal were placed into that bomb so they would have the maximum dispersal when the bomb went off. That is, they could ensure the maximum number of innocent persons could be harmed when that bomb went off.

This bomb-maker built the bomb under the direction of Skhmeel Masaif. It was designed to hurt. It was designed to kill. It was designed to inflict pain and suffering on the most innocent, the most innocent citizens on this Earth, 10, 11, 12 year olds, on their first day of school in Beslan, Russia.

Mr. Speaker, it is not wrong to identify evil when we see evil, and it is not wrong to call it by its proper name, which is evil. And whether it is the school children in Public School No. 1 in Beslan, whether it is the innocent victims on the two airplanes in Russia, the victims outside the metro station, the victims of improvised explosive devices in the country of Iraq or whether it is our victims here in 9/11, these are victims of people who hate the United States, people who are evil; and we must not rest until they are reduced to their natural subatomic particles and removed from the Earth.

UKRAINIAN PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE POISONED

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, shortly our country will experience an extraordinarily important Presidential election, and this evening I wish to discuss another important Presidential election that is occurring very far from the United States this year as well. That is in the nation of Ukraine, one of the nations that was spun out of the collapse of the Soviet Union. And make note of the very close presidential race ongoing in that country which is struggling its way forward.

Recently in USA Today, there was a story that one of the leading candidates, Viktor Yushchenko, became ill and on September 6 was hospitalized in Austria. And the doctors there, a panel of nearly a dozen doctors, determined indeed that he had been poisoned.

Prosecutors in Ukraine said in a statement they were investigating charges of attempted murder. Attempted murder of a presidential candidate in a nation whose independence is only a little over 10 years old.

In an address to deputies in the parliament in that country this week, candidate Viktor Yushchenko appeared haggard, his face was red and swollen; it was partially paralyzed with one of his eyes constantly tearing up. And I wish to read this evening some of what he told his fellow deputies in that parliament in an emotional speech.

He said to take a good look at him to make sure that the same thing did not happen to any of them, because the problem he was bearing was not one of cuisine, not a problem of food, as some had tried to portray his plight. And he advised his colleagues, Do not be so quick to judge. I would like to ask every one of the 450 parliament members in the chamber, have you ever seen me drunk over the past 10 to 20 years? Raise your hands if you have. And no one did.

And then he pointed at all of the government-controlled media, Inter, UT1, and One Plus One, and asked them, Have you ever in your life seen me not in control of myself? Because there had been references on that television, government controlled, that his illness was caused by food poisoning or perhaps alcohol. But he said, What happened to me was not a problem of cuisine or a problem of diet, but rather as soon as you fall out of favor with the authorities of Ukraine and as soon as you start posing a tiny threat, and indeed he is tied in the polls with the current president of that country, they will throw you away like a piece of paper.

He said, Friends, we are talking about the Ukrainian political kitchen where assassinations are ordered. Remember, he said, former National Bank chairman Vadym Petrovych Hetman walking around alive in this chamber in 1998. Who killed him? President Kuchma said it was a question of honor for him, that the prosecutor-general will give an answer and tell us who the killer is. Time has passed, and there is no answer.

In 1991 right-wing leader and presidential candidate Vyacheslav Chornovil was in that chamber alive. We pretend we do not know who killed him with a Kamaz lorry. But in 2000 as well, campaigning journalist Heorhiy Gongadze was sitting in the balcony, as our press sits here in this Congress, writing political reports. Well, who cut his head off? We do not seem to know, Viktor Yushchenko said.

Although one prosecutor said once that the killer has already been found and that his surname begins with the letter K, but he was not brave enough to give us a few more letters.

Two and a half years ago, opposition parliamentarian Oleh Oleksenko was sitting in the chamber. Who poisoned him? Four weeks ago Alik Aslanov was

sitting among us in that chamber. But with his last borrowed seven and a half hryvnias, the last loan in his life, he bought a liter of petrol and burned himself. Who killed him? The alcoholic head of the district administration who represents the United Democrat Party or the arrogant head of the collective farm? Who killed him?

Do not ask who is next. Every one of us will be next. And if you ask how this fate spared me, I will say, wrong dose, wrong time and my angels awake. That is what helped me return back to the living.

Let us draw a couple of lessons here. Lesson number one, I would really like us to receive an answer. Who did it and who is the killer? But you know very well who the killer is. The government is the killer. And never will this prosecutor-general give an answer to who killed Gongadze, who killed Hetman, and who tried to kill many others.

Let us draw a political lesson and appeal to you, my dear people's deputies. Show a little heroism today for Ukraine's sake and you will see Ukraine democratic and its people free and prosperous. Do not forget this lesson or this lesson will get you.

These very compelling words are placed here, the citadel of freedom, by Viktor Yushchenko, presidential candidate in Ukraine, who is fighting, not just for his life but for the future of freedom in his nation.

The article referred to is as follows:

[From USA Today, Sept. 22, 2004]

UKRAINE CANDIDATE POISONING INVESTIGATED

KIEV, UKRAINE.—Ukrainian prosecutors opened a criminal investigation into the alleged poisoning of a leading candidate in a crucial presidential election scheduled for next month, officials said.

The candidate, Viktor Yushchenko, became sick more than two weeks ago, and his campaign charged that he was poisoned by political opponents. The allegations have rolled the already heated race to replace outgoing President Leonid Kuchma.

Yushchenko, a leading opposition figure who is running neck-in-neck with the ruling party's candidate, became ill Sept. 6 and was hospitalized in Austria. After he was discharged Saturday, doctors in Vienna said it was possible he had been poisoned but they could not confirm it.

Prosecutors said in a statement that they were investigating charges of "attempted murder of a statesman or a public figure." They offered few details and did not indicate if authorities had substantiated the poisoning charges or identified suspects.

Prosecutor General Henadiy Vasiliev later told reporters "not to make hasty conclusions" and to wait for the results of the examination. He said authorities hadn't ruled out anything in their investigation and that his office had contacted Austrian authorities.

Ukrainian lawmakers voted overwhelmingly Tuesday to set up a commission to investigate the incident.

Neither outgoing Kuchma nor Viktor Yanukovich, Yushchenko's main opponent and Kuchma's hand-picked choice in the Oct. 31 presidential race, have commented publicly on the allegations.

However, a number of Kuchma's allies have charged that Yushchenko had merely eaten bad sushi.

In his address to deputies on Tuesday, Yushchenko accused Kuchma's administration of "being capable of brewing political assassinations." He appeared haggard, with his face red, swollen, partially paralyzed and with one eye constantly tearing up.

Voters in this ex-Soviet republic of 48 million have become increasingly disenchanted with Kuchma's decade in power. His administration had been marred by a series of scandals, rampant corruption and dozens of suspicious deaths of political opponents and opposition journalists.

Meanwhile, Ukrainian Defense Minister Yevhen Marchuk stepped down Wednesday, citing in part the June explosion at a major ordnance depot that rained rockets, shells and shrapnel over a wide area, the Interfax news agency reported.

Speaking on condition of anonymity, a spokesman for the Defense Ministry confirmed Marchuk "has asked the President to be relieved from duties," but he gave no other details.

Marchuk's resignation came after he had defended himself in parliament against allegations he illegally provided soldiers and helicopters to help fight fires in Turkey.

Marchuk's resignation was seen as another sign of upheaval in the government ahead of the Oct. 31 vote.

[From the Ukrainian Radio First Programme, Sept. 21, 2004]

VIKTOR YUSHCHENKO SAYS THE GOVERNMENT IS THE KILLER

KIEV.—Ukrainian opposition leader and presidential race favourite Viktor Yushchenko has lashed out at the authorities, accusing them of trying to poison him. In an emotional speech delivered in parliament after two weeks of treatment abroad, Yushchenko said he barely survived and compared his alleged poisoning to the killings of several Ukrainian politicians and journalists in recent years.

He said President Kuchma's order to investigate the poisoning was disingenuous, and hinted that the president himself could have been behind the murder of opposition journalist Heorhiy Gongadze. He brushed aside suggestions that his illness was caused by ordinary food poisoning and urged fellow MPs to stand up to the government so as not to become next in the list of public figures who have died a suspicious death.

The following is the text of Yushchenko's speech broadcast live by Ukrainian radio on 21 September; subheadings inserted editorially.

Mr. speaker, fellow people's deputies! I am happy to be in this chamber today. I won't take much time, but let me make some statements that concern each and every one of you. For the past two weeks, a number of Ukrainian politicians and journalists have been debating about what one should eat, or drink, in order to live in this country and not die.

Because my dignity is concerned in a number of cases, and my morality—I am part of this story—I ask you for a few minutes of your attention. It may not be entirely appropriate to say some of these things, because I will be speaking about myself, but I will say those things to establish the facts.

NOT FOOD POISONING

Look at my face. Note my articulation. [Yushchenko appeared to speak with some difficulty. Part of his face was swollen and immobile during his recent public appearances.] This is one hundredth of the problems that I've had. Take a good look, to make sure that the same thing doesn't happen to you. Because this is not the problem of cuisine, not a problem of food, as some try to portray it.

Don't be quick to judge! I would like to ask every one of the 450 parliament members in this chamber. Have you ever seen me drunk over the past 10-20 years? Raise your hands if you have!

I am asking to the journalists of Inter [privately owned pro-government TV channel] and the so-called national channel UT1. And One Plus One [another privately owned pro-government TV channel]. And to other channels. Have you ever in your life seen me not in control of myself? If there were such cases, show them on television today. But there weren't. [Apparently referring to recent reports on the three TV channels speculating that Yushchenko's illness could have been caused by food or alcohol poisoning.]

And that is why, I would like to say to everyone: I am no gourmet! I don't fancy eastern cuisine or western cuisine. I eat the same borsch, potatoes and pork fat as all of you, the 47 million people of Ukraine! And what happened to me was not a problem of cuisine or a problem of diet!

SAME FATE IN STORE FOR OTHERS

It's a pity that Oleksandr Oleksandrovych [Moroz] is not in this chamber. I would like to say to him, Oleksandr Oleksandrovych, you can eat port fat and potatoes all you want. But mark my word: as soon as you become a real opponent of this regime, and I stress, a real one, as soon as you stop dancing to Medvedchuk's fiddle [applause], potato diet will not save you! Calm down! It pains me to say this. [Referring to Moroz's reported statement that Yushchenko would have been fine had he stuck to simple food.] [Shouts of "Shame!" in the chamber]

Friends! I'd like to continue. Esteemed [pro-presidential coalition coordinator] Stepan Bohdanovych Havrysh, you are going through a rough political patch. Because something you have given up your reputation for is falling apart, the so-called pro-presidential majority is falling apart.

I would like to say that as soon as you fall out of favour with the authorities, as soon as you start posing a tiny threat, they will throw you away like a piece of paper. And your fish diet won't save you!

I would like to tell the guys in the presidential administration, who advise that one should drink 100 grams of vodka after every piece of pork fat. Guys, it doesn't matter that you are in that camp. Such are the principles and morality of that camp that they can discard you just like they have discarded [former economics minister and deputy chief of presidential administration Valeri] Khoroshkovskyy, [President Kuchma's once-close ally Oleksandr] Volkov and dozens of others. And 100 grams with every piece of pork fat won't help.

ATTACKS KUCHMA

Friends, this is not a problem of cuisine as such. We are talking about Ukrainian political kitchen, where assassinations are ordered! This is what we are talking about. Remember [former National Bank chairman] Vadym Petrovych Hetman walking around alive in this chamber in 1998. Who killed him? President Kuchma said it was a question of honour for him, that the prosecutor-general will give an answer and tell us who the killer is. Time has passed, but there is no answer.

In 1999 [right-wing leader and presidential candidate] Vyacheslav Chornovil was here alive. We pretend we don't know who killed him with a Kamaz lorry. In 2000 [campaigning journalist] Heorhiy Gongadze was sitting on the balcony over there and writing political reports. Who cut his head off? Well we don't seem to know, although one prosecutor said once that the killer has already been found, and that his surname begins with the letter K. He wasn't brave enough to give us a few more letters.

Two and a half years ago [opposition MP] Oleh Oleksenko was sitting in this chamber. Who poisoned him? Four weeks ago Alik Aslanov was still among us. But with his last borrowed seven and a half hryvnias, the last loan in his life, he bought a litre of petrol and burned himself. Who killed him? The alcoholic head of the district administration, who represents the United Social Democratic Party? Or the arrogant head of the collective farm? Who killed him?

"GOVERNMENT IS THE KILLER"

Don't ask who is next. Every one of us will be the next. And if you ask how this fate spared me, I'll say: wrong dose, wrong time and my angels awake. That is what helped me return back to the living!

Let us draw a couple of lessons here. Lesson number one. I would really like us to receive an answer, who did it and who is the killer. But you know very well who the killer is. The government is the killer! And never will this prosecutor-general give an answer to who killed Gongadze, who killed Hetman, who tried to kill many others.

So I was very surprised that President Kuchma ordered to launch a criminal investigation of my poisoning. I don't believe this order! I don't believe this prosecutor-general! Why, Mr. Kuchma, are you asking the question if you have no intention of answering it?

Let us draw a political lessons from here. The lesson is that Leonid Makarovych Kravchuk suggests that someone should kneel before the Ukrainian people. [Kravchuk said dozens of MPs who quit the pro-government coalition earlier this month should kneel before the people of Ukraine.] So who should kneel, Mr. Kravchuk? And for how long should they stand on their knees, so that every one of the 47 million forgave them?

But I have another proposal. An appeal to you, my dear people's deputies! Show a little heroism today for Ukraine's sake, and you will see Ukraine democratic, with its people free and prosperous! Don't forget this lesson or this lesson will get you. [Applause in the chamber]

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

(Mr. BROWN of Ohio 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 Florida (Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida 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 Michigan (Mr. CONYERS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. CONYERS 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 Pennsylvania (Mr. WELDON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

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