

enrolled in school. There are many civilian-military projects under way, and infrastructure reconstruction is beginning to reappear. The Coalition forces have changed the lives of the Afghans and are providing them with opportunities that they never dreamed they could have.

Mr. Speaker, in Afghanistan, we met with interim President Hamid Karzai. He was effusive in his thanks to America and the work of U.S. troops. In particular, he praised the work of Oklahoma's 45th Infantry Brigade that has worked so hard to train the Afghan Army. This is just one example of the countless accomplishments of our citizen soldiers from across our Nation. The Afghan Army is now fighting hard and performing well in the hunt for al Qaeda and the Taliban.

Mr. Speaker, I do not pretend to know when our global war on terrorism will end. This is not a war we sought. We engaged in hostilities only after being attacked. This is a war which has far-reaching implications and will determine the kind of world we leave for our children and grandchildren.

America has a clear choice. We can go the way of some who suggest that we withdraw into isolationism, or we can secure the peace for our progeny by expanding the frontiers of liberty and democracy into the Middle East. While the debate surrounding our actions is legitimate, I truly believe that the answer is clear if one takes the time to look at the implications of not vigorously prosecuting this war. To be secure at home, we must act forcefully abroad. In the war on terror, "fortune favors the bold."

Mr. Speaker, I am happy to report that our servicemen and citizen soldiers are doing fine work in representing the very best America has to offer.

THREATS MADE BY AZERBAIJAN AGAINST ARMENIA

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

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I want to bring attention to recent statements made by high-ranking government officials in Azerbaijan that threaten the security of Armenia as well as the efforts towards a peaceful settlement over the Nagorno-Karabagh conflict.

This issue, if not compellingly addressed by the administration, has the potential to undermine U.S. interests and American values in the strategically important Caucasus region.

I refer to the recent remarks made by officials in the government of President Aliyev calling into question the very existence of Armenia. For example, as reported by Radio Free Europe, the Azerbaijani Defense Minister spokesman called for Azerbaijan's takeover of the entire territory of Armenia and removal of the entire Armenian population from the Caucasus. He

went so far as to say, "Within the next 25 years there will exist no state of Armenia in the south Caucasus." Given Azerbaijan's history of aggression against Armenians, these remarks cannot be dismissed as mere rhetoric.

Furthermore, Azerbaijan recently blocked key NATO exercises in the country, due to their opposition towards having Armenian officers taking part in the exercises. In fact, in June 2003, Armenia served as the host country for similar exercises, to which Azerbaijani military forces were invited, yet refused to participate. This year, Armenia was one of several dozen countries due to participate, yet the initiative was blocked by Azerbaijan, which is continuing its efforts to undermine the prospects for peace in the Caucasus region.

Azerbaijan's threats again Armenia's survival reinforce our commitment to maintaining parity in U.S. military aid to Armenia and Azerbaijan. This arrangement means even more today than when it was first put in place, particularly in light of Baku's increasingly aggressive posture towards Armenia. Any tilt in military spending towards Azerbaijan could, in our view, destabilize the region by emboldening the new Azerbaijani leadership to continue their threats to impose a military solution of the Nagorno-Karabagh conflict.

Just last week, the Republic of Armenia celebrated Independence Day marking 13 years of freedom from Soviet rule. We have seen considerable economic growth in the country. Despite the continuing illegal blockade by Turkey and Azerbaijan, a recent Wall Street Journal study found that Armenia remains the most economically free nation in the region. Today, Armenia is steadfast in its support of the U.S., as exhibited by their recent announcement of plans to send a unit of deminers, doctors and 50 trucks, including staff and drivers, to assist the Coalition forces in Iraq.

It is critical to note that Armenia is today, as it has always been, committed to the peace process and the terms agreed to in the Key West summit. Since the beginning of the Nagorno-Karabagh and Azerbaijan conflict, Armenia has been committed to finding a peaceful resolution. Moreover, I cannot stress enough the crucial role that the U.S. plays in the negotiations over Nagorno-Karabagh to help the people of this region find a lasting and equitable peace. These threats by Azerbaijan undermine these efforts and seriously complicate our diplomacy in the region. A failure on our part to forcefully and publicly confront the Azerbaijan government over these destabilizing threats would, in our view, send extremely dangerous signals to Azerbaijan.

So, Mr. Speaker, I hope that the United States takes action to condemn these remarks by the Azerbaijani government, and that we here in this Chamber do everything we can to en-

sure that all parties involved in this conflict make a genuine commitment towards peace and stability in the region.

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

(Mr. NORWOOD 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.)

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to speak out of order for 5 minutes.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Ohio?

There was no objection.

TRANSLATION BACKLOG

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

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I want to extend the remarks of the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. EMANUEL) where he talked about what this Congress has been doing. I think we also should be afraid of what this Congress is not doing. I would like to talk this evening for just a few minutes about an Inspector General's report which has been issued that looked at the behavior of the FBI and their translation of intelligence tapes that they were gathering since September 11.

Now, we found out on September 10, 2001, the day before the horrendous attacks in New York and Pennsylvania and at the Pentagon, that a couple of conversations that were intercepted by the National Security Agency had a couple of messages. One said "Tomorrow is zero hour." Another said, "The match is about to begin."

The problem, Mr. Speaker, is that these messages were not translated into English to be analyzed by the FBI until several days later. So this Congress and this President decided to slightly increase the funding for interpreters and linguists to be able to help gather some of this information because if we were able to gather the information and translate it, we would know what the enemy was thinking.

So the FBI Inspector General did a report analyzing where we are today, several years later. Checked us out. Mr. Speaker, 120,000 hours of tape, of potentially valuable terrorism-related

recordings, have not yet been translated. Now potentially valuable terrorism-related recordings means languages associated with terrorism, 120,000 hours not even looked at.

A computer, several computers, supposedly systematically erased some of al Qaeda's recordings. We are erasing them before we even look at them. There is 500,000 hours for all languages not yet translated. That is 30 percent, and 20 percent of the total of the 120,000 hours of potentially valuable terrorism-related recordings.

The rule at the FBI is that audio recordings related to al Qaeda must be reviewed in 12 hours. We obviously learned from what happened on September 10 and September 11 and made this rule that within 12 hours we want all of this translated. The fact of the matter is after the IG's report, 36 percent of al Qaeda recordings were not translated within 12 hours. In fact, there are 50 cases where we missed the deadline of translation by a month.

□ 2115

Why is this important? Obviously because of what we learned on September 10. This President and this Congress says that the central battle, the central front on the war on terrorism was Iraq, and we are stuck in a quagmire with over 1,000 dead soldiers, thousands of wounded soldiers, thousands of dead Iraqis, innocent Iraqis. But another component of this major war on terror was that we were going to overhaul governmental translation capabilities and we have not done it. Those of us who did not think it was a good idea to go to war were saying spend \$200 billion securing our ports, securing our airports, making sure we check the cargo that is going in the planes, make sure we hire enough linguists, make sure we are translating all of these tapes. And we are not doing the job in the United States of America.

This is not brain surgery. They are communicating with each other over faxes, e-mails, telephone conversations, cell phones. Why would we not hire enough FBI agents to figure out what they are saying? Because this President had to go to war. This was not glamorous enough for this President, in the trenches, doing what it takes, day by day by day. One hundred twenty thousand hours of tapes that were not even translated. We spent \$48 million trying to increase the number of people we hired, and we only hired 300 more, but we have \$1.3 billion spent every week in Iraq. Our priorities are screwed up.

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

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

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to speak out of order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

SMART SECURITY AND IRAQ

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, all of us who have listened to the suspension debates just before the Special Orders have to acknowledge that there are not nearly enough post offices in this country to honor all of those who have fallen as heroes in Iraq. We have to do something about that. In fact, when it comes to Iraq, the White House does not seem to know which way is up. Instead of relying on facts and truth, the Bush administration has two-timed the American people by relying on doublespeak, innuendos and, worst of all, bald-faced lies.

Last week, Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld stated that Iraq's elections will occur in January of 2005 regardless of what happens on the ground there. Even if half of Iraq's provinces are under the control of insurgents, preventing Iraqis from getting to the polls, elections will still take place. Secretary Rumsfeld validated this type of sham election by saying that, and I quote him, no election is perfect. Does that mean he would endorse an American Presidential election if only 25 of 50 States were able to participate? Then again, perhaps that is exactly what this administration would endorse.

Subsequent to Secretary Rumsfeld's remarks, Secretary of State Colin Powell had to slow down the administration's gears regarding the election issue, stating that the country must be secure for elections to take place. On ABC's "This Week" program, Secretary Powell also stated that, "Yes, it's getting worse in Iraq. We have seen an increase in anti-Americanism in the Muslim world."

Getting worse in Iraq? That is one of the biggest understatements yet from the administration that specializes in understatements. During the past 2 weeks, 29 United States soldiers and at least 250 Iraqis have been killed, not to even mention how many of our troops have been severely wounded. U.S. forces now face 70 attacks by insurgents daily. That is up from 40 to 50 hostile incidents that occurred each

day before the U.S. transferred authority to Iraq's interim government.

Contrast Secretary Powell's comments about Iraq with the unnecessarily rosy statements given by President Bush and his mouthpiece in Iraq, interim Iraqi President Ayad Allawi. Despite a disturbing wave of violence in the past several weeks, our President recently stated that Iraq is showing signs of steady progress. He has also made the outrageous claim that only a relative few of the 25 million Iraqis are trying to stop the march of freedom. In fact, there are thousands of insurgents fighting the American forces in Iraq and there are likely many, many more thousands who are sympathetic to the insurgency.

Nobody should be surprised by the Bush administration's doublespeak on this issue, because the White House has actually gotten quite good at lying directly to the American people while somehow managing to keep a straight face.

President Bush delivers only good news, like declaring the mission accomplished aboard a giant Navy ship. He paints an optimistic picture of Iraq, saying that the violence is decreasing in scope and intensity. Then the White House dispatches someone like Colin Powell to deliver the truth that Iraq is actually still mired in chaos and violence and that anti-Americanism is on the rise. It amounts to nothing less than an institutionalized method of a White House that speaks out of both sides of its mouth, telling lies to the American people. Lies instead of truth, in spite of the deaths of more than 1,000 U.S. soldiers, at least 13,000 innocent Iraqi civilians, and let us not forget about the more than 7,000 gravely wounded U.S. troops who have lost arms and legs and an inner peace they may never recover. I wonder if these individuals would agree with President Bush's assessment of steady progress in Iraq.

Mr. Speaker, there has to be a better way of handling the quagmire in Iraq. That is why I have introduced H. Con. Res. 392, a SMART security platform for the 21st century. SMART stands for sensible, multilateral, American response to terrorism. If we had been following the SMART security, we would not be in Iraq in the first place.

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

(Mr. DICKS 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. STUPAK) is recognized for 5 minutes.

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