

that fissile material removed from Russian nuclear weapons pursuant to various arms control and disarmament agreements is dedicated to peaceful uses, subject to transparency measures, and protected from diversion to activities of proliferation concern. The accumulation of a large volume of weapons-usable fissile material in the territory of the Russian Federation continues to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States. For this reason, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency declared with respect to the accumulation of a large volume of weapons-usable fissile material in the territory of the Russian Federation and maintain in force these emergency authorities to respond to this threat.

GEORGE W. BUSH.
THE WHITE HOUSE, June 19, 2006.

**BLOCKING PROPERTY OF PERSONS
IN CONNECTION WITH SITUATION
IN BELARUS—MESSAGE FROM
THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED
STATES (H. DOC. NO. 109-116)**

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, without objection, referred to the Committee on International Relations and ordered to be printed:

To the Congress of the United States:

Consistent with subsection 204(b) of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, 50 U.S.C. 1703(b)(IEEPA), and section 301 of the National Emergencies Act, 50 U.S.C. 1631 (NEA), I hereby report that I have issued an Executive Order (the "order") blocking the property of persons in connection with the situation in Belarus. In that order, I declared a national emergency with respect to the policies and actions of certain individuals in Belarus, to address the unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States posed by the actions and circumstances involving Belarus, as described below. This action follows the issuance of Proclamation 8015 of May 12, 2006, "Suspension of Entry as Immigrants and Nonimmigrants of Persons Responsible for Policies or Actions That Threaten the Transition to Democracy in Belarus," in which I determined that it is in the interest of the United States to suspend the entry into the United States of members of the government of Alyaksandr Lukashenka and others who formulate, implement, participate in, or benefit from policies or actions, including electoral fraud, human rights abuses, and corruption, that undermine or injure democratic institutions or impede the transition to democracy in Belarus.

The United States, the European Union, and other allies and partners around the world have repeatedly ex-

pressed support for the democratic aspirations of the Belarusian people and condemned the Belarusian government's human rights abuses, assaults on democracy, and corruption. The Belarusian authorities have resorted to intense repression in an attempt to preserve their power, including the disappearance of four regime critics in 1999 and 2000, which the authorities have failed to investigate seriously despite credible information linking top government officials to these acts.

The undemocratic 2006 presidential election was only the latest example of the Belarusian government's disregard for the rights of its own citizens. Hundreds of civic and opposition activists were arrested—and many beaten—both before and after the vote for exercising their rights. The authorities forcibly dispersed peaceful post-election demonstrations. There is simply no place in a Europe whole and free for a regime of this kind.

The order also takes an important step in the fight against public corruption, which threatens important United States interests globally, including ensuring security and stability, the rule of law and core democratic values, advancing prosperity, and creating a level playing field for lawful business activities. As noted in Proclamation 8015, the persistent acts of corruption by Belarusian government officials in the performance of public functions has played a significant role in frustrating the Belarusian people's aspirations for democracy. This order authorizes the Secretary of the Treasury to block the assets of senior-level officials of the Government of Belarus, their family members, or those closely linked to such officials engaged in such corruption.

This, pursuant to IEEPA and the NEA, I have determined that these actions and circumstances constitute an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States, and I have issued the order to deal with this threat.

The order blocks the property and interests in property in the United States, or in the possession or control of United States persons, of the persons listed in the Annex to the order, as well as of any person determined by the Secretary of the Treasury, after consultation with the Secretary of State:

—to be responsible for, or to have participated in, actions or policies that undermine democratic processes or institutions in Belarus;

—to be responsible for, or to have participated in, human rights abuses related to political repression in Belarus;

—to be a senior-level official, a family member of such official, or a person closely linked to such an official who is responsible for or has engaged in public corruption related to Belarus.

The order also authorizes the Secretary of the Treasury, after consulta-

tion with the Secretary of State, to designate for such blocking any person determined to have materially assisted, sponsored, or provided financial, material, or assisted, sponsored, or provided financial, material, or technological support for, or goods or services in support of, the activities listed above or any person listed in or designated pursuant to the order. I further authorized the Secretary of the Treasury, after consultation with the Secretary of State, to designate for such blocking any person determined to be owned or controlled by, or acting or purporting to act for or on behalf of, directly or indirectly, any person listed in or designated pursuant to the order. The Secretary of the Treasury, after consultation with the Secretary of State, is also authorized to remove any persons from the Annex to the order as circumstances warrant.

I delegated to the Secretary of the Treasury, after consultation with the Secretary of State, the authority to take such actions, including the promulgation of rules and regulations, and to employ all powers granted to the President by IEEPA, as may be necessary to carry out the purposes of the order. All executive agencies are directed to take all appropriate measures within their authority to carry out the provisions of the order.

The order, a copy of which is enclosed, was effective at 12:01 a.m. eastern daylight time on June 19, 2006.

GEORGE W. BUSH.
THE WHITE HOUSE, June 19, 2006.

**HONORING WINSTON-SALEM FIRE
AND RESCUE TEAM**

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

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate the Winston-Salem Fire and Rescue Team for their tremendous efforts participating in the World Championship Firefighter Combat Challenge. The world finals of this competition were held in Deerfield Beach, Florida, late last year. Over 1,500 firefighters from around the globe, including members from every branch of our military, descended on Deerfield Beach to compete for the right to be called the "best of the bravest."

While wearing full firefighting gear, teams from across the United States raced through obstacle courses that mirrored the real demands and challenges of firefighting. I am proud to say that one of the teams in the competition was made up of six brave firefighters from Winston-Salem, North Carolina, which is located in the Fifth Congressional District. Joining them were 10 firefighters from the adjacent city of Greensboro. This great group is often referred to as "the ambassadors of the State of North Carolina."

Teams competed in several divisions in the week-long competition. Winston-Salem team members Duane

Creek and Ricky Brown finished second in the over-40 male Tandem Relay and Robert Klingersmith and Jesse Walker of the Greensboro Fire Department teamed up to grab second in the over-50 male Tandem Relay. Kelvin Astrop, Ricky Brown, and Duane Creek also finished with individual qualification times fast enough to compete for the individual finals.

The highlight of the competition was when Winston-Salem team members Duane Creek, Ricky Brown, Kelvin Astrop, John Pennington and Robert Klingersmith went head-to-head against team Dr. Pepper, the 2004 World Champions, and defeated them in the over-40 relay.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to represent these courageous firemen and congratulate them on their achievements.

OUT OF IRAQ CAUCUS

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

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight to continue the debate on Iraq, the war in Iraq. I rise to continue this debate because those of us who are part of the Out of Iraq Caucus, and I am the Chair of that caucus, do not intend to have a debate organized for one day and have people going away saying, well, we took care of that.

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This debate must continue because the truth must be told.

Over the weekend, we received terrible news. Two of our soldiers, Private First Class Kristian Menchaca of Texas and Private First Class Thomas Tucker of Oregon were captured by insurgents, reportedly al Qaeda operatives in Iraq.

Today their bodies were found. Their bodies showed signs of torture, leading an Iraqi Defense Ministry official to say that they were "killed in a barbaric way." I extend my deepest sympathies to the families and friends of Private Menchaca and Private Tucker. Our thoughts and our prayers are with them and all those who have lost loved ones in this war.

Mr. Speaker, the President constantly tells us that "as Iraqis stand up, we will stand down." This is the President's way of describing in a rather vague and evasive manner our involvement in Iraq, our continued involvement in Iraq.

According to the Department of Defense, significant progress is being made in training Iraqis to assume security responsibilities in Iraq. The Defense Department trumpets the news that 250,000 Iraqi military are either fully trained or nearly fully trained to provide security throughout Iraq. Well, my question to the administration is: What are they doing? What are these trained Iraqi soldiers doing?

If they are so trained as the administration says they are, they should be

able to take over the responsibility of providing security to their fellow countrymen while allowing our men and women in uniform to return home.

But the sad fact is Iraqis are not assuming this role. Instead, our troops who are put in harm's way are the ones paying the price for this administration's mistaken and misguided war. They have been assuming this role and will continue to do so indefinitely until this President's irresponsible leadership is challenged and changed.

Furthermore, Mr. Speaker, the administration constantly tells the American people that progress is being made on the war. For example, when the formation of the Iraqi Government was announced, President Bush said the Iraqis had reached a "turning point." At least five times since the beginning of the Iraq war, President Bush has declared that Iraq has reached a turning point. Yet after each milestone was achieved, violence in Iraq grew progressively worse, and more U.S. soldiers have died or been injured.

The most infamous turning point was on May 1, 2003, when President Bush rolled out and declared "Mission Accomplished" aboard the USS *Abraham Lincoln*. At that point, 139 U.S. servicemen and -women had died in Iraq. Today that number has grown to 2,502 U.S. servicemen and -women who have died in Iraq.

Furthermore, the violence against Iraqis has grown almost beyond comprehension. It is estimated that between 138 and 242 Iraqis have died so far this month alone. They die from car bombings, assassinations and other violent acts.

Today alone, news reports indicate that at least 11 Iraqis were killed in a string of bombings across Iraq. In short, the progress that the administration and its supporters cite in Iraq does not exist.

The administration went into war with rose-colored glasses on. They promised the American people that the war had been adequately justified, planned and could be an affordable undertaking.

Unfortunately, the facts on the ground show differently. The war has gone on for more than 3 years, and by the end of this year, the total cost of the war will be \$450 billion.

Mr. Speaker, it is time for us to redeploy our troops from Iraq and end the war in Iraq. The best way to accomplish these goals is to pass the Murtha resolution, H.J. Res. 73, which would redeploy U.S. forces from Iraq. The resolution says no more U.S. troops sent to Iraq, and that the troops in Iraq will be redeployed as soon as possible, a judgment made by military officials on the ground.

Section 2 says that a group of marines will remain in the Middle East to respond to threats that destabilize our allies in the region or the national security of the United States.

I wish could go into it more, but I have run out of time.

HONORING THERE'S NO PLACE LIKE HOME

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

Mr. BRADLEY of New Hampshire. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a New Hampshire organization called There's No Place Like Home.

This group is a committee of volunteers who have made a commitment to helping those who are most in need, those who have lost their homes to a natural disaster. The mission of No Place Like Home is to raise funds and organize volunteers to build homes for families who lack the resources to rebuild after their home has been lost to a natural disaster.

There's No Place Like Home was founded in response to the tragic losses suffered in the wake of Hurricane Katrina and Hurricane Rita. The idea came from the building trades program at Somersworth High School, which takes on a building project each and every year. The students in this program were so moved by the devastation caused by Hurricane Katrina, that they decided they would build a home to send from New Hampshire to a deserving family in the gulf coast as their project for this year.

After working hard all year, the students recently completed the first home, and it is on its way, as we speak, to Louisiana. Having been successful on this first project, the students are now going to build a second home to send to another family in our gulf coast.

In addition to the students that are building this home, there are several people whose involvement have made this project possible. They are: There's No Place Like Home team, consisting of the program development coordinator Paula Young, program director Pastor Bernie Quinn of the Rochester Grace Community Church, the construction coordinator Roy Darling, and the building trades instructor Brian Patterson.

These individuals are passionately committed to this cause. They have been working hard to raise funds, find deserving recipients of a home, and oversee the students and the construction. They have worked tirelessly to support this laudable project from its conception, and they deserve a world of thanks for their efforts.

I would also like to thank the members of the New Hampshire National Guard who are in charge of the important task of transporting the finished home to Louisiana, and the many businesses and sponsors in New Hampshire who have donated supplies, money and time to this organization.

I had the opportunity to twice visit with the students of Somersworth High School, the first time while they were building the home and just yesterday after it was completed. To see these students, fine young Americans hard at work using their skills to help families