

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

INDIAN INTELLIGENCE PLANS TO ASSASSINATE SIKH LEADERS

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 13, 2007

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, while Dr. Gurmit Singh Aulakh, President of the Council of Khalistan, was visiting Belgium, he was informed of a very sinister plan by the Research and Analysis Wing (RAW), the intelligence service of the Indian government. RAW is the agency behind the Golden Temple attack and also, according to the excellent and well-documented book *Soft Target*, the agency behind the Air India bombing, which was the largest aviation terror attack prior to September 11.

According to sources in Belgium, which is the European headquarters of RAW, RAW is planning to assassinate Sikh leaders using Sikh operatives here in the United States. This sounds very much like their strategy in the Air India attack. Apparently, they haven't been able to come up with new terror tactics in 22 years.

One of the targets is a former Jathedar of the Akal Takht, which is the highest office in the Sikh religion. The Sikh leaders who are being targeted have one thing in common: they are supporters of freedom and sovereignty for Khalistan, the Sikh homeland that declared its independence from India in 1987.

You might also remember, Madam Speaker, that the Washington Times reported on January 2, 2002 that India was sponsoring cross-border terrorism in the Pakistani province of Sindh.

Given this terrorist record, why are American taxpayers being asked to support such a country? Although India proclaims itself democratic, the real India is the one that plans to assassinate Sikh leaders for seeking freedom, bombs its own airplanes to create an excuse to kill its Sikh minority, sponsors cross-border terror, and carries out other such reprehensible acts. Yet many in this country are blinded by India's democratic claims.

The time has come to say no more, Madam Speaker. We must stop our aid to this regime until every citizen within its borders and those outside can live securely in freedom, comfortable that no oppression, torture, or assassination plots will be aimed at them. We must demand a free and fair vote for all the people seeking their freedom from this brutal regime. And someone should call the FBI.

Plotting to assassinate Americans and others, no matter the circumstances, is an attack on us all, Madam Speaker. I hope that all my colleagues will join me in condemning it.

I would like to place the Council of Khalistan's news release on the RAW assassination plot into the RECORD for the information of my colleagues.

RAW PLANNING TO ASSASSINATE SIKH LEADERS

WASHINGTON, D.C., DECEMBER 6, 2007—During his recent visit to Belgium, Dr. Gurmit

Singh Aulakh, President of the Council of Khalistan, was informed that agents of the Research and Analysis Wing (RAW), the intelligence agency of the Indian government, plan to assassinate prominent Sikh leaders, including a former Jathedar of the Akal Takht. Belgium is the European headquarters of RAW.

A very reliable Sikh source, who intervened to stop the assassination of a prominent Sikh leader, told Dr. Aulakh about the plot. The RAW plot seeks to use Sikhs in the United States as their operatives.

India is determined to destroy the Sikh Nation and the Sikh religion, both inside and outside India. They are determined to eliminate the pro-Khalistan Sikh leadership worldwide so they can continue to carry out their violent rule over the Sikhs and absorb the Sikh religion into Hinduism. Indian intelligence is using every trick available to them to achieve this goal.

According to the book *Soft Target* by Zuhair Kashmeri of the Toronto Globe and Mail and Brian McAndrew of the Toronto Star, it was RAW that was responsible for the bombing of an Air India flight in 1985 that killed 329 people. Two Canadian Sikhs were acquitted on charges related to the bombing by a Canadian judge who said the evidence against them was "not credible." It was RAW that was responsible for the attack on the Golden Temple, the seat of the Sikh religion, and 38 other Gurdwaras in June 1984, an operation that killed more than 20,000 Sikhs.

The Indian government has murdered over 250,000 Sikhs since 1984, more than 300,000 Christians since 1948, over 90,000 Muslims in Kashmir since 1988, and tens of thousands of Tamils, Assamese, Manipuris, Dalits, and others. The Indian Supreme Court called the Indian government's murders of Sikhs "worse than a genocide."

Indian police arrested human-rights activist Jaswant Singh Khalra after he exposed their policy of mass cremation of Sikhs, in which over 50,000 Sikhs have been arrested, tortured, and murdered, and then their bodies were declared unidentified and secretly cremated. He was murdered in police custody. His body was not given to his family.

The police never released the body of former Jathedar of the Akal Takht Sardar Gurdev Singh Kaunke after SSP Swaran Singh Ghotna murdered him. Ghotna has never been brought to trial for Jathedar Kaunke's murder. No one has been brought to justice for the kidnapping and murder of Jaswant Singh Khalra.

According to a report by the Movement Against State Repression (MASR), 52,268 Sikhs are being held as political prisoners in India without charge or trial. Some have been in illegal custody since 1984! Tens of thousands of other minorities are also being held as political prisoners, according to Amnesty International. We demand the immediate release of all these political prisoners.

History shows that multinational states such as India are doomed to failure. Countries like Austria-Hungary, India's longtime friend the Soviet Union, Yugoslavia, Czechoslovakia, and others prove this point. India is not one country; it is a polyglot like those countries, thrown together for the convenience of the British colonialists. It is doomed to break up as they did.

"The flame of freedom burns brightly in the hearts of Sikhs," said Dr. Aulakh. "As

Professor Darshan Singh, a former Jathedar of the Akal Takht, said, 'If a Sikh is not for Khalistan, he is not a Sikh.'" Dr. Aulakh noted. "Liberating Khalistan is the only way to let the Sikh Nation live in freedom and dignity."

TRIBUTE TO KANSAS CITY CHORALE

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 13, 2007

Mr. MOORE of Kansas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Kansas City Chorale, which was recently recognized with four Grammy nominations, including best classical album, best choral performance, best engineered classical album, and best surround-sound album. The producer was also nominated for a fifth Grammy, for classical producer of the year.

The Kansas City Chorale is a professional vocal ensemble that is been a strong part of Kansas City's vibrant arts community for 25 years. Despite the fact that many of them have other full-time jobs, the members of the Chorale work year-round on their craft and are dedicated to sharing their beautiful music with the entire community. Among its members is tenor Paul Davidson, who served on my staff as constituent services aide for veterans and military affairs for 5 years—from 1999, my first year in office, until 2004.

The Kansas City Chorale works under the direction of founder Charles Bruffy. The Kansas City Chorale and the Phoenix Back Choir perform together on the nominated albums, "Eternal Rest" and "Grechaniov: Passion Week."

Congratulations to the Kansas City Chorale on this well-deserved honor and thank you for sharing your music with us.

INTRODUCTION OF CFTC REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2007

HON. BOB ETHERIDGE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 13, 2007

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Madam Speaker, as chairman of the Agriculture Subcommittee on General Farm Commodities and Risk Management, which has jurisdiction over the derivatives industry, I am particularly pleased to introduce legislation to reauthorize the Commodity Futures Trading Commission and make significant improvements to the Commodity Exchange Act.

As most of my colleagues know, in the previous Congress, under the leadership of Representatives BOB GOODLATTE and JERRY MORAN, this committee and the House of Representatives passed a very good CFTC reauthorization bill. Unfortunately the other body

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had a little trouble getting its work done, so our efforts went for naught.

I believe we have put together another very good bill. And I want to express my appreciation to the full committee ranking member and my subcommittee ranking member, and their staffs for their hard work with us on this legislation and for cosponsoring this bill along with Full Committee Chairman COLLIN PETERSON.

In 2000, Congress took a bold step in dramatically changing how the CFTC oversees derivatives markets. By moving from a prescriptive regulatory regime to a principles-based structure, the Commodity Futures Modernization Act, CFMA, removed the shackles that restrained an industry; and we have seen tremendous growth in the derivatives industry as a result of Congress' work.

But with growth often comes growing pains, and the industry has experienced that too. We have seen court decisions that call into question the CFTC's authority over certain foreign currency contracts and principal-to-principal transactions. We heard testimony about problems seen in the retail foreign currency business and concerns about how growth in some of the newer exempt commercial markets (ECMs) is impacting traditional futures markets. I believe we have developed a bill that addresses these issues in a fair and equitable manner.

To correct the Seventh Circuit Appeals Court's ruling in CFTC vs. Zelener, which denied CFTC authority over certain foreign currency contracts, the bill adopts the language included in last Congress's reauthorization bill, H.R. 4473. Likewise, this legislation includes the provisions from H.R. 4473 which clarifies the CFTC's fraud authority over principal-to-principal transactions. Both of these provisions

are solutions supported by the President's Working Group.

During hearings we held this Congress, and those held by Representative MORAN last Congress, we heard about problems in the retail foreign exchange industry. Like any industry, you have your good apples and your bad apples. The problem is that the bad apples have given the industry a black eye.

Look at the statistics. According to the National Futures Association, members who act as counterparties to retail forex transactions account for less than 1 percent of NFA's membership, but account for more than 20 percent of the customer complaints filed with NFA's arbitration program.

Additionally, more than 50 percent of NFA's current enforcement docket and more than 50 percent of NFA's emergency enforcement actions have also dealt with retail forex trading.

CFTC Chairman Lukken testified that the Commission has brought 98 cases against retail foreign exchange companies with 26,000 victims who invested over \$461 million, and the caseload is only increasing. These figures demand greater oversight over this industry, and the provisions included in this legislation provide just that.

In addition, we heard of problems with solicitors and other entities that seek out customer funds to invest into the retail foreign exchange business. These firms are unregulated and have made fraudulent or deceptive sales pitches in order to entice working men and women to give them their money. The legislation brings greater CFTC oversight over them as well.

In July, in between farm bill mark-ups, my Subcommittee held a hearing to review trading of energy-based derivatives. The CFTC held its own hearing in September. What came

from those hearings is the understanding that the CFTC needs some additional tools in its tool box to ensure that the successful growth we have seen in the derivatives industry is not having unintended consequences.

To that end, this legislation would require additional oversight regarding contracts traded on exempt commercial markets that perform a significant price discovery function. Just as parents require more responsibility of their children as they grow and mature, so we are asking the exempt commercial markets to take on some self-regulatory responsibilities as their markets mature and individual contracts start serving significant price discovery functions.

There were some other issues and some requests that members made for language to be included that I wish we could have addressed. However, as we move forward, I hope there will be opportunities to have those issues included.

Whether it is energy trading, foreign currency trading, or trading in other commodities, the bottom line is keeping these derivatives markets functioning properly and protecting the American public's interest in having these markets available for offsetting risk. The issues affecting futures trading are often complex and esoteric. However, it is important that we work through the tough issues if we want to maintain a vibrant and healthy derivatives industry.

The derivatives industry profoundly impacts the lives of every American from the food we eat to the cost of energy to what we pay for our homes. So it is important that we get it right, and I believe we have.

I look forward to floor consideration of this legislation in the coming year.