

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

POLISH-GEORGIAN CREDIT UNION PARTNERSHIP

HON. NEWT GINGRICH

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 20, 1996

Mr. GINGRICH. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize and bring to my colleague's attention a movement that is currently underway in the nation of Poland. This action is designed to help bring about the creation and development of credit unions to benefit the citizens of Poland.

I understand that the Georgia Credit Union Affiliates, in an unparalleled partnership with the Polish National Association of Cooperative Savings and Credit Unions, have entered into an agreement in which Georgia-based credit unions with provide assistance in the development and implementation of new credit union services and products for the benefit of Polish credit union members.

It has long been understood that the benefits of credit unions help facilitate savings and investment, providing capital for new businesses and strengthening the economy. As we are all aware, savings and investments are the key to a country's long term well being, and I hope this new and unique partnership will lead to a strong economy for Poland and its citizens.

I commend the efforts of the Polish people to build and strengthen their private financial institutions, efforts which I hope will continue for many generations to come.

TRIBUTE TO NORTHERN TELECOM

HON. DAVID FUNDERBURK

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 20, 1996

Mr. FUNDERBURK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate an important corporate citizen in my district. Northern Telecom [Nortel], a telecommunications equipment manufacturer, recently received the first annual Corporate Citizenship Award from the Committee on Economic Development.

Nortel received this prestigious award in recognition of the principles and values the company has held throughout the 100 years it has been in business. Not only do they invest in research and development, in customer satisfaction, in the training and education of their work force, in the quality of their management and in their overall business performance, but also they believe in a strong and ongoing commitment to education, support for arts and culture, and support for nonprofit community service organizations. In the Raleigh-Durham area, Nortel has about 9,000 employees. The company and the employees contributed funds and time to community organizations such as the North Carolina Business Committee for Education and the Health Care Information

and Communications Alliance, a collaboration between business and hospitals to develop a statewide health care information and communications system. With Nortel's encouragement and support, employees also contribute time to Habitat for Humanity, the National Council on Aging, Special Olympics and the North Carolina Symphony and the United Arts Council of Durham and Wake Counties.

I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Nortel and their employees on receiving this most deserved award.

VIOLENCE IN SLOVAKIA

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 20, 1996

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I am alarmed by recent violence in Slovakia that may be part of a larger pattern of politically motivated violence. During the weekend of May 4-5, a device that may have been a handgrenade exploded in front of the home of Bela Bugar. Mr. Bugar is not only a member of the Hungarian minority's opposition coalition, he is also, according to opinion polls, its most popular member. Shortly before that incident, Robert Remias, a former policeman who has been questioned in connection with the kidnaping of President Michal Kovac's son last year, died when his propane-fueled BMW exploded.

Although it is not yet certain who is responsible for these acts, it is clear that violence coincides with politics in Slovakia at a suspiciously high rate. I also recall, for example, that Frantisek Miklosko, the opposition leader of the Christian Democratic Movement, was assaulted by unknown attackers near his home last August; Peter Toth, a journalist investigating the Kovac case, has also been assaulted; last April, a bomb went off in the car of Arpad Matejka, a member of the Prime Minister's party.

The Helsinki Commission, which I chair, is no stranger to Slovakia. We were a close observer of developments there well before the breakup of the Czechoslovak Federation in 1992 and have issued two major reports on that country. Since last summer, I have been joined twice by Senator ALFONSE D'AMATO, the Commission's cochairman, and the Commission's ranking minority members, Representative STENY H. HOYER and Senator FRANK LAUTENBERG, in sending letters to Slovak Ambassador Lichardus regarding continuing challenges to the democratization process in his country.

Although the Commission has raised a number of serious concerns in these letters, we have, remained generally optimistic about developments in Slovakia. Last week, for example, I hosted a conference in New Jersey on business opportunities in Central Europe, where I discussed some of the positive economic changes in Slovakia that are creating

new opportunities for Slovak society as a whole. I appreciate the willingness of the Slovak Parliament to consider the views of a number of international interlocutors regarding draft legislation and note the active and constructive role of the President and the Constitutional Court in guiding the passage of legislation consistent with democratic values and human rights norms. I commend Prime Minister Meciar for his decision last week to seek, in his words, a wider democratic discussion of the draft law on the protection of the Republic. Most of all, I have been greatly heartened by the increasing involvement of Slovak citizens in all areas of public life.

The message sent by the most recent developments in Slovakia, therefore, is all the more discouraging. And that message is dangerous: take on a high political profile, and you are possibly a more visible—and more likely—target of violence.

I welcome the May 9 statement of the Government of Slovakia condemning acts of violence and promising a thorough investigation of these matters. I believe it is particularly important that the death of Robert Remias be examined in an open and transparent manner, in a manner that makes information available to all those concerned with this case, and in a manner that will foster credibility in its results.

Mr. Speaker, the Helsinki Commission will continue to follow closely developments in this case, and I expect to report further to this body as information becomes available.

TRIBUTE TO DR. STANLEY MARTIN HANFLING

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 20, 1996

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my deep sadness at the passing of Dr. Stanley Martin Hanfling, a long-time close friend and a prominent physician from Hillsborough, CA, in my congressional district. Dr. Hanfling dedicated his life to healing, to the advancement of medicine and to improving the health knowledge of our Nation as a whole. I wish to express my most heartfelt gratitude for his many years of friendship and service to the community. My sincerest condolences to his wonderful wife, Cecilia, his sister, Ruth Samuels, his cousin, Irma Leon, his two nephews, a niece, and a multitude of friends and patients.

The San Francisco Peninsula will sorely miss the intelligence and expertise of this excellent physician. Until shortly before his death, Dr. Hanfling practiced internal medicine at his San Mateo office. He was on the staff at Peninsula, Mills, Sequoia, and San Mateo County hospitals. He dedicated many hours of his valuable time at several free clinics and taught health education classes at the College of San Mateo. These varied and extremely important posts which Dr. Hanfling held throughout his career made him an integral part of

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