

the child was taking medication that eliminated the risk of cardiac problems.

Mr. Speaker, there are countless stories surfacing with equally horrific consequences. Yet, while genetic information may provide clues to future health risks, it is not the only factor in determining risk. No doubt there are countless stories of people overcoming these odds and leading perfectly healthy lives. Why should they have to function with a handicap which is completely out of their control when they are otherwise perfectly healthy? It is time for Congress to show our commitment to protecting the American people from this kind of discrimination.

HUNGARY'S RELATIONS WITH HER NEIGHBORS

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 2, 1996

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I want to bring to the attention of my colleagues the joint declaration adopted in Budapest on July 5 by representatives of the Hungarian Government and by representatives of Hungarian communities abroad—the so-called Hungarian-Hungarian summit declaration. The status of the various and sizable Hungarian minority communities in Romania, Slovakia, and Serbia is of considerable interest to many in Congress. How governments treat their minority communities is often a significant barometer of how they will treat their citizens as a whole, and a strong indicator of the progress of democratization in countries in transition.

In fact, I remain concerned about the minority situation in each of these countries, and, as Chairman of the Helsinki Commission, have raised such concerns on a number of occasions. Many hoped the Hungarian-Hungarian summit document would provide some useful insight into the concrete concerns of Hungarian minorities.

Unfortunately, the summit document adopted in Budapest does not address the kind of specific and concrete issues that are usually raised with the Commission, such as minority language schooling or electoral districting. Instead, the declaration stands as a broad and somewhat ambiguous endorsement of "autonomy" and "self-government." Those terms—guaranteed to alarm those already afraid of alleged Hungarian irredentism—were unfortunately left undefined, fostering the perception in some quarters that the declaration represents only a thinly veiled effort by Budapest to extend its influence beyond current Hungarian borders and, implicitly, to turn back the clock to the days when Hungarians were united in a single country.

I appreciate the Hungarian Embassy's willingness to clarify for the Commission the underlying intent of his declaration. In particular, the Embassy asserted that the word "autonomy" was in no way intended to signal "territorial autonomy." I also believe the declaration's positive emphasis on the importance of the accession of all Hungary's neighbors into NATO and the European Union should not be overlooked and, indeed, is especially important in light of the recent congressional debate on NATO expansion.

Nevertheless, I believe that the declaration, through the use of wording that is ambiguous

at best and, at worst, predictably inflammatory, stands in contradiction to Hungary's stated goal of pursuing "good neighbor" policies. Surprisingly, Hungary implies that its goal of gaining admission to NATO and other European organizations should be dependent on "the fundamental interests of Hungarian national communities abroad"—a message that suggests a qualified interest in accession to NATO.

Finally, I must note that concerns about this declaration were only heightened by the statement of the Hungarian representative to the OSCE in Vienna, Ambassador Martin Krasznai. In defending the use of the word "autonomy," Ambassador Krasznai presented the Basques, Catalans, and South-Tyrolean as positive examples of Europe's experience with autonomous movements. The irony of these particular references was probably not lost on the representatives of Italy or Spain—especially in the wake of the numerous terrorist bombings attributed to Basque separatists last month.

Mr. Speaker, while a rare opportunity for discussion about real minority concerns may have been missed, I also see the Hungarian-Hungarian summit declaration as an aberration from the current government's usually constructive approach. I will continue to follow the situation of minority communities in central Europe and the inseparable issue of the progress of democratization in general. As I do so, I hope that Hungarian representatives will join with the Commission in seeking to promote democracy for all the citizens of all the countries of the OSCE.

TRIBUTE TO ANTHONY MARK HANKINS

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 2, 1996

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate and recognize Mr. Anthony Mark Hankins who is being honored as a fashion designer in Washington, DC.

At the age of 7, Anthony Mark Hankins designed and stitched a suit for his mother which she actually wore to an important wedding—crooked seams and all. She bragged to her friends that "little Anthony" had made her suit. With this, a designer was born.

Mr. Hankins began his career designing and sewing clothes for other women in town, prom dresses for his peers, theatrical costumes, and marching band uniforms. He enrolled at Pratt Institute in Brooklyn, NY, then traveled to Paris to study at the Ecole de la Chambre Syndicale de la Couture. After returning to the United States, he worked for two seasons with Adrienne Vittadini before taking a job with the J.C. Penney Co. as a factory field inspector in their quality control division.

Anthony Mark Hankins is a consummate professional. He is a fashion designer who designs his clothes at a reasonable price so that those who might not otherwise be able to purchase quality clothing will be able to do so. Mr. Hankins was cited in the Wall Street Journal in a front page story as "the Calvin Klein of the coupon clipping set."

I would like to extend my heartfelt appreciation to Mr. Hankins and best wishes for contin-

ued success for all of his endeavors with his high-quality, price-conscious clothing line.

ASIAN GOVERNMENTS COLLUDE IN DRACONIAN CONSPIRACY

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 2, 1996

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring to my colleagues' attention that the Governments of India, Thailand, and Nepal have colluded to abduct Sikhs living abroad and transport them to India in complete violation of pertinent human rights treaty and customary law. Two cases highlight this alarming trend.

On July 16 at 6 a.m., about 20 Thai police officers surrounded a house owned by a Thai Sikh. Police entered the house and arrested the owner along with a Sikh independence activist named Nam Singh, a Pakistani passport holder who was working in Thailand on a valid Thai work permit. Although the owner of the house was eventually released, Nam Singh was detained and held without formal charge or access to loved ones and legal counsel. Twenty-four hours later, the owner of the house where Nam Singh was staying retained the help of a well-known Thai human rights activist, Mr. Thonghai Thongpao. But by then it was too late.

Mr. Singh had been secretly placed on flight TG3112 bound for Katmandu where Nepalese authorities transferred Mr. Singh to Indian authorities. It is my understanding that Mr. Singh has been brought before a Punjab court and has been charged. However, given the illegality of his abduction, I have no idea what the charge may be. I have enclosed a copy of a letter sent by Thai Sikhs to the Center for Human Rights in Geneva, the letter details Nam Singh's abduction.

The second case is with regard to Mr. Jagjit Singh Chohan, an elder Sikh independence leader from the United Kingdom. Mr. Chohan's story has already been presented, however, I want to highlight his inhumane treatment by Thai police officials. After Mr. Chohan was brutally beaten by Indian officials and placed back on the plane, and after he was assured by Thai Airways managers that he would receive medical treatment upon arrival in Bangkok, Mr. Chohan was instead placed in a detention center for 18 hours without access to medical treatment, he could not even make a telephone call. Mr. Chohan was lucky, he had his medication with him, without it, the beating which he suffered coupled with his detention may have resulted in his death.

Mr. Speaker, both Mr. Chohan and Nam Singh have been treated worse than animals, apparently as a result of some unspoken alliance between Thai, Indian, and in the case of Nam Singh, Nepalese authorities. If these two were bona fide suspects, surely some formal proceeding should have been undertaken. But I suspect that the rule of law was not foremost in the minds of the police and government officials who brutalized the two Sikhs. In little over 2 months, the Indian Government has illegally detained United States citizen Balbii Singh Dhillon in violation of United States sovereignty, brutalized an elder Sikh leader living in the United Kingdom for 18 years and apparently arranged the virtual kidnapping of a Sikh whose citizenship is Pakistani.