

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

THE WAR ON DRUGS

HON. NEWT GINGRICH

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 9, 1997

Mr. GINGRICH. Mr. Speaker, I want to encourage my colleagues to read the following article from the Atlanta Journal Constitution dated September 24, 1997. I believe this is a blatant example of how our country has lost some major battles with the war on drugs, but the war itself is not lost. To many people it's become painfully apparent in the last few years the war on drugs has been failing. America has spent millions of dollars on efforts to rid our society of the ravages of illegal drugs, only to find ourselves in a situation that's worse than when we began. We must now have the resolve and fortitude to carry the fight to the dealers and traffickers themselves.

This is exactly why I introduced H.R. 41, the Drug Importer Death Penalty Act, to assist in curbing the quantities of drugs entering the United States. The legislation would call for a mandatory life sentence if someone is found to have brought a commercial quantity of drugs into the United States. On the second offense, a sentence of death would be imposed. It is time for us to send a serious and unmistakable message to those individuals who are profiting from destroying lives and irrevocably chaining our youth to the tragedy of illegal drugs. We will not tolerate the use of illegal drugs, and furthermore we will defend our country from those who wish to enter our borders with the intent to distribute these drugs that are poison to our society.

SUITCASES PACKING HEROIN

(By Ron Martz)

The second major heroin seizure in Atlanta in less than a month is raising concerns among law enforcement officials that the city has become a target for organizations trafficking in the drug.

Nine pounds of heroin believed to have come from Pakistan were discovered hidden in the linings of two large suitcases at Hartsfield International Airport on Monday night, bringing to 22 pounds the amount of the drug found in recent raids, the Drug Enforcement Administration announced Tuesday.

Police allegedly found 13 pounds of heroin from Thailand in the Atlanta apartment of John McGrath, 53, a native of Australia, on August 28. McGrath and three others have been arrested and charged with running an international heroin trafficking ring that brought the drug into Atlanta.

Kashis Rashid Rana, 22, of Kennesaw, was arrested and charged in Monday's seizure at the airport, which DEA officials said was worth about \$4 million.

The street value for a kilogram (2.2 pounds) of heroin can range from \$70,000 to \$200,000, DEA officials said.

The two seizures are not related, according to John Andrejko, head of the Atlanta office of the DEA, who called them "two of the largest ever" in the state.

"But what we're seeing in Atlanta is indicative of what we're seeing in the larger cities

across the country," he said. "The seizures are getting larger and the purity is going up."

McGrath pleaded not guilty Tuesday and was released on \$50,000 bond.

IN PRAISE OF SGT. KEITH NOWLIN

HON. RALPH M. HALL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 9, 1997

Mr. HALL of Texas. Mr. Speaker, one of my constituents, Army Sgt. 1st Class Keith H. Nowlin, son of William H. and Mary E. Nowlin of Ivanhoe, TX, was recently involved in specialized military training that is deserving of our recognition.

Sergeant Nowlin was part of an elite group of soldiers from Fort Hood, TX, who traveled to the Army's National Training Center in Fort Irwin, CA, to test the world's most advanced military technology that could transform the battlefield of the 21st century. He is a member of the 4th Infantry Division's 1st Brigade, a unit charged with learning and testing new software, computers and weapon systems that could be used in refitting conventional tanks, artillery equipment, air defense weapon systems, infantry fighting vehicles, and attack helicopters.

The unit traveled to California's Mojave Desert to do battle with a highly trained opposition unit called the OPFOR, which is made up of some of the Army's best soldiers trained in former Soviet Union tactics and using Soviet-style equipment. Nowlin and his unit used their new technology in a series of mock battles to see how well they performed against the OPFOR. Nowlin was a platoon sergeant in this high-tech battle. His training included two years of classes and field testing of over 70 different pieces of high tech equipment and software packages. The information gathered from this exercise is being processed to help determine what systems work and what do not.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud that my congressional district is represented in this type of training, which is so important to our strategic defense planning. The future security of our great Nation will depend on the training and expertise of our enlisted men and women as well as advanced technologies such as those being tested in the deserts of California. I commend Sergeant Nowlin's efforts and the efforts of all those in our military who are dedicating their lives and their careers to the defense of our Nation. As we adjourn today, I ask my colleagues to join me in expressing to them our gratitude and our support, and to let Sergeant Nowlin know that we are very proud of his accomplishments of the past—and of his service today and in the future.

INTRODUCTION OF H.R. 2635—THE HUMAN RIGHTS INFORMATION ACT

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 9, 1997

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, yesterday with a number of our distinguished colleagues in the House, I introduced H.R. 2635, the Human Rights Information Act. Joining me to introduce this bill were my colleagues CONSTANCE MORELLA of Maryland, JAMES MCGOVERN of Massachusetts, ELIZABETH FURSE of Oregon, JOHN LEWIS of Georgia, JAMES OBERSTAR of Minnesota, MARTIN SABO also of Minnesota, JOSE SERRANO of New York, BERNIE SANDERS of Vermont, and MARTIN MEEHAN of Massachusetts. Our legislation is a companion bill to S. 1220, which Senator CHRISTOPHER DODD of Connecticut introduced in the Senate with a number of his distinguished colleagues in that House.

Our legislation will dramatically improve the current declassification procedures of human rights documents pertaining to gross human rights violations in Guatemala and Honduras. This important bill strikes an appropriate balance between the need for speedy and comprehensive declassification and the need to protect legitimate U.S. national security interests. It will be of invaluable assistance to the work of my good friend, Dr. Leo Valladares, the Honduran Human Rights commissioner, who came to testify before the Congressional Human Rights Caucus, which I cochair with Congressman JOHN EDWARD PORTER. It also will support the work of the Guatemalan Clarification Commission, as well as the people of Guatemala and Honduras in general. Only full consideration and investigation of human rights abuses in these two countries can achieve the full accountability needed to rebuild a peaceful and reconciled civil society in those areas.

The Government of Guatemala and the rebels, the Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity [URNG], formally ended their hostilities at the end of 1996. But peace cannot exist without truth, a principle which these parties recognized in agreeing to establish a truth commission—The Commission for the Historical Clarification of Human Rights Violations and Acts of Violence which have Caused Suffering to the Guatemalan People. Given this monumental task, the commission has only a very short period to accomplish its important work. The commission's work by law is to take only 6 months, but that time limit can be extended for another 6 months. The clock began ticking when the work of the commission formally began on July 31, 1997. Therefore swift and comprehensive declassification of all relevant United States agency documents is critical to the success for peace and democracy in Guatemala.

The same applies to Honduras. In 1979, the first disappearance took place in Honduras and dozens of others followed, along with

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