

(Mrs. MORELLA addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

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

(Mr. BERRY addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

TECHNOLOGY TRANSFERS JEOPARDIZE NATIONAL SECURITY

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

Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise to spend the last few moments before we break for the Memorial Day work period to discuss an issue that has been in the national news this week and that has occupied the minds of most of our colleagues in this body and the other body; and that is the issue of proliferation.

We have seen a lot of discussion in the national media about the most recent transfer of technology from American corporations, most specifically the Loral Corporation, the Hughes Corporation, to China that may, in fact, jeopardize our national security and pose threats to us.

The issue of proliferation, Mr. Speaker, is not a new one. In fact, a week and a half ago, on May 13, I did a 40-minute special order on this floor where I documented in the public record 37 specific cases over the past 6 years of proliferation by Russia and China to Iran, Iraq, to India and Pakistan.

At that time, I said to our colleagues, Mr. Speaker, that we must take more aggressive action in imposing sanctions and enforcing requirements provided in our arms control agreements.

This week, Mr. Speaker, we have seen some of the results of that lack of inaction in enforcing those arms control agreements. In fact, we have seen the escalation of the conflict and the rhetoric and saber rattling between India and Pakistan.

Much of that technology, Mr. Speaker, that both of those Nations now have came from both Russia and China. We should have and could have stopped that proliferation. Iran and Iraq are both now developing medium range missiles. Iran will have one within 12 to 18 months. Again that technology came from Russia.

Again, our action should have been able to stop it. The Congress is talking about proliferation. And the White House, through spokesman Mike McCurry, has basically said it is a knee-jerk reaction, that the Congress is now voting as we did yesterday on the defense authorization bill to limit the transfer of technology to China.

I would remind the White House, Mr. Speaker, that it was back in November

of last year that this Congress voted overwhelmingly with almost 400 votes to force the administration to impose sanctions on Russia because of transfers to Iran.

Mr. Speaker, this is a serious issue, but I want to leave our colleagues with two important points. First of all, let us make sure that when we impanel this special task force, the select committee, after we return from the break, that we do not politicize it.

The issue is national security. We must focus in a very deliberate way on what damage has been caused by the most recent transfer of technology by the Loral Corporation to China. We must not allow this special select committee to be politicized by either side of the aisle.

Secondarily, Mr. Speaker, we must remember that, while we must investigate whether or not the Chinese government deliberately try to acquire this technology and circumvent our laws, we must not rush to judgment, because trade with China is critical and important.

My concern is that we not overreact, overreacting then causing further isolation in our relationships with China.

Mr. Speaker, we saw a situation like this occur just a few short years ago when the President initially refused to grant a waiver for a visa for Taiwan President Li Teng-hui to come speak at his alma mater at Cornell. The day after that rejection by the administration, the Congress overwhelmingly voted in both bodies to overturn the President and allow President Li Teng-hui to come here, as I think he should have been able to do.

The problem is that we sent mixed signals to China. China read that as a deliberate slap in their face. That then partially led to the escalation of what could have been a very serious conflict as we sent our carrier battle groups up on the straits of Taiwan.

We do not need another confrontation with China. We must get to the bottom of what happened in the Loral technology transfer. We must have Members on both sides of the aisle who are serious sit down behind closed doors and assess whether or not our security has been jeopardized.

When we are done, if, in fact, it has been jeopardized, we must then determine why the administration took the actions they took. We must then take steps to deal with the results of what we have found. Until that happens, we must reserve our rhetoric; we must make sure that we base our decisions on fact.

I would encourage our colleagues to think carefully about this over the break because, when we return in June, this will be the major issue that will be the focus of this body and the Nation through the rest of this summer.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. GREEN (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT) for today, on account of family business.

Mr. REYES (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT) for today, on account of official business.

Mr. DEFAZIO (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT) for today, on account of official business in the district.

Mr. BURR of North Carolina (at the request of Mr. ARMEY) for today after 2 p.m., on account of illness in the family.

Mr. QUINN (at the request of Mr. ARMEY) for today, on account of family reasons.

Mr. RIGGS (at the request of Mr. ARMEY) for today after 9:15 a.m., on account of illness.

SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

The following Member (at her own request) to revise and extend her remarks and include extraneous material:

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas for 5 minutes today.

The following Member (at his own request) to revise and extend his remarks and include extraneous material:

Mr. HEFNER for 5 minutes today.

The following Member (at his own request) to revise and extend his remarks and include extraneous material:

Mr. HAYWORTH.

The following Member (at his own request) to revise and extend his remarks and include extraneous material:

Mr. BLUMENAUER.

(The following Members (at their own request) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. WHITFIELD, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. WATERS, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. WELDON of Florida, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. DOOLEY of California) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. EDWARDS, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. CONYERS, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. FILNER, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. KAPTUR, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. BERRY, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Members (at the request of Mrs. KELLY) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mrs. LINDA SMITH of Washington, for 5 minutes, today.

Mrs. KELLY, for 5 minutes, today.

Mrs. MORELLA, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania, for 5 minutes, today.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION REFERRED

A concurrent resolution of the Senate of the following title was taken from the Speaker's table and, under the rule, referred as follows: