

with the Republic of Armenia given a central role in the process. As I mentioned, Karabagh won the war and holds the strategic advantage. It's unrealistic and unfair to expect Karabagh to give up its gains on the battlefield for vague promises at the negotiating table.

Another key point on the Karabagh negotiations. It is no secret that Azerbaijan has had the support of big oil interests in its corner. Azerbaijan's territory may have significant oil reserves beneath it in the Caspian Sea area, although some new studies question just how significant these resources may be. Unfortunately, powerful and well-connected lobbyists for the oil industry have basically backed up Azerbaijan's intransigence in the negotiating process over Karabagh. I am afraid our administration's policy has tended to side with Azerbaijan because of the oil issue. I hope that Members of Congress who are involved in this issue can work with me in getting the administration to convince Azerbaijan and the oil industry that the development of those resources will continue to be complicated until the Karabagh issue is resolved.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, another very troubling aspect of this issue is the indications of possible illegal transfers of U.S. or NATO standard weapons and other military supplies being sent to Azerbaijan by Turkey. Turkey has long sided with Azerbaijan. One of the major complications of the conflict is the blockade of Armenia and Karabagh by Azerbaijan, and Turkey's blockade of Armenia, in support of Azerbaijan. These blockades have made life hard for the Armenian people, stopping vitally needed humanitarian relief supplies from the U.S. and other countries. Now there are growing indications that Turkey is funneling military equipment to Azerbaijan, something I have seen myself in a previous visit to the front lines in Nagorno Karabagh. As part of our efforts to resolve the conflict over Karabagh, we must restrain our NATO ally Turkey from contributing more fuel to the fire in the form of arms and other military supplies.

Just a few weeks ago, I opposed the suggestion that appeared in the media that Turkey may want to transfer American F-16 fighter planes to Azerbaijan. That country already has air superiority because it inherited a lot more airplanes from the Soviet Union than did Armenia. F-16s would give Azerbaijan overwhelming air superiority.

There are now suggestions that Turkey may transfer advanced NATO howitzer (cannon artillery) to Azerbaijan. The U.S. government cannot allow its military equipment to be used against our Armenian friends.

I am currently working with some of my colleagues in this body to determine the level of Turkish support for Azerbaijan's military and in putting pressure on Turkey to be a partner in the search for a lasting peace in the region—not a contributor to a continuing cycle of violence and tensions.

#### CHINA

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

Mr. ROHRABACHER. Mr. Speaker, President Clinton seems like he is absolutely committed on this upcoming trip to China. We have asked him to reconsider this trip and, no, he will not reconsider the trip. And Congress officially asked him whether or not he would at least attempt not to do something in Tiananmen Square which would then make a mockery of the human rights commitments of this country by holding some sort of meeting with people who murdered hundreds if not thousands of human rights activists at that very same location 10 years ago. But, again, we were rebuffed in that request as well. The President of the United States as the President of the world's leading democracy will visit, then, the world's leading human rights abuser, the world's most powerful totalitarian regime.

Well, this President does have an excuse. Yes, in the past President Reagan visited China and so did President Bush. But in the past when Presidents have visited China, I think it is important for us to understand that China at that time was in a transition, or going through changes that made it appear that China would someday evolve out of its dictatorship.

□ 1800

And thus it is all right to visit a country that is not free, but it seems to be going in the right direction in that its government is permitting more freedoms. Unfortunately that is not the case for this Presidential visit. China, since the killings at Tiananmen Square, has become even more tyrannical, and more belligerent, and more aggressive and has more power to commit aggression against its neighbors.

Spokesmen for the administration say that the President will be calling for a strategic partnership with this Communist regime. Well, naturally calling for a strategic partnership with this totalitarian regime, this powerful totalitarian regime, is causing concern among other countries in that region that are democratic countries.

We have already seen the results of the folly of the President's policies. India felt obliged to reaffirm its own nuclear arsenal with an explosion, of a nuclear explosion. The Pakistanis followed. So what we have is an unrest in the subcontinent and a greater chance for conflict, a massive, horrible conflict, between the Pakistanis and the Indians because of this unrest and this proliferation that can be traced right back to the President's China policies. In other words, the world is not as safe as it was.

Then we have lesser gangsters in the world like you find in Kosova where you have a murderous regime next door in Serbia thinking that they can go into Kosova and murder people in order

to get them to submit. Now why are they doing this? Why does the regime, Milosevic's regime, which was guilty of so many human rights abuses in Bosnia earlier, now feel that they could perhaps do it again? It is because this administration has lost its moral basis, has lost its standing, has lost the principles in which it had so that in which people gave it respect if residing with those principles.

There are credible reports from Kosova that indicate that a repeat of the most horrific acts that we have seen in the Balkans is going on right now. Milosevic and his goons, the Serbian dictatorship, the last Communist dictatorship on the continent of Europe, have turned their bloody knives on the people of Kosova especially targeting vulnerable civilian populations for ethnic cleansing, not only in the border areas, but deep into the heartland of Kosova where the people are almost all Albanian, of Albanian extraction. It is incredible that despite the assurances by this administration that their diplomacy is succeeding in calming down Mr. Milosevic and keeping him under control, we are seeing numerous reports of entire villages being wiped out, with the news media discovering pools of blood in the streets of these villages. We have reports from family members of Albanians, men having their throats slit right in front of their families and of indiscriminate artillery bombardment of marketplaces.

Mr. Speaker, our government and our European allies should not stand by and wring their hands. We must act forcefully, and we must stand on principle. Unfortunately the pronouncements of this administration as far as tyrants, whether they are big and small, it seems that these pronouncements by this administration are not being taken seriously.

We can see in China where they continue their own proliferation of the nuclear technology that we have given them as well as building up their forces, their military forces, and stepping up their opposition and here with a small dictatorship when we face that dictatorship of Milosevic in Serbia.

The world is a less safe place because we strayed from our fundamental principles.

#### IMPROVEMENTS IN THE DISTRICT

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

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I have informed this body a few weeks ago that I would be coming to report on how the District of Columbia is proceeding as it moves to improve itself in the city. But my internal campaign is behind the times because the improvements are coming so fast and furious.

Have you seen this morning's Washington Post? On the front section of