

liberalization of prices, decentralization of management; and the smuggling, shoddy tax collection and Russian meddling that have frustrated these economic reforms. Lordkipanidze also did not believe NATO expansion would provoke and strengthen Russian hard-liners, saying extremists would find another pretext if NATO did not expand. The West must foster democracy in Russia and in other former Soviet republics, he urged.

Our final meeting in Tbilisi was with Parliamentary Chairman, or Speaker, Zhurab Zhvania, who had just turned 35, and a 31-year-old Parliamentarian who had studied law at Columbia University. The Parliamentarians' English was fluent, and they were both very impressive, and encouraging for their nation's long-term prospects. We covered the same sweep of issues that I had discussed with President Shevardnadze and with the Prime Minister, and they offered similar views. They spoke passionately about Georgia's Constitution, the only Eastern national charter patterned on the U.S. Constitution; and about the nation's judicial reform, including competitive exams monitored by California Bar examiners that cleared out nearly all the previous political appointees. We differed on the death penalty, which I believe is a deterrent to crime, but which Georgia has abolished, the Speaker said, as a matter of moral philosophy.

ANKARA, TURKEY

From Tbilisi we flew to Ankara, the capital of Turkey, arriving Tuesday evening, Dec. 29. We met the next morning with U.S. Ambassador Mark Parris, a former foreign affairs adviser to President Clinton, and his team for an hour briefing on the political landscape. Turkey's government is fractionalized, and the Turkish military commands the most popular support, which Parris considered a mixed blessing. The military is honest and conservative, cracking down on threats to the secular state, Parris said, but the military also cracks down on free speech that advocates proscribed positions. National elections and elections in Turkey's three major cities, Istanbul, Ankara and Izmir, are all scheduled for April 1999.

I was particularly impressed that Turkey had succeeded in getting Syria to evict terrorist camps based near Syria's Turkish border that preyed on Turks. The Kurdish PKK movement, seeking a separate Kurdish state, has killed an estimated 30,000 Turks since the Soviet grip began to loosen around 1989. PKK leader Abdullah Ocalan was specifically evicted from Syria.

In my discussions with Parris and his team, we focused on the Caspian oil pipeline, beginning with the proposition that the Turks have come around to the American way of thinking: That the pipeline ought to run east-west to the Black Sea, through Turkey and Georgia, not south to the Persian Gulf through unstable and potentially hostile areas such as Iran. An

east-west pipeline would tie central Asia to the West, and avoid giving Iran strategic leverage, the strategy holds.

I also remained impressed by Turkey's strong ties to Israel. The two nations conduct joint military exercises, trade and joint ventures on such items as insurance, leather goods and software. The collaboration began as a Turkish effort to win points with the United States, which was being pressed by Greek and other anti-Turkish lobbies. But the Turkish-Israeli collaboration soon warmed into a genuine symbiotic relationship apart from US politics, Parris said.

We met next with Ambassador Faruk Logoglu of the Turkish Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Logoglu had spent 13 years in the United States, attending college at Brandeis and graduate school at Princeton, teaching at Middlebury and serving at the United Nations before taking his post at the Turkish Foreign Ministry in 1971. Pressing for the east-west pipeline, Logoglu said, "The pipeline is an umbilical cord tying countries to the West."

My final meeting in Turkey was with President Suleyman Demirel. The President received us in a grand, wood-trimmed chamber in the Presidential palace, finished with red carpet and chandeliers. President Demirel spoke softly in perfect English.

I complimented the President on his warm relations with Israel, despite its risks of angering nations hostile to Israel. He replied that the Turkish-Israeli friendship had indeed angered some nations at Turkey. At an Islamic conference in Iran, the President said, he stood and said Turkey was a sovereign nation and could do whatever was necessary to pursue its interests. There was no response from representatives of the 55 nations present, he said.

As to Saddam Hussein, President Demirel said he had known him for about 24 years, but it was a "puzzle" as to how to deal with him. The United States should enlist allies in its efforts to influence Saddam, he urged.

I asked the President if he would accept an invitation to meet at the Oval Office with his Greek counterpart, with whom he does not talk, just as President Clinton had brought together Palestinian Chairman Yasser Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin. I had no authority to call such a meeting, I noted, but stressed the power of the U.S. Presidency. The President replied that Cypriots, both Greek and Turkish, should come to an agreement first, but he did not discount the possibility of an Oval Office meeting.

NAPLES, ITALY

From Ankara we flew to Naples, where I met with Lt. Gen. Jack Nix, in charge of the Army NATO troops, while we refueled. We spent most of our half hour discussing Bosnia. Gen. Nix cautioned that we can only reduce our troops so far; that we must maintain a baseline to allow both mobility and the ability to rescue other troops.

From Naples we flew to London, where we arrived in the evening, stayed overnight at an airport hotel, and flew back to the United States the next day. Our visits were facilitated and generally made pleasant by the assistance and cooperation of U.S. embassies in the various countries. ●

RECOGNITION OF DR. NICK HALL, JR.

● Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to an outstanding community leader in the City of Saginaw, Michigan, Dr. Nick Hall, Jr. Dr. Hall is being recognized at the 17th Annual "O Give Thanks" Banquet, hosted by The New Valley Mass Choir.

Dr. Hall has served as Pastor of Bethesda Missionary Baptist Church since 1952, and has earned a reputation as one of Saginaw's most respected religious leaders. Throughout his 46 years of service at Bethesda Missionary Baptist Church, Dr. Hall has consistently demonstrated a deep devotion to the spiritual well being of his congregation and of the people of Saginaw.

Dr. Hall's leadership has not been confined to his congregation. He served as a County Commissioner from 1992 to 1996, and has been a prominent member of civic organizations like Habitat for Humanity, the AIDS Committee of Saginaw, the Clergy Coalition Against Crack Cocaine, and the Saginaw Substance Abuse Advisory Board. Through his ministry and his community involvement, Dr. Hall has touched the lives of thousands of people.

Mr. President, Dr. Nick Hall, Jr., has demonstrated a laudable commitment to making Saginaw a better place to live for all of its residents. It is truly fitting that he is being recognized for his achievements at this year's "O Give Thanks" Banquet. I know my colleagues will join me in commending Dr. Hall for his leadership and his dedication to the people of Saginaw, Michigan. ●

RULES OF THE COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS

● Mr. CHAFEE. Mr. President, in accordance with the rules of the Senate, I ask that the rules of the Committee on Environment and Public Works, adopted by the committee January 20, 1999, be printed in the RECORD.

The rules follow:

RULES OF PROCEDURE

RULE 1. COMMITTEE MEETINGS IN GENERAL

(a) REGULAR MEETING DAYS: For purposes of complying with paragraph 3 of Senate Rule XXVI, the regular meeting day of the committee is the first and third Thursday of each month at 10:00 A.M. If there is no business before the committee, the regular meeting shall be omitted.

(b) ADDITIONAL MEETINGS: The chairman may call additional meetings, after consulting with the ranking minority member. Subcommittee chairmen may call meetings, with the concurrence of the chairman of the