

subsequent investigations by other Congressional committees and governmental agencies, we can make sure our national security secrets are safe in a world where it is inevitable and necessary that scientists from different countries work together.

Action must be taken if it is found that security lagged and individuals failed to respond in a timely and appropriate manner. Action must also be taken if it is found that foreign governments actively spied in our nuclear laboratories. However, we will not know what action is necessary until all the information is presented. I look forward to working with my colleagues on this issue and will continue to work to ensure that important questions are answered fully.

#### RECENT EVENTS IN GEORGIA

Mr. BROWNBACK. Mr. President, I rise today to mark a milestone in the history of the Georgian nation towards consolidating its independence and sovereignty and the progress Georgia has made in moving towards becoming a democratic government with a free market economy.

On the 9th of April 1999, Georgian Orthodox Good Friday, Georgia commemorated a tragic anniversary: ten years ago on that day in 1989, twenty-two people died for daring to express their desire for the independence of their country. During a peaceful demonstration in Tbilisi, Soviet troops moved in on the unarmed crowd with tanks. Soldiers carrying field engineer spades bludgeoned these brave people to death—all of them were unarmed and many of them were women. The troops also used an unknown type of poisonous gas which put thousands of people in hospital. These people paid a heavy price for expressing their desire for independence.

This week, almost exactly 10 years later, Georgia is celebrating another major step towards the goal of full independence for which those people died: this time economic independence. On April 17th, Georgia celebrated the inauguration of the Baku-Supsa oil pipeline. With this step, Georgia has gained another significant measure of independence.

This is a long way to have come in just ten years. And these have been very tumultuous years filled with strife and hardship: assassination attempts against President Shevardnadze; pressures from Russia which continues to harbor Igor Giorgadze, the mastermind behind the 1995 assassination attempt against President Shevardnadze; ethnic conflicts, over 300,000 refugees from Abkhazia, and tremendous economic hardships for the Georgian people.

This refugee problem is one which should resonate with all of us. The television pictures and the stories told by the Kosovar refugees of ethnic cleansing, people pushed out of their homes and villages is a sight which shocks us

and has galvanized the United States and the west to action. Similar scenes were taking place in Georgia which in a very short time had to assimilate over 300,000 refugees driven out of Abkhazia as part of ethnic cleansing in that part of the country. Had there been TV cameras there the world might have reacted. But there weren't and Georgia has been left to deal with this difficult problem on its own.

Despite this difficult backup, President Shevardnadze and the reformers in the Georgian parliament have started and made significant progress in building a new nation. What we are witnessing in Georgia is truly that: the building up from scratch of a new state. This is a daunting task and one which requires immense fortitude and persistent commitment.

There is no quick formula for building a state, no blueprint to follow which will smooth the way. In fact, the road is anything but smooth and there have been wrong turns along the way. But it is taking place. There are a number of indicators.

One is the regaining control of borders. After much negotiating, and persistence, Georgia is starting to regain control of its borders: in the strategic sea-port of Poti, the northern border as well as parts of the border with Turkey. Georgia is also scheduled to take control of the entire Turkish-Georgian border in Ajara in 1999.

Another is in the area of basic legal reforms. Not only have President Shevardnadze and the reformers in Parliament tackled problems systematically, they have clearly demonstrated their commitment by passing legislation which will set the foundations for a free and prosperous society. A recent example is the overhaul of the judiciary. Most of Georgia's judges are being forcibly retired and replaced by new ones chosen by competitive examinations. This is a bold move in the right direction. While the reform of the legal system is moving forward at a fast pace, one area of concern is the recent decision to return to the Soviet system of appointing lay judges for high crimes' sentencing. These judges don't have to pass tests or meet the same standards as federal judges. This is a dangerous road to go down as it could slow down the pace of legal reform and open the door to corruption. Nevertheless, on the whole Georgia should be proud of this wonderful step forward. In a civil society, the legal system should work for the society and not for the benefit of the authorities. The overhaul of the judiciary sets Georgia on that course.

Another is the fight against corruption. The reformers in Georgia have also taken on one of the most pervasive problems which is the legacy of 70 years of communism: corruption. Recent examples of the commitment to take on this overwhelming problem can be found in a number of decisions relating to the areas in which corruption is the most prevalent in any society.

Georgia has hired foreign companies to take over areas which are traditionally the richest sources of bribes and corruption: the distribution of electric power in Tbilisi and the customs service. In another bold move, the Georgian government will be taking procurement away from the ministries: a law passed recently requires that as of 1 July 1999, all government procurements beyond 20,000 lari must be subject to tender by the Ministry of Economy. This law is most significant and will be further enhanced by establishment of a system for third party procurement. The Ministry of Economy working with seasoned western companies can make these tenders work for the government and not for individual people looking for their own personal gain. Leading the way in this effort is the military and the border guards. This will concretely contribute to the more efficient use of Georgian government resources and reduce the temptation of corruption.

The progress made to date has not come easily and has not necessarily been smooth; mistakes have been made along the way. But we must remember that there is no easy map to chart the way from the economic shambles Georgia and the other former Soviet republics inherited to a full blown free market economy and democratic institutions. Building them takes some time, determination and perseverance.

Mr. President, once implemented, the Georgian people will surely begin to see that they are on the right track toward a serious improvement in their circumstances. I congratulate President Shevardnadze and the parliamentarians who have stood up for the freedom and long-term wellbeing of their country.

Mr. President, the geostrategic importance of Georgia to the United States is clear and has been mentioned often. It also has another claim on our attention and support: the progress toward democratization and free market economy there is a strong example to the other countries in the region. Georgia deserves our support as well as our congratulations.

#### TRIBUTE TO ADMIRAL ROY LEE JOHNSON, USN (RET.)

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, our nation has lost a truly great American in the recent passing of Admiral Roy Lee Johnson, USN (Ret.), who died March 20th in Virginia Beach, Virginia at the age of 93. My Senate colleagues should know that he was the father of Jo-Anne Coe, long-time top aide to Senator Bob Dole. We all join in sending our deepest sympathy to Jo-Anne and her family.

Admiral Johnson had a distinguished Naval career of over 38 years, culminating in his appointment as Commander in Chief of U.S. Naval forces in the Pacific (CINCPACFLT) from 1965-67 at the height of the Vietnam conflict. Prior to this, he was Commander, U.S. Seventh Fleet. In his capacity, he gave