

meeting, in one of the Arab countries, where I will plan to invite the Israelis and the Russians to sit down and have a conversation about how we can jointly pursue missile defense cooperation in the Middle East, with Jews and allies working together, with Americans and Russians.

On Friday of this week, Mr. Speaker, I will travel to New York City, where I will give a major foreign policy speech at the World Russian Forum, and I will tell the leaders of Russia, I will tell the business leaders in Russia, that we want to work together, George Bush wants Russia to be our friend and partner. There is no reason why we cannot achieve that.

I will then come back to Washington and next week will sponsor with the Free Congress Foundation, with Paul Weyrich, a bipartisan conference on the Hill with Russian leaders. The chairman of the International Affairs Committee for the Russian Duma, Dmitrii Rogozin, will be here, and he and I and others will come together and talk about cooperation. We will then travel to Moscow and we will have a conference in Moscow on missile defense cooperation. We will work together to find common ground, to build confidence among both countries to move forward together.

We need to put away the arguments and the petty wars of the Cold War era. Relying on mutually assured destruction is not the answer. Working together for peaceful protection of our friends, our allies and our neighbors, is the solution of the 21st century. That is what George Bush outlined for us yesterday. He is on the right track. He did not say we have all the answers, because we do not, but he did say, together, there is nothing we cannot accomplish.

I was a young kid in school when John Kennedy made a very famous speech in 1960. He said "I challenge America to land a man on the moon within this decade." I can tell you, people laughed at him. They thought, this guy is crazy. Here is President Kennedy saying we are going to land on the moon? We cannot even get our planes to fly totally safe in the atmosphere. How are we going to land on the moon? He challenged America to land on the moon, to explore outer space technology.

You know what happened, Mr. Speaker. Nine years later, in July of 1969, we landed the first human being on the moon. It was an historic event that showed that America can accomplish anything.

There are those who will say, there are a few of them, who will say this is not technologically possible. Mr. Speaker, that is hogwash. In fact, to counter those, we have put together a task force of professors. None of the professors we have on this ad hoc committee are working for any contractor. They are all professors.

I am going to be inviting all of my colleagues in Congress to ask those

professors, one at a time or as a group, to come into your offices. They are not doing any contract work with defense contractors. They are not on the Pentagon's payroll. They are from universities, like Texas A&M, like some of our major engineering schools, who understand the physics is achievable.

They will be available as we begin this debate to counter those who will simply try to use their doctorate titles to convince us that somehow we cannot accomplish this.

I asked the head of the Boeing program in a hearing last year, a fellow by the name of Dr. Teller, how difficult it was to achieve the result of missile defense for America and its people. He said, "Congressman WELDON, I have been assigned to this all my life." He said managing the Space Station was a tougher challenge than building missile defense.

Together, Republicans and Democrats, allies and our own people, we can create a new world, a safe world, where all of our people can be protected from what happened to those 28 Americans in 1991.

PAKISTAN: DEMOCRACY AND POLITICAL RIGHTS, A STATE OF SHAME

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CARTER). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, Mr. Speaker, I come to the House floor today to denounce the Pakistan Ruling Army's dictatorial and wholly unacceptable treatment of nonviolent political activists as they assembled yesterday to demand a return to democracy.

May 1, International Labor Day, has historically been a day when rights of those unrepresented and under-represented have been fought for around the world. The political workers and activists of Pakistan had announced May 1 as their day of peaceful assemblage, asking for return to civilian government. General Musharraf, the chief executive of the country, has completely clamped down on the very basic civilian right of the people to assemble. In his own words, "Once we have said there will be no political activity, there will be no political activity."

General Musharraf has called these protestors and democracy fighters "useless politicians." This reign of terror by the army has to be stopped, Mr. Speaker, and we must denounce it in no uncertain terms.

Mr. Speaker, Pakistan is taking a wrong path. Since the October 1999 coup d'etat in Pakistan, the army government has flagrantly violated basic civil rights of the people. The state of the press is severely threatened. Journalists are routinely harassed and their offices ransacked regularly. The constitution has been abolished.

The erstwhile political parties of Pakistan have been demanding a re-

turn to democracy ever since the October 1999 coup d'etat by the military. The Musharraf government has outlawed public rallies of any kind ever since President Clinton's visit to the region in March of 2000. In addition, this government has become increasingly hostile and has created a security threat to the United States and the South Asia region by supporting the Taliban and the Osama Bin Laden network logistically, figuratively, financially and otherwise.

In the most recent U.S. State Department's annual report on global terrorism, which was released Monday, Secretary of State Colin Powell stated that Pakistan's military government, headed by General Pervez Musharraf, has continued previous Pakistani government support for several groups responsible for attacks on civilians in Kashmir. The report also states that the Harkat ul-Mujahideen, the HUM, a designated foreign terrorist organization, continues to be active in Pakistan without discouragement by the Government of Pakistan.

Mr. Speaker, this Congress and its members, as proponents of democracy, have an overarching moral obligation to show solidarity with each struggle for democracy around the world. Expressing shock, the Pakistan People's Party senior representative Khohru said, "They," the army, "have totally clamped down. We are trying to march but obviously every place is a jail. The whole city is under siege."

Mr. Speaker, if I could say, we must not let political repression go by unnoticed. We must go on record publicly expressing the strong opposition of the United States Congress to the military coup in Pakistan and call for a civilian democratically elected government to be returned to power in Pakistan.

FIGHTING THE HIV-AID PANDEMIC

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2001, the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Mrs. CLAYTON) is recognized for 60 minutes.

Mrs. CLAYTON. Mr. Speaker, I join with my colleagues today to talk about an issue that is causing great human devastation internationally and that continues to be a major health and quality-of-life problem domestically.

The HIV-AIDS pandemic that now we refer to has deeply impacted the African continent, particularly sub-Saharan Africa. Sub-Saharan Africa has been far more severely affected by AIDS than any other part of the world. In 16 countries, all in sub-Saharan Africa, more than one in ten adults is infected with the HIV virus, affecting some 25 million people.

According to the joint United Nations program on HIV and AIDS, three-fourths of all deaths caused by AIDS are in sub-Saharan Africa since the beginning of the epidemic. It is estimated that one-half or more of all 15-year-old children may eventually die of AIDS in