

Stacy Fisher, American Medical Response, Cleburne
 Kim Higginbotham, Life Ambulance Service, Canutillo
 Joe Kammerling, Prime Care Ambulance, Houston
 Allen Snell, Rural/Metro, Waco
 Kenneth Stanley, LifeNet EMS, Texarkana

VIRGINIA—5

Ted Marshall, LifeCare Medical Transports, Fredericksburg
 Michael Martens, Sentara Medical Transport, Virginia Beach
 Dawn Novisky, LifeCare Medical Transports, Fredericksburg
 Ben Walker, American Medical Response, Richmond
 Danny Wildman, LifeCare Medical Transports, Fredericksburg

VERMONT—1

Kandis Holden, Regional Ambulance, Rutland

WASHINGTON—1

William Engler, American Medical Response, Seattle

WISCONSIN—1

Tina Nicolai, American Medical Response, Kenosha

SECOND ANNIVERSARY OF THE
 DISAPPEARANCE OF GENERAL
 YURY ZAKHARENKO OF
 BELARUS

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 8, 2001

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about the last dictatorship in Europe—the regime of Aleksandr Lukashenka in the former Soviet state of Belarus. The Lukashenka regime is one of the most notorious human rights abusers in the world, routinely suppressing the rights of the Belorussian citizens. May 7th marks the second anniversary of one of the most celebrated human rights abuses allegedly perpetrated by the regime—the not-so-mysterious disappearance of General Yury Zakharenko, former Belorussian Minister of Internal Affairs.

In 1995, General Zakharenko resigned his post in protest and attempted to form a union of officers to support democracy in Belarus. He also supported former Prime Minister Mikhail Chigir in an alternative presidential election held in May 1999 to replace Lukashenka at the legal end of his term on July 20, 1999. On May 7, 1999, Gen. Zakharenko disappeared while walking home and has not been heard from since. Sadly, Gen. Zakharenko is not unique. Others who dared to challenge the regime appear to have suffered the same fate. Victor Gonchar, Deputy Chairman of the legitimate parliament, the 13th Supreme Soviet; his associate Anatoly Krasovsky; and Dmitry Zavadsky, a cameraman for the Russian television station ORT, have all disappeared without explanation.

Since the day Gen. Zakharenko vanished, all evidence has pointed to the Lukashenka regime as being responsible for his disappearance. The regime has not made a serious effort to account for Gen. Zakharenko. Rather than investigate, the regime has targeted the missing general for personal attack, accusing him of fleeing the country or going into hiding

to embarrass Lukashenko. Gen. Zakharenko's family was forced to seek refuge in Western Europe to escape the regime's harassment. The regime has also tried to silence human rights activists, such as Oleg Volchek, who have attempted to find Gen. Zakharenko. Last November, when an anonymous letter reputed to be from officers of the Belorussian KGB (BKGB) accusing Lukashenka of blocking the investigation of disappearances in Belarus became public, Lukashenka sacked the head of the BKGB and the Prosecutor General. The Belorussian dictator also promised a serious investigation, but the regime has made no progress in the intervening six months and reports of increased pressure on investigators have surfaced.

Under the current dictatorship in Belarus, it would be impossible for such stonewalling and denial to take place without the approval of Lukashenka himself. Lukashenka even went as far as to state in November of last year, that he is personally responsible for accounting for Gen. Zakharenko and the other disappeared. This is a responsibility that the international community cannot let the Belorussian dictator escape from. The United States, the European Union, member states of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the U.N. Working Group on Involuntary Disappearances, the Swedish Social Democratic Party, and international human rights NGOs have all called on the Lukashenka dictatorship to find the disappeared. I regret that the Russian Government is conspicuously absent from these ranks. This, in my view, sends a negative signal about the Russian Federation's view of its role in promoting democracy outside of its borders.

The Belorussian people also want an explanation, as the repeated statements by Belorussian democratic leaders and human rights advocates show. Even high officials in the regime have expressed privately their displeasure with Lukashenka's handling of the disappearances.

Until the Lukashenka regime accounts for Gen. Zakharenko, Deputy Chairman Gonchar, Mr. Krasovsky, and Mr. Zavadsky, one can neither expect a normalization in the international community's relations with Belarus nor an end to the climate of fear gripping the country. The Lukashenka regime needs to act immediately to find these brave democrats and Belorussian patriots. This issue of Gen. Zakharenko and the other disappeared will not go away, just as the issue of the disappeared in Chile did not go away, just as the issue of the Polish officers "disappeared" at Katyn did not go away, just as the issue of the disappearance of Swedish hero Raoul Wallenberg will not go away. Rather, with each new day the missing go unaccounted for, the call for the truth behind their disappearances will only grow louder, haunting those responsible for these crimes.

“A NEW DEFENSE POSTURE”

HON. DOUG BEREUTER

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 8, 2001

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, this Member rises to commend to his colleagues an edi-

torial in the May 3, 2001, edition of the Omaha World-Herald. Of particular note is the editorial's assessment of international reaction to President George W. Bush's May 1, 2001, speech on a national missile defense (NMD) system.

In the weeks approaching the speech, many newspaper and magazines ran articles and editorials which criticized President Bush for his strong and vocal support for the development of NMD and for reassessment of the 1972 Anti-Ballistic Missile (ABM) Treaty. Domestic opponents claimed that such views strain relations with key U.S. allies in Europe and Asia. And yet, after a major speech outlining the Administration's proposed approach to national security, U.S. allies appear to have reacted fairly positively by agreeing to talk about the approach, if not entirely support it.

The cold war is over, and therefore it is entirely appropriate for the U.S. to re-evaluate the institutions and treaties from that era. It is this Member's hope that our allies will strongly agree and will find upon review that President Bush's initiative to begin the development of a NMD system and to revamp arsenal cuts reflects careful reflection upon the long-term interests of the United States.

[From the Omaha World Herald, May 3, 2001]

A NEW DEFENSE POSTURE

Call it Missile Defense III. It's not the largely discredited Reagan-era Strategic Defense Initiative. It's not the Clinton-nurtured limited shield. In fact, it's not clear at this juncture what it is. But President Bush wants it and is determined to get it if possible. And that may not be bad.

The most salient aspect of Bush's freshly stated commitment to a missile defense system is what didn't happen. The international community didn't, for the most part, start screaming to the heavens that the United States has become frighteningly arrogant and is going to get everybody fried. And that was largely because Bush had the good sense to get in front of his Tuesday announcement with pre-emptive and assuring phone calls to the world leaders who might be most concerned. He and Secretary of State Colin Powell repeatedly made two points:

Although Bush finds the 1972 Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty outmoded and only marginally effective, the United States is not going to simply abrogate it without something to take its place.

There will be no change in Washington's international nuclear-weapons understandings until such time as a missile defense can reasonably be called workable.

The biggest surprise of all may be that Moscow pronounced itself, though not exactly happy, entirely willing to sit down and discuss the matter rationally. That gets past what could have been a substantial hurdle, because Russia has long seen any sort of missile defense as a direct threat aimed at neutralizing its nuclear strike capability. It has been adamant on the point. But on Wednesday, Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov said his nation "is ready for consultations, and we have something to say."

The biggest question about a missile defense is whether such a bogglingly complex system can, in fact, ever work. Results to date have not been encouraging. Efforts from the Reagan era forward have cost more than \$60 billion. Tests in the '80s were spotty, and the few seeming successes were later shown to have been either unrealistically simplistic or just plain fudged. Three tests of a scaled-down system in the '90s yielded two failures.

The concept, nonetheless, remains appealing, particularly to those old enough to remember the duck-and-cover classroom drills