and improving the Maritime Security Program. Mr. Speaker, Maersk Line, Limited plays a critical role in both the national security interest of the United States and the transportation of goods in and out of the U.S. I am proud to recognize Maersk Mc-Kinney Moller for the services his company provides and for his dedicated leadership in the maritime arena. He is a true friend of the United States of America.

EIGHTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BIRTHDAY OF DR. ANDREI SAKHAROV

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 17, 2001

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to call to the attention of my colleagues the 80th anniversary of the birth of the late Dr. Andrei Dmitrievich Sakharov, one of the truly great figures in the struggle for human rights in the 20th century. On May 21 of this year, Dr. Sakharov would have celebrated his 80th birthday.

A brilliant physicist, Dr. Andrei Sakharov enjoyed the respect of his colleagues and the material privileges provided by Soviet officialdom for his work in helping to develop the Soviet atomic bomb. He could easily have continued to enjoy his elevated status in Soviet society, but his conscience would not permit it. He became deeply convinced that the arms race was pointless and a threat to mankind. When he protested privately to Soviet authorities, he was ignored. In 1968, Dr. Sakharov circulated his groundbreaking essay entitled, ''Thoughts on Progress, Peaceful Co-Existence and Intellectual Freedom,'' in which he drew the connection between human rights and international security. For this challenge to the system, he was barred from military research, and when he continued to protest, he was fired from his work. In 1975, Dr. Sakharov was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize, but Soviet authorities would not allow him to travel to Oslo to receive the award. In January 1980, without any legal procedure, let alone a trial, Dr. Sakharov was picked up on the streets of Moscow by KGB agents and spirited off to exile in the city of Gorky.

At the same time, the Kremlin, under the leadership of former KGB chairman Yuri Andropov, launched a crackdown on Soviet dissidents. In 1984, Dr. Sakharov's wife, Dr. Elena Bonner, was convicted of ''defaming the Soviet political and social system'' and sentenced to join him in exile.

Even in these dark hours, Dr. Sakharov, continued to speak out against the war being carried out by Soviet forces in Afghanistan, to defend persecuted human rights activists in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe, and to address vital issues of disarmament and peace. On three occasions, Dr. Sakharov went on a hunger strike to protest the mistreatment of hls friends and colleagues in the human rights movement. During his confinement, his notes and his manuscripts were stolen from him by KGB thugs. President Reagan declared his sixtieth birthday, May 21, 1980, ''Andrei Salcharov Day.''

In December 1986, Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev lifted Dr. Sakharov's exile and ''invited'' him to return to Moscow. In 1989, Dr. Salcharov was elected to the Congress of People Deputies, an organization that had previously been the rubber stamp legislature for the Soviet Union. In the short time that he served, Dr. Sakharovj''olned a handful of other elected leaders to press for real reforms in the Soviet Union. On December 14, 1989, the world was sadden to learn of this great man's death.

In its coverage of ''the 100 Most Important People of the 20th Century,'' Time magazine noted that, ''By the time of his death in 1989, this humble physicist had influenced the spread of democratic ideals throughout the communist world. His moral challenge to tyranny, his faith in the individual and the power of reason, his courage in the face of denunciation and, finally, house arrest—made him a hero to ordinary citizens everywhere.''

Although Andrei Sakharov has passed on and the Soviet Union is no more, the issues that he and his colleagues confronted still challenge us today. ''Small wars,'' like the bloody conflict in Chechnya, have replaced the big Cold War. Human rights continue to be violated. Arms control and security issues are high on the agenda.

Several years ago, Dr. Bonner bequeathed Dr. Sakharov's papers to an American university bearing the name of one of our country's greatest jurists—Justice Louis Brandeis. This is a priceless gift not only to Brandeis, but to our entire nation. A generation of young people who have grown up since the fall of the Soviet Union, will be able to study Dr. Sakharov's writings on civic responsibility, non-violence, ethnic and religious intolerance, and other aspects of human rights and what we now call the human dimension.

Mr. Speaker, on this, the eightieth anniversary of the birth of Andrei Sakharov, I urge Americans young and old to acquaint themselves with Dr. Sakharov's struggle for peace and human dignity, and to support educational efforts such as the Sakharov archive at Brandeis to preserve the legacy of an intellectual and humanitarian giant of the 20th century.

THE VIETNAMESE COMMUNISTS ARREST FATHER NGUYEN VAN, A NEW ROUND OF RELIGIOUS PERSECUTION IN VIETNAM

HON. DANA ROHRABACHER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 17, 2001

Mr. ROHRABACHER. Mr. Speaker, this morning, Vietnamese communist authorities arrested a highly respected Catholic priest Father Nguyen Van Ly, a former Amnesty International ''prisoner of conscience,'' accusing him of fomenting unrest against the government. Father Ly was detained in his parish of Phu An, near Hue, under a criminal law for failing to obey surveillance rules and agitating followers to cause public disorder.

''He was arrested for spreading propaganda against the government,'' said a spokesman for the secret police of Phu An commune. The propaganda charges Ly faces carry penalties of 10 to 12 years in prison. A longtime critic of the government, Ly has previously spent nearly 10 years in prison.

On Wednesday, Ly led a religious service of about 150 people in which police said he distributed leaflets. The government said the leaflets were anti-communist. Ly, 54, had previously been under heavy police surveillance and in March was denounced by official media as a ''traitor'' for urging the United States to link religious freedom to ratification of a bilateral trade agreement with Vietnam. ''(Ly) continued to carry out behavior that affected public security and obstructed production and normal life of the people,'' the spokesman said.

Father Ly's arrest came amid growing criticism of Hanoi for persecution of religious groups—Christians, Buddhists and, Cao Dai. Ly's detention coincided with a report that a dissident Buddhist leader, Thich Quang Do, was summoned for questioning in Ho Chi Minh City. The Paris-based International Buddhist Information Bureau said that 73-year-old Thich Quang Do received a summons demanding he appear before a Communist kangaroo court tomorrow to explain ''a number of wrongful acts'' he has recently committed.'' The move could be related to Do's recent letter to the Vietnamese leadership in which he called for the release of another dissident monk, the group said. Do is the second-highest monk in the banned Unified Buddhist Church of Vietnam. The movement's patriarch, Thich Huyen Quang, 83, has been imprisoned for 19 years.

Mr. Speaker, the Hanoi regime insists it grants full religious freedom to its citizens. This is a blatant lie. Given the simultaneous mass persecution of our former allies, the Montagnard tribes people in Vietnam's Central Highlands, this body should link an end to religious and ethnic persecution to the ratification of the bilateral trade agreement between the United States and Vietnam. I also call on the United States embassy in Hanoi to aggressively make every possible effort to demand the release of Father Ly and an end to religious persecution and rampant human rights abuses in Vietnam.

NATIONAL BIOTECHNOLOGY WEEK

HON. DARRELL E. ISSA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 17, 2001

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, during National Biotechnology Week, to commend the biotechnology community for its many contributions to science, healthcare, and technology.

Biotechnology has contributed enormously to the success of the United States as the global leader in research and international commerce. It will unquestionably be an important vehicle for high-tech job creation throughout the 21st century.

Today, biotechnology is widely used in many fields, including agriculture, food processing, and energy production. It has been largely responsible for improving quality of life all around the globe through its utilization in water quality protection, conservation of topsoil, and improvement of waste management techniques. Through its many innovations in pharmaceuticals from penicillin to AIDS drugs, biotechnology has paved the way for finding cures to many of the world's devastating diseases.

Mr. Speaker, I commend and thank the biotechnology community for its many contributions to our nation and the world.