

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN SUPPORT OF PEACE ON THE
28TH BLACK ANNIVERSARY OF
THE TURKISH INVASION OF CY-
PRUS

HON. GEORGE W. GEKAS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 18, 2002

Mr. GEKAS. Mr. Speaker, 28 years ago this week, Turkish troops illegally invaded the nation of Cyprus seizing control of one third of the island and forcing tens of thousands of Greek Cypriots out of their homes. In 1983, the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus established itself through a declaration of independence and to this day is recognized only by the Turkish government. Today, 35,000 Turkish soldiers are stationed on the island occupying the lands of Greek Cypriots and guarding the 113-mile, fenced border. Many consider this border to be one of the most heavily militarized regions in the world.

This atrocious affront to the sovereignty of Cyprus has received generous attention from the international community and, in particular, the United Nations, however, it has resulted in little action taken by Turkey. I am heartened by this year's talks between the President of Cyprus, Glafcos Clerides, and the Turkish Cypriot leader, Rauf Denktash, as they indicate a strong interest to find a peaceful and final solution to this decades old conflict.

Potential membership in the European Union has been the strongest catalyst for peace between the two parties since the initial invasion of Cyprus. Both Cyprus and Turkey are vying for inclusion in the E.U., but because of certain requirements for membership, their requests may not be granted unless they first focus their attention to the forcibly divided nation. With this new motive for a solution, I have increased hope that this ancient part of our world will once again see harmony within its borders.

The Greek and Turkish Cypriot leadership have a long, tough road ahead of them for a diplomatic solution, but they have come a long way. With continued support from the U.S., the U.N., and now the E.U., I believe that freedom and peace are attainable for the people of Cyprus.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO RUBY MARTINEZ

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 18, 2002

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, today I stand before you to celebrate the life and mourn the loss of Ruby Martinez. Mrs. Martinez, a former Councilwoman and Mayor of Boone, Colorado, selflessly committed years towards the devel-

opment and betterment of her community. After a long battle with cancer, she passed away on June 30, 2002. As we mourn her loss, I would like to pay tribute to her life before this body of Congress and this Nation.

At the early age of fourteen, Ruby Martinez began striving for success when she began working the fields to raise money so that she could attend Catholic school. Although her graduation led her to a job in the larger city of Colorado Springs, she selflessly returned to Boone to care for her ailing grandmother who had suffered from a stroke. Her civil involvement began through calling local officials with the intent of organizing local volunteer programs to help the less fortunate and actively address the town's issues and concerns.

Once her tenure as Mayor commenced, she created several agencies to improve the lives of her constituents with the Housing and Urban Development agency, which repaired homes for owners who could not find the means to do so themselves. She actively served as a board member of the Pueblo Community Health Board, the Pueblo Chemical Depot Reuse Commission and Chemical Demilitarization Authority, the Sheriff's Advisory Board, and she was the founding member of the Boone-Avondale citizens Alliance.

Mr. Speaker, I stand before you today to pay tribute to the memory of an exemplary citizen in the State of Colorado. Ruby Martinez was a vibrant woman who achieved much success and was a beacon of inspiration to her entire community. I join her family and a grateful community today in the mourning of her loss.

WHOSE DEFINITION OF "FAIRNESS"?

HON. DOUG BEREUTER

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 18, 2002

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, this Member wishes to commend to his colleagues an editorial from the July 12, 2002, edition of the Omaha World-Herald entitled "'Fairness' to be wary of."

As the editorial stresses, the International Criminal Court (ICC) will place U.S. policy-makers and military personnel in a precarious position whereby practically any random non-governmental organization (NGO) could bring esoteric charges against them. Indeed, the editorial highlights the story of a Croatian advocacy group which has brought charges against former President Clinton for his support for military actions in Croatia. These charges, which were presented in the special tribunal on the Balkans, were not presented due to any specific infraction but because the advocacy group believes that all sides of the issue should be reviewed for the sake of "evenhanded justice."

Mr. Speaker, the ICC is likely to consume vast resources on similar baseless cases and charges rather than focusing on the gross infractions of basic international rules of engagement. It is appropriate for this body and for the Administration to adamantly oppose U.S. participation in the new court.

[From the Omaha World-Herald, July 12, 2002]

"FAIRNESS" TO BE WARY OF

Critics have scoffed at the insistence by the Bush administration and Congress that U.S. military personnel abroad be protected from indictment by international tribunals. Such courts, the critics claim, are intended only for prosecution of major war criminals. The indictment of U.S. policy-makers and soldiers, they say, isn't very likely.

Recent events, however, have shown that U.S. concerns are justified. The Washington Times reported this week that a special tribunal investigating war crimes in the Balkans is examining whether charges are warranted against former President Bill Clinton and his aides for U.S. support of a Croatian military offensive in 1995.

An advocacy group in Croatia sparked the court's action. The activists told the tribunal that if it indicts a former Croatian general accused of slaughtering Serbian civilians during that campaign, it should also indict American officials in the interests of what it called "evenhanded justice."

This isn't the first time U.S. officials have come under scrutiny by that court. Previously, the prosecutor for the tribunal had investigated whether NATO had violated international law during its 1999 bombing campaign in Yugoslavia. The prosecutor filed no indictments, saying she wouldn't have been able to collect sufficient evidence to bring charges against high-level officials.

In light of those facts, the Bush administration has been amply justified in refusing to seek congressional approval for a new entity, the International Criminal Court, which began operation last week and seeks global jurisdiction. (To keep United Nations peacekeeping on track in the Balkans, the Bush administration compromised this week on the immunity question, while still refusing to endorse the court. The compromise should provide sufficient de facto protection for troops.)

Supporters of the new court say it is a vehicle for trying only the most brutal of international war criminals. But such claims lack credibility when a similar international court is dutifully conducting an investigation—out of "fairness"—of possible war crimes by a former U.S. president.

On balance, we think it's a good idea to have specially appointed courts consider war-crimes matters for individual military conflicts. But the International Criminal Court has been granted too much authority, and the Balkans tribunal has shown a troubling lack of proportion by taking seriously calls for indictments against high U.S. officials.

American leaders are right to be wary about the potential for abuse.

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