

straighten up this immigration system in America.

**SECRETARY POWELL MEETS WITH
TURKISH FOREIGN MINISTER
ABDULLAH GUL**

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

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, this Thursday Turkish Foreign Minister Abdullah Gul is scheduled to visit the United States for meetings with U.S. Secretary of State Powell. On the eve of his visit, I come to the House floor to highlight two serious issues: first, the ongoing blockade against Armenia; and, second, the nearly three-decade-long occupation of the northern third of the sovereign Island of Cyprus.

Madam Speaker, for the last 11 years, Turkey has imposed a crippling blockade against Armenia. The blockade clearly runs afoul of U.S. and international law. In fact, both the U.S. Government and the European Community have repeatedly called on Turkey to lift their campaign of attempting to starve an entire nation. Turkey's denial of U.S. and international assistance to Armenia is in violation of their commitments to the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, which they have signed.

Madam Speaker, Turkey's blockades not only affect Armenia, they affect the entire South Caucasus region. By choking off a major transportation region across the Caucasus, Turkey is stunting the growth of the economies of Armenia, Georgia, Azerbaijan, and even Turkey itself. I urge the administration to take an active role in pressing Foreign Minister Gul to open the border with Armenia.

The administration has consistently supported the development of normal relations between Armenia and Turkey and should continue to do so. A resolution of this dispute will mean stability and further economic development of the South Caucasus, and this should be done immediately and without preconditions.

Madam Speaker, Turkey's continuing occupation of the northern third of the Island of Cyprus is also one of Turkey's most egregious violations of international law. Yesterday marked the 29th anniversary of Turkey's illegal military occupation beginning on June 20, 1974.

This has been a monumental year for the Island of Cyprus. The European Union's decision to invite the divided island into the EU has placed intense international scrutiny on the reunification talks. The EU invitation is for the Republic of Cyprus, which is internationally recognized as the legitimate government of the entire island. But EU membership would be suspended in the occupied area until the end of the Turkish occupation, and the Cypriot parliament has unanimously approved the accession to the European Union.

Recent moves by Rauf Denktash, the Turkish Cypriot leader, have failed to lessen international pressure. Denktash's move to partially lift restrictions on movement across the UN's cease-fire line and give the ability of Turkish and Greek Cypriots to briefly visit the other side of the island has brought a glimmer of hope, but also renewed frustration to the Cypriot people.

Tens of thousands of Turkish Cypriots in the north have recently peacefully protested Denktash's decision to reject the U.N. plan to reunify the island, and Turkish Cypriot citizens made this rare public rebuff of Denktash's demanding reunification so that the coming prosperity of the European Union-Cyprus partnership does not pass them by.

Madam Speaker, when Foreign Minister Gul comes to meet with the Bush administration, I would hope these issues would be discussed. Turkey has long stated that it is a Western-leaning European democracy, but in this country it will no longer be judged solely by its words. Now they must fulfill their obligations under international agreements and laws by dropping their illegal blockade against Armenia and finally removing their troops from the Island of Cyprus.

PRESCRIPTION DRUGS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. GUTKNECHT) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. GUTKNECHT. Madam Speaker, I rise again tonight to talk about an issue that I suspect many of my colleagues are becoming weary of, and frankly, I am as well. It is the issue of the cost of prescription drugs and what we pay in the United States compared to what the rest of the industrialized world pays for those exact same drugs.

What I have tonight is a chart. I apologize, it is a little difficult to read. I am going to hold up the back of today's Congressional Daily. It has a picture of two tablets in a little cardboard container and under it the captions says, "Quick. Pick The Capsule That Hasn't Been Tampered With." And somehow we are supposed to believe that if we allow Americans to have access to FDA-approved drugs from FDA-approved facilities from around the world, that obviously people are going to tamper with them and people will die.

So we have made up our own little chart, a little comparison that says, "Quick. Pick The Bottle That Hasn't Been Tampered With." Can you pick which one?

The fact of the matter is, this year we will import from other countries, and I have the exact number, \$824,888,000 worth of imported wine. Now, it is altogether possible that somebody could tamper with that wine. Yet every day Americans buy bottles of wine from all over the world and they

open that wine, and how do they know that it has not had arsenic put in it? They do not. We take a risk every day.

Every day Americans eat imported plantains, imported cucumbers, imported fruits, imported vegetables, and imported meat. Americans take a risk every day and we do not even inspect them. Well, I take that back, we do inspect them a little bit. About 2 percent of the products coming into the country get inspected. But, nonetheless, if you eat an imported food that has some form of food-borne pathogen and you die, you are still dead.

Now, what do we know. The CDC and the FDA keep very good records, and we have had testimony and we have asked them this question several times, how many Americans have actually become seriously ill or died from taking FDA-approved drugs from other countries? And it is an easy number to remember. It is a nice round number. The number is zero. Yet we continue to hear these scare tactics.

Scare tactics serve only one purpose, and that is to obscure the facts. The facts, I think, speak for themselves, though, and that is that Americans, because we are a captive market, pay the world's highest prices for drugs, which largely are developed here in the United States and many times paid for by the taxpayers' research dollars. Let us take one drug, perhaps the most effective anti-breast-cancer drug ever developed, Tamoxifen, developed essentially here in the United States with taxpayer dollars.

We invested almost half a billion dollars, taxpayer dollars, developing Tamoxifen, but here is what really chaps my hide. Americans are expected to pay \$360 a month for Tamoxifen. That drug can be purchased every day of the week in Germany for \$60, as we did, or it can be bought in Canada for \$50.

Now, scare tactics are really not about helping Americans understand the facts, because the facts speak for themselves. It is about trying to obscure the facts.

We require in our bill that we begin to develop a process of counterfeit-proof, tamper-proof packaging which will benefit whether the drugs are imported, exported, or made and consumed here in the United States.

This is really about profit over people. It is not about safety, it is not about research, it is about money. It is about big money. We estimate that over the next 10 years, seniors alone, if we open up markets and markets level those prices here in the United States, seniors alone could save over \$600 billion. That is with a "B". We are talking real money. As my colleague from Oregon earlier said, that could be worth more than this entire prescription drug benefit plan that we are talking about.

Let me tell my colleagues the story of Dr. Wenner from Vermont. Her clinic began to encourage, or at least assist their patients to buy their drugs from