

story, and, indeed, the wisdom of all traditions, to guide us wisely on our Journey.

#### RUSSIA'S G-8 PROBLEM

Mr. McCAIN. Mr. President, this summer Russia will assume the rotating leadership position of the Group of Eight nations for the first time. I have expressed my concern repeatedly about the democratic deterioration in Russia and I believe that, unless the Russian leadership makes significant democratic progress, its continued membership in the G-8 should be blocked. Since Senator LIEBERMAN and I first expressed this view in a resolution we submitted in 2003, I have heard similar sentiments from Senate colleagues and individuals outside the Congress. Many observers across the political and ideological spectrum are concerned by Russia's retreat from core democratic principles.

President Vladimir Putin recently delivered an address aimed at reassuring the world that he takes democracy seriously. And while a number of the passages were welcome, others displayed a view of history and of Russia's role in the world that is simply astonishing. I would like to share with my colleagues today's Washington Post editorial that makes this point in detail.

Moscow's commitment to democracy and the rule of law is a vital element of America's relationship with Russia, and with Russia's ties to various multilateral institutions. I hope that the Russian leadership might see that its national interests lie in cooperation, not competition, with democratic countries. I also hope that Russia will change many elements of its policy toward smaller neighbors. Russia has based Russian troops in Georgia and Moldova without the consent of those countries, thereby undermining their sovereignty and violating international law.

If the Kremlin persists in persecuting Mr. Putin's political rivals, cracking down on the free media, and intimidating countries along Russian borders, I believe that Russian chairmanship of the G-8 is entirely inappropriate. Again, I recommend to my colleagues the Washington Post editorial I submit for the RECORD.

I ask unanimous consent that the editorial be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the Record, as follows:

[From the Washington Post, Apr. 27, 2005]

#### MR. PUTIN'S VERDICT

What was "the greatest geopolitical catastrophe of the century"? The rise of Nazi Germany? The spread of genocide as a tool of state power? Some might say it was the crushing of a host of nations by the totalitarian Soviet Union, at the cost of millions of lives. But not Russian President Vladimir Putin. For him, the greatest catastrophe was not the Soviet Union's rise but its collapse—an event that freed 14 of those nations, from

Latvia to Kyrgyzstan, from Moscow's domination. "The old ideals were destroyed," Mr. Putin lamented during his annual state-of-Russia address on Monday.

Most accounts of Mr. Putin's speech focused on the passages intended for Western consumption: his claim that "the development of Russia as a free and democratic state" is now his highest priority; his assurance to Russian and foreign business executives that their investments will not be seized by rapacious authorities, despite the state's recent confiscation of the country's largest oil company; his announced plans to strengthen political parties and make the state-controlled media more independent.

Yet the former KGB officer's nostalgia for the former Soviet empire seemed as telling as any of his promises. So did his denunciation of the "disintegration" of Russia before he came to power, which he defined as the "capitulation" of granting autonomy to Chechnya and the "unrestricted control over information flows" that allowed private business executives to operate newspapers and television networks. Mr. Putin has reversed both of those liberalizations—in Chechnya's case, by means of an ongoing war that has killed tens of thousands.

The Russian president has a short-term interest in burnishing what even he must recognize as a tarnished image. Early next month he is due to host numerous world leaders, including President Bush, in a celebration of the Soviet victory in World War II. This summer Mr. Putin is due to take over the rotating leadership of the Group of Eight, a club of industrial democracies in which Russia, an increasingly autocratic state that ranks 97th in the world in per capita gross domestic product, is glaringly out of place.

As Mr. Putin acknowledged Monday, his strategy for restoring Russian greatness depends heavily on his ability to attract Western capital and to maintain partnerships with the European Union and the United States.

But Mr. Putin would like to achieve these goals while consolidating the Kremlin's restored diktat and reviving what he called "the Russian nation's civilizing mission in the Eurasian continent." That's why the best measures of Mr. Putin are not speeches but actions. One important test will be his handling of neighbors such as Ukraine, Georgia and Moldova, which have embraced democracy and rejected Mr. Putin's neoimperialism. Will he adjust his approach to those countries, and withdraw unwanted Russian troops from Georgia and Moldova?

Another comes today at the trial of Mikhail Khodorkovsky, the entrepreneur who built the Yukos oil conglomerate and used it to help finance Russia's liberal democratic opposition. For daring to behave as if Russia were the free and capitalist-friendly country that Mr. Putin describes, Mr. Khodorkovsky was arrested and subjected to a show trial, even as his company, Russia's most modern, was broken up.

Today he will receive his verdict; prosecutors have requested a prison sentence of 10 years. The outcome ought to tell the Bush administration and other Western governments something important about a leader who would set the agenda for the world's advanced democracies.

#### HONORING LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS SLAIN IN THE LINE OF DUTY

Mr. SALAZAR. Mr. President, I am proud to be an original cosponsor of a resolution currently before the Senate

commemorating law enforcement officers slain in the line of duty. Every day, men and women all across our nation put their lives on the line to protect our citizens, our families, and our communities. Having served as Attorney General for the State of Colorado, I know first hand how dedicated our law enforcement professionals are, and I strongly believe that one of our Government's most important priorities is supporting these men and women—not only by providing them with the resources they need to get the job done, but by publicly recognizing the truly unparalleled work they do each and every day.

While we frequently commend law enforcement officers for their willingness to put their lives on the line for the safety and security of our citizens, and while we are right to do so, it is still unfathomable when one of these men and women does make the ultimate sacrifice. It is unfathomable that those who volunteer for such noble work, as well as the families who support them, should pay such a price.

Next week, I will be attending a law enforcement memorial event in Colorado. Like the resolution my colleagues and I are submitting today, this annual event commemorates those law enforcement officers slain in the line of duty. This year, we will remember the lives and work of two Colorado law enforcement officers killed in the past year: Deputy Travis Sass of the Larimer County Sheriff's Office, and Deputy William Truesdale of the Jefferson County Sheriff's Office.

In memorializing Deputy Sass, Deputy Truesdale, and others like them across the country, we should remember them not for the tragic way they died, but for the noble way they lived—risking their own lives to protect others. That is why the resolution my colleagues and I are submitting today is so important. As difficult as it is to accept that their lives have been lost, it is imperative that we always remember the contributions they made, and that our dedicated men and women in law enforcement continue to make each and every day.

#### ICE AGE FLOODS NATIONAL GEOLOGIC TRAIL

Mr. BURNS. Mr. President, today, I join my colleagues Senators CANTWELL, CRAIG, MURRAY, and SMITH, in support of S. 206, the Ice Age Floods National Geologic Trail Designation Act of 2005.

Thousands of years ago, Glacial Lake Missoula broke through its ice dam, releasing cataclysmic floods that forever changed the terrain of Montana, Idaho, Oregon, and Washington. This natural phenomenon is responsible for the unique beauty of western Montana. However, few people know the history behind our rugged landscape.

The Ice Age Floods National Geologic Trail Designation Act of 2005 designates a trail, primarily public roads and highways, from Missoula, Montana