

With his rebuff of stem cells, just like ignoring the warnings about global warming, this President has put his head in the sand at America's peril. America needs a new direction that supports science and promotes innovation.

As one of the world's foremost medical science centers, my home State of Massachusetts has played a critical role in the stem cell debate. Not only are our hospitals, research facilities and institutions of higher learning on the cutting edge of conquering disease, they are also major economic drivers keeping us competitive in the global economy. The life sciences industry employs roughly 30,000 people in Massachusetts alone.

The President's rejection of domestic stem cell research does not mean an end to the research elsewhere in the world. This research will go forward. But the President has chosen to leave America behind and hamper our scientific competitiveness.

The President's veto also has put Massachusetts, the world's most powerful engine of innovation and progress, on the sidelines. To put it in perspective, consider that Massachusetts alone has over 250 biotechnology firms, and that is more than all of Western Europe combined.

I believe the choice is clear: We should support stem cell research in Massachusetts and throughout the country. It is our tradition of innovation and science and, most importantly, it will offer hope to millions of Americans suffering from diseases that one day may be cured.

The President has shamefully put a roadblock in the way of scientific progress. The American people deserve better.

ISRAEL: AMERICA'S MAIN ALLY IN THE WAR AGAINST TERRORISM

Mr. WEINER. Mr. Speaker, I request unanimous consent to address the House for 5 minutes.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the gentleman from New York is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. WEINER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as editorial pages are abuse with discussion about the tragic and sad events in the Middle East, and some people at coffee shops and at street corners around our country are asking some very basic questions about the conflict in that region and why it has reached the place that it has.

I have heard some on this floor raise what are really foundational questions to make it possible to understand the conflict and the challenge facing Israel in their battle against Hamas on one front, Hezbollah on the other front, and their two nation sponsors, Iran and Syria.

One question that frequently gets asked is how come we can't just let diplomacy take hold? And it is true. Whenever there are missiles flying,

whenever there are guns ablaze, it is, by very definition, a failure of diplomacy. And it has never been the first choice of either the United States or Israel in that part of the world to choose violence.

If you look through the entire scope of the Israeli lifespan, their entire existence has been marked with them extending their hand and saying yes to proposed diplomatic solutions to the conflict there, and their Arab nations saying no.

In 1947, even before the nation was born, there was the famous partition plan that would have made Israel a fraction of what it is today, surrounded by enemy Arab countries. It was the Arabs that said no, not the Israelis.

Since then, we have had the Oslo Accord, where the Israelis acknowledged the PLO as a partner for peace and were obviously burned; the Wye River Accord; the Camp David Accord with Egypt, which thankfully, still stands today; Camp David II, which was a concession of virtually everything that the Palestinians asked for in exchange for peace, and that was met with violence.

We also should note that when they left Gaza on their southern border, left the parts to the Palestinians, that is the very spot that is now being used to launch missiles, Katusha rockets by the dozens, against their citizens.

When they left Lebanon after occupying it because so many missiles were flying from Lebanon into their northern border, they left to come into compliance with the U.N. resolution and to set up universally and internationally accepted border that now Hezbollah has breached in Lebanon.

So it is true diplomacy is the better option. But in every single circumstance where diplomacy was pursued by the Israelis, with the help of the United States, it has been her terrorist neighbors, her Arab neighbors, who have said diplomacy is not what we want; we want Israel not to exist. And that, by the way, still today is what Hamas has made their creed, Hezbollah has made their mission, supported by Syria and Iran.

We have also heard a couple of times something that I wholeheartedly agree with, that there are many in Lebanon who are completely innocent in this. There are.

Frankly, my good friend, Mr. LAHOOD, mentioned this during the debate on the floor on the resolution supporting Israel. It is true there is no group more innocent and more persecuted in that part of the world than the Lebanese Christians, who have been persecuted by their fellow Lebanese. There are many people in Lebanon who just want to live and be free, but they have been overrun by Syria and then by Hezbollah.

But you are not an innocent victim of this if you go to bed at night with a Hezbollah rocket tucked under your bed. You are not an innocent victim if you went out and voted for Hezbollah to make them part of your govern-

ment. You are not an innocent victim when you make Hezbollah part of the ministry in Lebanon. You cannot lay down with dogs and expect not to get up with fleas.

The government of Lebanon has chosen to make partnership with Hezbollah, so when Hezbollah crossed an international border and takes prisoners, when they lob missiles into Haifa, the Lebanese government, unfortunately, has to decide which side they are on, and up to now they have said they are on the side of Hezbollah.

The final thing I have heard is, from time to time, some, and it is even supporters of Israel, say, you know what, this is a difficult time since September 11. Maybe our true concern should not be about what goes on in Israel. Maybe it should be just worrying about the United States and our interests.

Well, ladies and gentlemen, when the United States goes out and fights against terrorism around the world, arguably they have one ally. It is not our feckless friends in Europe. It is not the French. It is not even the British. Our only ally, who every single day is fighting terrorism, is Israel. When they fight against Hezbollah, they are fighting against the organization that was the number one terrorist organization killing Americans before September 11.

That has to be part of our understanding. When Israel's soldiers go and fight and die against terrorists, they are fighting a war for all of us.

So as we watch the newspapers and try to understand what is going on, we have got to understand diplomacy was tried by the Israelis, over and over and over again, and it will be tried again. We have got to understand that those in Lebanon, there are some innocent victims, but there are many people guilty as well. And we have to understand that when Israel fights for its freedom, it fights on behalf of the United States as well.

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SECTARIAN BREAK-UP OF IRAQ IS INEVITABLE

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

Mr. MCDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, tomorrow this House will be treated to a real interesting historical event. The Prime Minister of Iraq will be here. His article today in the Wall Street Journal says: "Iraq is a sovereign nation."

He goes on to talk about one province of Iraq that has some stability and makes that appear that that is the Iraq that he is here to represent. If one reads the European newspapers, the Independent, and I will enter this into the RECORD, the Independent from Great Britain says, and the title of this article is, "Sectarian break-up of Iraq is now inevitable admit officials."

They talk about the fact that Mr. Maliki yesterday met with Tony Blair

in London, where he talked about the fact that things were going just fine. But the article goes on to say that senior Iraq officials are saying that the break-up of the country is inevitable.

This is a quote from one: "Iraq as a political project is finished. The parties have moved to plan B, that is that the Shiia, Sunni and Kurdish parties were now looking for ways to divide Iraq between them and decide the future of Baghdad where there is a mixed population. There is serious talk of Baghdad being divided into the Shiia, east Baghdad, and the Sunni west Baghdad."

The foreign minister said in an interview with the Independent, before joining Mr. Maliki in London "that in theory the government should be able to solve the crisis between Shiia, Sunni and Kurd," but then he painted a picture of a deeply divided administration where senior Sunni members praise the anti-government insurgents as the heroic resistance.

So you have ministers inside the government praising the insurgency that is making this huge instability in the country. To show you how bad it really is, there is an average of 100 deaths of Iraqis every single day. This month there will be more killed than were killed in June.

3,148 people died in sectarian violence. A civil war. Even the New York Times now calls it a civil war. And the Prime Minister is going to come here and try and tell us that everything is just fine.

Now, that is a part of our domestic politics, it is to give the American people and the Members of Congress a feeling that things are just going swimmingly. But what the Iraqis are saying to reporters from the Independent is, the government is all in the green zone, like the previous one, the one that was in before. And "they have left the streets to the terrorists." That is a quote from Mahmoud Othman, a veteran Iraq politician.

He said, "The situation would be worse but for the war in Lebanon, because it would intensify the struggle between Iran and the U.S. being waged in Iraq." The Iraqi crisis will now receive much less humanitarian attention because of what is going on over in Lebanon. It is taking the focus off. And we have Mr. Maliki coming in and standing behind me tomorrow, and he will say that things are going just fine.

Now, clearly this is not true. And what is happening in Iraq is that the leadership is now deciding the south will be for the Shiia, the north will be for the Kurds, and the west will be for the Sunnis. It will be tied into Jordan. Jordan already has a million Sunnis living in it. People who have fled from Baghdad because they are not safe, bankers, university professors, doctors, the intelligentsia, anybody with any money in the Sunni community has left Baghdad because it is such a dangerous place.

And the decision now is only how do they break it up, and what do they do

about the oil revenue. This situation is an absolute mess. On top of it all, Mr. Maliki has taken the position that what is going on in Lebanon as caused by the Hezbollah is okay. He is encouraging it. He thinks it is a good thing.

Now, this is a man that we hold up as our democratic leader. But the fact is that the country is in absolute chaos, and the Members of this House should understand that tomorrow when they listen to the speech that the American newspapers are not telling you what is going on in Iraq.

[From The Independent, July 24, 2006.]

SECTARIAN BREAK-UP OF IRAQ IS NOW
INEVITABLE, ADMIT OFFICIALS

(By Patrick Cockburn)

The Iraqi Prime Minister, Nouri al-Maliki, meets Tony Blair in London today as violence in Iraq reaches a new crescendo and senior Iraqi officials say the break up of the country is inevitable.

A car bomb in a market in the Shia stronghold of Sadr City in Baghdad yesterday killed 34 people and wounded a further 60 and was followed by a second bomb in the same area two hours later that left a further eight dead. Another car bomb outside a court house in Kirkuk killed a further 20 and injured 70 people.

"Iraq as a political project is finished," a senior government official was quoted as saying, adding: "The parties have moved to plan B." He said that the Shia, Sunni and Kurdish parties were now looking at ways to divide Iraq between them and to decide the future of Baghdad, where there is a mixed population. "There is serious talk of Baghdad being divided into [Shia] east and [Sunni] west," he said.

Hoshyar Zebari, the Iraqi Foreign Minister, told The Independent in an interview, before joining Mr. Maliki to fly to London and then Washington, that in theory the government should be able to solve the crisis because Shia, Kurd and Sunni were elected members of it.

But he painted a picture of a deeply divided administration in which senior Sunni members praised anti-government insurgents as "the heroic resistance".

In the past two weeks, at a time when Lebanon has dominated the international news, the sectarian civil war in central Iraq has taken a decisive turn for the worse. There have been regular tit-for-tat massacres and the death toll for July is likely to far exceed the 3,149 civilians killed in June.

Mr. Maliki, who is said to be increasingly isolated, has failed to prevent the violence. Other Iraqi leaders claim he lacks experience in dealing with security, is personally very isolated without a kitchen cabinet and is highly dependent on 30-40 Americans in unofficial advisory positions around him.

"The government is all in the Green Zone like the previous one and they have left the streets to the terrorists," said Mahmoud Othman, a veteran Iraqi politician. He said the situation would be made worse by the war in Lebanon because it would intensify the struggle between Iran and the U.S. being staged in Iraq. The Iraqi crisis would now receive much reduced international attention.

The switch of American and British media attention to Lebanon and away from the rapidly deteriorating situation in Baghdad is much to the political benefit of Mr. Blair and Mr. Bush.

"Maliki's trip to Washington is all part of the U.S. domestic agenda to put a good face on things for November," a European diplomat in Baghdad was quoted as saying.

Ever since the overthrow of Saddam Hussein a succession of Iraqi political leaders

have been fêted in London and Washington where they claimed to have the insurgents on the run. Mr. Maliki's meetings with Mr. Blair today and Mr. Bush tomorrow are likely to be lower key but will serve the same purpose before the U.S. Congressional elections in November. U.S. commanders are considering moving more of their troops—there are some 55,000 near the capital into Baghdad to halt sectarian violence.

Meanwhile, Saddam Hussein has begun to receive fluids voluntarily after being taken to hospital following 17 days on a hunger strike to protest against biased court procedures and the murder of three defence lawyers. Among fellow Sunni his defiant court performances have rehabilitated his reputation, though he is still detested by Kurds and Shia.

BLUE DOG COALITION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2005, the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. ROSS) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, again, on a Tuesday evening, I come here on the floor of the United States House of Representatives on behalf of the 37-member strong fiscally conservative Democratic Blue Dog Coalition.

We are a group of 37 Democrats that are fiscally conservative, that want to restore some common sense and fiscal discipline to our Nation's government. We are a group of 37 that are sick and tired of all of the partisan bickering that goes on in this Chamber and in our Nation's capital.

Mr. Speaker, it should not be about whether it is a Democratic idea or a Republican idea. It ought to be about is it a common sense idea, and does it make sense for the people who send us here to be their voice at our Nation's capital.

Mr. Speaker, I contend that this Republican leadership, this Republican administration, is not leading us down the correct path. Our country is not on the right track when it comes to our Nation's finances, when it comes to being good stewards of the American people's tax money.

As you can see here on the Blue Dog Coalition poster, today the United States' national debt is \$8,419,336,525,769.

For every man, woman and child, including the children born today, every United States citizen's share of the national debt is a staggering \$28,129. And the sad reality is that during this hour, during this Blue Dog Special Order, during the next 60 minutes, this number, the U.S. national debt, will go up by approximately \$41,666,000.

As fiscally conservative Democrats, we believe the time is now to restore common sense and fiscal discipline to our Nation's government. This \$28,129 number, each citizen's share of the national debt which is what we in the Blue Dog Coalition refer to as the debt tax, D-e-b-t, that is one tax that cannot be cut. That is one tax that will not go away until we get our Nation's