

NNSA SECURES HIGHLY ENRICHED URANIUM

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, I wish today to bring attention to the progress being made by the National Nuclear Security Administration, NNSA, on the front of global nuclear non-proliferation. Yesterday the NNSA announced that 176 pounds of highly enriched uranium, HEU, had been secured from the Nuclear Research Institute in Rez, Czech Republic and safely returned to Russia. With the cooperation of several countries, this nuclear fuel has been secured and returned to its country of origin, reducing the risk of it falling into the wrong hands.

Nuclear nonproliferation programs such as the NNSA's Global Threat Reduction Initiative, GTRI, are some of the most important tools we have to curb the threat of nuclear material being acquired by those who wish to do us harm. With the addition of this most recent shipment, the GTRI program has returned over 1300 pounds of HEU to Russia from civilian sites worldwide. I applaud the work being done through the GTRI, and I look forward to the day when we no longer have to be concerned with the possibility of an illicit acquisition of nuclear fuel.

SAUDI ARABIA ACCOUNTABILITY ACT

Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, I wish to express my support for Senator SPECTER's Saudi Arabia Accountability Act of 2007, S. 2243. I am pleased to co-sponsor this bill, which addresses the importance of Saudi cooperation with the U.S. on counterterrorism issues.

It is also important, however, that we raise concerns about Saudi Arabia's poor human rights record, weak rule of law, ongoing political and religious repression, and poor treatment of women. For instance, last month a court in Saudi Arabia doubled its sentence of lashings for a rape victim who had elected to speak out publicly about her case and her attempt at justice. According to human rights organizations, the court also harassed her lawyer, banned him from the case, and confiscated his professional license.

Similarly, 2 of the country's leading reformers, the brothers Abdullah and Isa al-Hamid, were recently sentenced to 6 months in jail after they themselves were arrested for reportedly requiring the Saudi intelligence forces to produce an arrest warrant when seeking to detain peaceful demonstrators protesting the lengthy imprisonment of their relatives.

The State Department's 2007 human rights report notes that very serious problems persist in Saudi Arabia, including no right to peacefully change the government; infliction of severe pain by judicially sanctioned corporal punishments; beatings and other abuses; inadequate prison and detention center conditions; arbitrary arrest

and detention, sometimes incommunicado; denial of fair public trials; exemption from the rule of law for some individuals and lack of judicial independence; arbitrary interference with privacy, family, home, and correspondence; and significant restriction of civil liberties—freedoms of speech and press, including the Internet; assembly; association; and movement. In addition, the Saudi government committed severe violations of religious freedom and has very strict limitations on workers, especially for foreign workers. While the State Department continues to condemn Saudi Arabia for its abhorrent policies on human trafficking—and place it in the worst tier for such abuses—the President continues to waive sanctions that are supposed to be triggered by this designation, in the interest of national security.

What message are we sending if we don't act on these pervasive human rights abuses in Saudi Arabia? Such abuses should not be overlooked or sidelined in the interest of national security. In fact, they are critical to our national security and our ongoing efforts to combat al-Qaida and related extremist threats. The United States must continue to push for freedom of speech, religion, and association, and the rule of law around the globe. I will continue to support S. 2243, but also encourage my colleagues to also speak up about the crucial role that free and fair societies play in curbing human rights abuses and reducing the alienation, oppression and despair that feed extremism.

IN CELEBRATION OF BRUNO NOWICKI'S 100TH BIRTHDAY

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the 100th birthday of my friend Bruno Nowicki, of Warren, MI.

Bruno has led a remarkable life. He was born in Sosnowiec, Poland, immigrating to the United States as a young man. His love for his native Poland is exceeded only by his love for Michigan and the United States of America. He launched a career as a journalist and writer in Pittsburgh and Chicago before moving to Detroit where he became a small businessman and raised a family. I had the privilege of appointing Bruno's granddaughter, Genevieve Nowicki, to serve as a Senate page in 1991.

Bruno is an expert chess player. He once played against Bobby Fischer, and chess is an activity that he continues to enjoy today. Years ago, Bruno urged me to examine the educational benefits of chess. We found that chess is proven to help students develop high order thinking skills, discipline and increased math skills. The Goals 2000: Education America Act includes language that Bruno Nowicki inspired, and that I pushed for in the Senate, that allows Federal funds for low-achieving schools to be used for chess instruction as an enrichment program.

This bill has helped bring chess into schools across America.

In Michigan, Bruno has been instrumental in acquiring and placing sculptures that pay tribute to his Polish heritage. The sculptures appear across the State, from the southeast, where he lives, to northern Michigan, serving as a reminder of the rich Polish heritage of so many people in Michigan and of Poland's significant contributions to America's history and culture. A statue of Astronomer Nicolaus Copernicus sits in the Detroit Public Library. A sculpture of Frederic Chopin is placed in Interlochen, home to a world-renowned fine arts school. And a bust of Joseph Conrad graces the Hamtramck Public Library.

Conrad wrote: "Each blade of grass has its spot on earth whence it draws its life, its strength; and so is man rooted to the land from which he draws his faith together with his life." These words are certainly apt for Bruno. In his 100 years, Bruno has been rooted in both his Polish homeland and his American home in Michigan, drawing life and strength from each and making Michigan the better for it.

The Polish birthday song "Sto Lat" includes the refrain "I hope you live one hundred years." Bruno was never quite willing to settle for only 100 years. Now, as he enters his second century, I wish Bruno many more years of happiness, and I offer my congratulations and my thanks for his friendship and his contributions to his beloved America.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF PINNACLES NATIONAL MONUMENT

• Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I take this opportunity to recognize the 100th anniversary of Pinnacles National Monument, located in San Benito County, CA.

On January 16, 1908, President Theodore Roosevelt proclaimed 2,080 acres of the Pinnacles National Forest Reserve as Pinnacles National Monument. This year, we celebrate its centennial anniversary. Part of an extinct volcano, the spectacular geology of Pinnacles National Monument has fascinated visitors for decades. A variety of flora and fauna flourishes in this unusual landscape, including an exquisite chaparral ecosystem and nearly 400 species of bees, the highest known bee diversity of anyplace on earth.

Situated near the San Andreas Rift Zone with the central coast to the west and Gabilan Mountain Range to the east, Pinnacles National Monument now occupies over 26,000 acres 14,000 acres of which are congressionally designated wilderness. With surrounding lands tended by farmers whose ancestors homesteaded the region, and cowboys who watch over the cattle that graze on the expansive plains, Pinnacles National Monument offers a sublime glimpse into California's past.