

(CERCLA). My bill would remove the authority for contracting oversight from the purview of the Environmental Protection Agency and place it solely under the jurisdiction of the Army Corps of Engineers.

Mr. Speaker, this change makes sense given the expertise of each agency. The Army Corps of Engineers is far better suited to handle contracting work and oversight of construction at a Superfund site than the more technical, environmental orientation of the EPA.

The reason why I am introducing this legislation today is in direct response to an incident that happened in my district during an already lengthy and tumultuous cleanup. Hopefully, passage of this legislation will prevent future situations, such as the one I am about to describe, from happening again.

The asbestos dump site in Millington, NJ is comprised of two residential farms and part of the Great Swamp National Wildlife Reserve. It contains large amounts of asbestos that was dumped on the property. On one of these two residential sites, the homeowners (a family of five), were involved in a lengthy clean-up with the EPA and had been relocated several times, for months at a time. The EPA had contracted out for the construction of the design. The EPA's contractor then hired a subcontractor, with a less than perfect track history, to complete construction of the design.

The EPA subcontractors, instead of bringing in clean fill to top the asbestos on the family's property, brought in contaminated soil from another site. This horrendous mistake has added additional years to the cleanup.

Mr. Speaker, again, I believe that the Army Corps is far better equipped to handle the details of the physical cleanup and to oversee the contracting work of these Superfund sites. This mistake in Millington added not only time and money, but additional grief for a family who wanted nothing less than to raise their children in the home of their dreams. I believe that my bill would prevent more situations like this and improve the efficiency of site clean-ups.

MILOSEVIC DEFIES INTER-  
NATIONAL COMMUNITY ON  
KOSOVO

**HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 19, 1999*

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, this past weekend we once again heard of despicable, unspeakable crimes committed by Serbian police against unarmed men, women, and children. More than 40 ethnic Albanians were murdered in cold blood in the village of Racak in southern Kosovo. Now, in further defiance, Milosevic has ordered Ambassador William Walker, the American diplomat who heads the OSCE's Kosovo Verification Mission (KVM) to leave Serbia.

Milosevic's actions represent a complete rupture of the agreement he reached with Ambassador Richard Holbrooke, an agreement that led to the withdrawal of a NATO threat to bomb Serbia. Unless the international community responds to these acts, our word and our

credibility will be deemed to be utterly worthless, and Milosevic will believe he can commit further atrocities with impunity.

I returned yesterday with a senior Congressional delegation that I led to meet with our friends and allies in Europe. We were briefed by General Wes Clark, the Supreme Allied Commander for Europe, who told us that Milosevic will never respond to anything other than the credible threat of force. General Clark is at present in Belgrade awaiting a meeting to deliver a strong message to Milosevic.

If Milosevic does not immediately fully comply with the agreement he made with Ambassador Holbrooke, the international community must respond swiftly and forcefully. We must not allow the situation in Kosovo to continue to deteriorate, nor allow the humanitarian situation there to return to the point of disaster that we experienced last summer.

INDIA REPUBLIC DAY

**HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 19, 1999*

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to one of the most important dates on the calendar for the people of India, as well as for the people of Indian descent who have settled in the U.S. and around the world. January 26 is Republic Day, an occasion that inspires pride and patriotism for the people of India.

On January 26, 1950, India became a republic devoted to the principles of democracy and secularism. At that time, Dr. Rajendra Prasad was elected as the nation's first president. Since then, despite the challenges of sustaining economic development while reconciling her many ethnic, religious and linguistic communities, India has stuck to the path of free and fair elections, a multi-party political system and the orderly transfer of power from one government to its successor.

Mr. Speaker, India's population of nearly a billion people represents approximately one-sixth of the human race. The people of India have lived under a democratic form of government for more than half a century. In 1997, worldwide attention was focused on India as she celebrated the 50th anniversary of her independence. But, many Americans remain largely unfamiliar with the anniversary that Indians celebrate today. Yet, Mr. Speaker, it should be noted that there is a rich tradition of shared values between the United States and India. India derived key aspects of her Constitution, particularly its statement of Fundamental Rights, from our own Bill of Rights. India and the United States both proclaimed their independence from British colonial rule. The Indian independence movement under the leadership of Mahatma Gandhi had strong moral support from American intellectuals, political leaders and journalists. Just yesterday, we paid tribute to one of our greatest American leaders, Martin Luther King, Jr. Dr. King derived many of his ideas of non-violent resistance to injustice from the teachings and the actions of Mahatma Gandhi. Last year, Mr. Speaker, I am proud that legislation was ap-

proved by Congress and signed by the President authorizing the Government of India to establish a memorial to honor Mahatma Gandhi here in Washington, D.C., near the Indian Embassy on Embassy Row. The proposed statue will no doubt be a most fitting addition to the landscape of our nation's capital.

Mr. Speaker, there is a growing need for India and the United States, the two largest democracies of the world, to come closer and work together on a wide variety of initiatives. India and the U.S. do not always agree on every issue, as we saw in 1998. But I regret that the scant coverage that India receives in our media, and even from our top policy makers, tends to focus only on the disagreements. In fact, our national interests coincide on many of the most important concerns, such as fighting the scourge of international terrorism and controlling the transfer of nuclear and other weapons technology to unstable regimes. Given India's size and long-term record of democratic stability, I believe that India should be made a permanent member of the United Nations Security Council—a goal that I hope the United States will come to support. India's vast middle class represents a significant and growing market for U.S. trade, while the country's infrastructure needs represent a tremendous opportunity for many American firms, large, small and mid-size. U.S. sanctions imposed on India last year have subsequently been relaxed, and I believe we should continue to work to preserve or re-start economic relations that have developed during this decade of major change, while creating a positive atmosphere for new economic relations. At the same time, I hope that we can continue to build upon educational, cultural and other people to people ties that have developed between our two countries. I look forward to seeing the Indian-American community, more than one million strong, continue to serve as a human "bridge" between our two countries.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, let me again congratulate the people of India on the occasion of Republic Day. I hope that 1999 will witness a U.S.-India relationship that lives up to the great potential offered by our shared commitment to democracy.

MOVE RADIOACTIVE WASTES  
FROM COLORADO RIVER

**HON. GEORGE MILLER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 19, 1999*

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, ten and a half million tons of toxic wastes generated by the now-defunct Atlas Mine are stored in a tailings pond located immediately adjacent to the Colorado River near Moab, Utah. These tailings are radioactive and contain high concentrations of ammonia, arsenic, lead, vanadium, selenium, mercury, molybdenum, nickel, and other toxic metals left by the leaching process used to separate uranium from ore.

The tailings pond, built in the 1950's, is not lined, and as a result, these radioactive and toxic wastes are seeping down through the aquifer into the Colorado River. Water from