

will cost about 1-2 percent of GDP growth this year, as the growth slowdown is attributable primarily to domestic factors.

The near misses: Hungary, Romania, and Slovenia. Of the Balkan countries crying wolf, Romania is crying the loudest. Romania suffered only marginally from the Kosovo war; and even these losses may have been more than covered by IMF assistance. Romanian losses were largely confined to the 1.3 percent of exports heading to Yugoslavia, and to Danube shipping. Most of Romania's economic problems are domestic in nature. Slovenia is not even trying use the Kosovo crisis as cover for its slowdown in growth. With two-thirds of its exports heading to the EU, Slovenia is less vulnerable than most to trouble in the Balkans; however, it is vulnerable to weak European demand. Likewise, Slovenia's exports to Croatia began to fall before the bombing started, due to Croatia's internal economic weakness. The war has apparently cut into spring tourism, but this should have only a marginal effect on Slovenia's tiny and very manageable current account deficit. The Hungarian economy continues to grow despite the problems on its southern border. In addition to a possible loss of tourism revenues, the main concern for Hungary is the possible effect on its burgeoning current account deficit of lower exports to the Balkans and reductions in its transit surplus as water, trucking, and rail traffic through Serbia has halted. Although these effects pose an element of downside risk to the economy, we expect their impact to be marginal.

A NEW ERA FOR THE BALKANS?

With an end to the conflict at hand, the international community appears to be focused on stabilizing the Balkans for the foreseeable future. Ideally, this commitment includes a strong military presence, substantial reconstruction aid, and firmer promises for integration into the EU. It should be matched by a rededication on the part of regional governments to the policy reforms needed for sustainable medium-term economic growth.

The first order of business will be post-conflict assistance for Kosovo. As Kosovars leave refugee camps in Albania and Macedonia to return to Kosovo, Western governments and international agencies are facing the immediate problems of providing humanitarian assistance to these returning refugees. To some extent, programs for refugees should not be much more expensive than the assistance delivered to the Albanian and Macedonian refugee camps, since, food, shelter, clothing, medical care, and security should be provided for the refugees irrespective of location. However, NATO will have to create the logistical systems needed to move these supplies from current refugee camps to Kosovo proper, probably without assistance from the Yugoslav authorities or Yugoslav transport systems. This will mean a road construction program connecting Albania to Kosovo and rebuilding bridges and roads in Kosovo. Interim refugee camps may also have to be created in Kosovo until housing is rebuilt. However, as long as Kosovars feel physically secure, these camps could be kept small and in close proximity to the former villages.

The second stage involves the reconstruction of Kosovo. As refugees return to Kosovo, assistance programs will need to concentrate on moving them to permanent shelters as soon as possible. International aid agencies have had substantial experience in resettling refugee populations. The accepted wisdom appears to be that building materials, seeds,

tools and implements, and other such items should be provided *gratis*, while refugees themselves can be relied upon to rebuild their homes and begin farming or businesses again.

In the third stage, assistance will be channeled to economic development. If all goes smoothly, after several months, the Kosovo economy will begin to normalize, and policymakers will have to think about helping this economy develop for the long term. This development can be partly financed by remittances. Indeed, the Kosovo economy during the past two decades has been a rentier economy, as Kosovars working abroad have repatriated funds. Still, most of the funds for economic development will have to come from governments and international agencies; the initial emphasis is likely to be on creating an infrastructure to foster local businesses.

The first priority should be to establish decent transport links through countries other than Serbia. This will involve creating all-weather road links to Albania as well as upgrading road crossings into Macedonia. Policy makers may also wish to set up credit programs for small businesses. Because Kosovo remains heavily agricultural, aid can be useful targeted at improving agricultural techniques and supplying better quality agricultural inputs such as seeds and plant protection agents. Subsidies to restart larger Kosovar enterprises will probably be wasted, unless advance work has determined which companies are likely to be economically viable. Kosovo is unlikely to be a center of large-scale industrial activity under any scenario. It is likely to remain dependent on agriculture, worker remittances, and a few larger plants and mines, such as the lignite mines near Pristina. Aid programs will need to be carefully monitored so that they do not attempt to support activities that in the long run are not financially viable. In any case, external assistance for Kosovo is likely to be a poor substitute for economic reform and international economic integration, both within the Balkans and with the EU.

Prospects for sustained growth in the Balkans will continue to hinge on security issues. Serbia, with its key location and recent history at the heart of the Yugoslav wars of succession, is still central to this equation. As long as President Slobodan Milosevic remains in power, Yugoslavia will remain an isolated economic backwater, cut off from international assistance and a potential source of renewed regional crises. If Milosevic stays in power, the West will wish to maintain a strong security presence in the Balkans for many years, particularly in Bosnia and Kosovo. If Milosevic goes, Yugoslavia could play a constructive role in regional reconstruction and stability. The Western security presence could be reduced, while trade and other linkages would revive more rapidly.

The post-1995 Bosnian experience highlights the possibilities and limits of major internationally financed reconstruction efforts for Kosovo. Infrastructure repair, although expensive, has proceeded at a fair pace in Bosnia, as roads, bridges, and telecom networks are now almost completely rebuilt. However, the goals of reconstruction and reconciliation have been partly frustrated by the creation of a culture of dependency upon international donors. Local politicians have stalled structural reforms, and privatization is only now getting underway. Progress in reintegrating Bosnian Serbs, Croats, and Muslims, as well as in attracting private capital flows and invest-

ment, has been minimal. The ultimate success of international assistance is determined by whether private flows and domestic investment are able to take up the slack after the assistance comes to an end. The Bosnian experience does not suggest optimism on this count.

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL REPORTS INDIA DETAINING THOUSANDS OF POLITICAL PRISONERS WITHOUT CHARGE

HON. GARY A. CONDIT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 29, 1999

Mr. CONDIT. Mr. Speaker, the June 25 issue of *India Abroad* reports that Amnesty International issued a report in which it said that India is holding thousands of political prisoners without charge or trial. Amnesty International's report was issued on June 16.

The article said that "torture and ill-treatment continued to be widespread and hundreds of people were reported to have died in custody." Amnesty International reported that "conditions in many prisons amounted to cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment." It reported that "disappearances" continue to occur and hundreds of extrajudicial killings were reported. In other words, nothing has changed.

Mr. Speaker, do these sound like the actions of a democracy? Indian claims to be "the world's largest democracy" even while it continues these repressive, tyrannical policies. This report shows that India is not democratic. It is merely the tyranny of the majority exercised on the minorities. That is why there are 17 freedom movements within its borders.

This comes at a time when India is engaged in combat to wipe out the freedom fighters in Kashmir, a conflict in which it has fired shells containing chemical weapons. India brought nuclear weapons to South Asia; now it is introducing chemical weapons.

America was founded on the principle of liberty. We must act to help bring the blessings of liberty to the people of South Asia. We can begin by declaring our support for national self-determination in Kashmir, Khalistan, Nagaland, and the other nations occupied by India. I am proud to have sponsored a resolution in the last Congress calling for an internationally-supervised plebiscite in Punjab, Khalistan on the question of independence. We should also cut off American aid to this government as long as it practices the kind of tyranny that Amnesty International reported, and we should impose reasonable economic sanctions. It is our responsibility to defend freedom wherever we can.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to introduce the *India Abroad* article into the RECORD for the information of my colleagues. I urge my colleagues to read it.

[From the *India Abroad* June 25, 1999]

HUMAN RIGHTS

AMNESTY SAYS THOUSANDS ARE DETAINED WITHOUT TRIAL

(From News Dispatches)

LONDON—Thousands of political prisoners, including prisoners of conscience,

were detained without charge or trial in India, Amnesty International said in its annual report, released on June 16.

Torture and ill-treatment continued to be widespread, and hundreds of people were reported to have died in custody, the London-based human rights organization added.

"Conditions in many prisons amounted to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment," it said, adding that "disappearances" also continued and hundreds of extrajudicial executions were reported. At least 35 people were sentenced to death but no executions were reported, the report said.

The London-based human rights watchdog said armed groups were also to blame. These groups committed grave human rights abuses including torture, hostage-taking and killing of civilians, it said.

Overall, the report lamented that 1998, which marked the 50th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, was marred by a worldwide catalogue of abuses.

But Amnesty secretary general Pierre Sane also pointed to two landmark events—the establishment of a permanent International Criminal Court and the arrest in October of former Chilean President Augusto Pinochet—which could help make human rights violators answerable.

Amnesty also singled out the United States as the only country known to have executed juvenile offenders in 1998.

INTRODUCTION OF THE CRITICAL CARE SPECTRUM ACT

HON. JAY INSLEE

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 29, 1999

Mr. INSLEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Critical Care Spectrum Act, which will benefit victims of heart failure and strokes by ensuring appropriate broadcast spectrum for medical telemetry devices. I have been working closely with hospitals, medical equipment manufacturers, health care providers, broadcasters, patients and other users of the broadcast spectrum to achieve the legislation introduced today. I am especially grateful for the guidance and assistance I have received.

Medical telemetry devices have allowed greater care for victims of heart failure and strokes. These devices send a signal, using part of the allocated broadcast spectrum, from a monitoring device attached to a patient to a central receiving point where the data can be viewed by medical personnel. Doctors and health care workers tell me that these devices are essential to the delivery of quality health care because they provide instant information about a patient and can warn doctors before medical problems become too severe to treat.

In recent years, the broadcast spectrum has become crowded with wireless communications, satellite broadcast transmissions, and the growing number of radio and television stations. As a result of the Telecommunications Act of 1996, the spectrum has become even more cluttered, due to the requirement for television stations to change to digital broadcasts. While stations make plans to move to the new digital spectrum, they retain their analog broadcasts, and take up more of the spectrum than they require. The increasing number of broadcast channels has given con-

sumers a variety of programming choices to choose from, but has also posed an indirect threat to medical telemetry devices, some of which use the same broadcast spectrum.

Last year in Dallas, when a television station switched on to a digital broadcast, it knocked out the telemetry devices in Baylor University Medical Center. We were lucky that no significant injuries occurred, and the television station in Dallas should be commended for taking the station off the air as soon as they were made aware of the problem. This event served as a wake up call to medical telemetry device manufacturers and broadcasters alike. The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) issued advisories to stations that were planning to switch over to a digital broadcast. The advisories have been very helpful, and broadcasters have been working with local health care facilities to make sure the Dallas situation does not happen again.

In my home state, I recently learned about the precautions that were taken when KOMO-TV, Channel 4, switched over to a digital broadcast. KOMO was in constant communication with all health care facilities in the broadcast area, and had technical representatives on hand in each of the facilities to make sure that no medical telemetry devices were impacted. KOMO, KING-TV and KCTS in Seattle have all switched to digital broadcasts. They have shown exceptional leadership and community concern with regard to this issue, and I am grateful not only for their concern, but for their assistance through the Washington State Broadcasters Association with the introduction of this legislation.

We can't expect this success to continue without defining which areas of the spectrum should be reserved for medical telemetry devices. As more and more stations flip the switch and go digital, the spectrum gets more and more crowded.

Medical telemetry manufacturers have been aggressive in solving this problem too. Spacelabs Medical, located in my Congressional District in Redmond, Washington, has been working closely with the American Hospital Association, the FCC and the Joint Working Group on Telemedicine to reach a solution to this problem. I look forward to working with all parties on a resolution to this issue.

Lastly, I would like to acknowledge the assistance of the following groups who have been so helpful in crafting this legislation. They include Spacelabs Medical, the American Hospital Association, the Washington Hospital Association, Evergreen Hospital, Harborview Medical Center, the Joint Working Group on Telemedicine, Hewlett-Packard, the Washington Association of Broadcasters, Western Wireless, AT&T Wireless, PhRMA, American Home Products and countless others.

I urge my colleagues to join me by cosponsoring the Critical Care Spectrum Act of 1999.

INTRODUCTION OF H. CON. RES. 144 URGING THE RELEASE FROM THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF YUGOSLAVIA OF THREE DETAINED EMPLOYEES OF CARE

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 29, 1999

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I have today introduced H. Con. Res. 144. The purpose of this resolution is to call attention to the case of three humanitarian workers unjustly imprisoned by the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. Branko Jelen, Steve Pratt and Peter Wallace were employed in Yugoslavia by CARE International, the world famous relief and development organization, providing food, medicines and fuel to refugees in Serbia and Kosovo. In late March and early April, these three men were detained and later accused of operating an "espionage ring." In a closed military court, their original indictments were dismissed only to be replaced by a new but similar charge of passing on information to a foreign organization. Their crime: providing CARE offices with "situation reports" based on experiences and openly available information. This standard procedure ensures that the organization's headquarters remains posted on the progress, prospects, and perils of their many humanitarian missions. The three are currently serving sentences of up to 12 years in Serbia. As this resolution clearly states, "the three men are innocent, committed no crime, and are being held prisoner unjustly."

The contribution made by organizations like CARE is of great importance to international humanitarian efforts around the globe. Although they work in unstable and often dangerous areas, these aid agencies must be confident in their ability to operate safely. It is for this reason that the threat of groundless charges and indefensible incarcerations is so dangerous to relief operations. Many world leaders, including U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan and South African President Nelson Mandela, have already sought the release of these three men. This measure urges the Government of the United States to undertake strenuous efforts to secure their freedom and as asserted in the resolution, "calls on the Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia . . . to give these workers their freedom without further delay." I want to thank my colleague from Alabama, Mr. CALLAHAN, the chairman of the Foreign Operations Subcommittee, for joining me on this effort. As members who work closely with the international NGO community, we are keenly aware of the contribution people like these gentlemen make to ending suffering around the world. I encourage the House of Representatives to declare our support for organizations such as CARE and our intolerance of the unjust imprisonment suffered by these three humanitarian workers by unanimously supporting H. Con. Res. 144.