

The policy goal of flying X-vehicles for technology demonstrations should become the basic way that the government (and NASA) should approach technology development. Build 'em, fly 'em, and break 'em—both by intent and accident, this approach has led to today's thriving commercial aviation industry.

In coordination with NASA, DoD should also be investing in their own experimental vehicles and early military demonstration hardware. Either the Air Force or the Navy should develop a Military Spaceplane capability that supports global reach and the ability to defend U.S. interests "anywhere, anytime," with dramatically smaller force structures than exist today. Blue ribbon panel after blue ribbon panel has advocated the need for such technology investments starting with General Moorman's Space Launch Modernization Panel in 1994. Most recently, the Defense Science Board is recommending an ongoing investment in the Space Maneuver Vehicle flight tested at Holloman AFB just last month.

Finally, while institutional changes are not necessarily required at NASA, the mindset must change. NASA should be the leading advocate of change and the transition to a primarily commercial space industry. Nonetheless, the real change is up to Congress. NASA, the Administration, and Congress must decide to place funding and budget priorities on the side of change. The Government should be investing in technology, experimental vehicles, and military hardware for the defense of the country.

#### 2038: FREE PEOPLE IN FREE SPACE

The United States is at a seminal point in our transition to a commercial space industry. If we choose to encourage and incentivize the move towards a commercially based space industry we can accelerate and fundamentally enable America's move into space. We did this once before when America invested in the technology of commercial aviation, and it paid handsome dividends. Now it's time to build the same bridge to the future of commercial space.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for this opportunity to present USL's views. I would be pleased to answer any questions you or any other Members might have.

#### COMMON STATE PROPOSAL BETWEEN NAGORNO KARABAGH AND AZERBAIJAN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I wanted to spend just a short amount of time this evening talking about the optimism that many of us are seeing as a result of the meeting that took place in Geneva last week between President Kocharian of Armenia and President Aliyev of Azerbaijan.

I am sure that many people know, particularly those of us who have been involved with the Armenia Caucus for many years, that we are very hopeful that, as a result of this meeting and some other activities that have taken place over the last few months, that we could see a resolution of the conflict in Nagorno Karabagh, which has been basically a bone of contention, if you

will, between the two countries for some time.

I think many people know that Nagorno Karabagh is an independent republic that is Armenian speaking, ethnically Armenian, that fought a war, if you will, about 10 years ago that at the time when the Soviet Union broke up, and even though it has been independent and has been a state for all practical purposes, for about 10 years it is not recognized by the United States and there is a continued conflict, albeit mostly peaceful conflict, between Armenia and Azerbaijan over the future of Nagorno Karabagh.

It would certainly behoove anyone who is concerned about peace in the Caucasus region to see if these two countries could come to an agreement over the future of Nagorno Karabagh that, of course, involves the people of Nagorno Karabagh, as well.

The Presidents of Armenia and Azerbaijan met last week in Geneva for talks that seek a political settlement of the Nagorno Karabagh conflict. President Robert Kocharian of Armenia went to Geneva directly from Warsaw, where he had been for other business, and while there he told the news conference that he was optimistic about the meeting with President Aliyev. He said that there had been serious progress since active talks have begun with President Aliyev, most recently in April during the NATO summit conference when both leaders were here in Washington.

I must say also and give praise to U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, who had written to both presidents after those Washington talks urging further direct discussions between the two presidents.

The latest proposal of the OSCE Minsk Group, and the Minsk Group has been set forth by the United States and other countries to try to come to a settlement of the Nagorno Karabagh conflict, basically last fall the Minsk Group put forth a proposal called the "common state proposal," which essentially sets up a sort of confederation, if you will, between Nagorno Karabagh and Azerbaijan where the two countries would be part of a confederation or common state with equal status.

We know that Azerbaijan very quickly after that announcement last fall by the Minsk Group rejected the common state proposal. But there have been strong indications recently that if it was not for the actual label "common state" that Baku and Azerbaijan essentially might be willing to accept the idea of what the common state proposal is all about.

In other words, they may not like the term "common state," but if another term like "confederation" or "free association" or something like that was used that they might be willing to go along with it.

I must say, Mr. Speaker, that what I am hoping and I think the atmosphere

is ripe for it is that after this meeting of the two presidents that it might be possible to engage in some kind of direct negotiations between the three parties, between Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Nagorno Karabagh, which is something that I and most members of the Armenia Caucus have been talking about for some time, that we can see the three sides, if you will, get together perhaps at some point nearby and simply start negotiations using the common state proposal or something like it and ultimately come up with a peaceful settlement.

I wanted to praise our own House of Representatives and particularly the House Committee on Foreign Operations Appropriations because in the bill that they reported out of the subcommittee last week and I think will be considered by the full committee on appropriations tomorrow that bill incorporated several constructive initiatives to help jump start the Karabagh peace initiative.

□ 2115

If I could just give some examples, in the report language for the Foreign Ops bill, it specifically says that the primary national interest of the United States in the Southern Caucasus is peace, and it recommends continued support for the people of Armenia and Azerbaijan, and says that the extent and timing of United States assistance should depend on whether or not the parties move towards a peaceful settlement.

I want to commend our own Foreign Operations appropriations subcommittee for what it did and that this leads in the long run to a peaceful settlement of the conflict.

#### TRIBUTE TO ASTRONAUT PETE CONRAD, AMERICAN HERO

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. OSE). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Mr. ROHRBACHER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. ROHRBACHER. Mr. Speaker, earlier the gentleman from California (Mr. CALVERT) spoke about Pete Conrad whom we laid to rest today in Arlington National Cemetery, an American hero and a member of the team that walked on the Moon, in fact the third man to have walked on the Moon. It was my honor to have represented Mr. Conrad in Congress. In fact, he lived in Huntington Beach, California. I had many, many meetings with Pete. I was very honored to not only know him but I was very, very pleased to have had the guidance that he gave me over the years in dealing with American space policy. Now as the chairman of the Subcommittee on Space and Aeronautics, that advice that he was giving me was of real importance and of real value. Pete was