

drive ethnic Albanians out of Kosovo in a manner so evil that fear will linger in their hearts forever.

NATO and Clinton administration efforts thus far have not stopped the brutality. Despite daily briefings to the contrary, bombing in Serbia is just not going that well. At the rate things are going, it may take a long time to stop Milosevic, and the refugees do not have forever. For too many, time has already run out. The Clinton administration has so many times ruled out the use of ground troops that Milosevic may have been emboldened by what he perceives as a lack of commitment by the other side to win. I fear that the Clinton administration has no clear strategy or idea as to what it will take to win in the Balkans.

Last Friday I called the White House and spoke with someone on the National Security Council about this issue. I asked if they had sought outside thinking from knowledgeable and previously experienced people, such as Warren Christopher, George Shultz, Larry Eagleburger and others, including battle-proven former military commanders. I was told they had not, but this idea might be an idea they would entertain. To my knowledge they have not followed up.

I personally would have chosen a different plan than the current effort of trying to bomb Milosevic into compliance. I believe a fiercely enforced embargo might have been a better first step. An effort to induce Milosevic to step aside by telling him he would have been forcibly pursued and taken and tried as a war criminal would have also been worth trying. But NATO and the Clinton administration chose another course that has led to where we are today.

Even though the results are so far not what we would like to see, we are committed to the effort and cannot back off. We must win, not only for the sake of the refugees and for stability in Eastern Europe, but now for the credibility of both the U.S. and NATO. If credibility is lost, will there not follow a host of other tyrants eager to challenge the will of the free world in pursuit of their own gain?

Today I call on President Clinton to assemble a group of American leaders knowledgeable of and with proven ability in foreign affairs, diplomacy, warfare and statecraft to provide counsel and direction to the Balkan effort which now seems to be stalled. I hope he considers men and women of high stature and achievement such as George Shultz, Warren Christopher, Zbigniew Brzezinski, Senator Sam Nunn, Casper Weinberger, Bob Zoellick, Morton Abramowitz, William Perry, Frank Carlucci, Max Kampelman, Paul Wolfowitz, Lee Hamilton, Robert Hunter, James Baker, Lawrence Eagleburger, Jeane Kirkpatrick, former Admiral William

Crowe, former General Schwarzkopf and former General Colin Powell. These would be men and women who would sit at the table with their President not to criticize what has or not been done, but to suggest a workable plan for the future. They would offer privileged counsel to the President rather than critical critique to the press. They would help define an acceptable way to end the Balkan strategy.

All Americans want to bring peace to the Balkans and help the refugees from Kosovo. Mr. President, I call on you and I urge you to call on some of the best people in America to help show the way, and please, please do it soon.

#### COMMEMORATING THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Maryland (Mrs. MORELLA) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join with some of my colleagues who have been here today to commemorate the Armenian genocide. This observance takes place every April, for it was in that month in 1915 that more than 200 Armenian religious, political and intellectual leaders were arrested in Constantinople and murdered. Over the next 8 years persecution of Armenians intensified. By 1923 more than 1.5 million had died and another 500,000 had gone into exile. At the end of 1923, all of the Armenian residents of Anatolia and western Armenia had been either killed or deported.

The genocide was criticized at the time by U.S. Ambassador Henry Morgenthau, who accused the Turkish authorities of, quote, giving the death warrant to a whole race, unquote. The founder of the modern Turkish Nation, Kemal Ataturk, condemned the crimes perpetrated by his predecessors, and yet this forthright and sober analysis has been spurned by Turkey and the United States during the last decade.

The intransigence of this and prior administrations to recognizing and commemorating the Armenian Genocide demonstrates our continued difficulty in reconciling the lessons of history with real politic policies; that is, those who fail to learn the lessons of history are condemned to repeat them. We have seen continually in this century the abject failure to learn and apply this basic principle. The Armenian Genocide has been followed by the Holocaust against the Jews and mass killings in Kurdistan, Rwanda, Burundi and the Balkans. Many of these situations are ongoing, and in most cases there seems little apparent sense of urgency or moral imperative to resolve them.

Commemoration of the Armenian Genocide is important. It is important not only for its acknowledgment of the

suffering of the Armenian people, but also for establishing a historical truth. It also demonstrates that events in Armenia, Nazi Europe and elsewhere should be seen not as isolated incidents, but as part of a historical continuum showing that the human community still suffers from its basic inability to resolve its problems, to resolve them peacefully and with mutual respect.

I hope that today's remarks by Members concerned about Armenia will help to renew our commitment and that all of the American people will oppose any and all instances of genocide.

#### TURKISH GOVERNMENT CONTINUES TO DENY ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. Speaker, today I join with my colleagues to commemorate this day, April 24, as the day of the Armenian genocide carried out by the young Turk government of the Ottoman Empire in 1915. It was on that day in 1915 when 300 Armenian leaders, writers and thinkers were rounded up, deported and killed, and 5000 of the poorest Armenians were killed in their homes. Between 1894 and 1921 there were 1.5 million Armenians in the Ottoman Empire that were killed, and 500,000 were deported.

This Armenian genocide was carried out in a tragically inhumane and systematic fashion. First, Armenians in the army were disarmed, placed into labor battalions and then killed. Next, Armenian political and intellectual leaders were rounded up and killed as well. Finally, the remaining Armenians were called from their homes and marched to concentration camps in the desert where they were left to starve to death or were placed on barges and sunk in the Black Sea. During that time Turks who protected Armenians were killed.

To this day, Mr. Speaker, the Turkish government denies that there was an Armenian genocide and claims that Armenians were only removed from the eastern war zone. America has benefited in countless ways from the survivors of the genocide who have come to the United States with their families and now their descendants. As a representative from Michigan, we have been blessed by the contributions of the Armenian community in our cities and counties across Michigan.

Today I call on the Republic of Turkey to stop being the only country in the world to deny the Armenian genocide. It is time to admit what happened. The Republic of Turkey must show goodwill as well by allowing American aid to present-day Armenians to pass through to their citizens unhampered.

This is a day to remember, a day to pause in prayer and a day to commemorate our desire and commitment for this not to happen again.

#### HONORING THE MEMORY OF THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

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

Mr. ROGAN. Mr. Speaker, imagine an entire village, 10,000 people, drowned at once. Imagine watching as your fathers and brothers are burned to death. Imagine watching men in your community tied to horses and dragged away. Or watching children see their mothers and sisters raped and then beaten and dragged away. Imagine, if you will, smiling soldiers posing alongside the corpses of those who were just moments before family, friends and neighbors. Imagine if all this happened in front of your eyes, and then as you grew old, history and indeed nations of the world choose to ignore it all.

Mr. Speaker, these memories were not imagined, they were witnessed by thousands. Today these memories live in the hearts and minds of many of my friends and thousands of my constituents. It is our duty not to let these memories fade.

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Mr. Speaker, I rise to support legislation that will forever recognize the atrocities committed against the Armenian people at the hands of the Ottoman Turks between 1915 and 1923. In eight short years, more than 1.5 million husbands, wives and children suffered and died.

The eyewitness accounts of this tragedy come not from the history books but from my own hometown. Today, nearly one-quarter of a million Armenians reside in the Los Angeles area, a majority in my hometown of Glendale, California. This is the largest concentration of Armenian Americans outside the Republic of Armenia. I have been blessed with their friendship.

Armenian Americans have served our country faithfully as members of the armed services, as public officials, as business and community leaders. Their story is the story of America, one of hard work, dedication, commitment to faith and to family. I have heard their story. I have heard it from survivors of the genocide and from their descendants.

My good friend Gregory Krikorian has told me the story of his grandmother, Yegnar Atamian, who after witnessing the brutal death of her father, the capture and slaughter of her brothers, the rape of her mother and sisters, endured her own deportation through the deserts of Syria. Her faith and her will to live somehow guided her to America.

She is not alone. Last year, I spoke of the tragedy witnessed by another constituent, Haig Baronian. As a child, he watched his own mother dragged away, never to be seen again.

In the memory of their families and in reverence to our founding principles of liberty at all costs, we must not let these images be erased from history. We must work together today to put to rest the painful memories of these and so many Armenians who were forced to begin their lives anew, far from their homeland. We must properly acknowledge the past.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting our efforts to commemorate the genocide against Armenia. Let us join together to close the gaping wound history has scored on the body of humanity. Let us give the martyrs of the Armenian people the eternal rest they have been seeking for nearly a century.

#### ALAMEDA COUNTY CHILDREN'S MEMORIAL DAY AND FLAG PROJECT

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. NEY). Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LEE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask that my colleagues join me in supporting a Children's Memorial Flag Project and establishing a National Children's Memorial Day to remember all of the children who die by violence in our country. As I speak today, my thoughts and prayers go out to the Littleton, Colorado, community and the families of the students and faculty members who were tragically murdered yesterday.

Not only during January, when we celebrate Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday, should we discuss and teach nonviolence. Demonstrating and teaching our children that violence is wrong should be a part of our daily lives.

Each day in the United States five infants and children die from abuse and neglect and seven teens are murdered. In fact, more children lose their lives to criminal violence in the United States than in any of the 26 industrialized nations of the world. Many would be shocked at these statistics.

The Children's Memorial Flag Project was created to raise awareness about the violence towards children in our country and to organize community and national prevention strategies. It is with pride that I say that this project was originated in 1996 in the district which I represent, the 9th Congressional District of California.

In the past 5 years alone we have lost more than 140 children in Alameda County to preventable violence. Each time a child is killed, we fly the Children's Memorial Flag at half-staff. The Child Welfare League of America has adopted Alameda County's Children's

Memorial Flag and promotes it nationally.

Last year 33 states participated on Children's Memorial Day, the fourth Friday in the month of April, which is both Child Abuse Month and Crime Prevention Month. This year we anticipate 20 States flying the flag at half-mast, with 13 others memorializing the children by other means.

Soon my friend and our Bay Area colleague, the gentleman from California (Mr. STARK), will introduce legislation that would adopt the Children's Memorial Flag and establish the fourth Friday in April as National Day of Observance. I ask my colleagues to cosponsor and support this legislation, and honor the memory of children lost to violence in our country on this Friday, April 23rd. I will continue to work to establish this day as a remembrance to honor children by flying the Children's Memorial Flag at half-mast, and I urge my colleagues to join with me in this effort.

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise on behalf of one of our society's most valuable and most vulnerable groups of citizens: our Children.

For more than a decade, April has been recognized as Child Abuse Prevention Month. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services reported that nearly one million children were abused and neglected in 1997.

Child abuse is society's concern. Prevention of child abuse demands that everyone—Federal, State and local government as well as community service providers, teachers, businesses, families, friends and neighbors must work as a unit to protect our children.

This Friday is Children's Memorial Day; a day set aside to memorialize the thousands of children and youth killed each year as a result of child abuse. I challenge each Member of Congress to help expand awareness and encourage prevention efforts for this nationwide problem.

Violence against our children must end. Preventing child abuse is everybody's business. Make it yours.

#### MANY ARMENIAN SURVIVORS CAME TO THE UNITED STATES SEEKING A NEW BEGINNING

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

Mr. SWEENEY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise before the House today, taking this opportunity to speak out about one of the 20th century's earliest atrocities and worst atrocities. I do so because this subject is close to my heart.

Mr. Speaker, I am the son of a second generation Armenian American. My own grandfather, a native Armenian, witnessed the bloodshed firsthand when on April 24, 1915, 254 Armenian intellectuals were arrested in Istanbul and taken to the provinces in the interior of Turkey, where many of them were later massacred.