

pursue an undeclared nuclear program. An unclassified 1998 CIA report concludes that North Korea possesses between 6 and 12 kilograms of plutonium which it acquired before the Yongbyon nuclear reactor was shut down in 1995. This weapons-grade material has not been accounted for. In addition, press reports from publications such as *Jane's Intelligence Review* suggest the DPRK has continued its efforts to acquire uranium enrichment technologies. In 1998, a secret underground facility was discovered that certainly seemed like it was related to nuclear activities.

I hope that North Korea has made a change, Mr. Speaker, but we need to see exactly what it has done before we reach any new conclusions about its intentions.

According to the Congressional Research Service, Russian and former East German nuclear scientists are operating in North Korea.

In contrast to the time when the 1994 Agreed Framework was signed, North Korea seems on the threshold of being able to attack the United States with a missile that could deliver chemical, biological, or possibly nuclear weapons. It has produced, deployed and exported missiles to several countries of great concern to the United States. The DPRK has launched a three-stage (Taepo-dong 1) missile and continues to develop a larger, longer-range missile (the Taepo-dong 2). Not only does North Korea now possess a missile capable of reaching U.S. soil, but it is clear that it intends to sell such fully developed weapons systems to the highest bidder. According to a 1999 National Intelligence Estimate, "the proliferation of medium-range ballistic missiles—driven primarily by North Korean No Dong sales—has created an immediate, serious and growing threat to U.S. forces, interests, and allies, and has significantly altered the strategic balances in the Middle East and Africa."

While individuals in the Executive Branch argue that North Korea has agreed to halt its missile program, it is important to note that the North only has agreed to a moratorium on flight tests, design, rocket motor tests, production, and sales to other so-called "states of concern" can continue.

It was just last week, at negotiations that took place between U.S. and North Korean officials, that the DPRK flatly refused to halt development of missiles. Instead, they made it clear that development of new and more capable missiles will continue. In addition, North Korea demanded \$1 billion to impose a "moratorium" on new missile exports. Unfortunately, this is all too typical of the North's pattern of threats and extortion.

North Korea insists that it is not a terrorist state, but its past and even recent actions certainly suggest otherwise. The DPRK has remained a haven for the terrorists of the Japanese Red Army faction. Pyongyang regularly has infiltrated training and resupply teams into South Korea and Japan. Other actions include border violations, infiltration of armed saboteurs and spies, hijacking, kidnapping, assassination, and threats against media personnel and institutions.

To finance these terrorist activities, North Korea uses counterfeit U.S. currency. Re-

cently a Japanese Red Army terrorist was caught while traveling in Southeast Asia with a North Korean diplomatic passport. This terrorist was carrying over \$100,000 in counterfeit currency. In short, Mr. Speaker, North Korea has not to date behaved like a country wishing to join the international family of nations.

Former Secretary of Defense William Perry, a truly outstanding public servant, was tasked with reviewing U.S. policy toward North Korea. He concluded that North Korea had two options. The first option would be the path of engagement. If the DPRK really sheds its rogue behavior, the United States should respond with a reduction of sanctions, and gradual extension of normal political and commercial activity. If, however, the DPRK chooses the path of confrontation, the Perry-recommended policy is that the United States and our allies must meet the North's aggressiveness with firmness, resolve, and military might. It must be clear that America would respond in that fashion.

Mr. Speaker, it is far too early to tell which path the DPRK will choose. It is possible that they will opt for peaceful engagement. America and South Korea obviously hope that it is the path the DPRK will choose, but we must end the cycle of extortion which the North has successfully pursued with the United States. One insubstantive summit meeting does not guarantee such a sea change in behavior. This nation must maintain its resolve to preposition 100,000 troops in the Asia-Pacific area, with 37,000 on the Korean Peninsula. We must resist the temptation to throw even more money at the North without demonstrable progress in reducing the threat. And, we must continue to aggressively pursue the development of ballistic missile defenses capable of defending this nation against the emerging ballistic missile threat—a threat made evermore immediate by the North Korean missile development program and its missile exports.

Mr. Speaker, this Member genuinely hopes that North Korea will one day become merely a "state of concern." But until this Member sees ample evidence to the contrary, he must continue to view North Korea as a "terrorist state" and to regard the Korean Peninsula as the place on the globe where American forces might again be attacked and a tragically costly war begun again.

ANTIBIOTIC RESISTANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 19, 1999, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise to sound the alarm about a silent war that is going on all over the world, the war between people and infectious diseases.

It is not a new war. Since humans first walked the earth, microbes have preyed on us and we have fought back. As recently as the 19th century, the average life span in Europe and North America was 50 years, and the likelihood of dying prematurely from infectious diseases was in most places as high as 40 percent.

With the widespread introduction in the 1940s of penicillin and other antibiotics, we thought we had won the war. Finally, we could cure a whole raft of infectious diseases that routinely took human lives across the whole span of a human lifetime, from infancy through the prime of life to old age.

A month ago, the World Health Organization issued a report that paints a comprehensive picture of the renewed danger we face from infectious diseases. Microbes are mutating at an alarming rate into strains that too often fail to respond to drugs.

Dr. Gro Harlem Brundtland, director general of the WHO, recently stated, we currently have effective medicines to cure almost every major infectious disease, but we risk losing these valuable drugs, and our opportunity to eventually control many infectious diseases, because of increasing antimicrobial resistance.

The report describes how around the world almost all infectious diseases are becoming resistant to existing medicines. In Estonia, Latvia, and parts of Russia and China, over 10 percent of tuberculosis patients have strains resistant to the two most powerful TB medicines. Because of resistance, Thailand has completely lost the means of using three of the most common anti-malaria drugs. In New Delhi, typhoid 10 years ago could be cured with three inexpensive drugs, but now these drugs are largely ineffective. A small but growing number of patients are already showing primary resistance to AZT and other new therapies for HIV-infected people.

Patients admitted to hospital wards are especially vulnerable. In the U.S., some 14,000 people become infected and die every year from drug-resistant microbes to which they were exposed in hospitals. As many as 60 percent of infections around the world acquired in hospitals are caused by drug-resistant microbes.

In the U.S., overuse of the antibiotics is a key cause of resistance. The more frequently that microbes are exposed to these drugs, the more quickly they develop defenses against them. Patients are demanding and physicians are prescribing drugs for conditions that simply do not require antibiotics.

Overuse of antibiotics in the agricultural sector is also contributing to the resistance problem in a big way. Livestock producers use antibiotics to treat sick animals, as they should, but they also use antibiotics to promote more rapid weight gain in healthy animals. Many of the antibiotics used in livestock are also used in humans, including tetracycline and penicillin. In farm animals, prolonged exposure to antibiotics provides a breeding ground for resistant strains of salmonella, *E. coli*, and other bacteria which are harmful to people. When transferred to people

through the food chain, these bacteria can cause dangerous infections that are resistant to drugs.

Antibiotic use in livestock is causing resistance in large part because of the sheer volume of antibiotics used in the farm for subtherapeutic purposes, not treating ill animals but making livestock put on weight more rapidly so they are ready for market more quickly.

Forty percent of all antibiotics manufactured in the United States are given to animals. Eighty-eight percent of all antibiotics used on-farm are used subtherapeutically, just for weight gain.

Among hogs, 93 percent receive antibiotics in their diets at some time during their quote/unquote grower/finisher period.

The medical community has been raising concerns about antibiotic use in livestock for decades. Thirty years ago, the Swann Committee in the United Kingdom concluded that antibiotics used in human therapy should not be used as growth promoters in animals. Since that time, mounting scientific evidence has pointed to the dangers of overusing these precious drugs in livestock. It is time, Mr. Speaker, to take a close look at antibiotic use in agriculture, and take decisive action to protect people from resistant microbes that move through the food chain, from animals to our young children to our oldest citizens and to all of us.

THE POSSIBILITY EXISTS TO REDUCE OUR NATIONAL DEBT AND OUR ANNUAL INTEREST PAYMENTS BY BILLIONS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 19, 1999, the gentleman from Washington (Mr. METCALF) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. METCALF. Mr. Speaker, does one believe it would be possible to reduce our national debt by \$500 billion and to reduce our annual interest payments by \$25 billion, with no harm to anyone, nor to any program? Sounds too good to be true but it is possible, and it is simple.

Most people have little knowledge of how money systems work and are not aware that an honest money system would result in a great savings for the people. We really can cut the national debt by \$500 billion and reduce our Federal interest payments by \$25 billion per year. It is an undisputable fact that Federal Reserve notes, that is our circulating currency, is issued by the Federal Reserve in response to interest-bearing debt instruments. Thus, we indirectly pay interest on our paper money in circulation. Actually, we pay interest on the bonds that back our paper money, that is, the Federal Reserve

notes. This unnecessary cost is \$100 each year to each person in our country.

The Federal Reserve obtains these bonds from the banks at face value in exchange for the currency, that is the Federal Reserve notes, printed by the Bureau of Engraving and Printing and given to the Federal Reserve without cost.

The Federal Reserve appears to pay the printing costs but in fact the taxpayers pay the full cost of printing our Federal Reserve currency. The total cost of the interest is roughly \$25 billion, or about \$100 per person in the United States. Why are our citizens paying \$100 per person to rent the Federal Reserve's money when the United States Treasury could issue the paper money exactly like it issues our coins? The coins are minted by the Treasury and essentially sent into circulation at face value.

The Treasury will make a profit of \$880 million this year from the issue of 1 billion new gold-colored dollar coins. If we use the same method of issue for our paper money as we do for our coins, the Treasury could realize a profit on the bills sufficient to reduce the national debt by \$500 billion and reduce annual interest payments by \$25 billion.

Federal Reserve notes are officially liabilities of the Federal Reserve, and over \$500 billion in U.S. bonds is held by the Federal Reserve as backing for these notes. The Federal Reserve collects interest on these bonds from the U.S. Government and then returns most of it to the U.S. Treasury. Thus, it is a tax on our money that goes to the United States Treasury, a tax on our money in circulation.

Is there a simple and inexpensive way to convert this costly, illogical, convoluted system to a logical system, which pays no interest directly or indirectly on our money in circulation? Yes, there is.

Let me present two alternatives to accomplish it. First, plan A. The Nation's Treasury prints and issues United States Treasury currency in the same denominations and the same amounts as the present Federal Reserve notes. Because the new U.S. currency would be issued into circulation through the banks to replace or exchange for the Federal Reserve notes, there would be no change in the money supply. The plan would remove the liability of the Federal Reserve by returning to the Federal Reserve the Federal Reserve notes in exchange for the \$500 billion in interest-bearing bonds now held by the Fed. Then because the liability is lifted, the Federal Reserve returns the bonds to the U.S. Treasury. The Nation would thus have a circulating currency of United States currency, United States Treasury currency, or U.S. notes, bearing no debt nor interest.

The national debt would be reduced by \$500 billion and annual interest payments reduced by over \$25 billion. The easiest way we can save our taxpayers \$25 billion.

Possible drawbacks of plan A. Our currency circulates worldwide and it would be impossible to find and exchange all that currency and in addition the cost of printing all the new paper money would be huge. So we have plan B, the best solution. Congress merely must pass a law declaring Federal Reserve notes to be official United States Treasury currency, which would continue to circulate as it is now.

The Federal Reserve, now freed from \$500 billion liability, simply returns their U.S. Treasury bonds which back the Federal Reserve notes to the United States Treasury. This reduces the national debt of the United States by \$500 billion and reduces interest payments by over \$25 billion annually.

TWENTY-SIXTH ANNIVERSARY OF TURKEY'S INVASION OF CYPRUS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 19, 1999, the gentlewoman from Nevada (Ms. BERKLEY) is recognized during morning hour debates for 1 minute.

Ms. BERKLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the 26th anniversary of Turkey's invasion and occupation of Cyprus. Today an estimated 35,000 heavily armed Turkish troops continue to occupy 37 percent of the island. If a solution is ever to be achieved, it is essential that all decisions and pronouncements of the international community be fully implemented. It is my hope that the United States Congress will continue to firmly support the people of Cyprus by urging Turkey to comply with the resolutions of the United Nations and to work instructively for a solution. It is imperative that we take all necessary steps to actively support efforts to end the forcible division of the island and its people and to unify Cyprus through a just and lasting solution.

Twenty-six years of occupation are enough. Twenty-six years of occupation are 26 too many. It is time to end the occupation now.

THE ECONOMY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 19, 1999, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. STEARNS) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, this morning I would like to use this opportunity to congratulate the American people on a remarkable achievement. We are now 112 months into the current economic expansion, the greatest period of prosperity ever. Thanks to the