

(From the Financial Times, Oct. 31, 2001]
CHENEY DISREGARDED FEARS OVER WTO
VENUE

VICE-PRESIDENT PLEDGED US PARTICIPATION
DESPITE EFFORTS TO MOVE MIDEAST MEETING

(By Guy de Jonquieres in London and
Edward Alden in Washington)

Dick Cheney, the US vice-president, disregarded security concerns among top US trade officials this month by committing Washington to sending a delegation to next month's ministerial meeting of the World Trade Organisation in Doha, Qatar.

Mr. Cheney pledged US participation even though US intelligence officials are seriously concerned that its delegation—due to include Robert Zoellick, the US trade representative, Don Evans, commerce secretary, and Ann Veneman, agriculture secretary—cannot be protected adequately in Doha, according to congressional and business representatives who have been briefed by the administration on security plans.

Intensive efforts are being made to launch a global trade round at the five-day WTO meeting, which starts on November 9. The Gulf state was the only WTO member to offer to host the talks, after riots marred the last meeting, in Seattle, two years ago.

US government security experts on Friday warned business lobbyists planning to accompany the delegation that there were "substantial risks" in attending the meeting in the small Gulf state.

Mr. Cheney gave his assurances by telephone 10 days ago to the emir of Qatar, despite efforts by Mr. Zoellick to persuade other countries to move the meeting to Singapore, according to accounts by diplomats from several countries that were not contradicted by US officials.

The vice-president's intervention came after strong diplomatic pressure from Qatar, which told the US and other WTO members that shifting the meeting would offend Islamic countries that have supported the US-led anti-terrorism coalition.

"I think this is a momentously bad call based on what we have learnt about security risks there," said one US delegation member. Mr. Cheney's office did not return telephone calls seeking comment yesterday.

The US team in Doha was originally due to include about 30 congressmen. But Washington has decided to cut its delegation by more than half.

Mr. Zoellick said he was keeping his delegation "as small as possible for their safety", adding that the situation in Doha "is not exactly the happiest in terms of overall security". He said that while every effort was being made to ensure a safe meeting "there is undoubtedly risk".

The US is worried that Islamic extremists or others with ties to al-Qaeda, the organisation headed by Osama bin Laden, may have penetrated Qatar's security.

STATE DEPARTMENT CONDEMNS QATAR; USTR
IGNORES HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES

Qatar would be a poor example of the argument that "trade brings freedom." However, the United State Trade Representative has continued to push for the next World Trade Organization (WTO) trade ministerial to be held in Qatar.

FACT NO. 1. QATAR DENIES ITS PEOPLE
FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS

The people of Qatar don't even have the right to vote. According to the CIA Factbook, the government of Qatar has granted its people suffrage for municipal elections only (which likely indicates that

municipal offices lack any real power). The people of Qatar do not enjoy any of the freedoms that we espouse. Moreover, Human Rights Watch has criticized the selection of Qatar as the venue for the next WTO meeting because the government does not recognize a right to freedom of assembly.

The U.S. State Department has formally noted severe restrictions on the freedom of speech, assembly and association. Although Qatar is the home of the free-wheeling al-Jazeera satellite television station that Osama bin Laden frequently uses as a loud-speaker to the global village, otherwise freedom of speech is severely limited.

The government has banned political demonstrations. The government does not allow political parties, or membership in international professional organizations that might be critical of the government (or any other Arab government). Private social, sports, trade, professional and cultural societies must be registered with the government, and government security forces monitor the activities of such groups.

The government officially prohibits public worship by non-Muslims. So if our trade negotiators go there next month, they won't be able to attend church, go to Mass or synagogue or participate in any other form of worship unless they are Muslim.

FACT NO. 2. LIKE THE TALIBAN, THE RULERS OF
QATAR OPPRESS WOMEN

As in Taliban-controlled Afghanistan, women occupy a strictly subservient role in Qatar. This is taken from the U.S. State Department Country Reports on Human Rights:

"The activities of women are restricted closely both by law and tradition. For example, a woman is prohibited from applying for a driver's license unless she has permission from a male guardian. This restriction does not apply to noncitizen women. The Government adheres to Shari'a in matters of inheritance and child custody. While Muslim wives have the right to inherit from their husbands, non-Muslim wives do not, unless a special exemption is arranged. In cases of divorce, Shari'a prevails; younger children remain with the mother and older children with the father. Both parents retain permanent rights of visitation. However, local authorities do not allow a noncitizen parent to take his or her child out of the country without permission of the citizen parent. There has been a steady increase in the number and severity of complaints of spousal abuse by the foreign wives of local and foreign men. Women may attend court proceedings but generally are represented by a male relative; however, women may represent themselves.

Women largely are relegated to the roles of mother and homemaker, but some women are now finding jobs in education, medicine, and the news media. Women appear to receive equal pay for equal work; however, they often do not receive equal allowances. These allowances generally cover transportation and housing costs. Increasingly, women are receiving government scholarships to pursue degrees at universities overseas. The Amir has entrusted his second wife, who is the mother of the Heir Apparent, with the high-profile task of establishing a university in Doha. In 1996 the Government appointed its first female undersecretary, in the Ministry of Education. Although women legally are able to travel abroad alone, tradition and social pressures cause most to travel with male escorts. There also have been complaints that Qatari husbands take their foreign spouses' passports and, without prior approval, turn them in for Qatari citizenship documents. The hus-

bands then inform their wives that the wives have lost their former citizenship. In other cases, foreign wives report being forbidden by their Qatari husbands or in-laws to visit or to contact foreign embassies.

There is no independent women's rights organization, nor has the Government permitted the establishment of one."

FACT NO. 3. TRADE HAS FAILED TO BRING
FREEDOM TO QATAR

The U.S. State Department calls oil "the cornerstone of Qatar's economy," accounting for more than 70 percent of total government revenue. Starting in 1973, oil production increased dramatically, bringing Qatar out of the ranks of the world's poorest countries and providing it one of the world's highest per-capita incomes. But freedom did not follow.

Accordingly to the State Department, "Qatar's heavy industrial projects . . . include a refinery with 50,000 barrels-per-day capacity, a fertilizer plant for urea and ammonia, a steel plant, and a petrochemical plant. All these industries use gas for fuel. Most are joint ventures between European and Japanese firms and the state-owned Qatar General Petroleum Corporation. The U.S. is the major equipment supplier for Qatar's oil and gas industry, and U.S. companies are playing a major role in North Field gas development." So here we see Qatar's commercial sector and government-controlled oil industry directly engaged with outside interests—the European Union, Japan and the United States.

We are constantly told this is how freedom takes root in unfree countries—whether it's China, or Vietnam, or Qatar. It is not true. Despite billions upon billions of dollars worth of engagement between Western commercial interests and Qatar, the people in Qatar have no freedom of speech, no freedom of assembly, no freedom of religion, no freedom of association. And women are still subjected.

OCTOBER MARKS DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

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

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, October marks Domestic Violence Awareness Month, and I would like to thank the gentlewoman from Illinois (Mrs. BIGGERT) for arranging Members to come to the floor and remind my colleagues about October as Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

This is a time of heightened awareness of the problem, and a time to discuss what our society and local communities can do to help. I would like at this time to talk briefly about the Call to Protect program. As a participant in this program, my offices have collected thousands of phones from around the country to donate to victims of domestic violence.

Call to Protect is a domestic violence prevention project. It provides those in danger with instant access to help in the form of a wireless phone. Donated phones are programmed so that victims can reach emergency personnel with a click of the button. This gives victims the power to protect themselves rather than live in fear.

This program has helped thousands of women. One success story is particularly close to me as it happened in my district. Brandon Pope, a 5-year-old boy, used a donated phone to save his mother's life in Centralia, Illinois. Brandon's mother, Sandra, was a victim of systemic abuse from her husband. She sought assistance from a domestic abuse help center, and received an emergency wireless phone through the Call to Protect program.

Unfortunately, the physical effects of the domestic abuse caused Sandra to have occasional seizures. In February, Sandra suffered a particular strong seizure that caused her to fall and lose consciousness. Having learned about 9-1-1 in his Head Start class, Brandon used his mom's wireless phone to call for help. Paramedics arrived on the scene and quickly administered treatment. The wireless phone donated to Sandra was the family's only means of communication.

This is only one story of many where ordinary citizens and community organizations come to the aid of a victim of domestic abuse.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to especially thank the Cellular Telecommunications Industry Association, CTIA, who run the Call to Protect program; and Motorola who refurbishes all of the donated phones so victims have access to emergency numbers. Due to the services of these companies, this program truly saves lives.

NO RED LINE THAT TERRORISTS WILL NOT CROSS

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

Mr. SHAYS. Mr. Speaker, the Cold War is over, and the world is a more dangerous place. September 11 and the carnage that followed proved to us that there is no red line. There is no line that terrorists will not cross. There is no limit to what they might and in fact will do.

We are in a race with terrorists to prevent them from getting a better delivery system for chemical and biological agents, to get nuclear waste material to explode in a bomb, a conventional bomb, or even to get a nuclear weapon. They will use all of those weapons because there is no red line to them.

It is not a question of if we will face a chemical or biological attack. As we are finding out, it is a question of when, where and of what magnitude. Not every attack will be the thousand-year storm or the hundred-year storm, and we are not going to wait on our roofs with an umbrella over our heads in anticipation of that. We are going to get on with our lives, but we need to know that we are truly in a race.

We are at war. This war requires us to do what three commissions have

told us: The Gilmore Commission, the Bremer Commission, and the Hart-Rudman Commission. They said we need to have a proper assessment of the terrorist threat, we need to have a strategy to face this terrorist threat, and we need to organize our government to be more effective.

Tom Ridge and his Office of Homeland Security is going to have to work overtime in understanding what we face, making the assessment of the terrorist threat with others who will be helping him, and develop that strategy and then organize the government to respond.

One of the issues that we will be debating tomorrow is airport security. I am amazed with the amount of time and effort that is being spent discussing whether they be Federal employees or not Federal employees. That is not the issue. The issue is safety. They could be Federal employees and provide very good service to the country, and they could not be and provide very good service to the country. The key is that they be professionals, that they view this as a job that they want to develop an expertise in, and that they gain knowledge and provide tremendous energy in carrying out their duties.

My biggest concern with airport security is obviously safety. It is safety in making sure that we do not have bombs in the belly of aircraft. As things stand now, we do not check the luggage when it is put in the plane, and I am grateful that the majority party has looked to address this issue, that they are putting in the manager's amendment an amendment that will require that by the end of the year 2003, that all baggage will be checked that goes in the belly of an airplane to make sure that we do not have Pan Am 103 and others like it in the years to come.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to say that the Special Order by the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. GUTKNECHT) about the *Lutjens* and its respect for our American sailors touched my heart as well, and I am happy the gentleman talked about it today.

AIRLINE SECURITY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2001, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. SHADEGG) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. SHADEGG. Mr. Speaker, the topic I want to talk about tonight, and I am pleased very much to be joined by several of my colleagues, including the gentleman from New Hampshire (Mr. BASS), the gentleman from South Dakota (Mr. THUNE), the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. KIRK), and the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Ms. HART), is the topic that we will be debating on

the floor tomorrow, and it is a topic of great concern for every single American, and that is the security of our airline system and our air travel system here in this country.

Tomorrow we will debate airline security legislation, and it is very important that we do that because we are being urged by some to rush to judgment and pass the bill that the Senate has already passed.

□ 1830

I do not think it is appropriate to ever rush to judgment when you are legislating. Legislation becomes permanent, it becomes the law of the land, and it is binding and cannot be changed until the Congress meets again to change it. And so I think we have a duty to do that conscientiously and thoughtfully.

I want to begin by talking about what this debate is really about and what it is not about. First of all and most importantly, for the people of America, for American families who vacation by taking an airplane someplace and for American businesswomen and businessmen who have to travel on our Nation's airlines to do the business of this Nation, the issue is, how do we create the absolute safest, most secure airline system and air passenger system in the world?

As is sadly often the case in these debates on the floor, a lot of people try to hide the ball and not focus on what really is the issue. I think it is very, very important to understand that both sides in this debate believe passionately that we need to create the safest system. One side says, the Senate bill has already done that; the other side is saying, "No, wait a minute, let's take a look at that legislation."

But I want it understood that, although people may have heard that this is a partisan debate, I and my colleagues who will speak tonight on this issue do not believe that this is a partisan issue. We believe that this is an issue solely about the safety of our airline system, aviation safety in America and how to create the best possible system and the safest possible system. There is not a Republican way to do that or a Democrat way to do that, and this is not about somebody's motives. This is about how do we do it best, how do we create the best and the safest system.

Those of us who will be arguing for the House bill tomorrow and arguing it for tonight genuinely believe that it is a better piece of legislation, that it will go further and do more to protect the American people, and that there are serious problems with the Senate bill. I do not question the motives of the Senators who wrote the Senate bill. I do not question that they intended to make some mistakes in that bill; they did not intend to make mistakes. But as this discussion tonight, I