head off this sale that Jiang dispatched Deputy Prime Minister Qian Qichen to meet with Bush last month.

Bush refused to give Qian any assurances on a subject that Jiang has made into the make-or-break issue in the Chinese-American negotiations. Pride dictates this stand more than strategic calculation, since the radar systems would take nearly a decade to deliver. Jiang began his term by promising his colleagues on the Politburo to bring China to the point of reabsorbing Taiwan at a time of Beijing’s choosing, according to U.S. intelligence reports. An Arms sale would be a powerful symbol of failure in Jiang’s quest for what he said would be his most “historic accomplishment.”

Bush must make the decision on the Aegis sale on its own merits and not allow Jiang to gain leverage over the sale through the spy plane incident. There may be other weapons systems that would meet Taiwan’s immediate needs as well as the Aegis, but that decision must be made on military and national security criteria, not under the threat of Chinese blackmail.

The Pentagon may have acted unwisely in sending the espionage plane so close to China at this particularly sensitive moment. But there can be no apology based on the false Chinese version of events, as Beijing demands. That is not just a matter of pride. It is one of justice.

**ISLAMIC EXTREMISTS FIND UNWITTING ALLIES IN CENTRAL ASIAN Dictatorships**

**HON. TOM LANTOS**

**OF CALIFORNIA**

**IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

**Wednesday, April 4, 2001**

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I am utterly appalled by the Taliban regime’s vicious campaign to stamp out freedom and religious tolerance in Afghanistan. But the Taliban’s zeal to propagate a warped version of Islam—and the support that terrorist groups receive from broader drug traffickers that go along with it—is not limited to Afghanistan. Already, an Islamic movement which was designated as a terrorist group by the United States Department of State has taken root in the Fergana valley area where the borders of Uzbekistan, Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan meet. This insurgency has the full support and assistance of the despotic Taliban regime in Afghanistan.

So far, Kazakhstan has not been directly affected by this insurgency. However, because of its oil and mineral wealth, Kazakhstan is the crown jewel of the region and is thus almost certainly the ultimate target of the Islamic extremists. Kazakhstan’s authoritarian regime has taken note of the alarming developments with its neighbors to the south and has taken steps to strengthen its defenses. That’s the good news. However, it is also the case that President Nursultan Nazarbayev has also stepped up domestic repression.

Mr. Speaker, the people of Kazakhstan know that they inhabit a rich country, but they also know that very little of that wealth trickles down to them. They are also not blind to the questionable elections, the stifling of press freedom, and the jailing of opposition leaders that have characterized the country’s political life. They are losing hope, and thus they are vulnerable to the siren calls of the Islamic extremists.

The parallel to the situation under Suharto in Indonesia could not be more literal. Fortunately for Indonesia, Islamic extremists were not the beneficiaries of Suharto’s ouster, but the same could not be said for Kazakhstan and some of its neighbors.

In the March 3 issue of The Economist, there is an excellent article on Kazakhstan’s political security situation. The author of the article concludes: “Government repression and mismanagement help to nourish extremism and terrorism in Central Asia. An effort to improve human rights will stop Islamic extremists. And the United States must stand with those governments in Central Asia who share these values.”

That, Mr. Speaker, is the crux of the issue. I submit the full text of this article from The Economist to be placed in the RECORD following my remarks.

Mr. Speaker, some here in Washington may be tempted to urge U.S. support for President Nazarbayev and the other authoritarian regimes in Central Asia, because they claim to be bulwarks of defense against Islamic extremism. Unfortunately, however, the Central Asian domestic political environment is not the solution, not the only solution. A democratic political system, a free press and respect for human rights will stop Islamic extremists. And the United States must stand with those governments in Central Asia who share these values.

(From The Economist, Mar. 3, 2001)

**KAZAKHSTAN—IN DEFENSE**

When the Soviet Union broke up ten years ago, the leaders of Central Asia’s newly independent states felt safe from possible attacks on their region. Their main concern was to promote order, economic reform and the assertion of power for themselves and their families. The were jolted out of their complacency by bomb blasts in Tashkent, the capital of Uzbekistan, in February 1999 and an attack by Islamic militants in Kirgizstan in August. Last year Islamists again attacked Kazakh forces.

Although Kazakhstan was not directly affected by these attacks, they have alerted the country to look to its defenses. President Nazarbayev has again attacked the Afganistans and is taking steps to strengthen their defenses. That’s the good news. However, it is also the case that President Nursultan Nazarbayev has also stepped up domestic repression.

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In the March 3 issue of The Economist, there is an excellent article on Kazakhstan’s political security situation. The author of the article concludes: “Government repression and mismanagement help to nourish extremism and terrorism in Central Asia. An effort to improve social and economic conditions and freedom of expression might make Kazakhstan less fertile ground for militant zealots.”

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EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

April 5, 2001

2. Prioritize glomerular injury research at NIDDK (including clinical trials), raise professional and public awareness about glomerular injury, and encourage more aggressive scientific attention to all kidney diseases.

3. Urge NIDDK to develop programs to attract talented researchers to the field of glomerular injury.

Mr. Chairman, and members of the subcommittee, I am pleased to present testimony on behalf of the NephCure Foundation (NCF).

We are a relatively new, non-profit organization with a mission of supporting research and public awareness on glomerular injury, which is related to the filtering mechanism of the kidney. I serve as president of the foundation, and have a son, who has had a glomerular disease since he was eleven months old. Although he is now 24 years old and in remission, eighty percent of those in his situation lose their kidneys or their life by the age of five.

What is glomerular injury?

Mr. Chairman, each kidney contains about one million tiny filtering units called nephrons. Nephrons are the key to the kidney's filtering function, processing a constant flow of waste-laden blood, sorting out the vital fluids, from the toxic and unnecessary elements.

When someone suffers from a glomerular disease, this vital process is impaired. In some instances, an individual will lose protein and sometimes red blood cells in the urine, have high cholesterol levels, and experience severe swelling in the body from too much fluid. Incidence of this disruptive Nephrotic Syndrome is increasing; and this perplexes physicians who cannot identify the cause or cure.

Sometimes damage occurs to the nephrons, specifically, scarring of the glomeruli, which are microscopic capillaries in the nephron. The severe form of this glomerular injury is Focal Segmental Glomerulosclerosis (FSGS). Presently, there is no treatment to reverse this damage. FSGS can lead to end stage renal disease—total, or near total, permanent kidney failure. Costly dialysis treatments become necessary and kidney transplants may be required for severe cases.

The toll of glomerular injury

Glomerular injury affects tens of thousands of patients in the nation, most of them young. While it is unclear exactly how many Americans are impacted, the incidence of glomerular injury is on the rise. Severe forms of glomerular injury are costly to diagnose and treat, and at this time the only relief for these patients is with heavy medication, usually steroids, which have strong and unpleasant side effects and only work for about 30 percent of patients.

Problems of misdiagnosis often occur with glomerular injury. Most patients and parents have stories about the unusual length of time between the first symptoms and diagnosis. The early signs of glomerular injury, swollen eyelids, are often mistaken for allergic reactions. Health care professionals don't appear to be fully knowledgeable about this disease.

The physical changes, extreme swelling of the face and body, can adversely affect all aspects of a young person's life. With a stronger commitment to research and educational awareness, suffering can be minimized and hopefully eliminated.

There is hope for scientific breakthroughs

At a meeting co-sponsored by the NephCure Foundation, preeminent scientists from around the world have shared their findings about the podocyte, a major filtering cell, with tentacle-like feet. The relationship between the podocyte and the glomerulus may be a key to understanding glomerular injury.

Recently, researchers have discovered certain molecules that are essential to the podocyte's function. As this becomes better understood, scientists are hopeful of finding better ways to treat glomerular diseases, and prevent their progression to more grave conditions.

This spring, NIDDK will begin to establish clinical trials, which will test various treatments for hundreds of FSGS patients. But there is a need for more funds to strengthen the basic science behind these studies. Researchers need to study tissue and fluids from those patients to advance their knowledge of the molecular causes of FSGS.

What needs to be done?

Respectfully, Mr. Chairman, the NephCure Foundation urges this subcommittee to:

1. Continue the support for doubling the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases (NIDDK).

2. Provide the funding and recommendations for the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases to aggressively pursue a scientific program which will advance research into glomerular injury, conduct clinical trials, raise public awareness, and recruit talented scientists to this field of research.

Thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today.

Mr. Chairman, we hoped to have Melanie Stewart here to testify today, but her health would not allow her to be here. Her father, Brad Stewart, will read Melanie's statement.

My name is Melanie Stewart. I'm 13 years old and have had FSGS since I was six. Until a year ago I spent most of my life in the hospital or hooked up to a dialysis machine for 8 hours every day. My kidneys finally died last year, so my dad gave me one of his. I've done my best to keep it by taking 20 pills a day, fighting off infections, hemorrhages, and a blood clot in my heart. The kidney my Dad gave me is failing.

There are thousands of kids just like me who would like a change at a normal life. For all of us, I'm asking for your help in finding a cure for this disease.

Thank you for listening.