INDIA, RUSSIA AGREE ON $10 BILLION IN DEFENSE CONTRACTS

HON. DAN BURTON
OF INDIANA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, July 10, 2001

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, on June 4, the Information Times reported that India and Russia have signed $10 billion worth of defense contracts. This is not good for American interests in the world or for the cause of freedom.

Much has been written lately about the Indian Government’s desire to improve its relations with the United States. However, we must not forget that India just recently voted to oust the majority of the human rights violators from the UN Human Rights Commission. It supported a Chinese bid to table our resolution condemning Chinese human-rights violations. In May 1999, according to the Indian Express, Defense Minister George Fernandes convened a meeting with the ambassadors to India from Cuba, Communist China, Libya, Yugoslavia, and Russia to construct a security alliance “to stop the U.S.” India was an ally of the former Soviet Union and publicly supported its invasion of Afghanistan.

Mr. Speaker, America’s national interests are best served by seeking new allies in south Asia. The best way to achieve that is to support the legitimate aspirations for freedom of the occupied and oppressed nations of South Asia such as Khalistan, Kashmir, Nagalim, and several others by means of a free and fair plebiscite under international supervision on the question of independence. Until India allows that democratic vote and permits all the minorities and every citizen to exercise their rights freely, we should cut off all aid to India. That should focus their attention on practicing democratic principles, not on grabbing every available military technology in pursuit of hegemony in South Asia. These are the best measures we can take to support the cause of freedom in the Indian subcontinent.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to place the Information Times article of June 4 into the RECORD.

INDIA, RUSSIA SIGN ABOUT 10 BILLION DOLLARS DEFENSE CONTRACTS

RUSSELL, 4 June 2001 (VOA): India and Russia have signed defense contracts worth some $10 billion as the two countries seek to increase their military cooperation.

The signing came during a visit to Russia by Indian Foreign Minister Jaswant Singh. Singh arrived in Moscow late Sunday for a series of meetings with Russian officials that will also focus on the United States’ proposal for a national missile defense system.

Russia opposed the plan, while India has indicated it is open to the idea.

Among the agreements already concluded are major Indian purchases of Russian Su-30MKI fighter jets and T-90 tanks.

Russian Deputy Prime Minister Ilya Klebanov says the two countries will sign an agreement later this year to jointly develop a military transport aircraft and a next-generation fighter plane.

Klebanov says contracts for the sale of a Soviet-era aircraft carrier to India will be signed later this year. India has traditionally been one of the largest customers for Russian weapons.

RECOGNITION OF THE VETERANS OF WORLD WAR II

HON. MICHAEL FERGUSON
OF NEW JERSEY
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, July 10, 2001

Mr. FERGUSON. Mr. Speaker, in recent years there has been an increased movement to recognize veterans of World War II. Despite improved awareness, there are many veterans whose heroic efforts to preserve this great country are still overlooked. Accordingly, we must continue to take greater strides to demonstrate the appreciation and gratitude these loyal Americans deserve for the sacrifices they made.

During World War II, tens of thousands of U.S. POWs were captured and either killed under unspeakable conditions or forced into slave labor for Japanese companies. After the United States surrendered its forces on the Bataan Peninsula, Philippines in early 1942, the infamous 60-mile Bataan Death March claimed the lives of hundreds of Americans. In fact, more than 14,000 American POWs perished from disease, starvation, injury, brutality or execution at an appalling 40 percent death rate that proved it was more deadly to a prisoner of the Japanese than to fight in battle. The prisoners who survived the Bataan Death March were joined by other American prisoners who were taken at Corregidor and throughout the Pacific—Guam, Wake Island, and survivors of the sinking of the U.S.S. Houston.

Any words used to describe the conditions these American prisoners faced cannot do justice to the pain and suffering that they experienced. Upon arrival in Japan and Japanese-occupied territories such as Manchuria, they were sent to work as slaves for some of Japan’s richest companies, like Mitsubishi and Nippon Steel—companies that remain wealthy and powerful today.

The U.S. played an instrumental role in the discussions between German companies and their victims during the Holocaust litigation, and it is now time that our government extend the same gesture of gratitude and support for the POW veterans of World War II. As such, I am proud to voice my strong support for H.R. 1198, the “Justice for United States Prisoners of War Act of 2001”, introduced by Representatives DANA ROHRABACHER (R-CA) and MI-CHAIL HONDA (D-VA).

I applaud Representatives ROHRABACHER and HONDA for their leadership in bringing these Japanese companies to justice on behalf of the well-deserving veterans who suffered and lost their lives. The bipartisan legislation will rightfully allow American POWs to sue Japanese companies in U.S. state or federal court for losses and injuries sustained during the time they were imprisoned and forced into slave labor. Moreover, the bill also provides that if Japan enters into peace settlement terms with another country more beneficial to that country than to the United States, those additional benefits will also be extended to the United States.

I believe our POWs, who have given years of their lives to serve the cruel interests of our wartime enemies should at least be allowed the opportunity to have their grievances redressed in an international court of law. As a nation, which has thrived because of the sacrifices of these brave men, we must do everything in our power to recognize and repay their courageous efforts.

We owe it to these POWs—both the survivors and those killed in action—who made immeasurable sacrifices for the brighter future of this great nation. We owe it to their families, who also made sacrifices by losing precious days, weeks and months with loved ones who were off serving, preserving the peace and freedom we have in this country today.

CONSECRATION OF FATHER JACOB ANGADIATH

HON. J. DENNIS HASTERT
OF ILLINOIS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, July 10, 2001

Mr. HASTERT. Mr. Speaker, today, I would like to congratulate Father Jacob Angadiath, who will head up the newly created diocese in Chicago to serve Syro-Malabar Catholics in the United States and Canada. The consecration of Father Angadiath as bishop of the diocese will take place on July 1st.

Earlier this year, Pope John Paul II created the new diocese to serve the Syro-Malabarians of North America. The Syro-Malabar Archepiscopal Church is an Eastern Catholic Church with more than 3 million faithful, and they trace their roots to St. Thomas the apostle, who brought the Gospel to South-ern India. Though the vast majority of Syro-Malabarians live in India, about 75,000 live in North America, including about 7,000 in Chicago.

The creation of the new St. Thomas Syro-Malabar Catholic diocese of Chicago is truly a recognition by Pope John Paul II of this faithful community, which refers to itself as “oriental in worship, Indian in culture and Christian in religion.” It is the first Syro-Malabar diocese outside of India.
I want to again congratulate Father Angadiath, and wish him the best of luck as he takes on his new responsibilities as bishop. The St. Thomas Syro-Malabar Catholic diocese will provide a spiritual home for the Syro-Malabar Catholics outside of India, and it will be a wonderful addition to Chicago’s many other religious communities.

CONGRATULATING STEVE SAMUELIAN
HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, July 10, 2001

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Steve Samuelian for being presented with the Chair’s Award from the United Way of Fresno County (UWFC). The Chair’s Award is selected by the Chair of the Board of Directors of the UWFC, and is awarded to the board member who has demonstrated outstanding service to community improvement.

The main goal of the United Way is to maximize financial resources in order to build a healthier community while improving the quality of life. Steve’s exemplary service to the UWFC has helped advance the mission, values, and goals of the United Way. In addition to his work on the Board of Directors, Steve recruited and chaired the Leadership Giving Committee of the United Way of Fresno County. The Leadership Giving Committee is the group that recruits and handles major donors to the United Way of Fresno County. The amount of contributions to this committee has doubled under Steve’s guidance.

Steve serves on the Board of Directors of the Clovis District Chamber of Commerce and participates in the National Education Association’s Read Across America Program. He is also a member of the Resource Development Committee for the Fresno Leadership Foundation. In addition, Steve is actively involved in the Armenian-American community, and serves on the Board of Advisors for the Armenian Studies Program at California State University, Fresno.

Mr. Speaker, I want to congratulate Steve Samuelian for earning the United Way of Fresno County Chair’s Award. I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing Steve Samuelian’s contributions and dedication to the community.

TRIBUTE TO COLONEL TIMOTHY M. DANIEL
HON. ROB SIMMONS
OF CONNECTICUT
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, July 10, 2001

Mr. SIMMONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with my colleague from Massachusetts, RICHARD NEAL, to introduce the “Quinebaug and Shetucket Rivers Valley National Heritage Corridor Protection Act of 2001.”

The bill would provide for the implementation of a management plan for the Corridor to protect resources critical to maintaining and interpreting the distinctive character of the Quinebaug and Shetucket Rivers Valley National Heritage Corridor.

Created by Congress in 1999, the Quinebaug-Shetucket Rivers Valley National Heritage Corridor (QSHC) encompasses about 695,000 acres in northeastern Connecticut and south-central Massachusetts.

Called “the Last Green Valley” in the sprawling metropolitan Boston-to-Washington, D.C. corridor, the QSHC has successfully assisted in the development and implementation of integrated cultural, historical, and recreational land resource management programs that has and will continue to retain, enhance and interpret these significant features. But much more needs to be done, which is why Mr. NEAL and I introduced this legislation.

The QSHC will embark on two very significant projects. The Green Valley Institute is an expansion of the successful natural resource education program that will serve as a key educational tool for the scores of volunteers who work on the municipal boards, committees and commissions making those important decisions regarding land use and natural resource conservation. The program will also provide much needed information in estate planning, forestland management, and technical assistance in GIS training and other important technology. The Green Valley Institute may be the single most important program that the QSHC can provide its 35 towns.

The other significant project is the planning and consideration of the Gateway Center proposed for I-395 in Thompson, Connecticut. Many entities in northeast Connecticut and south-central Massachusetts are looking to the