

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

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 United States 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

RUSSIA, 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 opposes 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 be 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 ROHRBACHER (R-CA) and MICHAEL HONDA (D-CA).

I applaud Representatives ROHRBACHER 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 POW's 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 POW's—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 Archiepiscopal 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 Southern 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.

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