

27TH ANNIVERSARY OF TURKISH
INVASION OF CYPRUS

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

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, tonight I join my other colleague, the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. MALONEY), on the House floor to remember a horrific act taken by Turkey against the citizens of Cyprus 27 years ago.

On July 20, 1974, the Nation of Turkey violated international law when it brutally invaded the sovereign Republic of Cyprus. Following the Turkish invasion, 200,000 people were forcibly displaced from their homes and a large number of Cypriot people, who were captured during the invasion, including five American citizens, are still missing today.

Earlier this year, the Turkish government was rebuked by the European Court of Human Rights when the court overwhelmingly found Turkey guilty of massive human rights violations over the last 27 years in a scathing 146-page decision. In the case of Cyprus versus Turkey, the court concluded Turkey had not done enough to investigate the whereabouts of Greek-Cypriot missing persons who disappeared during life-threatening situations after the occupation.

The court also found Turkey guilty of refusing to allow the return of any Greek-Cypriot displaced persons to their homes in Northern Cyprus. Families continue to be separated by the 113-mile barbed wire fence that runs across the island. The court found this to be unacceptable.

Mr. Speaker, I was also troubled by the court's findings on the living conditions of Greek Cypriots living in the Karpas region of Northern Cyprus. Residents in this region face strict restrictions on access to religious worship, no access to appropriate secondary schools for their children, and no security that their possessions will be passed on to their families after their death.

By disregarding international law and order, and by defying democratic principles, Turkey has over the past 27 years remained an anachronistic hostage to the past rather than choosing to look to the future with renewed vitality for cooperation and development.

Since the invasion, all efforts towards finding a just, peaceful, and viable solution to the problem have been constantly met with intransigence and the lack of political will by Turkey. The United States, which is trusted by all sides in this conflict, has the ability to help move the peace process forward. We must continue to support the United Nations' framework for negotiations between the Greek-Cypriot and Turkish-Cypriot communities. But currently peace negotiations are at a standstill.

Over the years, I have become quite familiar with the Turkish side's of

well-known negotiation tactics. The Turkish side agrees to peace negotiations on the Cyprus problem only for the purpose of undermining them once they begin and then blames the Greek Cypriots for their failure. Once again, face-to-face negotiations that were scheduled for January have never occurred because Turkish Cypriot leader Rauf Denktash refuses to attend.

Mr. Speaker, while the U.S. should do everything possible to restart the U.N. negotiations, it should be made crystal clear to the Turkish leadership and Mr. Denktash that their unacceptable demand for recognition of a separate state in order to return to the negotiating table are completely unacceptable. No effort should be made to appease the Turkish Cypriot leader in order to return to the negotiating table.

And not only should Mr. Denktash return to the negotiating table, but he should negotiate in good faith in order to reach a comprehensive settlement within the framework provided by the relevant United Nations Security Council's Resolutions. These resolutions establish a bizonal, bicomunal federation with a single international personality and sovereignty and a single citizenship.

Mr. Speaker, for 27 years now, the people of Cyprus have been denied their independence and freedom because of a foreign aggressor. I urge all of my colleagues to join me in remembering what the Cypriot people have suffered and continue to suffer at the hands of the Turks. I also urge my colleagues to join me in pressuring the administration to focus American efforts to move the peace process forward on the Turkish military, which has real and substantial influence on decision-making in the Turkish government.

MISSILE DEFENSE

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

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I look forward to spending this evening talking to my colleagues about an issue that I think is fundamentally important to not only this generation in America but to every future generation in America, at least as far out as we can see. It is also an issue that is absolutely critical for our friends and allies throughout the world. It is missile defense.

Now, I hope this evening to be joined by my colleague, the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. OSBORNE), and the two of us will go through missile defense and talk a little about the necessity for it.

We have heard a lot of rhetoric here in the last few weeks about how missile defense is going to set off an arms race, about how missile defense does not make any sense, about how missile defense is not technologically feasible. But tonight I want to go to the facts,

to cut through the rhetoric, and I want to get right to the meat. Because this issue is so critical for us, we cannot afford to let the substance be diluted by the rhetoric. Again, do not let the substance of missile defense for this country be diluted by rhetoric, because all of us lose.

I was at the World Forum in Vail, Colorado 2 or 3 years ago. Vail is in my district out in Colorado. And the World Forum, put on by President Gerald Ford, was a fabulous thing. Leaders from all over the world came there. Margaret Thatcher spoke. And when Margaret Thatcher spoke, you could almost hear a pin drop at this World Forum. She got up and said in response to a question on missile defense, she said to the leaders of the United States and to the leaders of the United Kingdom, you have an inherent responsibility. Now, remember, her whole sentence I am about to cite, her whole answer is maybe two or three sentences. But her response was that you have an inherent responsibility to the people that you represent to protect them, and failure to do so would be dereliction of your duty. Now, that is a summary of what she said. Failure to do so would be dereliction of your duty.

We have a known threat out there. We know there are missiles aimed at the United States of America. We know that there are other countries, and not just what used to be the Soviet Union, which was the big threat in my generation.

When I was a young child I remember my mom and dad telling me, during the Cuban missile crisis, that we were probably going to go to war in the next few hours. I remember the fallout shelters. And as I grew up, everything was Russia; the Soviet Union, the Soviet Union is going to launch an attack. And, of course, we in the mountains of Colorado were worried because we had Cheyenne Mountain, the headquarters for NORAD over in Colorado Springs.

But has the threat subsided? The threat has not subsided. I do not understand the reasoning of some of these people who are trying to convince the American people that the threat of a missile attack has subsided. In fact, I would venture to say that the threat of a missile attack has actually increased, because we now have a multitude of nations that have tested nuclear weapons. We know there are a multitude of nations out there that have missile technology.

We know, for example, that when the Soviet Union was the Soviet Union they had very strict control over their weapons. Today, we do not know what kind of control they have over their weapons. We know that we have China that is attempting to build up its military. And, frankly, I think China and Russia, as it now is, are more manageable than say a North Korea or a Pakistan or an India or over in the Middle East or some terrorist group.

And, God forbid, what if we had an accidental launch against the United