

with Blacks in Government and his service to the African American Community.

HONORING THE CHINESE NEW
YEAR

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 12, 2002

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the celebration of the Lunar (or Chinese) New Year—the most important of all Chinese festivals. Part of the Asian philosophy includes the belief that as the turning of the new year, you clean your home, sweep away misfortune and welcome in the new year with hopes for prosperity and good luck. We should all take advantage of this opportunity to explore this tradition and embrace the richness of our diversity.

It is the year 4699 by the Chinese calendar, the Year of the Horse. The Lunar New Year is celebrated on the New Moon of the 1st day of the year and ends on the Full Moon 15 days later. It is popularly recognized as the Spring Festival, and is celebrated just before planting begins in the spring, with hopes for a good harvest in the coming year. Family is a major focus of the celebration, especially on New Year's Eve and New Year's day. A ritual paying homage to ancestors is performed in order to unite living family members with those who have departed. Much respect is paid to these ancestors who were responsible for laying the foundations for the fortune and glory of their families. The festivities conclude with the Lantern Festival, on the last night of the celebration, consisting of a parade of people carrying lanterns, and of young men performing a dragon dance.

In San Francisco, the Chinese-American community is a vital, historic and vibrant component of our world-renowned diversity. Chinese-Americans have played a significant role in all aspects of American life including our arts, education, sports, medicine, religion, and politics. Recognition of these gifts and of the cultural diversity in America today was recently symbolized when once again the United States Postal Service issued its annual commemorative stamp honoring the wonderful tradition of the Chinese New Year. I am honored to participate in Chinese New Year celebrations, and I wish all a Gong Hay Fat Choy.

INDIA: CANDIDATE FOR A
TERRORIST STATE

HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 12, 2002

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, it is disappointing to note that India's actions of late have had the effect of undermining our war against terrorism. India's massive military buildup has forced Pakistan to pull troops away from the Afghan border, creating a potential opportunity for Taliban and Al Qaeda leaders to escape.

India claims that this act is in response to Pakistan's failure to turn over alleged terrorists to them, but Pakistan has been cracking down

on terrorists and has jailed many of them so far. It will not turn over non-Indians to India, however. India also blames Pakistan for the attack on its parliament, even though India has a record of committing acts of terrorism in the guise of various minorities. Two independent investigations have proven that they did so in Chithisinghpora in March 2000, when they murdered 35 sikhs. The book *Soft Target* asserts that the Indian government was responsible for shooting down an Air India airliner in 1985, killing 329 people. In addition, India created the militant Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), which our government has labeled a "terrorist organization," and put up its leaders in Delhi's finest hotel, according to *India Today*, India's leading newsmagazine. Internet journalist Justin Raimondo has reported that Defense Minister George Fernandes supplied money and arms to the LTTE. On January 2, columnist Tony Blankley, writing in the *Washington Times*, reported that the Indian government sponsors cross-border terrorism in the Pakistani province of Sindh.

The time has come for India to release its political prisoners. According to the Movement Against State Repression (MASR), India admitted to holding 52,268 Sikhs as political prisoners in "the world's largest democracy." In addition, according to Amnesty International, tens of thousands of other minorities are also being held in jail.

India has also been guilty of terrorism against the minorities within its own borders. The newspaper *Hitavada* reported on November 1994 that the Indian government paid \$1.5 billion to the late governor of Punjab, Surendra Nath, to foment terrorist activity in Kashmir and Punjab, Khalistan.

If we are going to win the war on terrorism, we must eliminate it wherever it shows up. That includes countries that claim to be democratic. I call on the White House to urge India to end its support for terrorism. In addition, it is time to cut off U.S. aid to India and to declare our support for a free and fair plebiscite in Punjab, Khalistan, in Christian Nagaland, in Kashmir, and in the other minority nations under Indian occupation on the subject of independence.

Mr. Speaker, on January 7, the Council of Khalistan published a press release urging that India be declared a terrorist state. I would like to place it into the RECORD at this time.

[Press Release from the Council of
Khalistan, Jan. 7, 2002]

DECLARE INDIA A TERRORIST NATION—IT
SPONSORS DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL
TERROR

INDIA MUST FREE OVER 52,000 SIKH POLITICAL
PRISONERS

WASHINGTON, DC.—"The time has come to declare India a terrorist nation," Dr. Gurmit Singh Aulakh, President of the Council of Khalistan, said today. The Council of Khalistan leads the Sikh Nation's struggle for independence and is the government pro tempore of Khalistan, the Sikh homeland, which declared its independence from India on October 7, 1987. "India pays lip service to the war on terrorism, but it is a terrorist nation itself," Dr. Aulakh said. "If America is committed to eradicating terrorism everywhere, that must include India, a major sponsor of international and domestic terrorism," Dr. Aulakh said.

Columnist Tony Blankley, writing in the *Washington Times* on January 2, wrote that India sponsors cross-border terrorism in the Pakistani province of Sindh. Internet jour-

nalist Justin Raimondo recently reported that Indian Defense Minister George Fernandes raised money for the militant Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), which the U.S. government has labeled as a "terrorist organization," and provided arms for them. Journalist Tavleen Singh, writing in *India Today*, India's premier newsmagazine, reported that the Indian government created the LTTE and put up its leaders in the finest hotel in Delhi.

The *Deccan Chronicle* reported on December 14 that the Indian government knew of the terrorist attack on its Parliament, which killed 13 people, in advance and that the government did nothing to stop it. No Members of Parliament were killed in the attack, but the victims were lower-caste people. This shows government involvement in the incident. India seeks to use this attack as a pretext for a war against Pakistan. Indian cabinet members have said that Pakistan should be incorporated into India. "Sikhs and Kashmiris will be the main victims of war," said Dr. Aulakh. "This is part of India's design. India is putting the stability of the entire South Asian region at risk for its own hegemonic ambitions," he said.

"We condemn terrorism in all forms, wherever it comes from," he said. "It is time for India to release more than 52,000 Sikh political prisoners and the tens of thousands of other political prisoners and end its repression," Dr. Aulakh said. . . . According to a report in *May* by the Movement Against State Repression, India admitted that 52,268 Sikh political prisoners are rotting in Indian jails without charge or trial. Many have been in illegal custody since 1984. "I call on the Sikh leadership in Punjab to stop making coalitions with the Indian government and work for freedom for the Sikhs and the other minority nations of South Asia," he said.

The book *Soft Target*, written by two respected Canadian journalists, shows that the Indian government blew up its own airliner in 1985 to provide a pretext for more repression against Sikhs. In November 1994, the newspaper *Hitavada* reported that the government paid the late governor of Punjab, Surendra Nath, \$1.5 billion to generate terrorist activity in Punjab and Kashmir. The Indian government has murdered over 250,000 Sikhs since 1984. Over 75,000 Kashmiri Muslims have been killed since 1988. In May, Indian troops were caught red-handed trying to set fire to a Gurdwara (a Sikh temple) and some Sikh houses in Kashmir. Two independent investigations have proven that the Indian government carried out the March 2000 massacre of 35 Sikhs in Chithisinghpora. In August 1999, U.S. Congressman Dana Rohrabacher said that for Sikhs, Kashmiri Muslims, and other minorities "India might as well be Nazi Germany."

India has also repressed Christians. More than 200,000 Christians have been killed since 1947. Priests have been murdered, nuns have been raped, churches have been burned. Christian schools and prayer halls have been destroyed, and no one has been punished for these acts. Militant Hindu fundamentalists allied with the RSS, the pro-Fascist parent organization of the ruling BJP, burned missionary Graham Staines and his two young sons to death. In 1997, police broke up a Christian religious festival by firing their weapons at it.

"Now is the time for Sikhs, Kashmiris, Nagas, and other nations to claim their freedom," he said. "Now is the time for a Shantmai Morcha (peaceful agitation) for the independence of Khalistan," he said. "If India is truly the democracy it claims, then it should allow a free and fair vote on this issue," Dr. Aulakh said. "Sikhs are a separate nation and ruled Punjab up to 1849 when the British annexed Punjab. The nations and