

On Friday, I will present this document to Ambassador Przemyslaw Grudzinski, who will accept it on behalf of the Polish government. These records will then travel to Poland with Mr. Allen Paul, an American author whose book, *Katyn: Stalin's Massacre and the Seeds of Polish Resurrection*, provides a comprehensive overview of the crime and the context in which it occurred. Mr. Paul's book has recently been translated into Polish and will be released at an event in Warsaw on April 12. He will place the hearing record at that time, in my behalf, in the hands of Mr. Andrzej Przewoznik, Secretary General of the Polish Government Council on War Archives, Public Monuments and Historic Sites.

It is to be hoped that the record established by the Select Committee will aid public officials, historians and many others in efforts to understand the terrible crime of Katyn and its continuing impact on Russo-Polish relations. I am including with this statement some excerpts of Mr. Paul's reflections on the importance and scope of the select committee which will be delivered on April 12 in Warsaw at a Conference on the 60th Anniversary of Disclosure of the Katyn Forest Massacre.

Mr. Speaker, as we observe the anniversary of the discovery of this tragedy, let us hope and pray that humanity is spared such tragedies in the future.

THOUGHTS ABOUT THE CONGRESSIONAL
INVESTIGATION OF KATYN

At this moment we are only a few hours away from the sixtieth anniversary of Radio Berlin's sensational announcement that the Wehrmacht had found the bodies of thousands Polish officers in Katyn Forest who had been "bestially murdered by the Bolsheviks." Fresh from their catastrophic defeat at Stalingrad, the Germans were eager to divert the world's attention from the pierced veil of Wehrmacht invincibility, and they correctly surmised that this, too, was a golden opportunity to sow seeds of discord in the Western Alliance. At that moment the victims—men who had served Poland faithfully, in fact one might say, valiantly, men who represented the present and future leadership of their nation, fathers and husbands, physicians and engineers, professional soldiers and shopkeepers, unfortunate souls placed by an unkind fate in Soviet hands, prisoners of war who were not recognized as POWs by their captors—from the moment the news crackled over the airwaves from Berlin, these tragic victims became geopolitical pawns and would remain so for years to come.

... Amidst all the atrocities of World War Two why have the crimes commonly referred to as the Katyn Forest Massacre been so enduring? Poland's feisty wartime Ambassador to the Soviet Union, Stanislaw Kot, proved to be eerily prophetic on this issue. In 1941, exasperated by continued stonewalling by the Soviet government on the case of his country's missing soldiers Kot said, "People are not like steam. They cannot evaporate." More than 60 years later, we are still thinking, writing and debating the facts of the case because, I suspect, it provides such a powerful mirror into the human soul.

Let me turn now to one of the great milestones on the arduous path to truth about the terrible murders in Katyn Forest, that being the work of what was officially called "The Select Committee to Conduct an Investigation and Study of the Facts, Evidence and Circumstances on the Katyn Forest Massacre."

On September 18, 1951 the United States Congress authorized what would become the

most comprehensive neutral investigation of this crime ever undertaken. It followed by five years an abortive attempt to address this darkest of tragedies at the Nuremberg trials. That charade collapsed under the sheer weight of Soviet prosecutorial ineptitude. In 1948 the Poles themselves—through their London-based government-in-exile—completed their own investigation and published it as, *The Crime of Katyn: Facts and Documents*. It was the most complete record of the crime at the time but it was far from what the Poles had hoped for: a high profile, independent investigation and trial to prove once and for all that the Soviets—not the Germans—were responsible for these brutal murders.

In their conclusion to the 1948 report, the Poles had emphasized Roman-law canon: i.e. "nobody can be judge in his own case." The Soviets had attempted with disastrous effect to judge their own case at Nuremberg. The Poles knew that they, no more than the Soviets, could judge this case, thus they called for an international tribunal to affix guilt and mete out punishment.

In a sense the investigation sponsored by the U.S. Congress vindicated the Poles' findings in 1948. The congressional investigation lasted from September 18, 1951 to December 22, 1952. It resulted in hearings in six cities and four countries; 81 witnesses were heard; and private depositions were taken from 100 individuals, most of whom required anonymity to protect relatives still in Poland. The final report of 2,162 pages filled seven volumes. After all was said and done, the Select Committee of Congress concluded, just as the Polish Government-in-Exile had four years earlier, that an international tribunal, in this case the new United Nations International Court Justice, should investigate the crime.

This similarity of findings in no way diminishes the scope and importance of the congressional investigation. Once and for all it put the United States clearly on the side of the truth in this case and that was no small accomplishment. The committee clearly, meticulously and, I would say, courageously documented U.S. concealment of Soviet guilt and its de facto pursuit of an ends justifies the means policy.

... Like the recommendations of the Polish government-in-exile in 1948, the recommendations of the Select Committee of Congress were never acted on. During the war geopolitical realities—principally the fear that the Soviets would sign a separate peace with Germany—stood squarely in the way. After the war geopolitical realities—the fact that the Soviets could block action at the United Nations—continued to stand squarely in the way.

... The words of Sir Owen O'Malley and Ambassador Stanislaw Kot ring just true today as the day they were uttered. Kot told us in 1941, "People are not like steam. They cannot evaporate." Kot would tell us today that the quest for justice for Poland's officers and deportees will inevitably continue. And surely O'Malley would tell us that justice, if found nowhere else, must be found in our own hearts.

IN MEMORY OF ODELIA ROBINSON

HON. STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 3, 2003

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, Odelia V. Robinson, known for her focus on economic development and safety during the dec-

ade, represented Mount Pleasant on Cleveland City Council.

Robinson took office in 1990 with a promise to bring housing and youth services back to the community that had seen little construction in recent decades. When she resigned for health reasons at the end of 1999, her accomplishments included the new Zelma George Recreation Center as well as new houses, apartment buildings and a shopping center.

Robinson grew up in the Miles Heights area, where she was a lifelong member of Liberty Hill Baptist Church and taught Sunday School. She graduated from John Hay High School in 1948 and enrolled in the Cleveland College of Western Reserve University. She also took business administration courses at Cleveland State University. In 1953, she married Clarence Robinson, a bus driver who spent his weekends playing baritone saxophone in bands.

Odelia Robinson was the office manager for the American Civil Liberties Union in the 1960s and later worked for the Benjamin Rose Institute, an agency that provides services to the elderly. She also served on the boards of Hill House, the Murtis H. Taylor MultiServices Center and the Inner City Renewal Society.

On behalf of the people of the 11th Congressional District of Ohio and the United States Congress, I offer my sympathies to the family of Odelia Robinson.

A CELEBRATION OF YOUTH IN
HONOR OF ALEXANDER FREDERICK
BURNETTE

HON. NICK SMITH

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 3, 2003

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the birth and life of my ninth grandchild, Alexander Frederick Burnette, born May 31, 2000, born to our daughter Elizabeth and her husband, Fred. My wife Bonnie and I join with Alexander's other grandparents, Bonnie and Charles Burnette, in celebrating Alexander.

Alexander faces a great world of great opportunity. Scientific discoveries and advanced technology daily improve our lives. They allow us to live longer, better, and more productive lives. In the year of Alexander's birth scientists finished a map of the human genome. This was a huge scientific achievement which will help doctors and scientists improve our health and life.

Today, we continue to push forward with scientific advancements. Like information technology and biotechnology breakthroughs of the past ten years, nanotechnology holds the potential to revolutionize our way of life. However, the science is still very much in its fledgling stage, so it is important that the federal government coordinate and fund basic research into the fundamental aspects of nanotechnology so that its potential can one day be realized.

I hope that as we consider legislation for these new issues we consider what we can contribute to our children and grandchildren by encouraging new technologies. I hope that we can leave Alexander, and his generation every where, with a brighter future because of what we accomplish today.