

in Kosovo which will lead to only greater violence and bloodshed.

We must not allow this to happen, Mr. Speaker. The world community can prevent this if it has the will to do so.

#### CONGRESSIONAL TRIP TO KOSOVO

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

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I joined the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. KELLY) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. ENGEL) over the weekend. Our intent was to go to Kosovo because we were aware of the brutal violence that the Milosevic regime had imposed upon the Kosovo people. They went into villages and wiped out the village. The Interior Minister of Kosovo, who was acting under the orders of Mr. Milosevic, said that if there are even two terrorists opposed to our regime, we consider the entire village opposed and are justified in eliminating it.

They killed 87 people, innocent men, women, children. They lined them up. Many of them they only killed after torturing them. These people were not a threat. Virtually all of them were unarmed. They wiped them out because they were afraid that they might at some point pose a threat to their regime. Why would it be a threat? Kosovo is a country of 2.2 million people. About 2 million of them are Albanian Muslims. A little less than 10 percent of the population is Serbian. Many of those Serbs have been sent there by Mr. Milosevic, who is the head of the Serbian government, that now calls itself the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, sent to populate Kosovo. Most of the Serbs there did not want to be there. Some of them had been driven out by Croats, out of the Krajina region in Croatia, but the reality is that the vast majority of the Kosovo people want to have their own representation. They had a vote in 1991, overwhelmingly elected Mr. Ibrahim Rugova as the President. That presidency was not allowed to take effect, that government was not allowed to take effect. Mr. Milosevic took over control of the country. The way he maintains control over 90 percent of the population is through the most brutal repression, the same kind of brutality we saw in Bosnia.

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I can tell you one instance when I visited Kosovo earlier, there was a school that was fit for about a thousand students. Half of the school was reserved for a handful of Serbian children, the other half, a thousand Albanian Muslim children were consigned to. The government bricked over the bathrooms. One of the parents who had two daughters there complained about the conditions. That man had his body mutilated, was slit from head to toe

and dumped on the doorstep of the family. That is the kind of brutality that enables a very small portion of the population, through a reign of terror, to control 90 percent of the population.

That is why we went there, in defense of human rights, of democracy and, in fact, of free enterprise because the Serbian regime out of Belgrade seized control of the private businesses. The majority of the population are not allowed to own their businesses. They seize the assets of the banks, they deprive people of the means of livelihood. You have an 85 percent unemployment rate in Kosovo. What you have is a landmine that is going to explode.

President Rugova believes in non-violence. The six Americans who were imprisoned believe in nonviolence. In fact they were there to preach non-violent conflict resolution, and yet they were arrested by the police under a phony charge that has never been used before, that they had not registered their exact location with the police. They had moved from one home to another, apparently, and so they had their heads shaved, they were sentenced to 10 days.

This is an untenable situation. It cannot continue in the way it is. We are going to have a press conference tomorrow. We will have a rally tomorrow. I hope that free peoples around the world will join in unison against these repressive tactics, restore independence to Kosovo.

#### THE MISUSE OF EXECUTIVE PRIVILEGE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (BOB SCHAFFER of Colorado). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, last week the President reportedly asserted executive privilege over conversations the President had with his longtime aid Bruce Lindsey as well as conversation the First Lady had with White House aide Sidney Blumenthal. This is the first time since President Richard Nixon, during Watergate, that a President has asserted executive privilege in a criminal proceeding. This stunning misuse of executive privilege is one of the White House's many delay tactics designed to drag out investigations.

As the New York Times editorialized this morning, Mr. Clinton's attempt to block grand jury testimony by two important White House aides, Bruce Lindsey and Sidney Blumenthal, is an alarming attempt to extend presidential power. Even former Clinton advisor George Stephanopoulos recognizes the absurdity of this claim of executive privilege when on This Week with David Brinkley he said, "They cannot win this fight on executive privilege. It has been tried before in the Whitewater case and eventually they turned over the documents." That was a quote from This Week on March 22, 1998.

The President initially raised executive privilege with the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight, my committee, in a deposition of Bruce Lindsey last fall. The President's White House counsel directed Bruce Lindsey not to answer questions regarding conversations Lindsey had with the President about campaign contributor James Riady.

When we challenged the White House on these claims, the President's counsel informed the committee last week that the President would not assert these claims over Mr. Lindsey's conversations. It is important to note that the committee could have held Mr. Lindsey in contempt for refusal to answer the questions if the committee determined that there was no basis for a valid claim of privilege.

The President's former White House counsel, Lloyd Cutler, wrote in a 1994 executive privilege memo, quote, "In circumstances involving communications relating to investigations of personal wrongdoing by government officials, it is our practice," the White House's practice, "it is our practice not to assert executive privilege either in judicial proceedings or in congressional investigations and hearings." End quote.

The President is not following his own order on executive privilege when it comes to the grand jury. Since these proceedings are all behind closed doors, the White House raises frivolous arguments to delay the proceedings. In the light of day with Congress the White House has backed down.

Executive privilege is supposed to be used only rarely when national security would be significantly impaired, conduct of foreign relations would be impacted, or the performance of the President's constitutional duties would be impacted.

This is not Bosnia, this is not the Middle East. These are scandals about possible personal wrongdoing by government and political officials. It has been White House policy since the Kennedy administration not to invoke executive privilege when allegations of wrongdoing are at issue. In contrast to Mr. Clinton, President Reagan declined to claim executive privilege over any matters in Iran-Contra where sensitive foreign policy decisions and negotiations were at issue. Executive privilege is not supposed to be used as a shield against responding to criminal proceedings. This is a clear misuse of the executive privilege.

As George Washington University Professor Jonathan Turley recently stated, quote, "It is ironic to see the extent to which the Clinton administration has adopted executive privilege arguments far beyond those made by the Nixon administration." End quote.

Mr. Speaker, this administration and the President has no basis to claim executive privilege on matters before the grand jury that Mr. Starr is conducting, and, Mr. Speaker, I believe they

are only doing this to extend the investigation, to drag it out, so that it eventually wears out the American people and they are able to hide behind that.

So, Mr. Speaker, I think this is something that should be stopped. I think the President should not claim executive privilege, he should get on with the investigation, he should make a clean breast of all this before the American people so that the American people know the facts.

#### THE PRESIDENT'S HISTORIC VISIT TO AFRICA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I think it is important, as we watch the historic visit of the President to the Continent of Africa, to be able to put into perspective this very important trip for it highlights many issues. For many, it was thought that this was a trip to talk about trade and economic development and opportunities of partnership on the issues of trade and economic development between the United States and sub-Saharan Africa, but we are finding that there is much more that can occur and that will occur, and I think it is vital for the countries that the President is visiting to be singled out for their individual merits and as well to acknowledge the problems and the future efforts that will be needed to enhance Africa's international position and as well its friendship and partnership with the United States of America.

I would like to personally acknowledge my appreciation for my own hometown newspaper, the Houston Chronicle, which has taken a great interest not only in the President's visit but the whole new opportunities that may be available, not only for this Nation but for Texas and Houston. They had a very large article on the issue of trade in the African Growth and Opportunity Act, explaining its viability and possibilities for large corporations but particularly small- and medium-sized businesses. They offered and editorialized their support for the African Growth and Opportunity Act and, as well, as I said earlier, they have a reporter from the Chronicle traveling with the President. Likewise, one of my local television stations, ABC Capital Channel 13, is as well viewing this as an important effort.

But what do we expect to see? Many of the news footage yesterday showed the President warmly received by the President of Ghana who has been re-elected democratically and has shown an economic recovery in that country that competes well internationally. We saw a crowd that was, in its excitement, pushing toward the President, and I hope that we understood that his reaction was to protect those who were being crushed in the front and no other reaction other than to recognize how well he was being received.

But do we realize the leaps of faith and success that Botswana has experienced, another country that he will visit, having had democracy for 31 years? As long as it has been an independent country, it has been democratic. It has had few Presidents. The economics of the country is amazing. Housing is there, but yet it has a severe and serious HIV problem, and when I visited in December they offered to say that there were individuals who have seen six members of their family buried due to HIV. Uganda, who has implemented an economic program to increase the employment of the underemployed and unemployed, and yet has some problems which we will work on and need to expose as relates to the rebels' action in parts of that country in doing heinous acts; but the President stands against that, and we must emphasize human rights along with his visit to Rwanda.

As I listened to my colleagues talk about the Balkans, human rights violations and tragic genocide and ethnic cleansing are going on in Africa, and those of us who believe in human rights must stand up against it. It is important for the President to be in Rwanda to talk about these extreme abuses and the tragedies against families and children. It is all right for us to see that, but we must see that in the context of the whole Africa.

And that is why it is so very important as we visit this continent that the President also visits and interacts in South Africa and visits with Nelson Mandela, the father of Africa, who through his peaceful existence for 27 years of incarceration helped bring about the end of apartheid, and now South Africa has its position as one who can lead Africa in the course of economic development and human rights.

Then the President's visit to Senegal is extremely important as he realizes the tragedy of slavery. I hope that this will generate a healing process, and I hope that many who will view this will acknowledge the importance of this trip, Mr. Speaker, and that we will work together to heal any racial divide and, as well, bring us together around issues like an apology to African Americans because we have seen the connection and the viability and the positive relationship.

#### CONGRATULATIONS TO INDIA'S NEW PRIME MINISTER

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, I rise today to express my congratulations to the newly-elected leader of the world's largest democracy, Mr. Atal Behari Vajpayee was sworn in last week as the Prime Minister of India. India's Parliament will hold a confidence vote later this week on Prime Minister Vajpayee's new government. Pending

the outcome of the confidence vote, the Prime Minister is poised to lead the world's second most populous nation into the 21st century.

Mr. Speaker, the new Prime Minister is a veteran political leader in India who was once introduced by Prime Minister Nehru, India's first Prime Minister, as the future Prime Minister of India. He is a member of the party commonly referred to as the BJP, which has been described as a nationalist party. While some media accounts have portrayed the party in a negative light, Prime Minister Vajpayee has shown every indication of his intent to follow a moderate course. He has already reached out to India's neighbors, Pakistan and Sri Lanka, expressing the desire to build on recent efforts to foster friendlier relations among the nations of south Asia. In fact, the Prime Minister also intends to oversee the foreign affairs portfolio. During the 1970s Mr. Vajpayee served as Foreign Minister in a coalition government and won widespread praise for helping to reduce Indo-Pakistani tensions.

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He has also indicated that he intends to stay the course on the free-market reforms that have transformed India into one of the world's most dynamic emerging markets.

Mr. Speaker, Prime Minister Vajpayee has also spoken of his commitment to maintain the secular principles of India's constitution.

I had the opportunity to meet the new Prime Minister last year in New Delhi, then in his capacity as leader of the opposition in the Parliament. I also met with members of his shadow cabinet, many of whom will now assume the leadership of the various ministries.

I found Mr. Vajpayee and his colleagues to be sincerely dedicated to building a better future for India's nearly 1 billion people, continuing the free-market reforms while better developing the nation's infrastructure.

Given the negative characterizations of the BJP as a chauvinistic or fundamentalist party, I was impressed by the party's grassroots strategy of building alliances with regional parties representing India's many ethnic and religious groups.

Perhaps most important, as a visiting Representative of the U.S. Congress, and by extension of the American people, I was very happy to hear of Prime Minister Vajpayee's strong desire to work for close ties between India and the United States.

True, there have been some voices in India expressing concern about protecting India's culture from too much American or Western influence, but the leaders of India's new government have made it very clear, in my meeting with them and in the countless other forums, that they welcome U.S. trade and investment.

In fact, BJP leaders often point out that their party was at the forefront of