

Russia qualifies it for membership in the G 8, but our hope for democratic developments in Russia gave us the justification for continued membership by Russia in the G 8.

Mr. Speaker, recent very disturbing trends in Russia with respect to press freedom and a number of other issues, such as the war in Chechnya, have raised very severe doubts concerning democratic development in that country. The handling of the submarine tragedy, where the Russian Government reverted to the worst practices of the former Soviet Union, and the handling of the fire at the television tower, where, incredibly, it took President Putin's approval to cut power to the television tower as the fire was raging, raised some very serious questions with respect to the democratic direction that the new Russian Government is taking.

Our resolution—which is cosponsored by the Chairman of the Helsinki Commission, our Republican colleague Mr. CHRIS SMITH of New Jersey; the Chairman of the House International Relations Committee, Mr. GILMAN of New York; a senior Democratic member of the International Relations Committee, Mr. BERMAN of California—is designed to hoist the flag of caution to Mr. Putin's government. Our resolution indicates that while we are anxious and eager to build good and cooperative relations with Russia along the full spectrum of issues, we simply cannot countenance continued Russian participation as a member of the G 8 as long as there are blatant attacks on press freedom and other actions that undermine democracy.

Mr. Speaker, it will take a long time to build democracy in Russia, but one of the very few encouraging signs of the last decade in Russia was the presence of a free press. Political leaders clearly do not like to be criticized and Mr. Putin does not like to be criticized, but if the Russian President wishes to be the head of a democratic country, not a newly totalitarian Russia, he will have to get accustomed to the fact that criticism is part and parcel of political leadership in democratic societies.

Mr. Speaker, we are hoping that Mr. Putin's regime will put an end to the persecution and harassment of whatever is left of the free media in Russia. If that happens, we will be pleased to see continued Russian participation in the G 8. But if the Russian government's onslaught on the free media continues, I am certain that the vast majority of my colleagues, will join us in saying that Russia should no longer belong to the G 8.

It is my understanding that some of the leaders on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee are contemplating the introduction of parallel legislation. We are very pleased to see this because the Congress of the United States will speak with a unified voice on this issue.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that the full text of House Concurrent Resolution 425 be placed in The RECORD, and I urge my colleagues to join as cosponsors of this legislation.

H. Con. Res. 425

Expressing the sense of the Congress that the continued participation of the Russian Federation in the Group of Eight must be conditioned on Russia's own voluntary acceptance of and adherence to the norms and standards of democracy.

Whereas in 1991 and subsequent years the leaders of the Group of Seven ("G 7"), the

forum of the heads of state or heads of government of the major free-market economies of the world which meet annually in a summit meeting, invited Russia to a post-summit dialogue, and in 1998 the leaders of the Group of Seven formally invited Russia to participate in an annual gathering that thereafter became known as the Group of Eight ("G 8"), although the Group of Seven have continued to hold informal summit meetings and ministerial meetings that do not include Russia;

Whereas the invitation to President Yeltsin of Russia to participate in these annual summits was in recognition of his commitment to democratization and economic liberalization, despite the fact that the Russian economy has been weak and its commitment to democratic principles has been uncertain;

Whereas those countries which are members of the Group of Seven are pluralistic democratic societies with democratic political institutions and practices, and they have committed themselves to the observance of universally recognized standards of human rights, respect for individual liberties and democratic political practices;

Whereas a free news media and freedom of speech are fundamental to the functioning of a democratic society and essential for the protection of individual liberties, and such freedoms can exist only in an environment that is free of state control of the news media, that is free of any form of state censorship or official coercion of any kind, and that is protected and guaranteed by the rule of law;

Whereas the Russian Federation has engaged in a series of government actions that are hostile and threatening to privately-owned, independently operated media enterprises, particularly those new outlets that have been critical of government policies and government actions; and

Whereas the continued participation of the Russian Federation in the Group of Eight must be conditioned on Russia's own voluntary acceptance of and adherence to the norms and standards of democracy;

Now, therefore, be it *Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring)*, That it is the sense of the Congress that the participation of the Russian Federation in the Group of Eight must be linked to the Russian Federation's adherence to the norms and standards of democracy, including:

(1) the existence of a free, unfettered press that fosters the development of an independent media and the free exchange of ideas and views, including opportunities for private ownership of media enterprises, the right of people to receive news without government interference and harassment, and the freedom of journalists to publish opinions and news reports without fear of censorship or punishment;

(2) the freedom of all religious groups freely to practice their faith in Russia, without undue government interference on the rights and the peaceful activities of such religious organizations;

(3) equal treatment and respect for the human rights and the right to own private property of all citizens of the Russian Federation;

(4) initiation of genuine negotiations for a just and peaceful resolution of the conflict in Chechnya, including a full investigation of the conflict and bringing to justice those individuals, civilian or military, who in a court of law

are found to be guilty of violating human rights;

(5) respect for the rule of law and improvement of civil and legal institutions to implement and defend these rights; and

(6) reform of the judicial system to prevent the arbitrary detention of citizens and provide for a speedy trial and equal access to the judicial system.

The President and the Secretary of State are requested to convey to appropriate officials of the Government of the Russian Federation, including the President, the Prime Minister, and the Minister of Foreign Affairs, this expression of the views of the Congress.

HONORING BROWARD COUNTY  
FIRE RESCUE

HON. PETER DEUTSCH

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 18, 2000

Mr. DEUTSCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the efforts of Broward County Fire Rescue, of Broward County, Florida. The State of Florida Department of Health, Bureau of Emergency Medical Services (EMS) recently selected Broward County Fire Rescue as the 2000 State of Florida EMS Injury Prevention Agency of the Year. Indeed, Broward County Fire Rescue exemplifies the Emergency Medical Service's injury prevention efforts throughout the State of Florida.

Each year, the State of Florida Department of Health's Bureau of Emergency Medical Services names one of the state's 250 EMS providers as the best injury prevention unit in the state. The award encourages EMS providers throughout the state to become more active in injury prevention efforts.

Broward County fire rescue had many great accomplishments this year. It was the first agency in the county to give a heart attack clotting drug, Retavase, to patients en route to the hospital. The agency received a \$100,000 grant to enhance their heart attack prevention plan by placing automatic external defibrillators in public buildings. These defibrillators have proved life-saving in cases of dire heart attack emergencies. Prioritizing quality of care for patients, Broward County Fire Rescuers make an extra effort to transport heart attack victims to the county hospitals best equipped to care for victims rather than the nearest hospital. Also, the agency has increased fire prevention awareness by airing fire-safety announcements before films at local movie theaters.

Mr. Speaker, I extend a hearty congratulations to Broward County Fire Rescue for their leadership in medical and rescue excellence. They go above and beyond what is demanded of them and perform their heroic services with professionalism and success.

HONORING GARY MCPHERSON

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 18, 2000

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with immense sadness that I take this moment to celebrate the life of Colorado State Representative Gary McPherson. Gary tragically passed

away at age 37. For the past six years, Gary served the State of Colorado with great distinction as a Member of the Colorado State House of Representatives. As family, friends, and colleagues mourn this sudden and terrible loss, I would like to pay tribute to this statesman and friend.

Gary was born in Auburn, Washington, but attended school at Platte Valley Academy in Nebraska, graduating in 1981. He went on to Union College where his thirst for knowledge earned him a degree in business administration, as well as minors in history, psychology, social science and sociology. Gary then went on to earn his law degree at the University of Nebraska in 1988.

After law school, Gary moved on to what would become a highly successful career. His time as a lawyer saw him practicing for a number of different law firms, including Hall & Evans, Elrod, Katz, Preco & Look P.C., Fortune & Lawritson P.C., and most recently Kissinger & Fellman P.C.

In addition to his many accomplishments as a lawyer, Gary also served in the Colorado Legislature with great distinction. As a legislator, Representative McPherson fought hard on a range of issues important to Colorado's future. During his tenure in the legislature, Gary served as member of the Appropriations and Judicial committees as well as Chairman of the House Finance Committee.

Before serving in the Colorado State Legislature, Representative McPherson was a member of numerous organizations promoting the health and vitality of his community and all of Colorado. He served as president and board member of Jackson Farms Homeowners Association, director of the Attorney/Physician Suspension Alternative Project, chairman of the ABA Prelaw Counseling Committee, board member and legislative liaison for the Colorado Bar Association Military Law Commission, and vice chairman and board member of Arapahoe County Park and Recreation District.

Giving back to his community was a priority for Representative McPherson and his hard work and determination earned him a number of awards. His honors include Colorado Bar Association's Outstanding Young Lawyer, Aurora Public Schools Superintendent's Award, International Academy of Trial Lawyer's Award, and CACI Legislator of the Year 1995.

Gary was an incredible human being, a loving and devoted father, husband, and friend. His compassion for others and commitment to his community will not soon be forgotten. Gary served his community, State, and Nation admirably. This statesman, family man, and friend will be greatly missed.

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PUTIN'S POTEMKIN DEMOCRACY  
IN RUSSIA

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**HON. TOM LANTOS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 18, 2000*

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, recent very disturbing trends in Russia with respect to press freedom have raised serious doubts about democratic development in that country. The

current effort by Russian President Vladimir Putin to eliminate the independent news media in Russia is a serious threat to Russia's democratic future.

It will take a long time to build democracy in Russia, Mr. Speaker, but one of the very few encouraging signs of the last decade in Russia was the presence of a free press. Unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, I am using the past tense—it was an encouraging sign.

I sincerely hope that Mr. Putin's administration puts an end to the persecution and harassment of whatever is left of the free media in Russia. But the attack against the independent media is serious and systematic, and it is deadly earnest.

Mr. Speaker, the Washington Post (October 2, 2000) published an excellent editorial expressing serious concern about freedom of the press in Russia. I ask that the text of this editorial be placed in the RECORD. I urge my colleagues to read this important editorial.

IMAGE AND REALITY IN RUSSIA

[The Washington Post, Oct. 2, 2000]

Russian President Vladimir Putin tends to his international image with skill. He dines with American media heavyweights in New York City and professes his commitment to a free press. He lunches with former dissident Nathan Sharansky in the Kremlin and insists on his love of human rights. For a pathetically small price—a bit of attention—he co-opts Mikhail Gorbachev, who in turn says nice things about the young Russian president to foreign media. All this impresses Western leaders. Meanwhile, Mr. Putin is in the process of destroying the independent media in Russia. If he succeeds, democratization will be severely set back.

On a small scale, you can see Mr. Putin at work in the case of Andrei Babitsky, who is scheduled to go on trial in southern Russia today. Mr. Babitsky is a reporter for Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty who reported honestly on brutal Russian behavior in Chechnya. Russian security forces arrested him for this affront and then arranged for him to be kidnapped by Chechen criminals. President Putin pretended to know nothing about this until international pressure became a liability, at which point Mr. Babitsky was freed. But the bullying did not stop. Mr. Putin's administration is prosecuting the reporter for carrying false documents—documents forced on him by his kidnapers.

Mr. Putin's assault on Media-Most is potentially more serious. The company owns NTV, the only Russian television network not controlled by the government. It also owns a radio station and publishes a daily newspaper and, in partnership with The Washington Post Co.'s Newsweek, a weekly magazine. Its survival now is threatened by a commercial dispute with the giant natural gas company, Gazprom, that lent it money.

As in the Babitsky case, Mr. Putin pretends not to be involved in this dispute. But the Kremlin owns a large piece of Gazprom and effectively controls the firm. Mr. Putin's administration set the stage for the dispute by throwing Media-Most's owner into prison for three days. After this KGB-style intimidation, the owner, Vladimir Gusinsky, was pressured—by a member of Mr. Putin's cabinet acting in close consultation with the Kremlin—to sign an unfavorable contract. Mr. Gusinsky was promised in return his freedom, which President Putin apparently feels is a commodity to be bargained, not a fundamental right. Now, despite Mr. Putin's

protest of noninvolvement in a commercial dispute, his prosecutor-general has opened a criminal fraud case against Mr. Gusinsky.

The West has little leverage over Russia. Oil prices are high, meaning that Russia, an oil-producing country, no longer needs Western loans. But as his image campaign suggests, Mr. Putin does crave acceptance in the West. Western leaders should welcome him as long as he respects democracy at home. If he does not—if he persists in undermining Russia's independent media—the G-8 group of leading industrialized nations should return to being a G-7. A Potemkin democrat does not belong in the club of democracies.

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RESOLUTION HONORING NOBEL  
LAUREATES DR. ERIC R.  
KANDEL AND DR. PAUL  
GREENGARD

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**HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 18, 2000*

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce a resolution to honor the American winners of the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine for 2000, Drs. Eric R. Kandel and Paul Greengard. These two distinguished scientists will share this year's award with a third winner, Dr. Arvid Carlsson of Sweden.

The scientists were recognized by the Nobel Assembly at Karolinska Institute for their important contributions to understanding how brain cells interact with each other at the molecular level to create moods and memories in individuals. Their separate but related pursuits, which began in the 1950s, have provided the basis for today's understanding of mental illness and neurological disorders, including schizophrenia, depression, bipolar disorder, Alzheimer's disease, and Parkinson's disease. This understanding has been essential for the drugs and treatments that have been already developed for these afflictions and provide the foundation for even more promising research in these areas.

Last year, the Office of the Surgeon General published *Mental Health: A Report of the Surgeon General*, which noted that although the United States leads the world in understanding the importance of mental health to the overall health of its people, the nation still has many challenges to meet. Today, one in five people in the United States are afflicted with some form of mental disorder. Furthermore, mental disorder is one of the key contributors to a leading cause of preventable deaths—suicide. The federal government, particularly the National Institutes of Health (NIH) has provided strong support toward research efforts in the mental health area. Indeed, NIH contributed to the discoveries made by Drs. Kandel and Greengard through grants and research support for over 30 years. As we celebrate the honor bestowed by the Nobel Assembly upon Drs. Kandel and Greengard, we should also look forward to the challenges ahead, which include not only continued scientific research but also improving the delivery of mental health services and helping society to overcome ingrained fears and misconceptions concerning mental illness.