

U.S. OFFICIAL ON COMMENCEMENT OF
KAZAKHSTAN'S OSCE CHAIRMANSHIP

(By Robert O. Blake, Jr., Jan. 20, 2010)

As Kazakhstan begins to serve as the Chairman-In-Office of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe this year, it is charting a course for a bright and promising future.

It is a future in which the United States and Kazakhstan together seek peace, security, economic development and prosperity. We seek democratic values and human rights that unite free nations in trust and in respect. We seek a region in which relations are good between neighbors, between Russia and China and Afghanistan and all others in the region and of course with the United States.

Kazakhstan has been a leader in international security since its earliest days of independence. After the end of the Cold War, the world applauded as Kazakhstan renounced its nuclear weapons, closed the nuclear test site at Semipalatinsk, and freely transferred over half a ton of weapons-grade uranium to secure sites outside the country under Project Sapphire.

This past December, we marked the sixteenth anniversary of the landmark Cooperative Threat Reduction Program in Kazakhstan and we continue to work in partnership with Kazakhstan to advance our common non-proliferation goals. In April President Obama will welcome President Nazarbayev and other world leaders to the Global Nuclear Security Summit he will host.

Since its independence, Kazakhstan has also set an example in the region with economic reforms that have attracted investment and created jobs. The Government of Kazakhstan is also making wise choices to develop multiple energy export routes and to diversify its economy to ensure that its vast oil wealth can become a source for social mobility, not social stagnation.

As Kazakhstan's economy continues to recover from the global economic downturn, it should again be an engine for growth within Central Asia. Afghanistan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan would benefit immensely from Kazakhstan investment and energy supplies to stimulate growth and create jobs.

And Afghanistan needs the full partnership of Kazakhstan to overcome the destitution that extremists, warlords, and civil war have compounded over several decades. Kazakhstan is providing vital logistical support to the International Security Assistance Force through the Northern Distribution Network. We welcome Astana's decision to invest in Afghanistan's next generation of leaders by generously allocating \$50 million to fund scholarships for a thousand Afghan students to study in Kazakhstan.

Kazakhstan's OSCE Chairmanship is highly symbolic. The OSCE had long prided itself for stretching from Vancouver to Vladivostok. Now, for the very first time, a major international organization is headed by a new country east of Vienna. It is a recognition that the OSCE draws its strength not only from Europe and the United States, but also from Central Asia, the Caucasus, and the Balkans.

The challenges facing the OSCE and the international community are real but our strength comes from facing those challenges collectively and with a common purpose. The United States looks forward to working with Kazakhstan this year to meet these challenges and achieve the goal of modernizing and strengthening the OSCE, for the benefit of all participating States.

Kazakhstan has successfully navigated the early stages of statehood. It has achieved a position of leadership on international secu-

rity and economic development. And now, Kazakhstan, as the OSCE Chairman-in-Office has an unprecedented opportunity to lead Central Asia towards a future of democracy and to advance its own reform agenda to unleash the creative energy of its people.

With continued reform, Kazakhstan can become the nexus of Eurasia in the 21st century, the point where all roads cross. For thousands of years, along the ancient Silk Road, the communities of Central Asia facilitated the global exchange of ideas, and trade, and culture. In the process, they made historic contributions to our collective human heritage.

Today, as Kazakhstan assumes the OSCE mantle, it is poised and ready to break a fresh path for a new Silk Road, a great crossroads of reform linking the provinces of northern Russia to the ports of South Asia, the republics of Western Europe to the democracies of East Asia.

A strong and prosperous and democratic Kazakhstan can energize the global transmission of learning, trade and freedom across the steppes of Central Asia. Kazakhstan has a glorious past and can seize a hopeful future. The United States will continue to be Kazakhstan's steadfast partner.

HONORING MR. CHRISTOPHER
PENFOLD

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 2, 2010

Mr. HIGGINS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the years of service given to the people of Chautauqua County by Mr. Christopher Penfold. Mr. Penfold served his constituency faithfully and justly during his tenure as the Town of Dunkirk Town Justice.

Public service is a difficult and fulfilling career. Any person with a dream may enter but only a few are able to reach the end. Mr. Penfold served his term with his head held high and a smile on his face the entire way. I have no doubt that his kind demeanor left a lasting impression on the people of Chautauqua County.

We are truly blessed to have such strong individuals with a desire to make this county the wonderful place that we all know it can be. Mr. Penfold is one of those people and that is why, Madam Speaker, I rise in honor of him today.

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION
TO PROHIBIT ARTICLE III TRIAL
FOR 9/11 MASTERMIND KHALID
SHEIK MOHAMMED AND CO-CON-
SPIRATORS

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 2, 2010

Mr. WOLF. Madam Speaker, today I am introducing bipartisan legislation with Sen. LINDSEY GRAHAM to prohibit the use of Department of Justice funds for a civilian trial for Khalid Sheikh Mohammed—9/11 mastermind and murderer of journalist Daniel Pearl—and four other co-conspirators in any community in the U.S. I feel this legislation is critically needed in light of the attorney general's dangerous

mismangement of this trial. This legislation is similar to an amendment I offered to fiscal year 2010 appropriations legislation, but was defeated on a party-line vote late last year.

Last November, Attorney General Eric Holder unilaterally announced that Khalid Sheikh Mohammed and his four co-conspirators currently held at Guantanamo Bay would be tried in the heart of New York City in a civilian trial. Alarming, the attorney general did not consult with any local leaders, including New York City Police Commissioner Raymond Kelly or Mayor Michael Bloomberg. If he had, he would have better understood the dangers and cost of this approach. The trial, as planned, is estimated to cost taxpayers at least \$250 million per year—for a total expected cost of more than \$1 billion.

Upon reviewing the costs and security concerns from the New York City Police Department last week, Mayor Bloomberg stated, "It would be great if the federal government could find a site that didn't cost a billion dollars, which using downtown [New York City] will. [The trial] is going to cost an awful lot of money and disturb an awful lot of people." Shortly thereafter, scores of local, state, and congressional leaders from the New York region withdrew their support and encouraged the attorney general to reverse this reckless decision.

However, in light of this collapsing support from local leaders for the trial, I am concerned that the Obama Administration is now "venue shopping" for a new city to hold this trial in order to save face. This approach is no less dangerous, costly and disruptive to other communities under consideration than it was for New York City.

The legislation Sen. GRAHAM and I are introducing today would explicitly block this dangerous and wasteful trial from any domestic civilian court and, hopefully, compel the attorney general to work with Congress on a safer and more appropriate option. However, our legislation would still allow for a military commission at Guantanamo Bay or a secure military base inside the U.S. This is a reasonable approach that allows the administration to try these murderous terrorists in an appropriate military commission. These detainees do not deserve more rights than an American service man or woman that is tried by military court.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to cosponsor this important legislation. The attorney general does not have a blank check to try dangerous terrorists in the venue of his choice. This must be a decision made in consultation with local leaders, Congress and the American people.

HONORING INTELLIGENCE SPE-
CIALIST FIRST CLASS PETTY
OFFICER JAMES K. BROWN

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 2, 2010

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Intelligence Specialist First Class Petty Officer James K. Brown, who is retiring following twenty years of service in the United States Navy.

IS1 James K. Brown's storied military career began in August 1989 when he enlisted in the