

amid a general feeling of well-being and affection. If the ghosts of Maxwell's friends were somewhere in the sculptured brown lines of the Folger theatre and Great Hall, then they must certainly have been travelling in the company of Bernard Malamud, for the spirit of that marvelous writer of stories was invoked by every facet of the evening.●

FRENCH NUCLEAR TESTING

● Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, I rise today to join my colleagues in welcoming to the United States, the President of France, Jacques Chirac, who will address a joint session of the Congress this morning. I look forward to his remarks and observations, not only on historically close French-American bilateral relations, but on developments on the international scene. The political, economic, and cultural ties which link the French and American people go beyond mere trade of goods and ideas, however important those may be. Our relations with the French are almost as with brothers and sisters; more often than not, France and the United States have stood as allies in the struggle for freedom. The debt we owed France for its assistance during our Revolution, for example, was repaid on the beaches of Normandy.

Though we may be friends, Mr. President, it is a strength and beauty of the relationship that permits us to air our differences over some fundamental questions. One of those issues has been the French program of testing nuclear devices in the South Pacific, a regrettable series of tests which, literally and figuratively, have served only to poison the environment and endangered U.S.-led efforts to conclude a Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty this year.

Since September 5, 1995, Mr. President, the Government of France has exploded six nuclear devices at underground testing sites in the South Pacific. The most recent explosion was made only 4 days ago and came despite French acknowledgement that there had been some leakage of radioactive material into the seabed around the Mururoa Atoll. The French Government ignored, as well, the vociferous protests of various governments of Pacific Rim nations, whose people would be affected by the potentially dangerous effects of leaked radiation.

France justified this somewhat colonial action by claiming that its sovereign interest in assuring its security overrode the health and safety of those affected by these tests. These should never have happened.

But I do believe, Mr. President, that we can take some satisfaction in President Chirac's January 28 announcement that the testing is now finally and forevermore at end. I salute, too, his claim that France will now seek a lead role in working for a comprehensive test ban. I also applaud President Clinton's leadership in seeking a true "zero yield" CTBT. On October 10, 1995, I wrote to the President expressing my concerns about U.S. involvement in the

French nuclear weapons program. President Clinton responded with a statement of regret about France's decision on testing, and a pledge to continue to press for a CTBT. I ask that these letters be printed in the RECORD. The letters follow:

U.S. SENATE,

Washington, DC, October 10, 1995.

President BILL CLINTON,

The White House, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT: We want to draw your attention to recent reports concerning close cooperation between the U.S. and France in developing the French nuclear weapons program.

An article in the Washington Post September 19 suggests that a decades-long period of U.S. support for technical assistance to the French program not only continues, but may soon reach new, unprecedented levels of cooperation. Particularly disturbing are the reports that the U.S. and France are currently negotiating a pact by which the two sides will begin to share sensitive computer codes that describe how nuclear weapons behave when exploded. Further, it is reported that a senior-level American scientist will also help the French government in building and designating a new facility for weapons-related research.

These reports are deeply troubling. They serve to undermine the strong political leadership you consistently exhibited in successfully urging the nations of the world to extend the Nuclear Non-Proliferation treaty (NPT) and in your continuing efforts to secure a comprehensive test ban treaty. It also seems to contradict the Administration's very public criticisms of recent French nuclear testing in the Pacific.

Moreover, we can speculate that once the French government has access to computer code data generated by the U.S., and designs weapons with technical assistance provided by the U.S., it will seek to test the weapons in the Pacific which, it could be said, will have been god-fathered by the U.S. More troubling still is the possibility that the U.S. itself will share in the data generated by French tests.

Cooperation with the French government on matters of mutual security is important. But in order to continue to lead with moral authority on the question of deterring nuclear non-proliferation and on ending unnecessary and harmful nuclear weapons testing, we urge you to carefully review these policies. We believe that taking measures which discourage—rather than facilitate—nuclear weapons testing should remain the lodestar which guides Administration policy.

We thank you for your efforts to date and look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

RUSSELL D. FEINGOLD.

DANIEL K. AKAKA.

TOM HARKIN.

BYRON DORGAN.

THE WHITE HOUSE

Washington, November 7, 1995.

Hon. RUSSELL FEINGOLD,

U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR RUSS: Thank you for your recent letter regarding nuclear cooperation with France.

The United States has had an ongoing cooperative program with France in the nuclear area. My Administration recently conducted a review of this program and I have concluded that such a program of cooperation with France remains in the U.S. national interest. I have also directed that this program focus on stockpile stewardship (i.e., maintenance of existing nuclear stockpiles without nuclear testing) and that it not in-

clude activities that would materially aid the development of new nuclear weapons.

Of course, such a program of cooperation can only take place in the overall context of positive United States-French relations. While I regret France's decision to resume nuclear testing, we must also take note of France's strong commitment to sign a Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) banning all nuclear tests, "regardless of level," no later than the fall of 1996. This position is consistent with my own decision to seek a true "zero yield" CTBT. We will continue to work with France and all other states participating in the CTBT negotiations to ensure that a Treaty is ready for signature as early as possible next year.

Sincerely,

BILL.

Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, only last week the Senate ratified the START II Treaty, putting us firmly back on the road to ending the threat of nuclear annihilation. The next step is to bring to reality the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty, which would serve to put an end to the practice of testing weaponry which—we pray and can increasingly say with confidence—will never be put to use. This effort was seriously undermined by the French tests, and it has caused other nations to question the point and sincerity of the CTBT. While I harbor deep regrets about the effect of France's unwarranted tests, I want to say now to President Chirac, "welcome aboard." We look forward to close cooperation with France in reaching the goal of ridding the world of nuclear weapons, and will work to ensure that its series of tests will be the last ever conducted on the globe.●

ROBERT A. BUDUSKY

● Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, I rise today to pay my respects to Robert A. Budusky of Meriden, CT, who was the victim of a senseless murder on Tuesday. Mr. Budusky, a letter carrier for the U.S. Postal Service, was delivering mail along his route in Hartford when he was suddenly and fatally shot in the back of his head. His alleged murderer is a man on parole for an earlier weapons conviction.

I did not have the honor of knowing Robert Budusky, but from what I have learned, he was a dedicated public servant and a wonderful human being. "Everybody on his route loved him. They're all telling me so," said Martin Torres, according to an article in today's Hartford Courant. Torres, also a letter carrier, volunteered to take over Mr. Budusky's route "to make sure they get the service today that Bob gave them every day."

Robert Budusky is the first letter carrier to be killed on the job in New England in more than thirty years. But his death is a reminder that all letter carriers brave much more than the elements every day as they deliver our mail. Too often we take for granted their service, and fail to provide them the respect they all richly deserve.

Mr. Budusky reportedly had enough seniority to request mail routes in