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House of Representatives

The House met at 12:30 p.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore [Mrs. MORELLA].

MORNING BUSINESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of May 12, 1995, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning hour debates. The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to not to exceed 30 minutes, and each Member except the majority and minority leader limited to not to exceed 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida [Mr. MCCOLLUM] for 5 minutes.

MEANINGLESS PRESIDENTIAL RESPONSE TO SHOT DOWN AMERICAN PLANES

Mr. MCCOLLUM. Madam Speaker, today I rise in memory of the four American civilians murdered by Fidel Castro over the weekend, and to condemn the foreign policies of an administration that has placed U.S. national interests in jeopardy around the globe. I remember a day when killing American citizens had consequences. The murder of an American serviceman by Manuel Noriega's regime pulled the trigger on Operation Just Cause, which ousted him from power. The death of an off-duty soldier from a terrorist's bomb in West Germany in 1986 prompted President Reagan to attack Libya and effectively remove Mu'ammar Qadhafi as a threat to U.S. interests. Once, violent attacks deserved and provoked strong responses from the United States.

But things are different now. Misguided foreign policy decisions by President Bill Clinton over the past 3 years have jeopardized America's

image as a nation that protects its own. When 18 of America's best soldiers were killed in Somalia after they had been denied the hardware to protect themselves, President Clinton cut and ran. Now, four more Americans have been killed on the President's watch, and his response? Little more than the withdrawal of a few poorly chosen carrots he dangled endlessly and uselessly in front of Fidel Castro 6 months ago. And that is not all of it. When I look at all of the other foreign policy areas the President has been involved with in the past 3 years, I see problems. In Haiti, we sent our soldiers in there for a purpose that clearly was one that was very difficult to accomplish, if it could even be accomplished in the end. Yes, there is a democratically elected government there now, but in a few days we are going to remove those troops. My experience as chairman of the Subcommittee on Crime and talking to the FBI about their experience there for 7 months last year when they tried to help solve some political murders was that human rights violations are still rampant, and when they got to the highest level of the Haitian Government to interview the witnesses, they were not allowed to, and had to pull our FBI out and they still go unsolved. The problems in Haiti have not gone away.

And yet we look next door in Cuba and we see we have not done anything really about the Castro regime that has been in power for over 35 years where it really could make a difference. Looking around the world, we look at China today. China is on the verge of being able in the next few years to produce an atomic bomb and a delivery system capable of delivering that bomb to the West Coast of the United States. We look at Russia. In Russia today we have a situation where it is very unstable. This summer, we do not know what is going to happen to the Yeltsin regime, yet we do know

that we have not one single nuclear missile that has been dismantled yet in Russia or in the former Soviet Union. Who knows what their capabilities are and who is going to be controlling the button on nuclear weapons in the future there. And the spread of these nuclear weapons by China and North Korea to Iran, Pakistan, and elsewhere make it highly probable in the next few years we are going to see, if not a delivery of one of those weapons to the United States, certainly the delivery of one of those weapons to a nation or to an interest area of great importance to the United States, and President Clinton does not have an answer to that. He refuses to support a ballistic missile defense system that is workable. He should have supported one a long time ago. It is a very serious consequence when we see all of these developments occurring and no plans to provide the Nation the kind of defense it needs.

Then we look at Bosnia. I think that is the worst situation of all, not just because we have sent troops into Bosnia, where we have no real probability of ultimate success. When they are removed a year or so from now, the chances of civil war resuming are great. But we are doing the stupidest thing. We are in the process now of training, equipping the forces of the government of Izetbegovic, the Moslem leader of Bosnia. And who does he happen to have as his best friend? Why, my goodness, it is Rafsanjani and the crew in Iran. The Iranians are clearly the ones who want to produce the most terror in the world today. They are determined to spread their radical form of Moslem concern, not the traditional form but the radical form, all over southern Europe, over northern Africa, over the Middle East, the Near East, and anywhere else they can lay their imprint where there is a Moslem country.

Izetbegovic is a close ally of Iran; he has been ever since the days of the

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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