

I would remind Mr. Christopher that Russian Foreign Minister Yevgeny Primakov, who earlier headed the Russian Foreign Intelligence Service, has been one of the chief proponents of the reestablishment of a Russian sphere of influence in the newly independent States of the former Soviet Union, the so-called "near abroad."

Should the United States decide to pursue a formal charter between NATO and Russia several key issues must be addressed. First, the Russian Federation must not be given a veto, or implied veto, over the timing or conditions for the admission of new members into the alliance. Second, such an accord must firmly oppose any moves by Moscow to establish "spheres of influence" in East Central Europe. Third, the charter must in no way impede the development of enhanced relations between NATO and nonmembers, such as Ukraine.

Mr. Speaker, let us now lose sight of the fact that an essential element of any partnership is, and must be, trust. The reality is that much time is needed to heal the wounds inflicted by the war in Chechnya and establish Moscow's credentials as a trustworthy partner. In the meantime, the single greatest contribution Russia can make to the construction of an integrated and Democratic Europe would be to consolidate democracy, human rights, and rule of law at home.

IN HONOR OF PRABHAKAR
SHUKLA: AN EXEMPLARY INDI-
VIDUAL

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 27, 1996

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a very distinguished and outstanding individual from my district. Prabhakar R. Shukla has been a devoted father and an extraordinary individual who has inspired many of his fellow community members.

Mr. Shukla was born in the small village of Saras in Gujarat, India. He grew up in Saras working on his family farm while receiving his education. At the age of 12, he was sent to boarding school to pursue further studies and earned a bachelors degree in physics and chemistry, a law degree and an education degree. He also received a Vishard, an advanced degree in Hindi and Sanskrit from Beneras Hindu University. In 1958, he married a wonderful woman, Hasumati, and had one son. In 1962, he left India to work as a principal at a high school in Africa for 4 years and then worked in England as a teacher for 6 years. In 1970, he came to the United States with his family working as a substitute teacher, salesman, and insurance agent. Through hard work and dedication, he became a full time teacher. For the past 16 years, he has taught physics and chemistry at East Orange High School, has been chairman of the science department, and has been recognized as an outstanding teacher.

As an active member of his community, Mr. Shukla has sought to contribute to the vitality of Hudson County and its residents. He is a member of the North Bergen Planning Board, the Hudson County Commissioner of Human Relations and a member of the Hudson Coun-

ty Vicarage Advisory Committee. He is a founder and life member of the Hindu Cultural Society, India Cultural Society, Hindu Mandir and Bharat Cultural Society. In addition, he serves as the chairman of the board of trustees for the Bharat Cultural Society and the Brahmin Samaj.

Prabhakar Shukla is well respected by his friends, students, and neighbors. He has distinguished himself with his contributions to the citizens of New Jersey. His success is proof that America is a land of opportunity for all those willing to seize it. I ask that my colleagues join me in honoring this outstanding individual.

HONORING AMBASSADOR WILLIAM
COLBY

HON. DANA ROHRBACHER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 27, 1996

Mr. ROHRBACHER. Mr. Speaker, General Vang Pao, the Vietnam war hero and Colonel Wangyee Vang, the National President of the Lao Veterans of America, organized a major event earlier this year to commemorate the sacrifices of the Hmong and Lao combat veterans. Tragically, Ambassador William Colby, former Director of the Central Intelligence Agency [CIA], who was slated to speak at this special event, passed away just prior to it.

In honor of Ambassador Colby, and the Hmong and Lao veterans who staunchly fought as allies of the United States to defend freedom from Southeast Asia, I request to include the following article from the Washington Times in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

[From the Washington Times, May 8, 1996]

REFUGEES FROM LAOS MOURN A FRIEND,
COLBY

(By Gary Scheets)

Chia Kue was born on the CIA base of Long Chieng 24 years ago. She remembers eluding Laotian communist insurgents with her family as they followed a trail of refugees out of Laos and into Thailand, where squalid camps harbored them until, and if, they were lucky enough to get to the United States.

At that same base, William Colby, who would later direct the Central Intelligence Agency, staged operations using recruited Hmong soldiers to guard America installations and fight the North Vietnamese along the Ho Chi Minh Trail during the Vietnam War.

Miss Kue's father was a Hmong soldier fighting under Maj. Gen. Vang Pao, commander of the Royal Lao Army Region Two, who took his direction from Mr. Colby.

This Saturday and Sunday, thousands of Hmong combat veterans and refugee families will gather in Fresno, Calif., to pay tribute to Mr. Colby. At the event, originally designed as a ceremony to honor the actions of Hmong soldiers, Mr. Colby was scheduled to attend and present commendations and citations.

Instead, Hmong tribal and military honors will be staged in remembrance of Mr. Colby, whose body was found Monday along the banks of the Wicomico River. Authorities believe Mr. Colby drowned after his canoe capsized nine days earlier.

The Maryland State Medical Examiner's Office won't have autopsy results until the end of the week.

Miss Kue, of Arlington, is a first-grade teacher at the Fairfax Brewster School, a

private school in Baileys Crossroads. She and her family spent four years in Nong Chai, a refugee camp in Thailand that was closed when the Thai government began repatriation of the Laotian refugees.

She first met Mr. Colby in April 1994 at congressional hearings on the plight of Hmong refugees in the camps and their forced repatriation to Laos to face persecution and possible death for their collaboration with the CIA.

Miss Kue and Mr. Colby kept in contact on the refugee issue, meeting and talking several times.

Miss Kue said the death of Mr. Colby will be a significant loss to the Hmong community because he was one of the few in official Washington openly championing their cause.

"He was so important to the Hmong because he knew so much of what they did," Miss Kue said. "He was one of their greatest allies."

The Hmong most likely will never have someone of Mr. Colby's stature advocating their cause again, she said.

Miss Kue said Mr. Colby struck her as an honorable man who was not afraid to fight for what he believed in.

"He was someone who was willing to stand up for the truth, for what he knows and what he believes in," Miss Kue said.

Gen. Pao, who worked side-by-side with Mr. Colby in Laos during the Vietnam War, called him "a good friend to the Hmong people."

Speaking in a telephone interview from Fresno, where he is preparing for this weekend's program, Gen. Pao said Mr. Colby will be sorely missed by the people he fought for:

"Bill Colby's death is a great loss not only for all freedom-loving people," Gen. Pao said. "We are hoping that someone will step forward and fill his shoes."

During the war, the two men got to know each other quite well. "I told him in great respect," Gen. Pao said.

Philip Smith, a Washington representative for the Lao Veterans of American, said Mr. Colby was an integral part of the effort to have the wartime work of the Hmong recognized.

"Because Laos is such an obscure country, Bill Colby was so important and why no one will be able to replace him," Mr. Smith said.

Mr. Smith said Mr. Colby understood the contribution of the Hmong and how it fitted into the geostrategic picture of the Cold War.

Mr. Smith, who will attend the Fresno ceremonies this weekend, had planned to fly to California with Mr. Colby.

Now, he said, the seat next to him on the plane will be empty.

SOCIAL SECURITY

HON. THOMAS E. PETRI

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 27, 1996

Mr. PETRI. Mr. Speaker, yesterday I introduced legislation, H.R. 4215, to help put the Social Security system on a better financial footing while providing future Americans with the peace of mind that comes with their own retirement account which is their personal property.

My bill will establish a retirement account for each newborn American citizen, initially worth \$1,000. The money for the initial \$1,000 is to come from the sale of Government assets. This amount is to be invested in the same manner, and with the same choices, as the