

comments are right on the mark in emphasizing that the first tranche of NATO enlargement, with invitations set to go out to a handful of countries this summer at the Madrid Summit, can in no way close the door on invitations to other countries. I have said and stand by my assertion that should we exclude those countries who miss the first round of enlargement, NATO will fail. I urge you and all Members of the House and the Senate to carefully read Congressman BERUTER'S speech, the rationale for continued enlargement, continued peace and prosperity in Europe, is laid out in crystal clear terms.

NAA PLENARY STATEMENT BY REP. DOUG BERUTER, JUNE 1, 1997

Mr. President, North Atlantic Assembly colleagues, we can say with conviction and satisfaction that the argumentation about whether NATO will expand is behind us. Now the questions indeed are who and how. In less than forty days, at the July 8-9 summit in Madrid, NATO will invite several countries—probably between three to five—to launch accession negotiations with NATO. As the Just-Goss report of the Political Committee notes, "five countries seem to be on a short list of possible invitees (the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Romania, and Solvenia)", but another eight countries regard themselves as candidates. Undoubtedly there will be more.

At Yalta lines were drawn across the face of Europe which have lasted more than fifty years. In a different way they still do exist. My colleagues, by our actions we must say: no more lines—never again. We must seize the opportunity to bring those countries east and southeast of the NATO alliance countries to join in our collective defense alliance when they qualify. If we assure, as we must, that the first countries offered NATO membership are not the last and that other qualified countries' NATO membership are not unduly delayed. Then we do not replace the infamous Yalta lines with new ones. Under an open-door, dynamic expansion procedure there are no new lines drawn between Russia and NATO—not even lines excluding Russia itself. The Baltic nations, Ukraine, and other countries will not be neglected for NATO membership. The door to membership is open to one and all. The unprecedented fifty-two years of European peace can be extended in time and eventually all across the face of Europe. And by mutually beneficial and selfless action the Europeans can and should supplement our NATO protective umbrella by offering these new NATO members full membership in the European Union as soon as possible. The NATO security blanket and the economic integration through the EU together are the lasting answers to the quest for peace and prosperity in Europe. It is also the way to contain, it not eliminate, the ethnic, social, religious, and national animosities that so tragically scar our civilization. Another Bosnia, or another Holocaust, need not happen!

Indeed we citizens of NATO countries have reason to take pride and great satisfaction that the criteria we have established for PFP and NATO membership have, in the applicant countries, already settled national boundary disputes and ethnic conflict and discrimination, advanced democracy and pluralism, fostered civilian control of the military, developed confidence-building measures, gained greater transparency in military budgets, and created greater out-of-area interoperability for out-of-area operations for peacekeeping or against aggression as in Albania or Kuwait. More advances will come as applicants continue to strive for NATO membership. In fact, the events of the

last week between NATO and Russia at the very dawn of NATO expansion suggest that it may bring us increasingly together for even more understanding, cooperation and trust. Rather than the dire results predicted in Russia if NATO expands, it well could be the dawn of a new and better day.

Of course, the decision on which countries will be in the first wave of expansion must be followed by the unanimous ratification in our sixteen NATO countries. The debate in our parliamentary bodies and nations will probably have heightened fervor as the reality of action is in sight. Arguments about the costs of expansion to NATO countries will certainly rage, especially in light of the exaggerated and erroneous assumptions made by those who do not understand that the same infrastructure, nuclear weapons deployment, and out-of-country military deployment of NATO troops we find in the current NATO "front-line states" are not needed in the new NATO countries.

But, then after the budget issues are raised in America and in every other NATO country, the crucial item of debate and the answer demanded by our respective constituents will, as one respected American Democratic Senator said, be this plaintive question: "Congressman, why are you willing to send my son (or my husband) to protect Poland?" His answer was this: "Madam, taking Poland into NATO makes it less likely, not more likely, that your son will fight and die in a conflict on the Polish border." I agree! That is the argument all of us in the NATO 16 must and can make.

Finally, and on a much different level of specificity, I feel compelled to advance to case of first-round membership in NATO for Slovenia even though the Madrid Summit is fast approaching. The "Visegrad three" seem a cinch for membership and Romania is pressing its case very aggressively, with vocal support among one or more countries and among numerous organizations, experts, and opinion leaders. Because Slovenia has until recently been almost entirely forgotten, and nearly unknown in my country, because its independent status dates only back to 1990, because its military formation and modernization was delayed by the arms embargo for the Bosnia conflict, and because the U.S. Senate leadership added Slovenia to the list of the "Visegrad three" countries after earlier House action, I took ten of my House colleagues to Slovenia on week ago for several days of intensive examination of their case.

(We also visited the country temporarily known in some international organizations as the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, or Macedonia as they prefer. They too strong desire NATO membership and they are energetically seeking to meet the criteria. We note with satisfaction their progress and praise their commitment and determination.)

However, on the case of Slovenia, my colleagues in the Assembly, I speak for the enthusiastic and unanimous or near-unanimous view of my House delegation colleagues—Slovenia deserves first-round membership in NATO. Indeed an objective examination of the Slovenians case would probably show that they better meet the criteria than any other applicant country. Indeed, nobody can really argue that Slovenia doesn't meet the criteria. Slovenia's case has simply been largely neglected. I know of no reputable opposition to Slovenia. This country is in the "well-I-guess-I-don't-know-any-reason-why-they-shouldn't-be-a-member" category. They simply have lacked a major proponent among NATO countries. In fact, however, we House members feel we can objectively advance their case because we have no special American benefit or relationship with Slove-

nia and we have no big ethnic constituency in our country as we do in the cases of Poland or the Czech Republic.

Because my time is brief I will in capsule form list only a few special reasons for Slovenian membership:

1. First and foremost, again, they meet the membership criteria—perhaps better than any other candidate.

2. While the costs of enlargement will be a factor in ratification debates in NATO countries, Slovenia has the financial capacity and commitment to meet its military costs—again better than any other candidate.

3. Slovenia has never been and will not be considered by Russia to be a threat against it—it's membership will be an example or proof that NATO expansion is not simply hostility directed at Russia. It's acceptance by NATO will only recognize as one nation's effort to enhance its security against any threat by joining the Alliance. (A NATO expansion won't be seen as a finger pointed against Russia, but an open hand that it can grasp.)

4. Slovenia's admission on the merits of its case and not as part of any grand "horse-trading scheme, bargaining chip," or "political quid pro quo" will reassure all applicants and would-be applicants that their cases will be decided by the Alliance on the merits—by objective standards.

5. Slovenia's admission will serve as an incentive for action and a model to follow for the now independent parts of what was Yugoslavia, and indeed for all of the countries of the Balkans or southeastern Europe.

6. Finally, at a time when NATO is faced with a terrible dilemma in Bosnia, recent and perhaps prospective combatants in Croatia and Serbia, with potential threats to Macedonia, and with Albanian ethnic difficulties stretching from Kosovo to Albania itself, Slovenia as a NATO member would be a good source of counsel, and potentially of mediation, in those grave controversies.

My colleagues, that is the short list of reasons why it must not be too late to wake up to Slovenia's case for first-round NATO membership—strictly on the merits of its case and because of the advantage of NATO itself. Our House delegation will make its case to our colleagues in Congress and to the Clinton administration. We strenuously urge all of you to consider and make this case, too, in your own respective countries. Slovenia deserves first-round membership and it has a unique position and circumstances to strengthen NATO now!

CONGRATULATING EAGLE SCOUT
AARON JAMES MYERS

HON. GEORGE W. GEKAS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 3, 1997

Mr. GEKAS. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to join with so many others in congratulating Aaron James Myers for his achievement of the Eagle Scout Award from the Boy Scouts of America. Aaron began his Scouting career in 1985 as a tiger cub with Pack 202 of Chambers Hill, PA. During his years as a Boy Scout he has earned a total of 24 merit badges and attended Philmont, the National Boy Scout High Adventure Program in New Mexico. He has held the positions of quartermaster, senior patrol leader, troop guide and junior assistant scoutmaster. He also earned the religious award for the Catholic faith—Ad Altare Dei.

Currently, Aaron is a member of the Order of Arrow in the rank of Brotherhood. He is also an adult Assistant Scout Leader. He will be a senior at Central Dauphin East High School in the Fall of 1997 and plans to attend college and major in environmental science. He is also a member of the Central Dauphin East High School wrestling team, an avid canoeist, and an accomplished guitarist.

This multitalented young man received the Eagle Scout Award on February 4, 1997. His Eagle Project consisted of painting the concession building, bleachers, and a general cleanup of Crest Baseball Field, Swatara Township, Dauphin County, PA.

Please join me in congratulating Aaron Myers. He should be commended for this fine effort and encouraged to work with other youth to take such an active interest in the community in the future.

BETTER PHARMACEUTICALS FOR CHILDREN ACT

HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 3, 1997

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join my colleague, JIM GREENWOOD, in sponsoring H.R. 1727, the Better Pharmaceuticals for Children Act. I support this bill because it focuses on a serious but little known problem in our children's health care, and can provide some additional tools to address it.

While dramatic progress has been made in the treatment and cure of diseases and chronic illnesses, it cannot be said today that our children have fully benefited from this innovation. As increasingly sophisticated medicines are developed, the knowledge needed to optimally treat children with these medicines has not kept pace. In crucial ways, our understanding of how to use these drugs for children is simply inadequate.

According to the American Academy of Pediatrics and the Food and Drug Administration [FDA] only a minority of prescription drugs in the United States with potential pediatric uses are actually labeled for use by children. Since 1962, 80 percent of all drugs have been approved for adult use with an explicit disclaimer that they are not approved for use by children. This is because the research necessary to prove the safety and efficacy of these pediatric uses is not being done, either before or after the drugs are marketed. Despite widespread recognition in Government, industry, and academia of this problem, little progress has been made to correct it.

I firmly believe that the FDA has been remiss in not taking action to conclusively remedy this situation. The agency has statutory authority to encourage and require the performance of pediatric clinical studies. It should exercise that authority and take every possible step to ensure that new drugs with potential pediatric uses are approved on the basis of data demonstrating safety and efficacy in both adults and children. The Government's failure to act in this manner is unacceptable and we pay for such a failure in our children's health.

It is also imperative to recognize that prescription drug manufacturers already have significant incentives to pursue research, development, and regulatory approval in the form of

patent protection and other forms of market exclusivity. Much of the responsibility for the absence of adequate pediatric drug information today can be laid at their feet.

However, I recognize that limited additional incentives may be appropriate in some instances to promote pediatric drug research, such as for some drugs which are currently marketed. It is my hope, however, that such incentives are only necessary in supplementing the FDA's use of existing statutory authority to ensure that adequate information is available about pediatric drug uses.

H.R. 1727 would help improve and increase the information available about pediatric drug uses by providing additional market exclusivity as an incentive to prescription drug manufacturers in limited situations. Under the bill, the Secretary of Health and Human Services would determine whether a new drug might provide health benefits for pediatric populations, and have the authority to request that pediatric studies be conducted by the manufacturer to establish these benefits. Upon completion of these studies and their acceptance by the Secretary, the manufacturer would be granted an additional 6 months of market exclusivity.

I am sure that many parents would be disturbed to learn that, when their infants and children receive a prescription medicine, there may not be clinical studies establishing the safety and efficacy of that treatment in children. In conjunction with independent and decisive steps by the Food and Drug Administration [FDA], I believe the Congress can change this situation for the better. H.R. 1727 can help do that, and that is why I am cosponsoring it today.

ARIZONA SMALL BUSINESS PERSON OF THE YEAR

HON. JOHN B. SHADEGG

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 3, 1997

Mr. SHADEGG. Mr. Speaker, this week Arizona celebrates Small Business Week and honors one of its outstanding performers in the small business area. On June 6, Rhonda McKenzie, president and CEO of McKenzie Telecommunications Group, Inc. [MTG] will be honored as the SBA 1997 Arizona Small Business Person of the Year at the Small Business Week Awards Luncheon at La Posada Resort in Scottsdale.

Rhonda used her 20 years of technical, managerial, and sales experience in the telecommunications industry to build a company which generated over \$8.3 million in revenues last year. Founded in 1993 with McKenzie as the sole employee, MTG, Inc., provides total turnkey site development services to telecommunications companies throughout the Nation. Today, MTG has 125 employees in five States—California, Florida, Colorado, Nevada, and two locations in Arizona.

The primary services MTG provides include identification of suitable real estate for the construction of client systems; representing clients at zoning hearings and community meetings; coordination of all geotechnical and environmental studies; development of construction feasibility studies; and construction and management services.

MTG is recognized as fourth in the Nation among site development companies. Its clients are among the industry giants: AT&T Wireless, Sprint Spectrum, PCS PrimeCo, Pacific Bell Mobile Services, and Nextel.

Small Business Week is celebrated annually throughout the Nation by Presidential proclamation. Each year, SBA names one outstanding entrepreneur in each State and territory: from this group the national Small Business Person of the Year is chosen.

Selection criteria for Small Business Persons of the Year are: First, staying power—a substantial history as an established business; second, growth in number of employees—a benchmark to judge the impact of the business on the job market; third, increase in sales and/or unit volume—an indication of continued growth; fourth, current and past financial reports substantiating the improved financial position of the business; fifth, innovativeness of product or service offered; sixth, response to adversity; and seventh, evidence of contributions by the nominee to aid community-oriented projects through the use of personal time and resources.

Small business is the backbone of the American economy. In Arizona, 99.5 percent of our over 407,000 businesses have fewer than 100 employees. These are the companies that provide the growth in jobs and the vitality for our State. It is in these places of work where American dreams are made. I congratulate Rhonda McKenzie for making her American dream come true and for her well-deserved accomplishment in achieving Arizona's Small Business Person of the Year.

TRIBUTE TO ANDREW A. HERNANDEZ, THE 1997 NATIONAL VETERAN SMALL BUSINESS ADVOCATE OF THE YEAR

HON. GEORGE E. BROWN, JR.

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 3, 1997

Mr. BROWN of California. Mr. Speaker, each year for the past 34 years, the President of the United States has issued a proclamation call for the celebration of Small Business Week. I believe this celebration of Small Business Week, which is held from June 1–7 this year, recognizes its crucial impact on our economy and society. As we pay tribute to our Nation's entrepreneurs, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize an exceptional veteran businessman from my district, Mr. Andrew A. Hernandez, who has been named the 1997 National Veteran Small Business Advocate of the Year. We must never forget that small business is the engine that drives our economy and its people such as Mr. Hernandez that will continue to make America No. 1. He is an inspiration to small business persons not only in my congressional district, but also across the country.

Mr. Andrew Hernandez, president of Arid Construction Technologies, Inc., in San Bernardino, and a resident of San Bernardino, has been named the 1997 National Veteran Small Business Advocate of the Year by the U.S. Small Business Administration. He was nominated for the award for his work in assisting veterans. Mr. Hernandez is a founding member and the current president of the California Disabled Veteran Business Enterprises