

determined to continue the Soviet practice of hiding the truth about environmental depredation.

Mr. Speaker, retired Russian naval officer Alexandr Nikitin has been charged with "revealing state secrets"—and if convicted, could receive the death sentence—for his work with the Norwegian environmental organization "Bellona" in exposing both the Soviet and Russian Navy's nuclear waste dumping around the White Sea and Kola Peninsular in northeast Russia. Nikitin and his supporters claim that all the material he secured for Bellona's report, "The Russian Northern Fleet: Sources of Radioactive Contamination," had already been published in open sources.

Originally charged in February 1996, he was held in detention until December 1996, when an international outcry was raised in his behalf. Still the investigation continues to drag on and on and on.

The problem, from the standpoint of the investigators and the security services, is that the Russian Federation has a constitution with provisions on civil liberties, which some in Russia take seriously, and there are now lawyers in Russia who actually know the law and defend their clients. At first, the investigators threatened to indict Nikitin on secret unpublished military instructions, but this was in conflict with Part 3, Art. 15 of the Constitution, "no regulatory legal act affecting the rights, liberties or duties of the human being and citizen may apply unless it has been published officially for general knowledge." Now after six attempted indictments, investigators have produced an indictment that the claim will pass constitutional muster.

The prominent Ukrainian writer Nicholai Gogol wrote a fictional story about a legal case that dragged on for years in Tsarist Russia. Nikitin must identify with a character from that story.

Through efforts of concerned human rights and environmental activists, the international community has begun to focus attention on the Nikitin case. *Amnesty International* has declared him as Russia's only political prisoner since the fall of the Soviet Union. The Prime Ministers of Norway and Canada have raised Nikitin's case with Prime Minister Chernomyrdin, and President Clinton has called for "just deliberations" in the case. A couple of weeks ago, former Soviet President Gorbachev stated that "there is nothing to [the Nikitin case], but that "democratic Russia still can't let go of its affection for catching spies."

Meanwhile, back on the streets of St. Petersburg, Alexandr Nikitin has been followed, believe it or not, by a group of "men in black." The tires on his car have been slashed, and his door locks filed with glue. Recently, one of his lawyers was accosted by unidentified thugs and told to "stay away from this." Another lawyer suggests, quite plausibly, that the security services realize their case is an embarrassment, and they want Nikitin to fear for his life and that of his family so that he will admit to the charges in exchange for amnesty.

Mr. Speaker, I believe sincerely that the American people and the Congress wish the Russian people well, and we wish to work together in areas such as the environment that will benefit both our peoples. But, the case of Alexandr Nikitin raises serious doubts about the Russian military and security services to find a reasonable balance between security and the public interest.

I recognize that the Russian Government and the people are working toward civilian control of the military and an established rule of law system. The resolution of the Nikitin case will be a significant indicator of progress in these areas.

HONORING VICKY MOLGARD

HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 17, 1998

Mr. BOB SCHAFFER of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Vicky Molgard who was recently named Elementary Art Educator of the Year by the Colorado Art Education Association. Ms. Molgard teaches art at Centennial, Big Thompson, and Monroe Elementary Schools. She has taught at the elementary, middle and high school levels for 17 years in the Thompson School District. In addition to her inspired work as a teacher, she is a practicing artist who serves as a role model for her young students.

Her lessons are often described as unique because she encourages her students to study and imitate the work of classic artists of all ages. She introduces her students to ideas which inspire them and she provides a creative outlet for their young minds. As a Member of Congress representing the Fourth District of Colorado where Ms. Molgard teaches, it is my honor and privilege to recognize her tremendous achievement and thank her for the time and dedication she shows to the children of the Thompson School District.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for the opportunity to recognize Ms. Molgard before the House for sharing her time and talents.

INTER-FAITH EFFORT TO BUILD PEACE IN BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 17, 1998

Mr. GILMAN Mr. Speaker, on May 21, 1998, along with several members of the Congress, we had the opportunity to participate in a historic visit to the Capitol of the leaders of the four major faiths of Bosnia and Herzegovina. I ask that my opening remarks at that meeting, along with those of Rabbi Arthur Schneier, be included in the RECORD. Rabbi Schneier is the President of the Appeal of Conscience Foundation which has won international recognition for its excellent work in promoting inter-faith reconciliation, tolerance and religious freedom around the world. The Appeal of Conscience Foundation has been extensively involved in working to rebuild peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

WELCOMING REMARKS BY REPRESENTATIVE BENJAMIN A. GILMAN MEETING WITH RELIGIOUS LEADERS OF BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA, MAY 21, 1998

It is a pleasure to welcome the leaders of the four major religions of Bosnia and Herzegovina. His Eminence Cardinal Vinko Pulic, Archbishop of Sarajevo, His Eminence Dr. Mustafa Cerić, leader of the Islamic

Community of Bosnia and Herzegovina, His Eminence Metropolitan Nikolaj Mrdja, Head of the Orthodox Church of Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Dr. Jacob Finčić, President of the Jewish Community of Bosnia and Herzegovina are visiting the United States as part of an initiative by the Appeal of Conscience Foundation to promote reconciliation in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Your efforts are to be applauded. The fact that you have together agreed to visit the United States to demonstrate your sincere interest in healing Bosnia is noteworthy and highly encouraging. As you may know, many in the Congress, myself included, were not very enthusiastic about the deployment of American troops as peacekeepers in Bosnia. We have been skeptical about whether the aim of the Dayton Peace Plan to reconstruct a multi-ethnic society in Bosnia and Herzegovina was achievable in a realistic period of time. We have been heartened, however over the past year that there have been new developments that show that the people of Bosnia do truly want to live in peace with one another, to reconstruct the devastated economy and resume normal lives.

During 1998 we will be looking very carefully at two issues: one being the return of refugees and particularly minority returns, and the second being the results of the elections scheduled for September. With regard to refugee returns, we expect there to be significant progress with large numbers of people returning to Bosnia, and, if they so choose, to their original homes. With regards to elections, we want to see continued progress on electing new leaders who advocate the aims of the Dayton Plan, and are not associated with the strident nationalist policies advocated by leaders during the war. Your visit is significant for us and we wish you success in all your efforts to promote our mutual objective of restoring peace and stability to all the people of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

REMARKS BY RABBI ARTHUR SCHNEIER, PRESIDENT, APPEAL OF CONSCIENCE FOUNDATION, TO THE HOUSE INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Chairman Gilman and members of the House International Affairs Committee.

I appreciate the warm welcome you have given to the top religious leaders of the Catholic, Islamic, Serbian Orthodox and Jewish Communities of Bosnia and Herzegovina who are the guests of the Appeal of Conscience Foundation. I invited them to the United States so that for the first time together they would experience democratic institutions and pluralism in America.

Today's meeting in the United States Congress and with Secretary of State Madeleine Albright encourages them to help pursue peace, tolerance and reconciliation in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

In an effort to end the bloodshed in the former Yugoslavia in 1992, under the auspices of the Appeal of Conscience Foundation I brought together at a conference in Bern, Switzerland the top religious leaders of the Catholic, Islamic and Serbian Orthodox communities from the former Yugoslavia to take a united stand against the war. (Cardinal Puljić, who was then an Archbishop, is here with us today participated in the Bern conference). To further this objective the Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew I and I co-sponsored in 1994, the Peace and Tolerance Conference in Istanbul, where the Bosphorus Declaration was adopted; and in 1995 I brought together religious leaders for the Conflict Resolution Conference leading to the adoption of the Vienna Declaration, a prelude to the Dayton Peace Accord.

Today in Washington, DC, the capital of the free world, these religious leaders in a