

prisoners of the Castro dictatorship who continue their historic struggle against the despot regime of Fidel Castro.

As the organization's constitution expresses, the World Federation of Former Cuban Political Prisoners finds its historic roots in those brave men and women who forged the Cuban nation, and in particular, in the ideological leader of Cuban independence, Jose Marti.

Thousands of Cubans, following Marti's example, have been personal witnesses to the horrors of Castro's political prisons because of their tireless battle for Cuba's independence, national sovereignty and respect for freedom within a democratic political system.

During the closing session of the XVI Annual Congress of this glorious organization, I want my Congressional colleagues to acknowledge with admiration and respect all former and present Cuban political prisoners who have given and continue to give their all for the restoration of freedom in Cuba.

A TRIBUTE TO LA ACTUALIDAD
SPANISH NEWSPAPER

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 25, 1999

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor La Actualidad Spanish Newspaper which was founded 25 years ago by a group of Hispanic businessmen who felt that a newspaper was needed in the Delaware Valley to keep the Hispanic community informed about issues that impacted on their lives.

Since its inception, La Actualidad's mission has been to provide its readers with the most current information on community events, cultural programs, education, business and political issues. The paper also offers a wide array of local, national, and international news and sports that pertain to its Hispanic readers.

Through the years, La Actualidad has become the echo of the Delaware Valley for the Hispanic community. It provides a vital link between the community and local, state and federal governments. It also provides as an important forum for the community to address critical issues.

As it celebrates a quarter of a century, La Actualidad remains committed to continuing as an unifying force in the Hispanic Community and as an advocate for social change.

THE NEED FOR A PRAGMATIC AND
COHERENT SOUTH ASIA POLICY

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 25, 1999

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to draw attention to recent developments in South Asia, a region of growing importance to U.S. diplomatic, political, security and economic interests.

This past week, the news from the region has been positive. India's Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee personally inaugurated the new bus service with Pakistan. Prime Minister Vajpayee crossed the border into Lahore, Pakistan, where he was greeted by Pakistani

Prime Minister, Nawaz Sharif. Their embrace, seen on television sets around the world, was full of powerful symbolism, which we all hope will be matched by progress toward easing tensions between these two South Asian nations.

During 1998, of course, the news from this region was dominated by the nuclear tests conducted by India and Pakistan, which resulted in the automatic imposition of unilateral American sanctions on both countries. The result, particularly in the case of India, has been a set-back in the promising trend towards increased trade and investment we saw during most of the 1990s. Late last year, through bipartisan cooperation between Congress and the Administration, we succeeded in easing some, but far from all, of the sanctions that were imposed.

Today, Mr. Speaker, I wanted to outline a new approach, a new pragmatism, that I hope will mark our future relations with India—the world's largest democracy, a country whose population will exceed one billion people in the next decade, a country with enormous potential for trade and cooperation, and a country with legitimate defense concerns that we must recognize and respect.

While we may not necessarily welcome a world with more nuclear powers, I believe that India, in particular, would be a responsible partner in non-proliferation efforts. This would require a major shift in our focus, from simply condemning India for becoming a nuclear power—which, whether we like it or not, is the reality—to adjusting our thinking to this new reality and working to promote peace, security, confidence building and non-proliferation in South Asia.

This will require on our part a greater recognition of India's legitimate security needs and the prospects for greater Indo-U.S. cooperation in responding to the threats posed by another Asian country that must be taken into consideration when we address the India-Pakistan issue. That country is China.

I believe that China is the real threat to India, as well as to U.S. interests and to regional security. It is in this context, India's potential role as a partner for peace and stability should be understood.

In particular, India has legitimate concerns about China's support for Pakistan's nuclear and missile programs, as well as potential Chinese designs on India territory. Since the U.S. must also view China as a potential adversary, there is a growing convergence of American and Indian objectives for responding to China."

Talks between our Deputy Secretary of State Strobe Talbott and Indian Foreign Minister Jaswant Singh have shown some progress, but I believe the U.S. needs to do much more to create a framework for cooperation that recognizes the new realities in the region. I believe we have to be more pragmatic and flexible in working with India, including a greater appreciation of the security concerns that prompted India to conduct nuclear tests in the first place.

I would like to draw attention to a recent report by the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) South Asia program, which noted that India and Pakistan are beginning to define "minimum deterrence" in similar ways.

The U.S. should work to build on this emerging notion of minimum deterrence, com-

bined with a declared policy of no-first-use of nuclear weapons.

I also wanted to mention a report that appeared in the January 19, 1999, edition of the newspaper India Abroad, outlining the views of Mr. Tariq Rauf, director of the International Organizations and Non-proliferation Project at the Monterey Institute of International Studies in Monterey, California. Mr. Rauf sees Washington opting for a strategy of greater accommodation in its negotiations with both India and Pakistan, recognizing that neither nation is likely to give up its nuclear weapons. Writing in the latest edition of "The Bulletin of Atomic Scientists," Rauf said India and Pakistan should not only be encouraged, but assisted, to consider a variety of bilateral and multilateral discussions and agreements "to maintain their current tacit non-deployment practices regarding nuclear weapons and ballistic missiles."

Rauf also said both countries should be encouraged to agree "on some measure of sufficiency in terms of weapons-usable fissile material stocks, warheads and weapons systems; to negotiate and implement a package of regional confidence and security-building measures; and to actively contribute to the universalization of current global non-proliferation norms.

Rauf's conclusion: "a nuclear South Asia is here to stay." Thus, he calls on us to help address the security concerns that led both nations to develop nuclear weapons in the first place. He stresses that, "Pragmatic arms control strategies must therefore focus on accommodation, not appeasement or confrontation."

Our goal should be to make India a partner in the American foreign policy goal of minimizing the threat of nuclear war. One way of accomplishing this is to take the long overdue step of accepting India as a permanent member of the UN Security Council. The key is to make India a partner for peace, and not to isolate India and further contribute to the perception that India's legitimate security concerns are not receiving adequate attention or respect.

Mr. Speaker, I hope that 1999 will be a better year in U.S.-India relations than 1998 was. Karl Inderfurth, Assistant Secretary of State for South Asian Affairs, recently indicated that President Clinton is hoping to visit India and Pakistan this year, pending progress on the current talks. It's been 20 years since an American President was last in India, Mr. Speaker. I hope we don't have to wait too much longer.

REPRESENTATIVE BARBARA
NOTESTEIN—MILWAUKEE NOW
WOMAN OF THE YEAR

HON. THOMAS M. BARRETT

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 25, 1999

Mr. BARRETT of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, on Saturday, February 27th, Milwaukee National Organization for Women (NOW) will honor Wisconsin Representative Barbara Notestein as the Woman of the Year. I appreciate this opportunity to share with my colleagues my admiration for one of my state's most distinguished leaders.

Barbara Notestein and I were both elected to the Wisconsin Assembly in 1984. We grew