

7, I was pleased to see a letter from Dr. Gurmit Singh Aulakh, whom many of us know well.

Dr. Aulakh, who is the President of the Council of Khalistan, wrote about the Sikh independence struggle. He noted that Sikhs are "culturally, religiously, and linguistically distinct from Hindu India" and that they ruled Punjab independently for many years before the British conquered the subcontinent.

Dr. Aulakh's letter asked why India, which prides itself on being democratic, doesn't hold a plebiscite in Punjab, Khalistan on the question of independence. That is the democratic way to do things. But India appears to care more about achieving hegemony in South Asia than it does about the democratic principles it proclaims.

It is interesting that this letter ran on the 12th anniversary of the day the Sikh nation declared the independence of the Sikh homeland, Punjab, naming their new country Khalistan.

The recent elections in India underline the instability of India's multiethnic state. India has 18 official languages and Christians, Sikhs, Muslims, and others suffer from religious persecution. Many experts predict that India will soon break up.

America and the world should support the freedom movements in Khalistan, Kashmir, Nagaland, Assam, and the other nations seeking their freedom from India. We should cut American aid to India until it learns to respect human rights and we should work for an internationally-supervised plebiscite in Punjab, Khalistan, in Kashmir, in Nagaland, and in all the other areas seeking independence, on the question of their future political status.

Mr. Speaker, I insert Dr. Aulakh's letter into the RECORD. I hope that my colleagues will read it.

[From the Washington Times, Oct. 7, 1999]

**SIKH INDEPENDENCE DESERVES
INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT**

(By Gurmit Singh Aulakh)

We appreciate Arnold Beichman's mention of the Sikh struggle for an independent Khalistan ("Crossing the mini-state frontier," Commentary, Sept. 23). Sikhs are culturally, linguistically and religiously distinct from Hindu India, and we have a history of self-rule in Punjab. Sikhs are a separate nation.

Sikhs drove foreign invaders out of the subcontinent in the 18th century. Banda Singh Bahadar established Khalsa rule in Punjab in 1710. The Sikh rule lasted until 1716. Sikh rule was re-established in 1765, lasting until the British conquest of 1849. Sikh rule extended to Kabul and was considered one of the powers in South Asia. Since then, the Sikh nation has been struggling to regain its sovereignty.

No Sikh has ever signed the Indian constitution. On Oct. 7, 1987, the Sikh nation declared its independence, forming the separate nation of Khalistan. Our effort to liberate Khalistan is peaceful, democratic and nonviolent, but our declaration of independence is irrevocable and nonnegotiable.

India claims that the struggle for independence is over. If that is the case, why doesn't "the world's largest democracy" hold a plebiscite in Punjab to decide the question of independence the democratic way?

India is not one country. It is an empire of many countries that was thrown together by the British for their administrative convenience. Like the former Soviet Union, it is destined to fall apart.

In the June 17, 1994, issue of Strategic Investment, Jack Wheeler of the Freedom Research Foundation predicted that within 10 years, India "will cease to exist as we know [it]." Stanley Wolpert, a professor at the University of California in Los Angeles who wrote a biography on the late Indian Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru, predicted on CNN that both India and Pakistan will soon break up.

Sikhs oppose tyranny wherever it rears its head. Consequently, we support freedom for the people of Kashmir, Nagaland and other countries seeking their freedom.

The world helped East Timor achieve its freedom. The world helped Kosovo achieve its freedom. It is time for the free nations of the world to cut off aid to India and support an internationally supervised plebiscite to help the people of Khalistan, Kashmir, Nagaland and all nations of South Asia to achieve their freedom.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate on February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules committee—of the time, place, and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled, and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, October 14, 1999 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

OCTOBER 15

9 a.m.

Governmental Affairs

Oversight of Government Management, Restructuring and the District of Columbia Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine quality management at the Federal level.

SD-628

10:30 a.m.

Foreign Relations

To hold hearings on the nomination of Donald Stuart Hays, of Virginia, to be Representative to the United Nations for U.N. Management and Reform, with the rank of Ambassador; and the nomination of James B. Cunningham, of Pennsylvania, to be Deputy Representative to the United Nations, with the rank and status of Ambassador.

SD-419

OCTOBER 19

9:30 a.m.

Armed Services

To hold hearings to examine future naval operations at the Atlantic Fleet Weapons Training Facility.

SD-106

10 a.m.

Energy and Natural Resources

Forests and Public Land Management Subcommittee

To hold hearings on S. 1608, to provide annual payments to the States and counties from National Forest System lands managed by the Forest Service, and the reversioned Oregon and California Railroad and reconveyed Coos Bay Wagon Road grant lands managed predominantly by the Bureau of Land Management, for use by the counties in which the lands are situated for the benefit of the public schools, roads, emergency and other public purposes; to encourage and provide new mechanism for cooperation between counties and the Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management to make necessary investments in federal lands, and reaffirm the positive connection between Federal Lands counties and Federal Lands; and for other purposes.

SD-366

Judiciary

Antitrust, Business Rights, and Competition Subcommittee

To hold hearings on issues relating to the MCIWorldcom/Sprint merger.

SD-226

Environment and Public Works

Fisheries, Wildlife, and Drinking Water Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine the benefits and policy concerns related to habitat conservation plans.

SD-406

10:30 a.m.

Governmental Affairs

To hold hearings on S. 1378 and H.R. 391, bills to amend chapter 35 of title 44, United States Code, for the purposes of facilitating compliance by small businesses with certain Federal paperwork requirements, to establish a task force to examine the feasibility of streamlining paperwork requirements applicable to small businesses.

SD-628

2 p.m.

Energy and Natural Resources

Governmental Affairs

To hold joint oversight hearings on the implementation of provisions of the Department of Defense Authorization Act which create the National Nuclear Security Administration.

SH-216

2:30 p.m.

Energy and Natural Resources

National Parks, Historic Preservation, and Recreation Subcommittee

To hold hearings on S. 1365, to amend the National Preservation Act of 1966 to extend the authorization for the Historic Preservation Fund and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation; S. 1434, to amend the National Historic Preservation Act to reauthorize that Act; and H.R. 834, to extend the authorization for the National Historic Preservation Fund.

SD-366

OCTOBER 20

9:30 a.m.

Commerce, Science, and Transportation

To hold hearings to examine the use of performance enhancing drugs in Olympic competition.

SR-253

Judiciary

To hold hearings on the Justice Department's role and the FALN.

SD-226

Indian Affairs

To hold oversight hearings on the implementation of the Transportation Equity Act in the 21st Century, focusing on Indian reservation roads; to be followed by a business meeting on pending calendar business.

SR-485

2 p.m.

Foreign Relations

To hold hearings on extradition Treaty between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Republic of Korea (hereinafter referred to as "the Treaty"), signed at Washington on June 9, 1998 (Treaty Doc. 106-02).

SD-419

2:30 p.m.

Energy and Natural Resources

Water and Power Subcommittee

To hold hearings on S. 1167, to amend the Pacific Northwest Electric Power Planning and Conservation Act to provide for expanding the scope of the Independent Scientific Review Panel; S. 1694, to direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study on the reclamation and reuse of water and wastewater in the State of Hawaii; S. 1612, to direct the Secretary of the Interior to convey certain irrigation project property to certain irrigation and reclamation districts in the State of Nebraska; S. 1474, providing conveyance of the Palmetto Bend project to the State of Texas; S. 1697, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to refund certain collections received pursuant to the Reclamation Reform Act of 1982; and S. 1178, to direct the Secretary of the In-

terior to convey certain parcels of land acquired for the Blunt Reservoir and Pierre Canal features of the Oahe Irrigation Project, South Dakota, to the Commission of Schools and Public Lands of the State of South Dakota for the purpose of mitigating lost wildlife habitat, on the condition that the current preferential leaseholders shall have an option to purchase the parcels from the Commission.

SD-366

OCTOBER 21

9:30 a.m.

Armed Services

To resume hearings on the lessons learned from the military operations conducted as part of Operation Allied Force, and associated relief operations, with respect to Kosovo; to be followed by a closed hearing (SR-222).

SD-106

Energy and Natural Resources

To hold oversight hearings on issues related to land withdrawals and potential National Monument designations using the Antiquities Act, or Federal Land Policy and Management Act.

SD-366

OCTOBER 26

2:30 p.m.

Armed Services

Readiness and Management Support Subcommittee

To hold hearings on the Real Property Management Program and the maintenance of the historic homes and senior offices' quarters.

SR-222

OCTOBER 27

9:30 a.m.

Indian Affairs

To hold hearings on proposed legislation authorizing funds for elementary and secondary education assistance, focusing on Indian educational programs; to be followed by a business meeting on pending calendar business.

SR-285

NOVEMBER 4

9:30 a.m.

Indian Affairs

To hold joint hearings with the House Committee on Resources on S. 1586, to reduce the fractionated ownership of Indian Lands; and S. 1315, to permit the leasing of oil and gas rights on certain lands held in trust for the Navajo Nation or allotted to a member of the Navajo Nation, in any case in which there is consent from a specified percentage interest in the parcel of land under consideration for lease.

Room to be announced

CANCELLATIONS

OCTOBER 26

9:30 a.m.

Energy and Natural Resources

To hold hearings on S. 882, to strengthen provisions in the Energy Policy Act of 1992 and the Federal Nonnuclear Energy Research and Development Act of 1974 with respect to potential Climate Change.

SD-366