

We recognize the right of the Austrian people to elect anybody they choose. However, we reserve the right to express our views when people elect Communist totalitarian regimes or Fascist totalitarian regimes.

We are not there yet. This extremist xenophobic, far right-wing political party is only one of two parties of the Austrian coalition, and we will follow their activities with great care. They have made many commendable promises; but we will have to see how—in the unfolding of Austrian policy, domestic and international—these high-sounding promises are implemented.

The leaders of the European Union, all 14 nations, as well as other nations outside the European Union like Canada, Israel, and Norway, have expressed their deep concern about the new Government of Austria. One of the concerns that I shared in looking at this new far right-wing regime is the impact it is having in legitimatizing anti-democratic, racist forces in other countries of Europe.

This is an awful way to begin the 21st century. Therefore, we need to engage in a voluntary ban against tourism to Austria, the purchase of Austrian products, the use of Austrian airlines, and investments in that country. People need to understand that elections have consequences; and when 27 percent of the Austrian electorate chooses to support an extremist who has made complimentary remarks about Adolf Hitler and who has repeatedly expressed the most obnoxious, racist and xenophobic sentiments, the American people and the people of other civilized countries must respond.

We hope that this government will be better than the past record of Haider's party. There is always an opportunity for change, for reformation, for learning lessons. I call on all of my colleagues and I call on our administration to watch with the utmost care the actions of the new Austrian Government. It is important for us to realize that Adolf Hitler was voted into power, and the fact that people come to power through elections says nothing about their values. Democracy is not just elections; it is the sharing of a set of values of free and open societies.

I call on all of my colleagues to join me in cosponsoring this resolution so it can be the voice of the Congress in expressing our concern over political trends in Austria.

SUPPORT H. RES. 414 FOR STEM CELL MEDICAL RESEARCH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 19, 1999, the gentlewoman from Maryland (Ms. MORELLA) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker, last week I joined with my good friend and colleague, the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. MALONEY), in the introduction of H. Res. 414 to allow Federal

funding of pluripotent stem cell research to help us further understand Parkinson's, cancer, blindness, AIDS, Alzheimer's, diabetes, Muscular Dystrophy, Sickle-Cell Anemia, brain and spinal cord injuries, heart, lung, kidney and liver diseases, strokes, Lou Gehrig's Disease, birth defects, and other life-threatening diseases and disabilities.

House Resolution 414 does not request a specific amount of money, nor does it direct disease-specific research. It simply asks that Federal money be allowed to be utilized for the next best chance science has, not only to treat, but to cure, debilitating and life-threatening illnesses that afflict millions of Americans.

Many people have confused pluripotent stem cell research with human embryo research. Stem cells are not embryos. In fact, there is a ban on the use of Federal funds for human embryo research in the United States. Pluripotent stem cells cannot develop into complete human beings; and, therefore, under the law, they are not embryos.

Pluripotent stem cells are the type of cell that can be turned into almost any type of cell or tissue in the body. The medical community estimates that human pluripotent stem cell research makes it a very real possibility that Parkinson's Disease will be cured within 5 years. The American Cancer Society strongly supports pluripotent stem research. In fact, cancer research has shown that injections of stem cells could revive the immune response of patients undergoing bone marrow transplants. With stem cell technology, transplantation of human retinal tissue may be the cure for blinding retinal degenerative diseases which affect more than 6 million Americans.

Stem cell research holds the key; it holds the key to solve the problem of the body's reaction to foreign tissue, resulting in dramatic improvements in the treatment of a number of life-threatening conditions such as burns and kidney failure for which transplantation is currently used.

While the potential medical benefits of pluripotent stem cell technology are unprecedented, the National Institutes of Health has proposed guidelines outlining that this area of research must be conducted in accordance with strict ethical standards.

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NIH understands the ethical, legal, and social issues relevant to human pluripotent stem cell research and is sensitive to the need to subject it to oversight that is more stringent than that associated with the traditional NIH scientific peer review process.

Most importantly, Mr. Speaker, Federal funding would bring with it a level of oversight that will not be present if the work remains the sole province of the private sector.

Finally, the American people support stem cell research, as shown by a na-

tionwide survey conducted by Opinion Research Corporation International last year. They found that 74 percent of those polled favored funding of stem cell research by NIH.

Federal funds are crucial to allow scientists to proceed with stem cell research, which offers hope to more than 100 million Americans who suffer from a myriad of deadly and debilitating diseases.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I want to urge my colleagues to support medical research in the search to find the cure for life-threatening disease and disability. I ask them to cosponsor House Resolution 414.

PAKISTAN'S PATTERN OF SPONSORING TERRORISM, PROVOKING CRISIS IN KASHMIR, AND THREATENING DESTABILIZATION OF REGION

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BARRETT of Nebraska). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 19, 1999, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss the latest episode in a troubling, ongoing pattern by the military regime in Pakistan to provoke a crisis in Kashmir and to essentially pick a fight with India with results that could be destabilizing and devastating to the entire region and the entire world.

The Pakistani government, a military junta that overthrew the civilian government in a coup last October, declared last Saturday, February 5, Kashmir Solidarity Day. Pakistan's military strongman leader, General Musharraf, visited the Pakistani-administered area of Kashmir and encouraged the terrorist forces there to continue their Jihad in the Indian states of Jammu and Kashmir.

That same evening, according to an account from the Indo-American Kashmir Forum, a band of gun-wielding terrorists sought out Kashmiri Pandits or Hindus in the village of Telwani and opened fire on two families belonging to the minority Hindu community. Three Pandits, including a 9-year-old girl, were killed and many others were injured.

Mr. Speaker, this is the true face of the so-called liberation campaign being waged by so-called freedom fighters for years in Kashmir. It is a violent terrorist campaign, pure and simple. Now Pakistan's support for this violent campaign has been laid bare for all the world to see.

Pakistan has always acknowledged its political and moral support for the insurgency in Kashmir, but evidence clearly shows that Pakistan's support runs much deeper. Now General Musharraf has spelled it out. He publicly pledged his support for the terrorist groups fighting in India's state of Jammu and Kashmir.

He was quoted in news accounts saying, "All heads rise with pride when we