

flying multi-engine turboprop airplane could fly into a fighter jet aircraft. I do not think there is any question about who was really at fault in this accident. It was the Chinese pilot.

Once the collision occurred, our pilot and crew did everything they could do. They transmitted multiple "Mayday" signals to alert others to their in-flight emergency. They tried to alert the Chinese that they would have to divert for an emergency landing in China. And our plane landed on Hainan Island only because it was an emergency.

Our pilot and crew deserve high praise for safely landing the aircraft despite severe structural damage and in attempting to follow procedures to minimize the compromise of sensitive national security information. They also deserve credit for behaving so professionally during the 11 days they were detained against their will by Chinese authorities.

Beyond the crew and this incident, there are also broader issues here about which we should all be concerned. I refer, of course, to the Chinese demand that the United States should cease reconnaissance and surveillance flights off the coast of China. We should not. Our flights are lawful and are carried out in international airspace and are important to the national security of the United States. Moreover, the Navy EP-3 aircraft should be returned. It is clear under international law that under the circumstances under which this collision occurred, the Navy EP-3 airplane is the property of the United States. It should be returned to us.

Finally, if Chinese aircraft continue to intercept and employ aggressive tactics against our airplanes when we resume our reconnaissance surveillance flights, as we surely will, they run a grave risk. They run the risk of jeopardizing the important relationships that now exist between the United States and China. Despite ideological and governmental differences between the governments of our two countries, the last several years have shown that our countries can get along and have beneficial relationships, cultural, educational and economic.

The Chinese Government should realize that the beneficial relations that now exist between our countries could deteriorate if they continue to harass our airplanes when we are operating lawfully in international airspace.

I have introduced a resolution, H. Con. Res. 106, that expresses my commendation of the crew of the Navy EP-3 aircraft for the exemplary performance of their duties. The resolution also expresses the sense of Congress that reconnaissance and surveillance flights should continue, that our plane should be returned to us, and that continued interception of our flights may have broader political consequences. I invite Members of the House to cosponsor my resolution.

Mr. Speaker, Americans are immensely proud of the 24 members of the

EP-3 crew and share the joy of their families and friends on the crew's safe return to the United States. Our men and women in uniform make personal sacrifices and take great risk every day to keep our Nation free. We should not take them for granted. In this case, we should all be grateful that the 24 service members of the Navy EP-3 have returned safely. I applaud them for their professionalism and performance of duty under most arduous circumstances.

HUMAN CLONING

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. ISSA). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. WELDON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. WELDON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak on the issue of human cloning.

What would it be like if we had five Michael Jordans to suit up an entire team? Or what if there were two of you to accomplish more in a 24-hour day? The prospect of human cloning has been the stuff of science fiction novels for years. However, on February 27, 1997, Ian Wilmut from the Roslin Institute in Scotland cloned Dolly the sheep, a feat which has triggered international debate on the issue of human cloning. Since that time, scientists have cloned mice, cows and pigs. Richard Seed announced he would clone a human being.

President Clinton called for a 5-year moratorium on human cloning and advised the National Bioethics Advisory Commission to review human cloning. They recommended that cloning humans for reproductive purposes is unsafe and unethical. I would certainly agree.

If you speak to Dr. Wilmut, he will tell you that they had something on the order of 230 or more attempts to produce Dolly, with most of those attempts ending in miscarriage, but many, many of them resulting in the birth of sheep with very, very severe birth defects. To even consider doing such a procedure for the purpose of creating a human being is immoral and unethical in the worst possible way. However, cloning technology is available that could allow biotechnology companies and researchers to produce human embryos in the lab.

This issue of cloning human embryos, I must stress, is not an issue of fetal tissue research or an issue of stem cell research. It is an issue of cloning human embryos. This year, Panos Zavos of the University of Kentucky and his Italian colleague, Severino Antinori, have begun the work of creating a global consortium for the purpose of producing a human clone. Dr. Brigitte Boisselier, the Director of Clonaid, which has part of the Raelian extraterrestrial movement attached to it, has stated that they have already been offered substantial sums of money to begin the process of working on de-

veloping children through the process of human cloning.

I believe the time now is right and the time is ripe for the Congress of the United States to act, and that is why I have introduced legislation today that would make human reproductive cloning, as well as embryonic cloning, illegal in the United States of America.

Now, I want to stress that some people who favor embryonic cloning like to refer to this as therapeutic cloning. Indeed, this term has already been established in the press. I have had two reporters bring this issue up. Therapy implies that there is some sort of useful purpose for these embryonic clones. I would assert that if you look at the medical literature, there is no defined therapeutic purpose for cloning human embryos today in science. Therefore, this term is a misnomer.

The proper term is destructive cloning, or embryonic cloning, the cloning of a human embryo, the cloning of a human embryo for the purpose of just merely doing research on it and then further to proceed to just simply destroying it, or destructive cloning.

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I think this process displays a profound disrespect for human life, and it needs to be made illegal in the United States of America.

Many countries in Europe have already taken action on this issue and have made human cloning illegal. This is what my bill attempts to do. The bill has been introduced in the Senate as well by the Senator from Kansas, SAM BROWNBACK.

I would encourage all of my colleagues to consider seriously getting much more well informed on this issue and signing on to my legislation. It is timely. It is right. We need to do it.

VICTIMS OF ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. ISSA). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Mr. SCHIFF) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker: Sarkis Papazian, Elizabeth Khatchadourian, David Khatchadourian, Haroutiun Barseghian, Annik Mugurdichian, Mari Zadoian, Ghazar Ghazarian, Zkon Chouldjian, Takvor Kazandjian, Hagop Kazandjian, Avedis Aghjayan, Garabed Garabedian, Tavriz Garabedian, Shoushanig Garabedian. These are a few, a precious few, of the more than 1.5 million men, women, and children who lost their lives in the first genocide of the 20th century.

Ardeni Gureghian, Nazeni Kalustian, Antoine Kalfayan, Antranig Antoian, Rouben Gureghian, Anoushig Antoian, Mardiros Alemian, Haigaz Alemian, Hampartz Alemian, Caloust Alemian, Shmavon Tetezian, Sirpouhi Nahabedian Tetezian: 1.5 million people whose lives were as precious to them as our lives are to us, who loved