good fruit is hewn down and cast into the fire. Wherefore, by their fruits shall ye know them.''

I trust we will not again make the mistake of the Second World War and presume that because an individual or his forefathers came from that region or worships our common God in its way, that he is anything other than someone entitled to mutual rights and mutual respect. There will be no mass round-ups based on race, there will be no mass internment camps based on religion. We are not the same people as we were in 1941, and thank God, we are not the same people as those with whom we are at war.

I take some pride, that as a member of the federal judiciary I have taken an oath to do equal justice to all who come before me, and I have great confidence that not only shall we honor that oath, but that the executive branch will equally honor its obligation to protect the rights of those who reside within our nation whatever their race or religion. If restrictions there are, and there will be, if some limitations arise on the freedom from government interference with our ability to travel, and there will be, they will be applied equally. If individual officials make mistakes simply because of someone's color or creed, we will correct those mistakes as quickly as possible and apologize for the error. We will all face the burden together, we shall spread it as fairly as possible, and we shall bear it with quiet determination and good humor, for we are at war.

Make no mistake about it, we are at war. It is a different war than those of the recent past, and we Americans tend to be so forward looking that we confine our vision only to the front, but there is historical precedent for what we are about to do. When our nation was still in its infancy we fought an undeclared war with your neighbors across the Channel, we sent our young navy to the Mediterranean to battle the corsairs of Barbary, and over the years we have chased bandits and pirates beyond our borders whenever our national interest required it. Often, and for many decades, we shared that job with the Royal Navy.

I cannot, in this English language, say anything about this endeavor upon which we now embark in any way better than my hero who led your fight for civilization in the last world war. Let me quote from two speeches by Mr. Churchill: ''There shall be no halting or half measures, there shall be no compromise or parley. These gangs of bandits have sought to darken the light of the world; have sought to stand between the common people and their inheritance. They shall themselves be cast into the pit of death and shame, and only when the earth has been cleansed and purged of their crimes and villainy shall we turn from the task they have forced upon us, a task which we were reluctant to undertake, but which we shall now most faithfully and punctiliously discharge.

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''We do not war primarily with races as such. Tyranny is our foe, whatever trappings or disguise it wears, whatever language it speaks, be it external or internal, we must forever be on our guard, ever mobilized, ever vigilant, always ready to spring at its throat. In this, we march together.''

In this indeed, I know, we shall march together.

ELECTIONS IN BELARUS

Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, I rise today to speak about Belarus and my concerns about the country's recent presidential election.

Belarus has endured tremendous difficulties in its history. For centuries, Belarus has been fought over, occupied and carved up. It has borne heavy losses, including the loss of over 2 million people, one quarter of its population, during WWII. Today, the Belarusian people continue to suffer devastating consequences from the 1986 Chernobyl nuclear disaster in neighboring Ukraine.

Belarus' declaration of independence in 1991 held great promise for a better future. As it broke from communist rule, it had the opportunity to build a free nation and become part of a peaceful, more secure Europe. The country began to embrace economic and political reforms and democratic principles. It courageously chose to be a nuclear-free state, ratified the START Treaty, acceded to the Non-Proliferation Treaty, and became a member of NATO's Partnership for Peace. It established a constitution and held its first Presidential election in 1994.

Unfortunately, the prospect of democratic change in Belarus was quickly halted as its first President, Alexander Lukashenka, adopted increasingly authoritarian policies, including amending the constitution in a flawed referendum to extend his term and broaden his powers. Lukashenka's regime has been marked by a terrible human rights record that is progressively getting worse, with little respect for freedom of expression, assembly and an independent media. A pattern of disturbing disappearances of opposition leaders fails to be seriously investigated by authorities. The living conditions in Belarus are declining and Lukashenka's refusal to institute economic reforms has only exacerbated the situation.

For months, nations throughout the world have been following closely the events leading up to the presidential election which took place on September 9, 2001, with hope that Lukashenka would take the necessary steps to allow the election to be free, fair and transparent. The United States, the European Union and leaders of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, OSCE, had urged Lukashenka to uphold his commitments to democratic principles as an OSCE member state and adhere to international election standards. Lukashenka was encouraged to seize this opportunity to signal to his European neighbors and the rest of the world that he is ready to change his heavy handed policies which have isolated his government and earned him a reputation as the lone remaining dictator in Europe.

Unfortunately, this election process demonstrated that Lukashenka is still unwilling to acknowledge the will of the Belarusian people. Much like last year's parliamentary elections, this election was marred by reports of intimidation, harassment and fraud. The OSCE concluded that it failed to meet internationally recognized democratic election standards.

Leading up to the election the opposition was denied fair and equal access to state-controlled media coverage, the independent media was harassed, publishing houses were shut down, and newspapers reporting on the opposition were seized. International observers from the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, ODHIR, were denied entry into the country for several weeks, and some were denied visas altogether, thus hindering efforts to establish a complete and thorough observation mission. Consequently, observation of critical aspects of a free and democratic election were missed, including the formation of election commissions and the candidate registration process. As voters cast their ballots, efforts to conduct a parallel vote-count were thwarted when Belarusian authorities disqualified thousands of domestic election observers. As a result, while most of Belarus' Central and Eastern European neighbors continue to progress toward democracy and integration into a peaceful, more secure Europe, Belarus remains on a path of its own, isolated from much of the world.

The United States must continue to pressure Lukashenka to change his archaic iron fist policies and adopt political reforms that espouse democratic principles such as respect for human rights, support for civil society, and the rule of law. We must continue to urge his regime to institute desperately needed market-oriented economic reforms to promote trade, investment, growth and development in Belarus. We should also engage the Russians in high-level discussions, urging them to raise these issues with their neighbor, to pressure Lukashenka to take the steps he knows are necessary to facilitate normal, productive relations between his country and the international community.

While putting pressure on the Belarusian Government, the U.S. should also continue to support programs that will strengthen civil society and build democracy. The OSCE cited one positive observation about the Presidential election in Belarus: an increasingly pluralistic civil society is emerging and working to build the core institutions neglected by the state. The U.S. should continue to support programs that will build upon this progress within civil society and help restore democracy in Belarus.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

• Mr. SARBANES. Mr. President, today I rise in recognition of Hispanic Heritage Month. Each year, from September 15 through October 15, we recognize the contributions that Hispanic Americans bring to the United States. During this Hispanic Heritage Month, our Nation is in the process of coming to terms with the unspeakably savage attacks of September 11th and bracing for what may follow. Yet, in the wake of these heinous terrorist acts, we have demonstrated one of our greatest