

case of murdered journalist Heorhiy Gongadze. Meanwhile, reports of government corruption and harassment of the media have raised concerns about the Ukrainian government's commitment to democratic principles. As a founding member and Co-chair of the Congressional Ukrainian Caucus, I have spoken out for a more democratic Ukraine and expressed my continued concern about the lack of progress in the Gongadze case and recent political instability.

On March 31, 2002, Ukraine will hold its third parliamentary elections since becoming independent more than ten years ago. It is widely believed that the outcome of the parliamentary elections will determine whether Ukraine continues to pursue democratic reforms, or experiences further political turmoil. The intent of my resolution is to make the Government of Ukraine aware that the U.S. Congress is monitoring the conduct of the parliamentary election process closely, and will not just be focusing on Election Day results.

According to the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe Office of Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (OSCE/ODIHR) final report on Ukraine's most recent national election, the presidential election of 1999 was marred by violations of Ukrainian election law and failed to meet a significant number of OSCE election commitments. There is now concern that the 2002 parliamentary elections will be compromised by similar violations. Two recent reports on the 2002 parliamentary elections released by the Committee on Voters of Ukraine (CVU), a leading Ukrainian watchdog group on elections, have cited numerous violations in the campaign process.

My resolution urges the Government of Ukraine to enforce impartially the new election law signed by President Kuchma on October 30, 2001, which was cited in a OSCE/ODIHR report dated November 26, 2001 as making improvements in Ukraine's electoral code and providing safeguards to meet Ukraine's commitments on democratic elections. The resolution also urges the Government of Ukraine to meet its commitments on democratic elections and address issues identified by the OSCE in its final report on the 1999 elections, such as state interference in the campaign and pressure on the media. Finally, the resolution calls upon the Government of Ukraine to allow both domestic and international election monitors full access to the parliamentary election process.

It is my hope that this resolution will send a clear message to the Government of Ukraine that the U.S. Congress will not simply rubber stamp funding requests for Ukraine without also considering the serious issues involved in Ukraine's democratic development. In particular, the conduct of the 2002 parliamentary elections will have a major impact on funding considerations when Members of Congress are again confronted with the task of balancing their support of the U.S.-Ukrainian relationship with Ukraine's progress in making democratic reforms.

I urge my colleagues to support the Slaughter-Hoeffel-Smith resolution, and encourage the Government of Ukraine to conduct a democratic, transparent, and fair parliamentary election process.

CONGRESSMAN JOHN LEWIS ON
MARTIN LUTHER KING'S SPECIAL
BOND WITH ISRAEL

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 29, 2002

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, as a nation we have recently celebrated the contributions of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., in the noble crusades of Civil Liberty and Equal Rights, and in a few days we will commence a celebration of the contributions of African-Americans to our nation's history in "Black History Month." Dr. King was an exemplar and a martyr for these causes. As an advocate for an oppressed people, he was in a unique position to offer insights into the suffering of the Jewish people.

My distinguished colleague from Georgia, Mr. JOHN LEWIS, recently summarized Dr. King's sentiments of empathy with the Jewish community in an article appearing on January 21, 2001 in the San Francisco Chronicle entitled "King's Special Bond With Israel." Mr. LEWIS was a contemporary of Dr. King in the Civil Rights movement of the sixties and has carried King's "Dream" of equality and justice into the twenty-first century. He has maintained an active role in politics and has been an outspoken champion of human rights and progressive social movements. His recent sponsorship of legislation discouraging racial profiling, and his dedicated support of the National Museum of African-American History and Culture, further illustrate his commitment to a society that is truly free of racial inequality.

Mr. Speaker, I would ask that Congressman LEWIS's article be placed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. I encourage my colleagues in the House to consider the position articulated by Dr. King, and in so doing, develop an appreciation for the parallel sufferings of the Jewish and African-American communities.

[From the San Francisco Chronicle, Jan. 21, 2002]

KING'S SPECIAL BOND WITH ISRAEL
(By John Lewis)

The Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. understood the meaning of discrimination and oppression. He sought ways to achieve liberation and peace, and he thus understood that a special relationship exists between African-Americans and American Jews.

This message was true in his time and is true today.

He knew that both peoples were uprooted involuntarily from their homelands. He knew that both peoples were shaped by the tragic experience of slavery. He knew that both peoples were forced to live in ghettos, victims of segregation.

We knew that both peoples were subject to laws passed with the particular intent of oppressing them simply because they were Jewish or black. He knew that both peoples have been subjected to oppression and genocide on a level unprecedented in history.

King understood how important it is not to stand by in the face of injustice. He understood the cry, "Let my people go."

Long before the plight of the Jews in the Soviet Union was on the front pages, he raised his voice. "I cannot stand idly by, even though I happen to live in the United States and even though I happen to be an American Negro and not be concerned about what happens to the Jews in Soviet Russia. For what happens to them happens to me and you, and we must be concerned."

During his lifetime King witnessed the birth of Israel and the continuing struggle to build a nation. He consistently reiterated his stand on the Israel-Arab conflict, stating "Israel's right to exist as a state in security is uncontested." It was no accident that King emphasized "security" in his statements on the Middle East.

On March 25, 1968, less than two weeks before his tragic death, he spoke out with clarity and directness stating, "peace for Israel means security, and we must stand with all our might to protect its right to exist, its territorial integrity. I see Israel as one of the great outposts of democracy in the world, and a marvelous example of what can be done, how desert land can be transformed into an oasis of brotherhood and democracy. Peace for Israel means security and that security must be a reality."

During the recent U.N. Conference on Racism held in Durban, South Africa, we were all shocked by the attacks on Jews, Israel and Zionism. The United States of America stood up against these vicious attacks.

Once again, the words of King ran through my memory. "I solemnly pledge to do my utmost to uphold the fair name of the Jews—because bigotry in any form is an affront to us all."

During an appearance at Harvard University shortly before his death, a student stood up and asked King to address himself to the issue of Zionism. The question was clearly hostile. King responded, "When people criticize Zionists they mean Jews, you are talking anti-Semitism."

King taught us many lessons. As turbulence continues to grip the Middle East, his words should continue to serve as our guide. I am convinced that were he alive today he would speak clearly calling for an end to the violence between Israelis and Arabs.

He would call upon his fellow Nobel Peace Prize winner, Yasser Arafat, to fulfill the dream of peace and do all that is within his power to stop the violence.

He would urge continuing negotiations to reduce tensions and bring about the first steps toward genuine peace.

King had a dream of an "oasis of brotherhood and democracy" in the Middle East.

As we celebrate his life and legacy, let us work for the day when Israelis and Palestinians, Jews and Muslims, will be able to sit in peace "under his vine and fig tree and none shall make him afraid."

PAYING TRIBUTE TO LAVELLE
CRAIG

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 29, 2002

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to Lavelle Craig and thank him for his contributions to the community of Canon City, Colorado. Lavelle will always be remembered as a dedicated administrator and leader of the community, and as he celebrates his retirement, let it be known that this will be a great loss for a town that has relied on him for his knowledge and wisdom in times of hardship and prosperity.

Lavelle has been a tireless servant of the business and civic community for many years. As a member of the business community, he served as a bank executive with Fremont National Bank. Answering a call to public service in 1995, Lavelle entered into the field of politics. He was elected that year to the City