

Instead, our State Department is, what? Our State Department is pushing that our allies in the war against the Taliban, the Northern Alliance, should, without reservation, disarm and dismantle their military forces; this at a time when those people who sided with the Taliban could well take over the central government and as the Taliban are still skirmishing throughout the country periodically. Yet our State Department wants our allies to disarm.

By the way, our allies, and I visited them 1 month ago, want one thing and one thing only: the Northern Alliance, those who fought with us against the Taliban, are asking only that they have the right to elect their local leaders, their local mayors and provision leaders. That is what they are asking for. Is that not understandable? Is this not what America is all about?

It is funny that our State Department, however, is pushing a system that is totally contrary to the American experience. They, instead, are insisting that Afghanistan have, get this, a French-like centralized system of government, in which the provision leaders and the local leaders would be appointed. The local police chief is appointed by the centralized government in Kabul, the capital city. The school masters are appointed by the centralized government in Kabul.

This is not freedom. This is not what America is all about. Yet our State Department pushes in exactly the wrong direction. We need to oversee what the State Department is doing in Afghanistan before it collapses and before the heroin production in that country destroys any hope for those people to have a decent life in the future.

MAKING PUBLIC RECORDS REGARDING RELOCATION TO ARGENTINA OF WORLD WAR II CRIMINALS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New York (Mr. HINCHEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. HINCHEY. Mr. Speaker, I would like to this evening call to the attention of the Members of the House that tomorrow I, along with 22 original co-sponsors, will introduce a resolution calling on the Government of Argentina to make public all of its official records pertaining to the relocation to Argentina of Nazis and other criminals of World War II.

Just 60 years ago, the world witnessed the most horrific crime ever perpetrated, the Holocaust. Hitler's campaign of genocide murdered 6 million Jews, 220,000 Roma, 200,000 mentally and physically disabled persons, and millions more homosexuals, Russians, Poles, and others. This campaign, known as the "Final Solution," was carried out with ruthless efficiency by Hitler's Nazi regime and its collaborators.

Following the fall of that regime in 1945, the Nuremberg Trials were estab-

lished to prosecute those responsible for carrying out the genocide campaign. While many of the Nazis and war criminals who perpetrated these atrocities were tried at Nuremberg, others escaped Europe and fled.

Many of those who escaped sought refuge in Argentina, where the government of Juan Peron offered them a safe haven. While many historians believe at least 300 war criminals fled to Argentina, there is no accurate number available.

Those we do know about include some of the Holocaust's most notorious figures: Edward Roschmann, the "Butcher of Riga," and probable organizer of the ODESSA network; Eric Priebke, the SS captain involved in massacres of Italian victims; and Adolf Eichmann, chief of the Jewish Office of the Gestapo and responsible for implementing the "Final Solution." There are many others who belong on the list.

This era of Argentina's history is over, and Argentina has attempted to come to grips with this history. Despite these efforts, there is much we do not know about this era. Two prominent examples demonstrate this fact.

The fate of Klaus Barbie is not certain, as he briefly resided in Argentina on his way to a third country. Josef Mengele spent a short time in Argentina before leaving for Paraguay, but the details of his flight are uncertain as well.

Did the Government of Argentina know that these men traveled through the country? How long did they reside in Argentina? These questions and others remain unanswered. As two of the most dangerous and destructive men during the Holocaust, their actions after World War II should be known. Access to the documents that Argentina has may provide information on the final whereabouts of these and other war criminals.

Historians and researchers, however, are still encountering obstacles to Argentina's archives as repeated requests for documentation from that time period have been disregarded or refused. The New York Times reported on this in March of this year, and other researchers and historians have confirmed this fact.

My resolution calls on Argentina to build upon the steps it has already taken to shed light on the relocation of Nazis to Argentina following the end of World War II and to make public all official records pertaining to this era.

The world must always learn from its history. Knowledge of past events can guard against such things occurring in the future. Access to these records is necessary to form a full understanding of the Holocaust's aftermath and to thwart future attempts by war criminals to avoid prosecution. And just as important, if not more, the Nazis and war criminals who avoided prosecution for their roles in the Holocaust must be exposed. The world deserves to know of their crimes and their fates. The people

of Argentina deserve nothing less than complete knowledge of their country's history. And the families of Holocaust victims deserve a full account of this time period.

Argentina should be praised for its recent efforts to investigate and bring to light the events of this time period as a member of the Task Force for International Cooperation on Holocaust Education, Remembrance, and Research. Argentina also signed the Declaration of the Stockholm International Forum on the Holocaust and therefore agreed to "throw light on the still obscured shadows of the Holocaust" and to "take all necessary steps to facilitate the opening of archives in order to ensure that all documents bearing on the Holocaust are available to researchers."

□ 2000

In 1997, Argentina created the Commission of Inquiry into the Activities of Nazism in Argentina to identify Nazis who settled in the country, determine if Nazi loot had arrived in Argentina, and evaluate the impact of Nazism on Argentine society. However, documentation and details regarding these events in Argentina's history have still not been made available, despite commitments from Argentina's Government to do so. By making these documents and information public, the Government of Argentina will be making an enormous contribution to all those who seek an accurate accounting of history.

Before I close, I want to make clear that the purpose of this resolution is not to lay blame on Argentina, but to foster a clear and complete understanding of the events following the Holocaust. It is important to note that just prior to the start of World War II, 30,000 to 40,000 Jewish immigrants entered Argentina and sought asylum, thousands more than other countries were permitting at the time, and efforts are being made by the current government to expose these facts regarding the Holocaust.

I call on the Argentine Government to fully support the efforts it has previously made on this issue and to release any and all information and documents it has on the relocation of Nazis and other war criminals to within its borders after World War II. Recognition of these events is critical for a full understanding of the Holocaust and its aftermath.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CHOCOLA). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GREEN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. GREEN of Texas addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

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