

parents today. It is deeply rooted, and will require a great and continuing effort to keep it under control. But we must not give up—there is simply too much at stake. I thank the Catholic Church for its ongoing support of that effort.

INTERVENTION OF THE DELEGATION OF THE HOLY SEE AT THE MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE ON "NEW CHALLENGES FOR DRUG POLICY IN EUROPE"

(Dublin, October 16–17, 2003)

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Holy See is pleased to participate in this Ministerial Conference sponsored by the Pompidou Group, for it sees this as a fitting and encouraging opportunity to discuss and analyze the strategies in the fight against the threat represented by drug abuse, as the Conference theme aptly suggests.

The data provided by the European Observatory for Drugs and Drug Addiction in the 2002 Annual Report on the Evolution of the Drug Phenomenon in the European Union and Norway continue to raise alarms and indicate that the situation, instead of improving, is growing worse.

Great concern is caused both by the constant increase in the use of synthetic drugs and by the ever decreasing age at which drug abuse is observed.

Pope John Paul II, already in 1984, noted that "among the threats facing young people and all of society today, drug abuse is one of the greatest, since it is a danger that is as insidious as it is invisible, and one that is not yet properly recognized according to the extent of its seriousness".

If politics is at the service of the human person and society, it must not fail to go to the root of problems. This means grappling with the anxiety, that is, the existential crisis or apprehensions, that in a consumerist and materialistic society finds rich soil for shattering the inner equilibrium in subjects who are particularly weak, fragile and sensitive. There is no doubt that the phenomenon of drug abuse is connected with a crisis of civilization and with great dejection. One of the most important factors leading to drug abuse is the lack of clear motivation, the absence of values, the conviction that life is not worth living.

Among the political measures to be adopted in the fight against this phenomenon, my Delegation would point out in the first place those aimed at combating illicit trafficking in drugs, controlled by powerful criminal organizations. This takes place in the larger context of arms trade, terrorism and trafficking in human beings. Such criminal activity goes beyond national borders and therefore requires a concerted policy of international cooperation.

Faced with the many suggestions and decisions made in different national contexts for the purpose of resolving the problem, the Holy See does not agree with the proposal to legalize the circulation and distribution of drugs, not even so-called light drugs. We must not fail to take into account the risk of moving from the use of light drugs to the use of those with more destructive effects. The State should not assist its more vulnerable citizens to alienate themselves from society and ruin their lives.

Rather, the Holy See encourages above all the promotion of preventive information and education, and the possibility of the proper treatment and reintegration into society of those who unfortunately fall prey to drug addiction.

More resources should be destined to the application of preventive and educational measures in the family, in schools, in sports clubs and in society in general. There is a need for placing renewed emphasis on the human values of love and life, the only val-

ues capable of giving meaning to human existence.

As far as treatment and reintegration into society are concerned, my Delegation places great importance on the work of assistance and recovery communities. This is a matter of helping drug addicts, in the midst of their inner suffering and their state of anxiety, to rediscover dignity, to take control of their lives once more and to reintegrate themselves into their families and into society.

An integrated system of services offered by local agencies, institutions and educational groups (family, school, community) should increase the ability to bring effective aid to the lives of young people who, once they are freed from drug addiction, will be able to avoid a relapse. Only the desire to be reborn and the ability to heal will ensure that "recovered" young people can return to a normal life after having passed through the frightening tunnel of drug addiction.

An adequate policy in this regard must also address the ethical questions involved, seeking to place the problem in a wider anthropological, ethical, social, political and economic context. Means and resources need to be set-aside for this purpose.

Mr Chairman, allow me to conclude by reaffirming the willingness of the Holy See and the Catholic Church—with their extensive networks of institutions and structures devoted to the education, assistance and rehabilitation of drug addicts—to work with European institutions in seeking together paths and means for a policy in the fight against drug abuse and addiction that will not only resist the criminal and subversive phenomenon but will also take into consideration the moral issue of drug addiction and of a society that promotes a culture of solidarity for life.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

#### PAYING TRIBUTE TO GREAT SAND DUNES' OUTDOOR EDUCATION PROGRAM

**HON. SCOTT McINNIS**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 19, 2003*

MR. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment to honor the Great Sand Dunes National Park in Colorado for its award-winning Outdoor Education Program. Recently, the Colorado Alliance for Environmental Education awarded the Great Sand Dunes with the Governmental Environmental Education Award for Excellence for 2003. The Outdoor Education Program is an excellent source of information and entertainment for all who enjoy nature and have an interest in wildlife. I would like to join my colleagues here today in recognizing the tremendous service provided to the Colorado community by the Great Sand Dunes Outdoor Education Program.

The Great Sand Dunes have offered education programs for almost twenty years. Staff members and volunteers enthusiastically provide research and expertise for service-learning projects, field trips, outreach events and workshops that encourage environmental awareness in the community. The educational program works in conjunction with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the U.S. Forest Service and the Nature Conservancy, in order to provide students and instructors with the latest and most accurate information.

Mr. Speaker, the Great Sand Dunes Outdoor Education Program is an exciting and in-

structional educational tool for the Colorado community. This program has shown extraordinary dedication to teaching adults and children about the environment and conservation. It is my great honor today to recognize the devotion and commitment of those involved with the program. Congratulations on a well deserved award.

#### CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 2754, ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT APPROPRIATION ACT, 2004

SPEECH OF

**HON. MARK UDALL**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 18, 2003*

MR. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this bill. But I do have reservations about a number of provisions included in it.

As co-chair of the Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Caucus in the House, I have worked for years to increase—or at a minimum, hold steady—funding for DOE's renewable energy and energy efficiency research and development programs. So I am disappointed that for yet another year, the bill shortchanges these important clean energy programs.

Given our finite supply of fossil fuels and increasing global demand, investing in clean energy is more important than ever. DOE's renewable energy programs are vital to our Nation's interests, helping provide strategies and tools to address the environmental challenges we will face in the coming decades. By reducing air pollution and other environmental impacts from energy production and use, they also constitute the single largest and most effective federal pollution prevention program.

Investments in sustainable energy technologies meet multiple other public policy objectives. Far from decreasing, U.S. dependence on imported oil has increased to record levels over the past 25 years. These programs are helping to reduce our reliance on oil imports, thereby strengthening our national security, and also creating hundreds of new domestic businesses, supporting thousands of American jobs, and opening new international markets for American goods and services.

While these technologies have become increasingly cost-competitive, the pace of their penetration into the market will be determined largely by government support for future research and development as well as by assistance in catalyzing public-private partnerships, leading to full commercialization.

For our investment in these technologies to pay off, our efforts must be sustained over the long term. This bill does not do that. This bill is fully \$75 million less than last year's bill in the area of research energy research. Much of this reduction is used to fund a new Office of Electricity Transmission and Distribution. Cuts to renewable energy accounts are also used to boost hydrogen programs fully \$38 million above last year's levels. Although I'm certainly supportive of both the electricity and hydrogen programs, I believe they should be additive to take advantage of the synergies they present with the other important and established programs at DOE. Instead, the bill cuts biomass/biofuels by \$14.4 million, solar energy by \$9.4 million, and geothermal by \$3.8 million.