

an Iraqi government is forming based on the voters' selections, as a new government is in place in the Palestinian Authority, and in Afghanistan.

One of the President's greatest virtues, in my opinion, is his humility, and the recognition that we serve at the voters' behest is the fundamental virtue of leadership in a democracy.

To recognize that humility is to accept the responsibility that democratic leadership must always be open and transparent and compelling to the electorate.

Over the past 4 years, President Bush has often spoken directly and honestly to the American people, about the uncertain threats before us, and about the responsibilities we need to shoulder to defend our freedoms.

At the beginning of my remarks I said that one of the most fundamental political freedoms is the freedom to choose your government.

An even more basic political freedom is the freedom from tyranny or terror.

To be secure from the carbombers, from the dreaded knock on the door in the middle of the night, from the capricious order of the dictator, are necessary for freedom to be sustained.

Last night the President again stated his vision of how our security is dependent on expanding the zone of freedom to regions of the world where for too long threats to our security incubated.

Iraq will never be fully free until the Iraqi people can provide for their own security, and the President made it plainly clear again last night that our mission will not be finished until we have trained an effective Iraqi force to assume their security. To leave before then, or to announce a departure before we know we have achieved this goal, is to undermine our mission and devalue our sacrifices.

Those who call for an exit date before knowing we have succeeded care not for our success nor our security.

We know there remains much work to be done. No one called for an exit date before we had victory in World War II, a war where America made enormous sacrifices, including my only brother.

No one called for an exit strategy during the twilight years of the Cold War.

No one, after the collapse of the Soviet Empire, set an exit date for our efforts to support democratic transition in central and eastern Europe. We build our policies on victory, magnanimity, democracy and freedom.

While we will not set an exit date, we do have an exit strategy; that is, once we have trained enough security people and police people to take over and to protect and care for their own country, once we have helped to bring up their structure, witnessing that there is a degree of security, peace, and freedom in Iraq beyond where it is now, we are going to pull our young men and women out of there. Let us hope that happens sooner rather than later.

Listening to President Bush's speech last night, I know he understands how to protect America's security. Even more, he understands America's role in a challenging world. President Bush has charted a course as bold as he is, and it is incumbent upon the Congress and the American people to support him in this most important effort.

BLACK DAY IN CAMBODIA

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, today was yet another black day in Cambodia's history and for freedom. However, given the nature of the current regime nobody should be surprised by this latest assault on liberty.

Behind closed doors, the country's rubber-stamp National Assembly executed the devious plan of FUNCINPEC Party head Norodom Ranariddh and CPP hardline Prime Minister Hun Sen to undermine the democratic opposition led by Sam Rainsy.

In a series of secret votes, Rainsy and SRP parliamentarians Chea Poch and Cheam Channy were stripped of their parliamentary immunity. The three now face trumped up charges that place their fates in the hands of a corrupt government that is infamous for its human rights abuses and injustices against the Cambodian people.

This is outrageous and unacceptable.

It should now be clear to everyone that Norodom Ranariddh has cast his lot with CPP hardliners. This is a slight against all FUNCINPEC members who continue to support democracy and justice in Cambodia, and a grave dishonor to those who have given their lives in the struggle for freedom.

The State Department has been following the situation closely, and I commend the efforts of Ambassador Charles Ray and his staff for promoting reason and the rule of law during this latest charade. I encourage the State Department to respond in a forceful and appropriate manner, including compiling a list of those individuals who voted to strip the immunity of SRP members. They and their family members should be prohibited from entering the United States. Such action is consistent with the President's Proclamation of January 12, 2004.

I encourage other donors to publicly condemn the actions of the National Assembly, and to consider sanctions against the Cambodian government. Any activities with the National Assembly should be immediately and indefinitely suspended.

Donors should know by now that there is no progress or development in Cambodia without democracy—and what little democracy existed prior to the votes has been stripped away. An opportunity exists for the tough talk of donors during the last consultative group meeting to be followed by concrete actions. They must not miss it.

I strongly advise all international financial institutions—particularly the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank—to add their voice to their

chorus of concern and to consider a suspension of operations in Cambodia until the corrupt leaders get the message that tyranny will not be tolerated.

Those who have pledged resources for the Khmer Rouge tribunal may now want to reconsider—the actions of the National Assembly underscore that there is no justice in Cambodia today. It is ludicrous to believe that the country's legal system, even with outside participation, will function in a professional and independent manner. Let me be clear that justice is unquestionably needed for the millions of victims of the Khmer Rouge genocide in the 1970s, but justice is also needed for more recent crimes in Cambodia, including the 1997 grenade attack against Sam Rainsy and his supporters and the murders of Om Radsady and Chea Vichea.

Finally, I encourage King Norodom Sihamoni to find his voice during this political crisis. The world awaits an indication of the character and priorities of the new monarch.

Hun Sen and Ranariddh underestimate the resolve of the United States, as articulated by President Bush in his inaugural address and again last night, to stand by those championing freedom and liberty. Today, we stand with Sam Rainsy, Chea Poch and Cheam Channy and add our voices to their demands for democracy and justice. I hold Hun Sen and Ranariddh responsible for the security and the safety of these individuals—now and in the future.

As Chairman of the Foreign Operations Subcommittee, I would remind Cambodian officials that my staff and I will be putting together the fiscal year 2006 foreign aid bill over the coming weeks and months. Hun Sen and Ranariddh should know that Washington—and the world—are watching.

DEATH OF GEORGIAN PRIME MINISTER

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I take a moment to share with the Senate the very sad news from Georgia this morning that Prime Minister Zurab Zhvania has died in what Georgian officials are calling an accident.

According to government statements, he apparently suffocated during a meeting with his friend and Georgian deputy governor, Zurab Usupov, from a gas leak in a space heater. Mr. Usupov also died.

We send our condolences to his wife, three children and the people of Georgia. Prime Minister Zhvania led a crusade for freedom and democracy in Georgia that brought about the Rose Revolution.

As Prime Minister, he led the fight to root out corruption and set Georgia on a new path where democratic institutions could flourish. At the time of his death, he was advocating a peaceful resolution to the problems in South Ossetia.

We mourn his death. People throughout the world, who believe in freedom,