

Notwithstanding the end of the Cold War balance of terror, stocks of such weapons remain extraordinarily and alarmingly high: some 27,000 in the case of nuclear weapons, of which around 12,000 are still actively deployed.

Weapons of mass destruction cannot be uninvented. But they can be outlawed, as biological and chemical weapons already have been, and their use made unthinkable. Compliance, verification and enforcement rules can, with the requisite will, be effectively applied. And with that will, even the eventual elimination of nuclear weapons is not beyond the world's reach.

Over the past decade, there has been a serious, and dangerous, loss of momentum and direction in disarmament and non-proliferation efforts. Treaty making and implementation have stalled and, as a new wave of proliferation has threatened, unilateral enforcement action has been increasingly advocated.

In 2005 there were two loud wake-up calls in the failure of the NPT Review Conference and in the inability of the World Summit to agree on a single line about any WMD issue. It is critical for those calls to be heeded now.

What Must Be Done: The Weapons of Mass Destruction Commission makes many specific and detailed recommendations throughout its report (see Annex 1 for a consolidated list). The most important of them are summarized below.

1. Agree on general principles of action:

Disarmament and non-proliferation are best pursued through a cooperative rule-based international order, applied and enforced through effective multilateral institutions, with the UN Security Council as the ultimate global authority.

There is an urgent need to revive meaningful negotiations, through all available intergovernmental mechanisms, on the three main objectives of reducing the danger of present arsenals, preventing proliferation, and outlawing all weapons of mass destruction once and for all.

States, individually and collectively, should consistently pursue policies designed to ensure that no state feels a need to acquire weapons of mass destruction.

Governments and relevant intergovernmental organizations and nongovernment actors should commence preparations for a World Summit on disarmament, non-proliferation and terrorist use of weapons of mass destruction to generate new momentum for concerted international action.

2. Reduce the danger of present arsenals: no use by states—no access by terrorists:

Secure all weapons of mass destruction and all WMD-related material and equipment from theft or other acquisition by terrorists.

Take nuclear weapons off high-alert status to reduce the risk of launching by error; make deep reductions in strategic nuclear weapons; place all non-strategic nuclear weapons in centralized storage; and withdraw all such weapons from foreign soil.

Prohibit the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons, and phase out the production of highly enriched uranium.

Diminish the role of nuclear weapons by making no-first-use pledges, by giving assurances not to use them against non-nuclear-weapon states, and by not developing nuclear weapons for new tasks.

3. Prevent proliferation: no new weapon systems—no new possessors:

Prohibit any nuclear-weapon tests by bringing the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty into force.

Revive the fundamental commitments of all NPT parties: the five nuclear-weapon states to negotiate towards nuclear disarmament and the non-nuclear-weapon states to refrain from developing nuclear weapons.

Recognize that countries that are not party to the NPT also have a duty to participate in the disarmament process.

Continue negotiations with Iran and North Korea to achieve their effective and verified rejection of the nuclear-weapon option, while assuring their security and acknowledging the right of all NPT parties to peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

Explore international arrangements for an assurance of supply of enriched uranium fuel, and for the disposal of spent fuel, to reduce incentives for national facilities and to diminish proliferation risks.

4. Work towards outlawing all weapons of mass destruction once and for all:

Accept the principle that nuclear weapons should be outlawed, as are biological and chemical weapons, and explore the political, legal, technical and procedural options for achieving this within a reasonable time.

Complete the implementation of existing regional nuclear-weapon-free zones and work actively to establish zones free of WMD in other regions, particularly and most urgently in the Middle East.

Achieve universal compliance with, and effective implementation of, the Chemical Weapons Convention, and speed up the destruction of chemical weapon stocks.

Achieve universal compliance with, and effective implementation of, the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention, and improve cooperation between industry, scientists and governments to reinforce the ban on the development and production of biological weapons and to keep abreast of developments in biotechnology.

Prevent an arms race in space by prohibiting any stationing or use of weapons in outer space.

TRIBUTE TO SENATOR LLOYD BENTSEN

HON. AL GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 7, 2006

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today I am honored to extend my deepest regrets as we mourn the loss of one of our nation's most respected statesmen, Senator Lloyd Bentsen. Senator Bentsen's lifelong service to our country was marked by his sharp intellect, skillful coalition building, and deep personal integrity. As a World War II veteran, public servant, and businessman, Senator Bentsen offered strength of character and compassion to his fellow man. His tireless work on behalf of the citizens of the State of Texas and our nation has made an indelible mark on the institutions and communities he served.

Senator Bentsen began serving his country in 1942 when he enlisted in the U.S. Army during World War II. After briefly serving as a private conducting intelligence work in Brazil, he became a pilot and flew combat missions from southern Italy with the 449th Bomb Group. Senator Bentsen quickly ascended the ranks of the military. At age 23, he was promoted to the rank of Major and given command of a squadron of 600 men. In 18 months of combat, he courageously flew 35 missions against highly defended targets that were crucial to the German war effort. In total, he flew 50 missions over Europe. Senator Bentsen was shot down twice during the war and received the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Air Force's highest commendation for valor, among other decorations.

After the war, Senator Bentsen began his long and distinguished political career, returning to his native Rio Grande as a decorated veteran. In 1946, he was elected Hidalgo County judge, and two years later, at age 27, was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives. Mr. Bentsen served the residents of Houston in the House for 8 years, and then returned to Houston to work in the private sector. After having achieved a great deal of corporate success, he decided to return to public life in 1970 as a candidate for the U.S. Senate. He won a bitter primary and went on to defeat then-Congressman George H.W. Bush for the first of four Senate terms. During his tenure in the Senate, Bentsen sought the Democratic nomination for the presidential primary in 1976, and was the vice-presidential nominee in the 1988 presidential election.

Senator Bentsen's political career was marked by his compassion towards those he served, a deep knowledge of economic policy, and a propensity to build bipartisan coalitions. As a Member of the House, he was only a handful of southern congressmen who voted against the poll tax, which was used to prevent blacks from voting. In the Senate, he attained the rank of Senate Finance Committee chairman, and quickly became one of our nation's most respected voices on tax, trade, and economic issues. Throughout his political career, Bentsen earned the reputation as being highly skilled at navigating the legislative process and crafting deals behind the scenes. As the first Treasury Secretary under the Clinton Administration in 1993, he was one of the architects of the President's deficit-reduction program. In recognition of his service, he was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 1999.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my other distinguished colleagues to join me in honoring the work and accomplishments of Senator Lloyd Bentsen. As a soldier, businessman, elected official, and statesman, Lloyd Bentsen served with honor and distinction. His life-long devotion to public service will serve as an inspiration to future generations of Americans, and his many contributions on behalf of the residents of Texas and the nation will continue to offer guidance to the institutions and communities he served.

HONORING CONGREGATION KODIMOH ON ITS 90TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 7, 2006

Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to pay tribute to the Congregation Kodimoh of Springfield, Massachusetts as it celebrates its 90 Year Anniversary this year.

It is my honor to represent a congregation whose contributions to Springfield and its Jewish community have been so significant over the years. On this special anniversary, I include in the Congressional Record Congregation Kodimoh's complete chronological history and extend my heartfelt congratulations to Rabbi Alex and Dr. Bella Weisfogel who will be honored for their accomplishments at a dinner on June 11, 2006.

Congregation Kodimoh in Springfield, Massachusetts, is proud of its history as a prominent Orthodox synagogue, which has made important contributions to the strength and vitality of the Jewish and general communities. Kodimoh's story reflects the common immigrant's success story and parallels the growth of the city of Springfield.

Kodimoh which means "forward" or "progress" in Hebrew was founded in 1916 by a segment of the Jewish community with a spirit of optimism caught up in the success of the first generation of Jewish immigrants and the boom of Springfield as an important economic urban center. The name further suggests the desire of the founding members for the congregation to fit in to the American way of life. The Jewish community formed in Springfield primarily in the North End section of the city in the mass immigration from Eastern Europe in the last decades of the 19th century and early 20th century. When the first generation of Jewish immigrants prospered and achieved economic success, a segment desired to provide for itself a better standard of living.

The move to the beautiful new neighborhood of Forest Park began, and a synagogue was needed. The first meeting of Kodimoh took place in the home of Moses Ehrlich, the first president of the congregation. Kodimoh was founded to maintain Orthodox standards and practices in modern America. English rather than Yiddish would be the language of sermons, while the synagogue and its members would participate in civic affairs. Tradition would feel at home in a new world.

The first building was completed in 1923 on Oakland St. and an adjacent school building was built in 1937. Through the '50s, as more Jews moved to the Park, Kodimoh took its place as a prominent institution in the Jewish community and in the city. The congregation maintained traditional Jewish practice and effectively educated the new generation. The membership required more space for the burgeoning program of services and activities, and the current modern facility was built in 1963, a short distance away on Sumner Ave. While a large segment of the Jewish community and several synagogues moved to Longmeadow, an adjacent suburb, the leadership of Kodimoh decided to keep the synagogue in Forest Park.

The new building witnessed extensive growth through the '70s as Kodimoh continued to follow its mission of maintaining Orthodox Judaism, involvement in the broader Jewish community, and local affairs. As the economic opportunities in Springfield declined, the synagogue also saw many young people seek jobs elsewhere. However, Kodimoh remains a vibrant and important religious center which makes a vital contribution to the community. We have faith that Springfield will continue to strengthen itself and the synagogue will benefit.

Many important rabbis have served the congregation. Rabbi Isaac Klein continued his prominent career in Buffalo, while Rabbi Norman Lamm became the President of Yeshiva University. Rabbi Alex Weisfogel from 1959–1982 led the synagogue during the construction of the Sumner Avenue building and oversaw the congregation's growth. As Rabbi Emeritus, he has remained in the community with his wife, Dr. Bella Weisfogel. Together they continue their involvement in synagogue

and community activities. Not only did Bella support her husband's endeavors, in her own right she contributed in significant ways to the educational and social programming of the synagogue. For all of their accomplishments, Kodimoh honors Rabbi Alex and Dr. Bella Weisfogel at a dinner celebrating the 90th anniversary on June 11, 2006.

TRIBUTE TO JUDGE LEONARD
PERRY EDWARDS II

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 7, 2006

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I join my colleagues Mr. HONDA and Mr. FARR today to honor a distinguished American, Judge Leonard Perry Edwards II, who is retiring after nearly 25 years as a Judge of the Santa Clara County, California, Superior Court, and who served as Supervising Judge of the Juvenile Dependency Court from 1993 to 2005.

Judge Edwards' excellence in public service mirrors that of his father, Congressman Don Edwards. He was born in Michigan, earned his B.A. from Wesleyan University and his J.D. from the University of Chicago. Before becoming a Judge he registered black voters in Mississippi during the Civil Rights movement, served in the Peace Corps in Malaysia, taught law in Norway, served as a Public Defender and practiced law. In 1981, he was appointed Superior Court Judge of the Santa Clara County Court by Governor Jerry Brown.

Judge Edwards founded Child Advocates of Santa Clara and San Mateo Counties, Kids in Common, Juvenile Court Judges of California, Santa Clara County Domestic Violence Council, the Greenbook Project and the Forensic Human Services Certificate Program. He has held office in more than 25 professional organizations, and most recently served as President of the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges. He has received more than 40 national, state and local awards for his excellence and service, including the William H. Rehnquist Award for Judicial Excellence, given by the National Center for State Courts. He has published more than 40 articles and written two books, one with his wife, Inger J. Sagatun-Edwards. Judge Edwards has lectured in 43 states and eight foreign countries. His next career will be as a consultant for California's judicial system which will enable him to teach his innovative methods to judges around the State.

Judge Edwards has earned the esteem of his colleagues and the admiration of the families to whom he has devoted his career. Because of his tenacity, his creativity, his compassion and his belief in others, thousands of families are now rehabilitated and functioning well.

It is a special privilege for us to honor Judge Leonard Edwards and his extraordinary career, and we are proud to call him our friend. Mr. Speaker, we ask our colleagues to join us in honoring this great American who exemplifies the best in citizenship and whose career in jurisprudence sets the gold standard for our country. As Judge Leonard Edwards retires, he has the gratitude and respect of the entire House of Representatives. He has made our community and our country stronger and better through his leadership and public service.

TRIBUTE TO BUDDY CANNON

HON. JIM COOPER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 7, 2006

Mr. COOPER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding achievements of one of Nashville's most respected music professionals, Buddy Cannon. Just two nights ago, Buddy was named by his peers as the Producer of the Year at the Academy of Country Music Awards in Las Vegas.

Buddy has worked with a long-list of chart-topping recording artists during his years in Nashville. Kenny Chesney, Chely Wright, Reba McEntire, John Michael Montgomery, Sara Evans and George Jones have all benefited from his work as a producer. In addition, he helped launch the careers of stars such as Shania Twain, Sammy Kershaw and Billy Ray Cyrus while a recording company executive. While his award this week honors him for his work as a producer, he is also well known and celebrated as a songwriter with songs recorded by artists from Mel Tillis to Alabama, George Strait and Vern Gosdin.

According to those who have worked with Buddy, his gifts extend beyond the world of music. Buddy is known throughout the music community for his generous spirit and his willingness to spend time with young artists who are still in search of their own sound. Kenny Chesney, honored by the ACM as Entertainer of the Year, said recently that "Back before I even had a record deal, Buddy was writing songs with me at Acuff-Rose and he gave me a lot of respect as someone trying to find their way, and he taught me a lot about respecting songs—even before he was part of my team."

Buddy Cannon's passion for music and respect for musicians is well known in Nashville and the music world. I join with so many others in congratulating Buddy on his latest achievement—being named Producer of the Year. But I also join with so many others in thanking Buddy for his many important contributions to the global music community and to my hometown of Nashville.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CANDICE S. MILLER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 7, 2006

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, had I been present for votes on June 6, 2006, I would have voted "yes" on roll call votes numbered 223, 224, 225, and 226.

TRIBUTE TO COLONEL JAMIE L.
ADAMS, USAF

HON. BOB INGLIS

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 7, 2006

Mr. INGLIS of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Colonel Jamie L. Adams on the occasion of his retirement from the United States Air Force after more than 30 years of distinguished service to the Department of Defense and his country.