Mr. Speaker, anyone who

was alive at the time will always remember

the collapse of the Berlin

Wall.

With the Soviet bloc crumbling, the

western world rejoiced as freedom

spread to populations once thought

hopelessly in the grip of Communist

oppressors. There was reason to believe

that the Soviets’ brutal form of tyranny

was over forever.

Unfortunately, recent actions seem

to be giving new life to old Communist

ghosts. Police squads crushing the

Kremlin’s dissenters, advocates of freedom

and transparency silenced, cultural

figures detained.

Mr. Speaker, the recent backsliding

in Russia should be cause for alarm for

all freedom loving people. As the

Kremlin’s power expands, freedom for

the Russian people shrinks. This was

wrong during the Cold War and it is

wrong now.

It is time that the free nations of the

world take a stand against this trend

and start demanding more from Mr.

Putin and Russia’s leaders.