Equally striking, an Italian consortium, administered by the University of Bologna, plans to spend $100 million on a program to retrofit one gas-fired and one coal-fired electric powerplant with MHD technology, essentially using that experience to market MHD equipment internationally. The UTGI was selected to provide technical support to the Italian consortium.

Once again, we are in danger of letting our technological lead slip. We hear that so often it has almost become a cliche. But in a world where environmental concerns are becoming more urgent and market competition for more efficient energy systems has gotten tougher, MHD technology could be a big seller. If we do not continue to invest in and develop MHD, I am concerned that the United States might depend on foreign sources of MHD technology just as we now depend heavily on foreign sources of energy.

In addition, that the University of Bologna has taken such a prominent role in the Italian project underscores the commitment of United States industry to develop better technology transfer programs here at home. The Italians plan to market their MHD equipment worldwide in the 1990's and could become a major competitor with United States industry in the powerplant market.

Elsewhere, Israel and France are at work on MHD. Japan, the Netherlands, Italy, and Austria are pursuing closed cycle noble gas MHD. With the third largest coal reserves in the world, China has begun serious work on MHD. Japan, focusing on education and the future, is training specialists in the technology at universities.

We have been slow to take advantage of our technological lead and have been slow to join international cooperative programs. There is serious concern in the MHD community about the gradual erosion of the United States leadership and our international competitiveness.

In the current national effort, Tennessee has been a leader in the MHD Program, but important projects are also under way in Montana. Diagnostic testing efforts center on Mississipi. The construction of superconducting magnets leads us to California. Other testing programs are in Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, and Florida. We have the lead in MHD technology.

At the least, the United States must maintain the present DOE/industry program which will provide the engineering data required to retrofit an MHD unit to an existing powerplant in the early 1990's. The Ssand this year provided adequate funds—$40,9 million for the MHD Program under the Fossil Energy Research and Development Program in the DOE. Although the final allocations may be lower than anticipated, there should be enough for the program to remain strong. I urge my colleagues to continue to support, this promising, vital program.

**CROSSROADS OF CONTINENTS SMITHSONIAN EXHIBIT**

- Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, I want to call attention to last week's opening of the Smithsonian Institution's "Crossroads of Continents" exhibition—a major project with far-reaching cultural, educational, and international implications.

*Crossroads of Continents* is a display of artifacts, early paintings and photographs, and film footage, which presents the unique traditional cultures of the native peoples of Siberia and Alaska, and the Soviet Union in a way that will fully document the complex interrelationships involved.

The exhibition will remain at the National Museum of History and Art through April 2, at which time it will begin a tour of North American and Soviet museums. I am pleased to say that from April 7 to August 11, 1989, the exhibition will be on display in Alaska at the Anchorage Museum of History and Art.

Alaskans congratulate and thank the many people at the Smithsonian, the Soviet Institute of Ethnography, the American Council of Learned Societies, and other institutions, who have worked for nearly 10 years toward making this exhibition a reality.

Americans and Soviets alike will have the opportunity to view artifacts which are native to their own lands, but which have been removed to another continent for generations. This will be an important educational experience, providing insights into the culture, society, arts, and technologies of Native Alaskans and Siberians. Scholars and scientists will be able to examine and critically analyze the cultural relationships they reflect.

My special thanks go to Secretary Robert McCormick Adams of the Smithsonian for his dedication to representing these cultures with the utmost attention to tradition. The Smithsonian has approved my request that the sale of ivory products made by Native Alaskans be allowed in their gift shops. These crafts, made from marine mammal products obtained legally by Alaska Natives, are truly representative of an important aspect of the art and culture of our peoples.

The arson attack came three days before the start of Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement, the holiest day of the Jewish calendar. It was one of the most serious desecration of a synagogue in recent memory. In a neighborhood where many Holocaust survivors live, it evoked memories of Nazi attacks on synagogues in Germany.

"It was like you were walking in on a murder scene with six victims," a member of the congregation, Volvie Herman, said, "It is an undescrivable feeling of horror." In Judaism, the destruction of a Torah, the Five Books of Moses, is tantamount to a death in the family.

The fire began shortly after midnight in the Midwood section of Brooklyn early yester day. Vandals destroyed at least five Torah scrolls, the most sacred objects in Judaism. It was one of the most serious desecration of a synagogue in recent memory. In a neighborhood where many Holocaust survivors live, it evoked memories of Nazi attacks on synagogues in Germany.

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According to Jewish tradition, the desecration... writings constituting Jewish civil and religious law. At some point, they turned their attention to the sacred cabinet where the Torah scrolls are kept. The scrolls are covered in velvet, and when they are removed from the sacred religious services, everyone in the congregation rises.

ToraH Central To Worship

While it contains only the Five Books of Moses, for Jews the Torah embodies all of the Jewish law, love, history and customs. Jews see it as a living document, to be studied all one's life and to be understood on many levels.

The reading of the Torah is the central part of most Jewish worship. It is read publicly every Thursday and Friday evening to end in a yearly cycle. Each scroll takes at least a year to write by one person working under strict religious guidelines. Mr. Herman said each scroll in the synaguge cost more than $25,000.

The vandals ripped the scrolls from the ark, rolled them across the floor and then set them on fire. The synagogue had six scrolls, and it was unclear whether all six had been destroyed or whether one was missing.

"It's hard to tell," Mr. Herman said, displaying a charred piece of a scroll.

"Not the First Incident"

On a wall a few feet from the ark, the vandals had pasted the words "The god" in silver spray paint.

According to Jewish tradition, the desecration of scrolls must be placed in a coffin and buried.

Justin F. Finger, the associate national director of the B'nai Brith Anti-Defamation League, said, "I have never heard of any desecration in the United States in recent years where that number of Torahs was destroyed, and the number of sacred items to be desecrated.

"This is not the first incident to happen here," Mr. Finger said. "In 1987, a 29-year-old member of a nearby synagogue who stood outside the building in his prayer shawl. "People have been pelting the building with eggs and rotten fruits." Nothing is posted outside the synagogue building to indicate that it is a house of worship, so that lidded canons have been told that the vandals were people from the neighborhood who knew the area.

Bias Incidents Up Slightly

Inspector Michael Markman of the Police Department's Bias Incident Investigation Unit said the number of bias reports in the city was up slightly compared with 1987, but the increase was not significant.

UNTIL WE CATCH WHOEVER DID THIS, WE WON'T REALLY KNOW WHY," he said. "It's obvious, though, that some hate was involved..." Many people who watched from across the street said the slurs carved in the doors they heard, "Nigger" on two doors and "Congress" on top of the door of the American political process," said Mr. Herman, not my wife, my brother or my congressman. "I'm the congressman. I can defend it. I'm the congressman, not my family. "I have the record and I have my performance to defend and I can defend it. I'm the congressman, not my wife, my brother or my children.

"Something like this should not be a part of the American political process," said Coleman, contacted by telephone. "We should talk about the issues and treat each other with..."

Espy said his wife discovered the vandalism when she returned home with her children late Monday.

"My son is 8 and my daughter is 8 and I had to explain to them the history of relations in Mississippi," he said. "They had heard about the two doors and I had to tell my children what that meant and why somebody would do that. It was not an easy thing to do."

"If someone wants to come after me, let them come, but I want them to leave my family alone."

Espy said the slurs and "U.S. Con"—an apparent reference to the congressman—were carved into the tops of doors in the entryway leading into the house and garage. Plants in the entryway had been uprooted and paint dashed on the floor and on some of the plants.

Police are investigating. Espy said he had received threatening calls in the past, "but you always expect those."

MARY T. MEAGER

Mr. McCONNELL, Mr. President, for over a week now, the entire Nation has been fascinated by the spectacle of international athletic competition going on in Seoul: Indeed, all of the members of this body have constituents who are in the Olympics serving proudly their State and Nation. I, too, am very proud of the contribution these young athletes make to our national character. There is one young lady that I would like to single out because her Olympic achievements can only be overshadowed by her embodiment of the essence of sportsmanship.

Mary T. Meagher, a product of the great Commonwealth of Kentucky, is one of only four American women to compete in three Olympics. She has won numerous NCAA swimming titles and has world record times in the 100 and 200-meter butterfly events. In fact, every time in the 200-meter butterfly's all-time top 10 belongs to Mary. She began accumulating world records years ago, including the world record of 14.

Her quest to add a fourth gold medal to the three she won in the 1984 Olympics ended this week when she was eliminated in the telephone for her performance in the 200-meter butterfly. What distinguishes Mary from most athletes, Mr. President, is her attitude and spirit.

I would like to insert into the Record an article that appeared in yesterday's Courier-Journal that describes how the last competitive swim of her career won the hearts of journalists, competitors and fans alike.

I hope my colleagues will take the time to read this account. It proves that while her swimming earned her a bronze medal, her class earns her a gold.

The article follows:

(From the Courier-Journal, Sept. 26, 1988)

MEAGER ENDS IT WITH BRONZE—and Respect

(BY Rick Boshich)

Seoul, South Korea.—A knot of Olympic journalists awaited the arrival of East Ger... the two one-two finishers in the Olympic women's 200-meter butterfly yesterday.

When I interviewed Mary T. Meagher, East German publication, had other interests. The gentlema... to the end of the interview table, where bronze medalist Mary T. Meagher sat, and quietly made his simple, but sincere, request.

"I want you to sign, "To all my friends in East Germany, from Mary T. Meagher, best butterfly swimmer in the world..."

Smiling through some tears, the best butterfly swimmer in the world, Mary T. Meagher, unhesitatingly accepted the compliment and scribbled an autograph across the official results of her performance.

Signed it, in fact, right below the news... that showed the muscular Nord (2:09.51) and the solemn Weisng (2:09.81) had stopped Meagher (2:10.80) from adding to the three gold medals she collected in Los Angeles four years ago.

Yes, Mary T. Meagher wanted to leave Seoul with two or three more pieces of gold, but she'll depart instead with a seventh in the 100 fly, a third in the 200, and the admiration of Olympic observers from around the world.

The East German Journalist was followed by a swimming official from Italy, who was