ROFEH INTERNATIONAL HONORS

HON. BARNEY FRANK
OF MASSACHUSETTS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, October 26, 2000

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, it has been my distinct honor over the years to take note of the extraordinary valuable work done by Rofeh International, in conjunction with the New England Chassidic Center led by Grand Rabbi Levi Horowitz. Grand Rabbi Horowitz, the Bostoner Rebbe as he is known, is a very distinguished scholar in the field of medical ethics, in addition to his eminence as a scholar of Judaism. Rofeh facilitates making the superb medical treatment that is available in Boston to people from all over the world, and if it were not for Rofeh, a large number of people who have benefitted from this medical treatment would not have been able to do so.

As part of their effort, Rofeh and the New England Chassidic Center have an annual dinner, at which they honor people who have been particularly distinguished in their service to this wonderful cause. This year Rofeh will honor two men. Arnold Zaltas and Tatsuo Hirose.

Dr. Hirose was born in Japan, and graduated from Kanazawa University School of Medicine there in 1961. His initial visit to the United States was 1965 when he was awarded visiting scholar at Cornell Medical School in New York. This happened when he was in the third year in the Postdoctoral School in Medicine in Kanazawa University. After spending three years in Cornell, he came back to Kanazawa and finished his training. He joined the Postdoctoral School in Ophthalmology at Kanazawa University where he was awarded Doctor of Medical Science in 1969. He came to the Schepens Retina Associates, Retina Foundation (now called Schepens Eye Research Institute) and Massachusetts Eye and Ear Infirmary for training and studying the surgery of the retina in the spring of 1969. He became a member of Schepens Retina Associates in 1973 at the same time he continued conducting research in studying functions of the retina at the Schepens Eye Institute, Harvard Medical School. He has been specializing in difficult complex retinal detachments, such as surgical failures in adults and children. He is particularly interested in infant and children’s retinal detachment particularly in premature born babies. He published more than 140 papers in scientific medical journals, edited two books, including the most recent one: Schepens Retinal detachment and allied diseases. He contributed 23 book chapters. He received a Research to Prevent Blindness award, honor award of American Academy of Ophthalmology, Senior Honor Award of American Academy of Ophthalmology, The Paul Kayser International Award of Merit in Retina Research. He has been selected in the Best Doctors in America 1996–1997, and Boston’s Best Doctors in Boston Magazine, 1999. At present, he is a Clinical professor in ophthalmology, Harvard Medical School, senior Clinical Scientist as Schepens Eye Research Institutes, and Surgeon at the Massachusetts Eye and Ear Infirmary.

Arnold I. Zaltas is a partner in the Natitch firm of Zaltas, Medoff & Raider, where he concentrates in estate planning, real estate and banking law. He is a Trustee and General Counsel to the Middlesex Savings Bank, and serves as a Director of the Natitch Visiting Nurse Association. He has served as Trustee of the Leonard Morse Hospital. Mr. Zaltas is a graduate of the Boston University School of Law, is past President of the Boston University Law School Alumni Association, and a recipient of the School of Law’s Silver Shingle Award in recognition of outstanding service to the School. He is a Trustee of Temple Israel of Natitch, where he was the recipient of the Maurice Geshelin Humanitarian Award.

Arnold is a long-time resident of Natitch, where he resides with his wife, Brenda. They have three children: A. David Zaltas, an attorney, Mandi M. Kunen, an ophthalmologist, Marjorie Rubin, an attorney, and three grandchildren.

Arnold Zaltas and Tatsuo Hirose deserve hearty congratulations for the excellent work they do. Being recognized by Project Rofeh is a great honor, and I am pleased to take this opportunity to salute the work of this important organization of these two men.
October 28, 2000

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

speakers at this event after returning from a research mission to Southeast Asia.

As a Member of the House International Relations Committee, I appreciate the important role of the Royal Family in Laos—past, present, and future. Laos is currently ruled by a one-party Communist regime. After 25 years of communism, its people want and need change. The Lao and Hmongs are in a militarily and logistically from the Soviet
domestic revolution. Of course, we will never forget

Mr. Speaker, I wish to submit for the RECORD the important statement of His Royal Highness.

Paris 4 September 2000

HON. PHILIP SMITH,
Center for Public Policy Analysis, U.S. Congress—Capitol Hill, Washington, DC.

Subject: U.S. Congressional Forum on Laos—7 September 2000

I should be most grateful if you could kindly distribute the attached paper—though unsolicited—to Distinguished Members of the Forum who are to examine the “challenges and opportunities surrounding the 25th Anniversary of the Lao People’s Democratic Republic”. The views expressed herein are those of the author, who is a Lao whom I am privileged to represent during the last 4 years from our operating Bureau in Paris (48bis Rue Championnet 75018 Paris—France).

Thank you most sincerely for your kind assistance and understanding.

BRIG. GENERAL THEO SAYSAY

BRIG. GENERAL, THE LAO NATIONAL ARMY—Surviving son of King Sri Savangvong (1885–1959) and Half-brother of King Sri Savang Vathana (1907–1980).


THE LAO PEOPLE’S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC (LPDR): AN APPRAISAL AFTER 25 YEARS OF COMMUNIST RULE.

(By Brig General Theo Saysay)

The year 1975 should go down in Laos’ history, indeed in Indochina’s as the most tragic date in modernity—when the beleaguered country suddenly sustained a horrible cataclysm of gigantic magnitude, plunging that part of the world in total darkness. That was the year where millions of peoples—young and old—had to leave behind their most cherished treasures in order to escape forced-labour camps and death, and to seek freedom in foreign lands.

For us free Laothians we consider December 2nd of each year as the time of mourning—of national mourning—of national mourning since it brings back to memory the death of our age-old traditions and way of life, of our fertile soils and rivers and mountains which we inherited from our forefathers. The Kingdom of Laos was one of the most ancient nations in Asia—the cradle of post-angkor civilization. Of course, we will never forget that we were the victims of world politics, and we know that it was we were the sacrificial lambs of the American foreign policy at that time. That the Pathet-Lao were able to overwhelm us so massive support-politically, militarily and logistically from the Soviet stoges who at the very moment run the show from Hanoi which incidentally will become the future capital of the Socialist Republic of Laos in year 2000! We will not forget.

After 25 years behind the bamboo curtain what do we see today? Politically we see

that the following inhuman abuses are daily occurrences in violation of human rights; to solicit and non-respect of fundamental freedoms; brutal suppression of democratic dissent; emprisonment without due process of the law; arbitrary arrest upon simple denunciation and torture. The LPDR ranked among the ten poorest countries in the world today according to the United Nations. Per capita income is less than $300; the foreign debt amounts to over $3 billion or more; local currency (the Kip) is almost worthless; inflation averaged 300 percent annually the Kip up to almost 10,000 to a dollar. Without substantial external assistance the government will not be able to function normally. The inevitable consequence is that ordinary citizens find their daily existence totally unbearable—fueling pervasive resentment against the dictatorship of the proletariat. It is obvious to everyone that the LPDR is actually on the brink of explosion at any moment! Socially peaceful Lao traditional society is turned upside down—forcing thousands of young men and women to sell their children in order to escape misery and seek good fortune in neighboring Thailand. Meanwhile millions of foreigners, mostly from North Vietnam—supporters of the country of all that is evil—have poured into the country to fill the vacuum—thus bringing destruction and irreparable damage to our thick forests and wildlife and driving local inhabitants to abandon their lands and roam aimlessly. Recently Hanoi promised to triple the Lao population—actually estimated at 5 million—by the year 2010!

Since the Lao people are being prevented from changing their government for the better through democratic means external intervention—essentially from Western powers, the United States and Japan—could therefore become critical in order to bring about needed radical reforms in our country.

Even before S. Res. 240 and H. Res. 169 were officially adopted by the US Congress we have had numerous opportunities of submitting to The Honorable Senator R. Grams, Senator C. Thomas, US Representative B. Vento and Chairman J. Helms for consideration of a number of concrete proposals aimed at restoring social justice, liberty and democracy in our homeland. They still remain valid to this day, viz:

1. We humbly request that S. Res. 240 and H. Res. 169 be transmitted to the Executive Branch as soon as feasible together with ample budgetary appropriations necessary for their implementation;

2. We humbly request that the US government set up a Special Lao Task Force (SLTF) to be charged with the responsibility of translating the sense of the US Congress into practical reality without further delays; the SLTF should be required to work closely with all truly anti-communist groupings (such as the Lao Liberation Front led by Major-General Vang Pao and the Party of Vientiane Government—PGVT—under the chairmanship of Phagnon Houmphan Saignasith) put in place by Lao refugees in the United States, Europe and elsewhere—except those opposing the fact that the US Government and the United Nations to exert maximum diplomatic and military pressure upon the Lao pathological authorities in Vientiane in order to compel them to relinquish power and be replaced by a new power structure freely elected by the Lao people;

3. We humbly request that the US government take the lead in choosing the future Lao political leaders from among the Lao anti-communist elite to all ethnic groups residing abroad, these selected intellectuals should form the backbone of the Kingdom’s political economic and administrative framework;

4. We humbly request the US government to decide and support a commitment of the countries of the Geneva Accord of 1962 on Laos neutrality and of those which were party to the Paris Agreements of 1973. And,

5. We humbly request that the US government resolve in collaboration with ASEAN and the United Nations—to exert maximum diplomatic and military pressure upon the Lao pathological authorities in Vientiane in order to compel them to relinquish power and be replaced by a new power structure freely elected by the Lao people;

6. We humbly request that the US government, with the concurrence and support of its allied, announce a massive assistance programme designed to help the newly-elected government of the Kingdom of Laos to reconstruct the country anew on the basis of respect for basic human rights and fundamental freedoms.

In the end it will prove to be necessary to convene an International Conference similar to the Geneva Conference of 1962 to tackle the inhuman abuses and grievances facing Laos today—in particular the non-respect of the neutrality, sovereignty and independence of our country by its immediate neighbours.

The success of the US pro-democracy crusade in Laos will undoubtedly trigger throughout the Asia region a genuine tidal wave carrying a powerful signal as well as an unmistakable warning to dictators and tyrants in other lands hence that the international community will no longer tolerate undemocratic practices and uncivilized and inhuman behavior by members of the United Nations.

The Lao people both inside the country and overseas call and pray with us that the American people will understand and support their government’s resolute action already intended by the US to solicit the concurrence, support and commitment of the countries of the region and of those which were party to the Geneva Accords of 1962 on Laos neutrality and of those which were party to the Paris Agreements of 1973.

THE HOME AMENDMENT, H.J. RES. 39

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL
OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 27, 2000

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today to bring to your attention an amendment which I introduced the first session of the 106th Congress. H. J. Res. 39, The Home Amendment “would provide for a Constitutional amendment requiring that all citizens of the United States shall have a right to a home, which shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or any State.”

Despite the economic growth that has brought unprecedented prosperity to the nation, we are still faced with shortages of housing and affordable rents, particularly in larger cities such as New York. Indeed, many people have not been included in the economic windfall of the 1990’s.

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