

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HUNGARIAN AMBASSADOR PAL TAR ON THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE DEATH OF HUNGARIAN PATRIOT AND SYMBOL OF FREEDOM—LAJOS KOSSUTH

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, March 18, 1994*

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, yesterday here in the United States Capitol Building, a solemn ceremony was held at which wreaths were placed before the bust of Lajos Kossuth, the great Hungarian patriot and the symbol of freedom for the Hungarian people. The occasion was the 100th anniversary of the death of Kossuth on March 20, 1894, in Turin, Italy. Tragically, he died in enforced exile away from his Hungarian homeland.

Four years ago this very week—on March 15, 1990, the Hungarian National Day and the anniversary of Kossuth's unsuccessful revolution against Austrian imperial domination—the Congress of the United States accepted a bust of Kossuth to be placed in the United States Capitol Building as a symbol of the friendship between the American and the Hungarian people. The placement of that statue was also a symbol of our common love for freedom and democracy. Kossuth exemplified that love for freedom in his struggle against Austrian absolutism in 1848–49, and he reaffirmed it when he came to the United States at the invitation of our Government in 1852. During the 6 months that he was here, he visited most parts of our country and was received as a national hero. It is most appropriate that we remember this Hungarian patriot on the centennial of his death, Mr. Speaker.

It is also significant, Mr. Speaker, to note the progress in Hungary that has taken place over the 4 years since this bust was accepted by the Congress for a place of honor in our Capitol Building. Four years ago, Hungary was on the eve of the first truly democratic elections in over four decades. In the spring of 1990, those elections were held, and democratically elected representatives have governed Hungary for the past 4 years. Today, the people of Hungary are preparing to exercise their freedom of choice of government once again, and new elections will be held in May for parliament.

Hungary is now following the path of sovereignty and democracy envisaged by Lajos Kossuth nearly a century and a half ago. The last 4 years have not been easy ones for the Hungarian people and for their elected government. The task of establishing democratic institutions has been a struggle, reforming the economy along free-market lines has created problems for the Hungarian people, and there are difficulties and further challenges that still lie ahead. But the Hungarian people have made the right choice, and it is important that

we encourage them and support them in that choice.

Kossuth did not live to see the achievement of the goals he sought, but he was one of those who pointed the way. It is most appropriate, Mr. Speaker, that on the 100th anniversary of his death, we remember and honor the contribution of Kossuth to liberty and democracy. It is also appropriate that we mark the progress that has been achieved by the Hungarian people over the past 4 years and commend their efforts.

Mr. Speaker, at yesterday's ceremony in the Capitol, Hungary's Ambassador to the United States, His Excellency Pal Tar, delivered outstanding remarks on that occasion. I ask that his statement be placed in the RECORD, and I ask that all Members give it attention.

REMARKS OF AMBASSADOR PAL TAR OF HUNGARY

Congressman Lantos, Mrs. Lantos, distinguished Members of the Congress, ladies and gentlemen, Dear Friends,

The bust of Lajos Kossuth presented to the Congress on March 15, 1990 bears witness to the recognition by Americans that he truly was the father of Hungarian Democracy, a statesman and a freedom fighter, as it is written on the socle. In the name of the Hungarian people and the Hungarian government, I would like to thank Congressman Tom Lantos and his wife, Annette, who championed the idea of a Kossuth statue here in the Capitol. I would also like to thank the leadership of the Congress for giving a home to the Kossuth statue, and all those who contributed and participated in the unveiling ceremony four years ago. I would also like to extend our deepest appreciation to the Congress for making the celebration of the centennial of Kossuth's death possible.

March 15th is a National Day in Hungary, on which we celebrate the outbreak of the revolution of 1848, Kossuth's revolution. This is why the unveiling ceremony took place on March 15, 1990. It is important to remember that the ceremony happened during the last days of the old regime, just a few weeks before the first democratic and free elections were held in Hungary after 43 years. At the time nobody knew what the outcome of the upcoming elections would be. Everyone hoped that democracy and freedom would prevail.

Today, four years later, we can take stock of the situation. The elections eliminated tyranny and foreign domination and reestablished democracy, respect for human rights and the independence of the country. Hungary very simply recovered her freedom.

The elections created a parliament which has functioned democratically and efficiently during its four-year term, which will come to an end this May. It elected a president of the Republic and a government which has been in office ever since. This unique feature in our troubled region is a tribute to the democratic inclinations of the Hungarian nation. Hungary is a democracy because Hungarians want democracy.

Let us be very clear about Kossuth and his relevance to our present-day democracy. In

her search for a better future, Hungary has been able to reach back to the ideals of Kossuth's democracy, to the ideals of his revolution. After all, it was Kossuth who said in his address to the Ohio legislature in Columbus on February 17, 1852: "The spirit of our age is Democracy. All for the people and all by the people. Nothing about the people without the people. That is democracy, and that is the ruling tendency of the spirit of our age."

In his speeches and writings, Kossuth, the statesman and the freedom fighter in exile, established the framework and the credentials of Hungarian democracy. He was not just a believer of democracy, he was and remains one of the greatest thinkers of democracy everywhere. His ideals continue to influence generations after generations of Hungarians. It is thus no wonder that at every opportunity for democracy, Hungarians refer to Kossuth and the Kossuth emblem as a symbol of their fight. It happened again in 1956, when the Kossuth emblem was spontaneously adopted to replace the Soviet one. And today, his democratic ideals are fully at work in our country.

Kossuth is also the symbol of American-Hungarian friendship. When he came to the United States on December 5th, 1851, he was already an exile but he received a hero's welcome. America recognized the significance of Kossuth's revolution and tried to help his government.

It was not by chance that Kossuth came to the United States of America, where he stayed for more than 6 months. He came because he shared the democratic values of America, which had actually inspired his entire generation of reformers in the years leading up to the revolution of 1848.

Kossuth was also convinced that without American presence and engagement, Europe could not rid herself of authoritarian, monarchist regimes. He hoped that America would take the lead for democracy and freedom on the European Continent.

Kossuth was right about democracy and he was also right about the necessity for American presence in Europe. Maybe it is because of this tradition that right from the beginning Hungary's late Prime Minister, József Antall, became a champion of American presence and leadership in Europe and our region. This has become a cornerstone of Hungarian foreign policy. There are many signs today that without the United States we will be unable to withstand the onslaught of undemocratic, extremist forces which still lurk in the background in certain parts of the continent. We hope and pray that the United States of America will remain steadfast in the defense of democracy and freedom, will recognize its true friends and stay the course.

We also know that the outcome in the struggle for democracy will ultimately depend on our own behavior and actions. This is why it is good that at this important juncture in our history Hungarians all over the country and indeed all over the world, remember Kossuth and his ideas. Democracy is a somewhat fragile plant in many countries of the world. Ten-fifteen years ago many western pundits told us that dictatorship

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

was stronger and more efficient than democracy. They predicted that democracy would be overwhelmed by the superior organization, military strength and political will of dictatorship. Thank God they were proven wrong.

But once again, we hear in our countries the voices of demagogues who blame the difficulties of our transition, the hardship resulting from the heritage of dictatorship and, yes, the shortcomings of this new experiment, on the West, on democracy. They would like us to believe that there is some specific way to democracy. They don't accept the universal values of democracy, rooted in fundamental human values, nature and dignity. In Hungary we can uphold Kossuth and his democratic ideas against such attempts. We are fortunate that the 100th anniversary of his death comes at a critical time in our history, at a time when the Hungarian people will decide for a second time, with free elections, what Hungary's future will hold. We are confident that the elections will take place under democratic conditions and that the results will strengthen democracy in our country.

God bless you. God bless America, and God bless Hungary.

**CONGRATULATIONS TO J. PATRICK ABULENCIA, EAGLE SCOUT**

**HON. THOMAS J. MANTON**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, March 18, 1994*

Mr. MANTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate J. Patrick Abulencia for achieving the most prestigious honor in Scouting, becoming an Eagle Scout. He is from Jackson Heights, NY, located in the Seventh Congressional District which I have the pleasure of representing. Patrick will be recognized for this accomplishment on March 20, 1994 at 3 p.m. in Jackson Heights.

Patrick has worked very hard to achieve the honor of becoming an Eagle Scout. These include being a reporter in his parish newspaper, the *Tidings*, playing baseball, taking part in Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts as well as being a peer counselor. He also was a tutor, a church lector at Our Lady of Fatima Church and he was a member of the Columbian Squires at the Knights of Columbus. In addition, he took part in a summer research internship at Polytechnic University called the YES Program.

Along with these diverse accomplishments, Patrick has accumulated a number of prestigious awards and honors. These include being on the principal's list at Our Lady of Fatima and St. Francis Preparatory School, class president at Our Lady of Fatima and receiving the Gonzalo Tesoriero Scholarship at Our Lady of Fatima. In addition, he was a member of the National Honor Society and the Spanish National Honor Society at St. Francis Preparatory School. He was also the recipient of the Manhattan College Presidential Scholarship. He is currently a full time freshman at Manhattan College majoring in Chemical Engineering and later hopes to become a doctor.

Mr. Speaker, Patrick well illustrates all the elements necessary for an individual to become an Eagle Scout. With his broad range of

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activities, he is a role model not only to his country and the Scouting community, but to his friends and family as well. I know my colleagues join me in congratulating J. Patrick Abulencia on this very special day.

**TO CELEBRATE WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH**

**HON. EVA M. CLAYTON**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, March 18, 1994*

Mrs. CLAYTON. Mr. Speaker, my colleagues, we come here today to celebrate Women's History Month, and to call to mind the many achievements women have made over the years. During this 75th anniversary of women's suffrage, we acknowledge that we indeed have come a long way.

Women—who have only been voting for 75 years—now make up the majority of voters.

The 1992 election saw an unprecedented number of women move into positions of great power, including the U.S. Senate, this esteemed body, Governorships, and State and local offices.

We are quite proud of all that we have accomplished in the political arena, but the women of America, deserve a special salute for continuing to meet the daily challenges that face us.

An America with women engaged in its leadership and governance, is a strong, and compassionate Nation. Let us make note this Women's History Month, of all the mothers, grandmothers, daughters, sisters, wives, and friends who lovingly hold together the moral fabric of our society.

We will continue to pour on the pressure, to work for those economic and political goals that we know are righteous, and to be brave against the odds that tell us we will fail.

**CONGRATULATIONS TO JEFFREY CLOGSTON, EAGLE SCOUT**

**HON. THOMAS J. MANTON**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, March 18, 1994*

Mr. MANTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Jeffrey Clogston of Jackson Heights, NY for achieving the highest honor in Scouting, becoming an Eagle Scout. Jeffrey resides in the Seventh Congressional District of New York, which I represent.

To become an Eagle Scout, one must fulfill a number of challenging requirements. These include: earning 21 merit badges and displaying leadership in school, Scouting, and the community.

Jeffrey graduated from St. Francis Preparatory High School in June 1993. He was selected as a member of the National Honor Society and Spanish National Honor Society his junior and senior years. He served in the Optimist Society all 4 years.

After school, Jeffrey worked as a counselor at the Corpus Christi After-School Program. During the summers of 1989, 1990 and 1991,

Jeffrey continued working as a counselor at the Corpus Christi Summer Program. Jeffrey worked for Auer's Moving and Rigging the summers of 1992 and 1993.

Mr. Speaker, Jeffrey is currently pursuing a bachelor's degree in Chemical Engineering at Manhattan College. He is an individual who has the traits of not only a Scouting leader, but a community leader as well. Jeffrey will be recognized for this most prestigious honor in Scouting on March 20, 1994. I know my colleagues join me in congratulating Jeffrey Clogston on this very special day.

**INTRODUCTION OF THE PESTICIDE FOOD SAFETY ACT OF 1994**

**HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, March 18, 1994*

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to introduce the Pesticide Food Safety Act of 1994. This legislation will comprehensively reform this Nation's outmoded pesticide law. Within 5 years, it will phase out any pesticide that is highly hazardous to human health.

The simple fact is that our Federal pesticide program doesn't give American consumers the assurances that they deserve that our food supply is safe.

More than 20 years ago, Congress directed the Environmental Protection Agency to evaluate the safety of the 300 pesticides used in foods. Today EPA has completed its evaluation for less than 10 percent of those pesticides, and very few of this 10 percent are pesticides of toxicological significance. Further, under current law, after EPA reaches a decision about the safety of a pesticide, it is required to weigh the economic benefits of the pesticide to farmers against the risk to the public before deciding whether to take the pesticide off the market.

The undeniable fact is that an outmoded statute and arcane regulatory procedures have frozen the Agency and denied the public the protection that it deserves. The Pesticide Food Safety Act of 1994 will force EPA to make decisions about the safety of pesticides. Under this new law, benefits will have no place in the decision as to whether a pesticide is safe. The new law will give the public assurances that it deserves with respect to the safety of the food supply.

Specifically, this legislation will protect children against harmful pesticides, by protecting women against estrogen-imitating pesticides, and generally by protecting all consumers from pesticides that may cause cancer.

With regard to protection of children, just last year the National Academy of Sciences issued its long awaited study on childhood exposure to pesticides in foods. The bottom line is that the NAS found that our children are at unnecessary risk from exposure to pesticides. It found that in many cases we just don't have the information that we need to determine the exposure of children to pesticides and the risk that pesticides cause to their health. Since there are sound reasons for believing that children are especially susceptible to pesticides, it is essential that our pesticide laws protect the health of children.

While we know a little about the effects of pesticides on children, we know virtually nothing about the effects of estrogenic pesticides on women. However, there is increasing evidence about estrogen-imitating compounds, including pesticides, that have been linked to very serious health and environmental impacts. New pesticide legislation must insure that we identify estrogen-imitating pesticides and ban them from the food supply.

We also know that there are approximately 70 pesticides used in food that EPA has identified as carcinogens. The agency has classified more than 15 of these as probable human carcinogens. Yet EPA has never decided whether these pesticides are safe and therefore they remain in the food supply in the absence of any action.

The Pesticide Food Safety Act of 1994 will finally put in place a program that insures the safety of pesticides in the food supply. First, the bill will get EPA the data that it needs to evaluate the safety of pesticides, including data on special risks to children and women. Second, the bill will force EPA to make decisions. Under the mandatory timetable that the bill imposes, any pesticide classified as a high human health hazard or a probable human carcinogen will be banned within 5 years. All pesticides will be reviewed and removed from the market unless they are shown to be safe within 7 years. Third, EPA will be prohibited from approving the pesticide unless it finds that it is safe for human health. In contrast to current law, benefits to farmers will not be relevant to determining whether use of the pesticide is safe.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased that Mr. SYNAR and Mr. TORRES have joined me in cosponsoring this important legislation. This bill is intended to protect the American consumer, and particularly children who often eat disproportionately large amounts of certain pesticides because they consume relatively few foods and because they consume large quantities of pesticides relative to their body weight. But I believe that it will ultimately benefit the agriculture and the food processing industry because everyone will benefit if we can truthfully say that we have eliminated dangerous pesticides from the food supply.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to close by emphasizing that I look forward to working with the administration, the environmental community, the food processors, and the agricultural community on this important legislation. I am convinced that we can enact legislation that will better protect the public health without disadvantaging agriculture or the other businesses that supply our food.

#### FREEDOM OF ACCESS TO CLINIC ENTRANCES ACT

#### HON. MARTIN T. MEEHAN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, March 18, 1994*

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in favor of the Freedom of Access to Clinic Entrances Act, not because I support freedom of choice—which I do—but because I support a right that is far more sweeping—the right of

every American to live his or her life without fear of physical harm. This is the most basic of our constitutional rights and—regardless of our views on abortion—one that we have been entrusted to uphold.

Abortion is an emotional issue. It has continued to divide our Congress and the people whom we have been elected to represent. But this bill is not about abortion—it is about threats, it is about intimidation and it is about physical violence.

Our society is one of laws. As a county prosecutor, I helped enforce these laws regardless of my opinion of their merits. As a Congressman, I can do no less.

More than one-half of our country's family-planning clinics—most of which provide other health services as well—have experienced violence this year alone.

This is not a freedom of speech issue. There is a difference between expressing one's opinion and harassing someone. There is a difference between peaceful picketing and blocking access to a public place. There is a difference between demonstrating a point of view and destroying people and property.

These are differences that a civilized society cannot—and must not—tolerate.

There are people who are crossing the line. Let us stop them.

#### A TRIBUTE TO LADMIR KWAITKOWSKI

#### HON. ED PASTOR

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, March 18, 1994*

Mr. PASTOR. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to say goodbye to a personal friend of mine and a hero to thousands of Arizonans, known to us simply as Ladmo. Ladmir Kwaitkowski, co-star of the Wallace and Ladmo show died last week and I know that I am speaking on behalf of all Arizonans in saying that he will be greatly missed.

Ladmo studied journalism at the Arizona State University where he played baseball. After four seasons at ASU, he was offered a contract by the Cleveland Indians. Instead, he chose to finish school and go to work for KPHO-TV where he eventually became the co-star of what came to be the longest running local television show in the Nation's history.

For 35 years, Ladmo played the mischievous, cheerful character who always got caught doing things the kids wished they could do. His childlike enthusiasm instantly won over the hearts of Arizona's youth. They trusted him and saw him as a role model. As did their children and their children's children. Famous for his top hat pushed down over his ears, T-shirt with a painted on tie and goody-filled Ladmo bags, he reached the children like no other person could.

Over 1,000 people attended Ladmo's funeral, many of whom had never personally met him. The outpouring of people who went to pay their last respects is testimony of the tremendous impact he had on the people of Arizona. Ladmir Kwaitkowski, husband, father of five and grandfather of seven, will be missed not only by his family but by the three

generations of Arizonans to whom he dedicated his life to making happy.

#### CONGRATULATIONS TO RICARDO G. MISTADES, JR., EAGLE SCOUT

#### HON. THOMAS J. MANTON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, March 18, 1994*

Mr. MANTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Ricardo G. Mistades, Jr., of Jackson Heights, NY, for achieving the highest honor in scouting, becoming an Eagle Scout. Ricardo resides in the Seventh Congressional District of New York, which I represent.

To become an Eagle Scout, one must fulfill a number of challenging requirements. These include: Earning 21 merit badges and displaying leadership qualities in school, scouting, and the community. Mr. Speaker, Ricardo has demonstrated his outstanding leadership skills in all three of these areas.

Ricardo graduated from Archbishop Molloy High School in Briarwood, NY, in June 1993. While at Archbishop Molloy High School, Ricardo participated in a variety of clubs and was also selected as a member of the Spanish Honor Society and the National Honor Society. He achieved first honors all 4 years of high school. During his summers, Ricardo worked as a part-time receptionist at Our Lady of Fatima Rectory. He also sang in the Our Lady of Fatima Choir and served in the Big Brother program.

Currently, Ricardo is in his freshman year at New York University [NYU] pursuing a bachelor of science degree in nursing. After his first semester at NYU, Ricardo was chosen for NYU's dean's list.

Mr. Speaker, Ricardo has demonstrated all the qualities necessary not only to achieve the rank of Eagle Scout, but to be recognized as a true community leader. He will be inducted as an Eagle Scout this Sunday, March 20, 1994. I know my colleagues will join me congratulating Ricardo for receiving this prestigious honor.

#### A WASTE OF U.S. TAXPAYERS' MONEY TO BETRAY HMONG REFUGEES

#### HON. DUNCAN HUNTER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, March 18, 1994*

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, the plight of Hmong refugees and asylum seekers in Thailand and the mandatory, forced, repatriation of them by some Thai Ministry of the Interior [MOI] and United Nations officials back to the repressive Communist government in Laos remains of deep concern to many Members of Congress, especially those of us who served in the Vietnam war. Tragically, this terrible betrayal is, in part, being financed by U.S. taxpayers.

Current policy toward the Hmong in Thailand and Laos is a disgrace and a waste of the United States taxpayers' money. It is a

major mistake to send the Hmong people back to a country where their short- and long-term security cannot be ensured.

Hmong returnees continue to die and disappear in Communist Laos, including the famous Hmong leader, Mr. Vue May, who was the symbol of the Thai/UN repatriation effort's supposed success.

The following Oct. 29, 1993, report (Volume XIV, Number 10) of *Refugee Reports*—a publication of the Washington, D.C.-based organization, U.S. Committee for Refugees—details the case of Mr. Vue May, which is symbolic of a much larger and more serious problem.

The repatriation of Hmong refugees from Thailand to Laos could be affected by the disappearance in Laos of a prominent Hmong leader. The leader, Vue May, formerly supported the Hmong resistance group that seeks to overthrow the Laotian government. In 1991, he severed his links to the resistance, and decided to repatriate to Laos. He reportedly did so to demonstrate to other Hmong refugees that safe repatriation was possible. (See *Refugee Reports* interview with Vue May, Volume XIII, No. 8.) Vue May's 1992 repatriation was highly touted by the Thai and Laotian governments. He was featured in a video about repatriation that is shown to Hmong refugees in Thailand to encourage them to repatriate.

Vue May disappeared from Vientiane, the Laotian capital, on September 11. News of his disappearance did not begin circulating widely in the United States until mid-October. Informed sources report that the Laotian security forces, which had been tracking Vue May's movements for several months, arrested him. Reportedly, the Laotian authorities have told one of Vue May's relatives that he will be released soon, but offered no reason for his arrest nor any indications of his whereabouts.

#### Congratulations to Robert PARMACH, Eagle Scout

#### HON. THOMAS J. MANTON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 18, 1994

Mr. MANTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate 18-year-old Robert PARMACH for acquiring the highest honor of scouting, becoming an Eagle Scout. He will be recognized for this important achievement on March 20, 1994 at 3 p.m. in Jackson Heights, NY, in the Seventh Congressional District which I represent.

Robert has been involved in a number of activities which have enabled him to acquire this honor. These include being captain of the cross-country track team, a member of the indoor track team, the outdoor track team, student government, and a worker at the bookstore. He also was a member of the JROTC program in which he held the prominent position of lt. colonel and he received the distinguished cadet award. He wrote for the Science Journal and the Science Olympiad. Robert also was a member of the National Honor Society and a math tutor.

Mr. Speaker, Robert has been active in many areas outside of scouting and school. He was a church lector at Our Lady of Fatima Church as well as an active volunteer at the

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Mary Manning Walsh Home for the Aged in New York City. Finally, Robert has worked toward his goal of one day becoming a doctor by actively volunteering and serving as a patient representative at the New York University Medical Center in Manhattan.

Mr. Speaker, Robert is a role model for all young people and epitomizes leadership and loyalty not only in his scouting activities, but at his church, school, and with his family as well. I know my colleagues join me in congratulating Robert on this very special day.

#### UNSUNG HEROES OF THE HOLOCAUST

#### HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 18, 1994

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to submit for the RECORD this excellent article from the U.S. News & World Report, March 21, 1994 issue which tells the story of some of the many unsung heroes of the Holocaust.

[From the U.S. News & World Report, Mar. 21, 1994]

THE OTHER SCHINDLERS—STEVEN SPIELBERG'S EPIC FILM FOCUSES ON ONLY ONE OF MANY UNSUNG HEROES

(By Richard Z. Chesnoff)

Schindler's List has been searing the souls of moviegoers, and next week Steven Spielberg's epic film about the German who rescued 1,200 Jews from Nazi death camps could garner as many as 12 Academy Awards.

But there were other Schindlers, other courageous non-Jews whose sense of outrage and decency moved them to risk their own lives to try to save European Jews from the furnace of hatred that was the Holocaust. They are the subject of Tzedek (Righteousness), a four-hour French documentary to be premiered at this May's Cannes Film Festival.

Written, directed and movingly narrated by prize-winning French author Marek Halter, himself a childhood survivor of the Warsaw Ghetto, Tzedek focuses on 36 courageous lifesavers—a number Halter chose because of the Talmudic belief that the world's fate rests on the shoulders of 36 righteous souls.

No one knows just how many rescuers there were. Using the testimony of grateful survivors, historians at Jerusalem's Yad Vashem Holocaust Memorial have carefully preserved and honored the stories of some 11,000 "Righteous Gentiles." Many are celebrated by Washington's Holocaust Memorial Museum and at the Simon Wiesenthal Center in Los Angeles. There may well have been more.

The 36 chosen for Halter's film are Christians and Muslims, French farmers, Dutch housewives, Spanish diplomats, Polish nuns, even German soldiers. "The ultimate question Tzedek raises," says Halter, author of the 1986 novel *The Book of Abraham*, "is not why these righteous showed such humanity but why others didn't, why so many remained silent, why so many did worse. Anne Frank, after all, was betrayed by a Dutchman, not a German."

Elementary compassion, says Halter, was the most powerful unifying strength that enabled these quiet heroes to battle evil: "Jewish tradition has no saints, only humans. Our

sages teach that those whose merits surpass their vices, they are the righteous; that when you save one life, you have saved a universe."

Some of the heroes of Tzedek:

#### POLAND: BERTHOLD BEITZ, OIL EXECUTIVE

Beitz saved Jews by employing them in the Nazis' crucial petroleum business.

Like Oskar Schindler, Berthold Beitz had a life-giving list. The son of a wealthy Nazi-sympathizing family, Beitz was a 27-year-old junior executive at Royal Dutch Shell's Hamburg office when the war broke out. One evening in 1941, his grandfather, a Nazi notable, took him to dinner at the lavish home of German munitions magnate Alfred Krupp. Among the guests was Reinhard Heydrich, one of Hitler's senior henchmen. Germany had just attacked the Soviet Union, and the Wehrmacht, Heydrich noted, was taking over oil refineries in western Poland. Enthusiastically, the young Beitz offered his services and was named a director of the Karpaten Oil company in Boryslaw, Poland.

Beitz soon found that while there was relatively little oil in the mountain region, there were a lot of Jews—almost 50 percent of the population. Most were in ghetto work camps, a fact that Beitz admits didn't bother him at first. When death trains began running to Auschwitz and Treblinka, though, his conscience was stirred. It was "those children sitting in the station, with those enormous eyes, looking at you," he recalls.

Beitz began to save Jews by hiring them. "I should have employed qualified personnel. Instead, I chose tailors, hairdressers and Talmudic scholars and gave them all cards as [vital] 'petroleum technicians.'"

Beitz and his young wife also hid a Jewish child in their own home. And like Schindler, Beitz often went to the train station to pull his Jewish workers off the death trains. "Once I found one of my secretaries and her aged mother," Beitz recalls. He got them out, but the SS would not be fooled. They judged the mother too old, and forced her back on the cattle car. "The daughter turned to me. 'Herr Direktor, may I [also] return to the car?'" Beitz never saw her again.

When the Nazis finally fell, more than 800 of Beitz's Jews were still alive. Now, at 81, the courtly Beitz says: "I am proud of what I did out of a sense of humanity. . . . I passed through that period, as you cross through a dark forest: with self-assurance and with incredible luck."

#### POLAND:IRENA SENDLER, SOCIAL WORKER

She gave nearly 2,500 children new identities, and buried their real names for safe-keeping.

When Hitler built the Warsaw Ghetto in 1940 and herded 500,000 Polish Jews behind its walls to await liquidation, most Polish gentiles turned their backs—or applauded. Not Irena Sendler. A Warsaw social worker, Sendler wangled a permit to enter the teeming ghetto and check for signs of typhus, something the Nazis feared would spread beyond the ghetto.

Shocked by what she saw, Sendler joined Zegota, a tiny underground cell dedicated to helping Jews, and took on the code name "Jolanta." The deportations had already begun, and although it was impossible to save adults, Sendler began smuggling children out in an ambulance. "Can you guarantee they will live?" Sendler recalls the distraught parents asking. But she could only guarantee they would die if they stayed. "In my dreams," she says, "I still hear the cries when they left their parents."

Sendler successfully smuggled almost 2,500 Jewish children to safety and gave them

temporary new identities. To remember who was who, she wrote the real names on sheets of paper, burying them in bottles in her garden. Finding Christians to hide them was not easy: "There weren't many Poles who wanted to help Jews, [even] children." But Sendler organized a network of families and convents ready to give sanctuary. "I would write, 'I have clothing for the convent'; a nun would come and pick up children."

Arrested in 1943 by the Gestapo, Sendler was tortured and sentenced to die. Underground colleagues bribed a guard to free her at the last minute and list her as "executed." She continued her work from hiding. When the war ended, Sendler retrieved the bottle in which she'd hidden her index of names and began searching for the real parents. Few had survived.

The children had known her only by her code name. But years later, after she was honored for her wartime work, her picture appeared in a newspaper. "A man, a painter, telephoned me," says Sendler, now 82 but still brighteyed. "'I remember your face,' he said. 'It was you who took me out of the ghetto. I had many calls like that!'"

FRANCE: MARY JAYNE GOLD, AMERICAN SOCIALITE

A party girl ended up saving some of Europe's greatest artists and intellects.

Chicago heiress Mary Jayne Gold descended on Paris in 1930 with a hefty trust fund, a pilot's license and a private plane for holidaying in the Alps and on the Riviera. Europe was a playground. But when German troops occupied the French capital in 1940, the glamorous Gold—and tens of thousands of others—headed south for unoccupied Mar-selles. There she met Varian Fry.

Fry too was an American (a "Harvard man and a bona fide WASP just like me," recalls Gold, now 84). He was also a reporter and had witnessed Nazi brutality early on. When Vichy France signed an armistice obliging it to turn over any non-French citizen the Nazis requested, Fry knew what that meant: Thousands of German, Austrian and other European exiles—many of them Jews—would be shipped back to their deaths.

As war raged around them, the dapper Fry organized Marseille's "Emergency Rescue Committee," enlisting friends like Gold to help him. Operating out of rooms at the Hôtel Splendide, then eventually from a villa called Air Bel, they procured phony passports and real visas, sheltered refugees and organized escape routes to Spain and Portugal. "Women weren't taken too seriously in those days," says Gold, who helped bankroll the operation. But when someone had to charm the commander of a French prison camp into freeing four German members of the anti-Hitler underground, Gold was sent to do the job.

Hounded by the French police and harassed by the American State Department, which feared the committee's activities would damage relations with the Vichy government, Gold finally left in 1941. Fry was deported soon after and returned to America, where he died in 1967 at 59. Through their work in Paris, these Americans helped some 2,000 people escape the Nazis. Among them: painters Marc Chagall and Max Ernst, sculptor Jacques Lipchitz, authors Franz Werfel, Hannah Arendt and Hans Habe, and Nobel prize-winning biochemist Otto Meyerhof.

HUNGARY: GIORGIO PERLASCA, SALES REP

An Italian fascist used Spanish consular credentials to help the Jews of Budapest.

Italian Giorgio Perlasca was a good fascist. So good that he volunteered in 1937 to go fight on Francisco Franco's side in the Spanish Civil War.

His Madrid connection helped him become an intermediary for Spanish and Italian companies and, eventually, Budapest representative of a corporation supplying canned meat to the Italian Navy. When Mussolini fell, Perlasca remained in Hungary, acquiring a Spanish passport in 1944—by then a safer bet than his Italian one.

It was the last full year of the war. Germany was in retreat on all fronts save one—the liquidation of the Jews. A relentless Nazi official named Adolph Eichmann demanded Hungary start shipping its more than 800,000 Jews to Auschwitz. Spain, sensing the coming allied victory, withdrew its diplomatic representatives from Budapest—but not, however, before the head of mission gave businessmen Perlasca a card identifying him as a Spanish consular official.

Jews were frantically begging to be placed under the protection Franco had offered Sephardic Jews who could trace their roots back to 15th-century Spain. Moved by their plight, Perlasca found a set of consular stamps and without asking anyone in Madrid began issuing his own "Spanish refugee cards" to Jews—Sephardic or not. He also took steps to personally protect the more than 3,000 already sheltered in Spanish-owned "safe houses" around the city. "The Nazis would come to take them away, and I would say, 'You must leave this place. I am here. Here is the Spanish flag.'"

It was a desperate tug of war, with Eichmann on one end and Perlasca and the diplomatic representatives of four other neutral states—Portugal, Sweden, Switzerland and the Vatican—on the other. "The Swede and I would go to the train station and bluff until we got Jews away by claiming they were our nationals." The Swede was Raoul Wallenberg.

Some 600,000 Hungarian Jews eventually died in the Holocaust, but tens of thousands may have been saved by the efforts of Perlasca and the other Budapest diplomats. Shortly before his death in 1993 at 82, Perlasca told Marek Halter: "These people were in danger and I asked why must someone die because they are of another faith? I had a chance to do something. I couldn't refuse."

FRANCE: RENE RAOUL, SHOEMAKER

An entire village took up the cause of European Jews fleeing the deadly Nazi roundups.

When a trickle of refugee families began arriving in the isolated southern French village of Le Malzieu in 1942, 20-year-old shoemaker René Raoul and his family asked few questions. "They were people seeking shelter; we provided it."

Little by little the strangers revealed their stories. They were Jews, many of them foreign born and all desperately trying to escape the ruthless Nazi rafles (roundups) that had already resulted in tens of thousands being shipped by cattle car from Paris and Lyon to Auschwitz and Buchenwald. "The Radaczes, the Rothbards, the Brombergs, I remember them all," says Raoul, now 73.

The trickle soon became a stream. By 1943, more than 100 Jews had found sanctuary in Le Malzieu, a tiny farming town of barely 900 souls. It was a dangerous business that few French were ready to risk. But for the villagers of Le Malzieu, it became a noble conspir-

acy of silence and salvation. When German troops or French gendarmes neared the village, Raoul himself would make the rounds by bicycle warning Le Malzieu's "guests" to go to appointed hiding places in basements, attics and barns. Other villagers occasionally dressed Jewish children in the uniforms of the fascist Vichy youth organization, then mingled them with their own. The local priest hid families in the church belfry.

"I could not bear the idea that people who had done nothing were hunted," explains Raoul, who stays in touch with some of the families he once helped save. "My children knew Jews hid among us during the war. But I never spoke to them of my role. Why should I? What I did was natural. I would do it again for anyone."

BOSNIA: MUSTAFA AND ZAYNEBA HARDAGA

Muslims and Jews were entangled in a skein of persecution and altruism.

The Jewish Cavilios and the Muslim Hardagas had been friends in pre-World War II Sarajevo. When German bombs destroyed the Cavilios' home in 1941, the Hardagas urged them to move in with them. "You are our brothers and sisters," Mustafa and Zayneba Hardaga told them. "Everything we have is yours; this is your home."

Even after the occupying Nazis invoked brutal antisemitic laws and a mob sacked Sarajevo's Great Synagogue, the Hardagas refused to turn away their Jewish friends. A photo taken at the time shows Zayneba wearing a Muslim veil, walking on a Sarajevo street together with Rivka Cavilio and her young daughter, Tova. Rivka is using her pocketbook to shield the yellow Jude star the Nazis forced all Jews to wear.

As conditions for Jews—and the people who sheltered them—worsened, Yosef Cavilio managed to smuggle his family to the safer Italian-occupied zone of Yugoslavia. Yosef himself, fearing for his Muslim hosts, left the Hardaga home and hid at a local hospital. He was soon arrested and scheduled for shipment to a death camp. Even then, the Hardagas refused to turn their backs. Walking in chains to prison, Cavilio saw a veiled woman staring and crying. From that day on, Zayneba Hardaga found ways to smuggle food to Yosef and several other Jewish prisoners. Not long after, her own father, Ahmed Sadik, was executed by Nazi collaborators for sheltering yet another Jewish family.

When the war ended, the Cavilios, like many other Holocaust survivors, emigrated to the new State of Israel. But they never lost touch with the Hardagas. In 1985, testimony from Yosef Cavilio resulted in Zayneba and Mustafa Hardaga's being honored in Jerusalem as "Righteous Gentiles."

Then, this year, as Sarajevo struggled under another holocaust of sorts, the story came full circle. "When I saw on television what was happening in Bosnia," says Tova Cavilio Greenberg, now a 56-year-old Israeli teacher, "I knew what I had to do." After a few frantic phone calls, the Hardagas' daughter Aida, her Serbian husband and their 10-year-old daughter were brought to safety and new homes in Israel. And last month, Zayneba Hardaga, now a widow, was evacuated to Tel Aviv. "I have come from hell to the Garden of Eden," the 76-year-old woman told the crowd greeting her. Had she not been afraid to do what she had done during World War II? "Compassion," Zayneba Hardaga said, "knows no fear."