

neighbors throughout southern Illinois as ministers for a combined 91 years. Both Eugene and Earl will retire on June 30, 1995.

Eugene Black has ministered to the needs of his neighbors in small, rural communities throughout southern Illinois for 49 years. He has been the pastor at the First United Methodist Church in Herrin, IL, since 1989 and will step down the last day of June to start what promises to be a rewarding retirement in Mattoon. Eugene plans to continue in his retirement as an interim pastor, help his sons, Phillip and Paul, with home repairs, and travel.

Earl Black also found his life's calling in service to the church. For 42 years he has ministered to the needs of the people of southern Illinois, and currently serves as the minister of the First United Methodist Church of Marion. Earl plans to retire near Metropolis, where he anticipates a retirement full of singing with the gospel quartet, auctioneering in the community, and working in his machine shop.

Serving the needs of congregations for over 40 years has been a rewarding experience that neither brother would wish to change. Being called upon to aid in a families time of joy or sorrow is a great responsibility, and both Eugene and Earl shoulder the task with graciousness and humility. Seldom in life are people destined for careers in which they are able to directly touch the lives of those with whom they come in contact, but Eugene and Earl have done this, and I commend them for dedicating their lives for the benefit of others. They have enjoyed careers of inspiration and divine purpose, and it is with regret that their friends see them retire.

Mr. Speaker, Earl and Eugene Black have committed their lives to helping others enjoy a special moment, or endure a time of anguish, and I am proud to represent them in Congress. They have touched the lives of countless people, and I urge my colleagues to join with me in saluting these outstanding brothers.

#### THE PLIGHT OF THE ROMANIAN MOLDOVANS

**HON. MARTIN R. HOKE**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 12, 1995*

Mr. HOKE. Mr. Speaker, we all know that the central and eastern European revolutions of 1989–91 marked a historic event in the European struggle for freedom, democracy, and sovereign independence after so many years of Communist rule. The revolutionary period, however, was chaotic and difficult for the ethnic minorities long held in check by Soviet imperialism and repression. The suffering was also experienced by the ethnic minorities in the republics of the former Soviet Union.

The history of the Romanian Moldovans is one of such suffering peoples. Upon the declaration of independence by Moldova in August 1991, cordial relations were established with the neighboring country of Romania. From that time forward, much has seemingly gone wrong in that fragile region.

I am inserting into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD some interesting information that has been brought to my attention regarding the plight of the Romanian Moldovans. I know this

will be of great interest to you and I hope you will have the opportunity to read this report:

#### MOLDOVA AND THE CASE OF ILIE ILASCU— BACKGROUND TO THE PROBLEM

Elie Wiesel, an Auschwitz survivor, once said that forgetting the victims is like killing them a second time.

Indeed, oppressors and oppressing states often insist on forgetting the past for the sake of a new start. It is particularly convenient for them because the past can be extended from yesterday to whatever date suits their interests.

In this case, Russia wants to forget Soviet Union's brutal past and injustices and to start with perestroika. Moscow conveniently ignores that Bessarabia or western Moldova was annexed from Romania in 1940 following the Nazi-Soviet secret pact signed in Moscow by Ribbentrop and Molotov in 1939.

Hundreds of thousands of Romanian Moldavians were deported, imprisoned, or summarily executed. Hundreds of thousands of families were split, uprooted, displaced, never to meet again. Hundreds of thousands of Russians and Ukrainians were brought in to reorganize and supervise the new republic of Moldova.

The former Romanian province was territorially mutilated and its borders redrawn. While the northern and southern regions of the new republic were granted to Ukraine, a small piece of land on the left bank of the Dniestr River was given to Moldova. This area was highly russified and its capital, Tiraspol, served for a very long time as a center of Soviet Marxism and Russian nationalism. In fact, Tiraspol was a spring board for Party activists to jump to power in the capital of Moldova, Chisinau, or to other Soviet places.

While imposing Marxism as a new political form of social organization, Moscow also demanded strictly that the indigenous population calls itself Moldavian rather than Romanian. And to make a modicum of distinction within an otherwise undivisible nationality, Moscow forced Moldova to adapt the Russian alphabet instead of the Latin script used by Romanians. For a while, the ploy worked, but only as long as the people was brutally suppressed.

Perestroika, nevertheless, brought along freedom of expression and of political organization. Hundreds of thousands of Moldavians gathered on many occasions in Chisinau to reclaim their history, their language, the right to be themselves, their Romanian nationality. Some of the first acts the Moldavians did, were to declare again their Romanian identity and to reimpose from within the Latin alphabet. And the Romanian tricolor was flying again everywhere.

Eventually, Perestroika caused, at least in theory, the dissolution of the former Soviet Union and it made possible wide spread declarations of independence.

Moldova too declared its independence on August 27, 1991 and a euphoric state followed. It also adopted the Romanian national anthem, it eased control at the Romanian border, while union with the old country appeared imminent. And in the avanguard of this struggle for national recognition was the Moldavian Popular Front. But the initial enthusiasm was soon replaced by the harsh realities imposed again from the center. Moscow would not give up its empire.

First, the small Gagauz minority of Moldova was pushed by the Russians to declare its independence. When this move failed, the Tiraspol Russians declared their own separate Dniestr Republic and vowed to rebuild communism and a new Soviet Union around it. The new Marxist republic readopted the former Soviet system and began to hire mercenaries to fight against

Moldova. Confronted with dismemberment, Moldova formed an army made mostly of volunteers and in 1992 the two sides were poised for war.

Moscow followed with great interest the events and manipulated the war to make sure that Moldova would not be allowed to rejoin Romania. Whenever the war turned sour for the Dniestr Republic, the 14th Russian Army located in Tiraspol openly intervened to its defense. It also armed to the teeth Cossack and Russian volunteers from all over USSR to fight against Moldova.

Within a few months, the war turned very ugly. Many Romanians from the Tiraspol area under the new Dniestr Republic were arrested, disappeared, or were murdered in a barbarous manner. Several Romanians were mutilated, skinned, or nailed to crosses.

At the same time and in order to bit Moldova into submission, Russia stopped the supply of energy and raw materials, resulting in freezing temperatures during the winter and industrial idleness. What Moscow wanted was to bring Moldova back into the newly formed CIS, to alienate it at any price from Romania, and to make its people accept the misnomer of "Moldavian."

At the beginning, the new leaders in Chisinau resisted and fought the trend, but later a new group of pro-Moscow individuals gave in to the Russian demands.

It was at the beginning of the war of 1992 that the Dniestr authorities arrested the leaders of the local Moldavian Popular Front and started a shameful process which lasts to this day. The case is now known as "The Tiraspol Five," and it has acquired international attention.

#### THE "TIRASPOL FIVE"

On June 2, 1992, a group of five members of the Tiraspol Branch of Moldova's Popular Front was arrested on false accusations of "terrorist acts against the Soviet Power." They were Ilie Ilascu, president of the local branch of the Front, Alexandru Lesco, Tudor Petrov-Popa, Andrei Ivantoc, and Petre Godiac. A sixth person who was arrested at the same time, Valery Garbuz, had been infiltrated by the local secret police into the organization in order to testify against the group.

It should be mentioned that at the time of the arrest, the Tiraspol branch of the Popular Front was working legally and openly within the laws of Moldova. By contrast, the authorities of the Dniestr Republic that arrested them were illegitimate and did not represent any legal state.

At first, the group was detained at the headquarters of the 14th Russian Army in Tiraspol, raising additional questions about the status of this Army. Initially, some 20 persons were detained, but most of them were freed when they retracted their pro-Romanian stand. As a matter of fact, the most insistent demand of the investigators was that they give up their claim to be Romanians and accept instead their regional identification as Moldavians.

In spite of the unbearable conditions to which the victims were subjected, no one confessed to any crimes, but this did not change anything. During the investigations, Ilascu was visited unexpectedly by the ministers of security of both Moldova and the Dniestr Republic, making him think that the two entities acted in unison. On at least one occasion, the two security ministers left Ilascu's cell together, making fun of him.

As Ilascu mentioned in a letter, the defenders were visited by people from Romania, Switzerland, Italy, Poland, and even from the United States. But never by any official of Moldova. During this ordeal, Ilascu states, they were kept alive only because the international press took an interest in them.

When the trial began, the entire evidence against the defenders was based on the false testimony of Valery Garbuz. And in order to scare them and influence the judge, numerous local communists were brought in to chant "death to the terrorists." To complete the picture, the defenders were kept in an iron cage, and the trial was staged in a local factory. It was a reminder of the Stalinist trials of the 1930's.

Kept under such conditions, members of the Ilascu group came to the conclusion that their arrest and subsequent trial was orchestrated by the Tiraspol Russians with the support of certain circles in Moscow. And, according to Ilascu, the Dnestr authorities also had the cooperation of the new leaders of Moldova who wanted to annihilate the opposition.

The most prominent among the new leaders of Moldova are President Mircea Snegur, Prime Minister Andrei Sangheli, and Speaker of the Parliament Petru Luchinski. All three of them are former secretaries of the Moldavian Communist Party. Apparently, they are also under Moscow's pressure and threats. Under such circumstances, the independence of Moldova is far from being real.

Moldova is only independent of Romania, which is exactly what Moscow wanted. And to make sure of achieving their goal, the Russians planned the 1992 Dnestr War and the dismemberment and federalization of the small republic. Allegedly, Moscow also threatened that if Bucharest insisted on claiming Moldova, they would transform Romania into a second Yugoslavia.

Thus, the true goal of the arrest of the Tiraspol group of the long public trial, and of the convictions, seems to be threefold:

To intimidate and demoralize the Romanian majority of Moldova;

To cover up the murders perpetrated by the very authorities of the Dnestr Republic during the summer of 1992;

And to kill any desire or aspiration of the Moldovan Romanians to unite with Romania.

Although imprisoned, in February 1993 Ilie Ilascu was elected to the Moldavian Parliament. This enraged his captors even more. In December 1993, he was sentenced to death while his colleagues received long prison convictions. In spite of his sentence, Ilascu shouted: "Long live Romania. You can kill us, but you cannot defeat us."

As of the end of January 1995, when President Mircea Snegur came to an official visit to Washington, Ilie Ilascu and his group were still in prison, tortured continuously and dying a slow agonizing death. (See Appendices)

#### RECENT MOLDAVIAN VISITS TO WASHINGTON

While visiting Washington, President Snegur painted Moldova as a young but democratic republic struggling to reform politically and to create a free market economy. He insisted that he wanted to integrate his republic into the European organisms, but also to keep close relations with Russia and CIS. (The question is how can one serve two masters?)

During the same period of time a prominent member of the opposition and a leading member of the Moldavian Parliament, Vasile Nedelciuc, was also in Washington for the National Breakfast Prayer.

Meeting several congressmen, Nedelciuc spoke on behalf of the democratic opposition of Moldova and raised a number of questions. He insisted that the opposition supports fully the idea of integration with Europe and greets with enthusiasm good relations with the United States.

On the other hand, he underlined that closer relations with Russia and the CIS bloc could prevent the process of democratization

and integration with Europe and especially with the mother country of Romania. He also insisted, as President Snegur did, that the presence of the 14th Russian Army headquartered in Tiraspol represents a big threat. This army and its huge arsenal should be withdrawn from Moldova as soon as possible.

With regard to the much needed and appreciated American aid, Nedelciuc insisted that most of it goes to state enterprises or state structures, and very little is used to encourage private businesses.

He stressed that the reforms did not touch that countryside, where former Soviet state and collective farms have not been disbanded and their chairmen oppose any changes.

He underlined that the opposition has no access to radio and television which remain exclusively in the hands of the new government and its party.

He also said that the government has abusively fired from administrative positions most people who belonged to the opposition. Among them there were several freely elected mayors.

He stressed that most of the visiting US governmental delegations, and even the personnel of the American Embassy in Chisinau, avoid to meet the opposition. A dialogue with the opposition would be beneficial to all parties.

He insisted that educators, teachers, men and women of art and letters of Moldova, are again persecuted for declaring openly their Romanian language, culture, and identity. Renowned poet and writer, Grigore Vieru, for example, repeatedly received telephone threats. In this light, Nedelciuc . . . pleaded that the recent Appeal of Moldova's educators be distributed in the West and their cause be known and defended (See attached Appeal)

With regard to Ilie Ilascu and his group, Vasile Nedelciuc stressed that their unending ordeal is an insult to the entire Romanian nation and to the concept of independence of Moldova. President Snegur also promised to intervene on his behalf. As Eli Wiesel put it, to forget them is killing them a second time around.

The United States has granted Moldova over two hundred million dollars as assistance. This year Moldova is scheduled to receive twenty-two million dollars. This is our taxpayers' money. It is unacceptable to help Moldova while the government persecutes its majority and at the same time it is unable or unwilling to free its own citizens from prison.

Peter Lucaci, National President, Union & League, R.S.A., Inc.

Rt. Rev. Bishop Nathaniel Popp, Romanian Orthodox Episcopate of America.  
Archbishop Victorin, Romanian Orthodox Archdiocese in America and Canada.

(Archmandrite) J. Michael Botean, Apostolic Administrator, sede vacante, Roman Catholic Diocese.

Dr. Nicholas Dima, Union & League, Washington Representative.

#### APPENDIX I

Statement by Ilie Ilascu addressed to the Prosecutor of the Tiraspol Court on December 11, 1993, after being sentenced to death (summary).

"The undersigned Ilie Ilascu was illegally and brutally arrested by the anticonstitutional authorities of the so-called Moldavian Dnestr Republic on June 2, 1992, at four AM at my home address on Pacii Str. Nr. 50/1. apt. 1, Tiraspol.

"The arrest was conducted by Vladimir Ivanovici Gorbov, a lieutenant colonel of Moldova's Ministry of Security, who was se-

cretly dispatched for this mission from Chistinau. His mission was:

1. To join the security authority of the Dnestr Republic pretending that he was a political refugee from Moldova.

2. To collect compromising information for the liquidation of the Tiraspol branch of Moldova's Popular Front, considered an organization opposed to the communist regimes in Chisinau and Tiraspol.

In view of his mission, Gorbov arrived in Tiraspol in February 1992 and shortly after in March, he was already a member of the Dnestr security department. A few month later, he became deputy Minister of the Dnestr Republic's Security Ministry.

The arrest of the Tiraspol Five was coordinated with V.I. Garbuz, a former militia captain and a known police informer, who had been infiltrated into the local branch of the Popular Front. Before my arrest, the local militia planted in my apartment arms and ammunitions of which I had no knowledge.

For months, I was investigated by Gorbov, who applied the most brutal methods: beatings, intimidations, threats, lies, starvation, isolation, psychological pressures, and several mocked executions.

He told me, for example, that my younger daughter was kidnapped and that my wife had lost her sanity. Gorbov and Shevtsov also asked me continuously to confess, to deny my position, and to sign false statements already written by them. They tried to make me sign confessions that I was a CIA agent as far back as 1989, and that I also was a Romanian secret agent trained to execute terrorist activities in Moldova.

When I totally refused, they beat me to a pulp. Later, they tried to make me sign confessions that I had been a paid agent of Moldova's Security Ministry trained to carry out terrorist activities in the territory of the Dnestr Republic, which I also rejected as ridiculous.

Mr. Prosecutor, I also want to stress that during the night, Gorbov called his son in Chisinau several times. In the silence of the night I could hear that he received from him secret information regarding the evolution of the Dnestr War. (This should be construed as plain treason).

He also bragged frankly about dozens of members of the Popular Front whom he had killed with his own hand at Benderi during the height of the war in the summer of 1992.

Interestingly, after accomplishing his mission, Gorbov disappeared from Tiraspol and returned to Chisinau, where allegedly he had retired to live in . . . peace and honor.

In view of that Mr. Prosecutor, I demand that Gorbov, my investigator and accuser here in Tiraspol, be himself arrested and tried for his crimes. Ilie Ilascu, December 11, 1993.

#### APPENDIX II

Letter by Ilie Ilascu from Death Row

My cell is made exclusively of iron and cement, and it does not have any ventilation. The windows have three rows of bars and are covered by a metal sheet. There is no light and no fresh air. I have been kept alone and have not been taken out since February.

My kidney problems have aggravated. Many times I can no longer stand the pain. I also have acute pains on the right side of the body in the abdominal, liver, and lung areas. It has now been two years since I could no longer control my left cheek, which shakes very often. My eyes itch continuously, and following the 1992 beatings, I lost two teeth while a third one was broken. Above the right knee, I have an area that is now completely numb. My migraines are continuous, and there are times when I can no longer get up alone.

The cell has never been heated, and I have been continuously starved. Mircea Sengur has not allowed anybody to help me. Not even the Red Cross has been allowed to visit.

I will resist as long as God will keep me alive.—Ilie Ilascu, September 25, 1994.

#### APPEAL

To the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, European Commission on Human Rights, the Committee on Relations With European Non-Member Countries

The present Appeal is a document adopted at a protest meeting, held on January 20, 1995 in Chisinau (Moldova), which was attended by over 400 people representing 29 educational, research and cultural institutions.

We, the participants to the meeting, fully support the efforts directed at obtaining Republic of Moldova's membership in the Council of Europe, since, to our strong belief, this prestigious international body can give some additional guarantees to the irreversibility of democratic changes that occurred in our society during the last years.

It's precisely the concern for the fate of democratic gains of 1989-90 that made the people gather at this meeting.

The issue under discussion might seem pretty insignificant to anyone but those who know how skillfully and hypocritically it had been manipulated by the totalitarian regime. It deals with the term "Moldovan language"—a term invented by Stalin for the sake of building a "Berlin wall" between it and Rumanian language, and culture in general (for this purpose "Moldovan language" was even given the Russian alphabet). That proved to be one of the most powerful instruments of uprooting the ethnic identity of the Rumanian population of Bessarabia and of depriving it of its cultural values. The most progressive and honest scientists from both the Republic of Moldova and Russia could never accepted this falsehood.

That is why the issues of language and its alphabet have become pivots in the general democratic demands of 1989. As a result, the Academy of Sciences officially recognized—and the first democratic Parliament confirmed—that there is only one literary Eastern Romance language—Rumanian, Moldovan being just one of its sub-dialects (spoken also in Rumanian Moldova). In the general bliss of those years it seemed that there is no way back to the old political manipulations.

In this context one can understand the frustration related to the return of the false term "Moldovan language", a term the actual majority party succeeded to introduce in the Constitution (Article 13.1). By the way, the Academy, when consulted by the Parliament on the issue, reaffirmed its previous opinion and was thus ignored by the latter.

Things wouldn't be so dramatic, if people didn't know what the implications of this "minor" untruth would be to the study of history, literature, etc., but most of all to the MORALITY of the whole society. This would mean another spiritual isolation, i.e. our further distancing from the ideals of European integration.

Even more troublesome is the direct pressure on behalf of the Government upon the teaching staff of the educational institutions not to use the term Rumanian language. Threats are already being heard towards those specialists who do not accept the linguistic and historical untruth. Teachers feel humiliated by the fact that, after they have enjoyed the freedom of telling the truth, they are forced to perpetuate old propagandistic lies and find it immoral.

We, the participants to the meeting, protest against the above mentioned facts, qualifying them as violations of our human and professional rights. These are also violations of the students' right to education in their native literary language (and not just a sub-dialect of it), on the basis of scientific truth.

We also express our protest against the inaccessibility of state radio and TV (the only ones in Moldova) not only to the opposition parties, but also to the researchers, teachers, university professors that have different opinions from those stated officially.

We appeal to the high authority of the Council of Europe for support in the hope that it will not disregard these cases of encroachment on our professional liberty and human dignity.

Anticipating the membership of the Republic of Moldova in the Council of Europe, we are eager to work towards the democratization of our society and towards achieving the noble goals of this European forum.

With our highest consideration,

Timofei Melnic, Chief of the Department of Rumanian Literature, State University, Chairman of the Meeting.

Address: str. Miron Costin 15/2, ap. 125, Chisinau, Republic of Moldova, Tel. (3732) 32-25-22.

Ion Vicol, Researcher, State University of Moldova, Secretary of the Meeting.

HONORING SAMUEL BEA, JR.

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 12, 1995

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, a long-time community leader and activist, Samuel Bea, Jr., is retiring as district manager of Community Board No. 12 in the Bronx after serving 18 years in the post.

Sam's commitment to the residents of the Northeast Bronx cannot be matched. He brought to the position of district manager exceptional management skills and knowledge of people and issues which were the key to his many successes in trying to improve the quality of life for his constituents.

His past experience includes serving as director of Community Services, Westchester Community Opportunity Program, Inc., executive director, Mount Vernon Community Action Group, project administrator, Harlem Hospital Comprehensive Alcoholism Program, deputy executive, associate director, OJT director, Urban League of Westchester, manpower coordinator, Yonkers, NY, and director, Neighborhood Youth Corps, Greensburg, NY.

Everything that Sam Bea has done in his professional life has been devoted toward helping people. And though he retires from being district manager, I am sure his commitment to helping people will continue.

I join with Sam's family, friends, and colleagues in wishing him the best in the years ahead and thank him for all he has done.

DANVILLE ROTARY HONORED ON  
75TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 12, 1995

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Rotary Club of Danville, PA which is celebrating the 75th anniversary of its founding. I am pleased to have been invited to participate in the anniversary dinner on May 13 and to have this opportunity to bring the history of the club to the attention of my colleagues.

Founded in 1905, by Paul Harris in Chicago, the Rotary has been an institution in America ever since. The first Rotary meeting consisted of Paul Harris and three other businessmen. Out of that meeting came the idea to form a men's club representing local business and the professions. Weekly meetings were held, in turn, at each member's place of business. This is how the organization came to be called Rotary.

The purpose as defined by its founder was to undertake civic functions of value to the community. Mr. Harris was successful in his endeavor. Now known as Rotary International, the organization has grown to more than 25,000 clubs, in 172 countries, with membership well over a million and a quarter. In 1988, Rotary opened its membership to women.

Fifteen years after Paul Harris founded Rotary, the Danville Rotary Club was organized and given its charter, No. 651. This club has served the community with dedication ever since. The club boasts three District Governors from its ranks from 1938 to 1993. The club joined with Bloomsburg and Berwick to found the Columbia-Montour Boy Scout Council in 1924. Boy Scout Camp Lavigne was named in honor of Jack Lavigne, a charter member of the Danville Rotary.

Over the years, the club has sponsored a children's clinic, the student exchange program, Cub Pack 36, Crop Walk, Danville Community Center, Thomas Beaver Library, Edith Buckley Brown A.L.S. Foundation at Geisinger Medical Center, to name just a few of the club's beneficiaries. "Service Above Self", the motto of Rotary International, is the tradition of the Danville Club.

Mr. Speaker, I am extremely proud of the strong and active influence of the Danville Rotary throughout my District. I am especially pleased to join with the Danville community in congratulating Danville Rotary on its 75th anniversary. We thank you for your dedication to your community, and for helping make Rotary synonymous with service.

TRIBUTE TO NANCY HUDSON AND  
NANCY KNOBLE

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 12, 1995

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor two brave and very dedicated women, Nancy Hudson and Nancy Knoble, who are deserving of special congressional recognition for their efforts to call international attention to the battle against breast cancer. They are very