

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

NATO AIRSTRIKES IN BOSNIA

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 25, 1995

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I welcome reports that NATO planes struck targets near the Bosnian Serb stronghold of Pale today after militant forces ignored a U.N. ultimatum to surrender heavy weapons they seized from U.N. weapons dumps around Sarajevo earlier this week. According to *Reuters*, six aircraft, including U.S. warplanes, bombed a Bosnian Serb ammunition depot in response to a request from U.N. peacekeepers. This rare display of muscle to quell attacks against Sarajevo, a U.N.-designated safehaven, is long overdue. Perhaps these airstrikes signal a resolve by the international community to take a firm stand against armed aggression and those responsible for genocide in Bosnia.

I applaud the Clinton administration for fully backing the NATO raids which were a response to what Secretary of Defense Perry characterized as reprehensible attacks around the Bosnian capital. Mr. Speaker, it is high time that determined action, such as today's airstrikes, be directed against those who flagrantly defy the will of the international community, as the Bosnian Serbs have repeatedly done.

TRIBUTE TO WHIRLPOOL

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 25, 1995

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a corporation in LaVergne, TN, who has been justly rewarded for their continuing commitment to service and quality.

Whirlpool Corp. has received the 1995 Partners in Progress Award, based on service, product quality, market performance, and customer responsiveness. This is the fourth year in a row Whirlpool has been recognized for the PIP Award, which is given only to the top 1 percent of Sears' suppliers.

Whirlpool, home to just over 2,400 employees, makes its mark each year by producing the very best in air control products. Each employee is to be commended for their role in ensuring the success of Whirlpool through their attention to product safety, dependability, and performance.

Please join me today in congratulating these workers in Tennessee for their tremendous accomplishment.

PROTECTING THE RIGHTS OF WORKERS OVERSEAS HELPS U.S. WORKERS

HON. BARNEY FRANK

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 25, 1995

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, one of the areas where we must as a country do a better job is trying to diminish the disparity in respect for the rights of workers that exist between our country and many other countries which would trade with us. There will inevitably be differences in the cost structure of manufacturing in different countries, especially in those that are in different states of development. But any cost disadvantage which we face should not be exacerbated by situations in which workers in less developed countries are deprived of fundamental rights to organize or to advocate for their own legitimate self-interest.

We should be insisting as part of our international economic policy that nations which seek favorable treatment from us as recipients of assistance, or as participants in open trade agreements which they will find advantageous, provide a framework in which the legal rights of workers in those countries are fully respected.

An example of the relevance of this recently came to my attention in a letter sent by AFL-CIO President Lane Kirkland to the co-Prime Minister of the Royal Cambodian Government. In this letter, Mr. Kirkland objects quite legitimately to provisions in the labor law which is about to be promulgated in Cambodia. I ask that Mr. Kirkland's letter to the Cambodian Government be printed here, as an example of the kind of reasonable action we should be taking in the area of international workers rights, both as a matter of fairness, and as a way of preventing undue deterioration through competitive pressures in the rights of workers in America.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR
AND CONGRESS OF INDUSTRIAL ORGANIZATIONS,

Washington, DC, May 5, 1995.

H.E. NORODOM RANARIDDH,

H.E. HUN SEN,

Co-Prime Ministers, Royal Cambodian Government,
Council of Ministers, Phnom Penh,
Kingdom of Cambodia.

YOUR EXCELLENCIES: As the leader of the America's national trade union confederation and its 14 million members, I write to express my concerns about the failure of Cambodia's current draft labor law to meet international labor standards in several key areas. I strongly urge you to take immediate action in the appropriate deliberative body to revise Articles 281, 306, and 377 of the draft to bring them into compliance with the relevant International Labor Organization (ILO) Conventions.

The current version of Article 281 clearly fails to comply with ILO Convention 87, which guarantees workers the most fundamental protection, freedom of association. As now written, the draft Article requires all

employee associations to affiliate with government-established national federations. We wish to point out to your Excellencies that such a requirement not only violates international standards, but it is also contrary to Articles 36 and 41 of the Cambodia Constitution which guarantee Cambodian citizens the right to freely associate and form employee organizations, including trade unions, of their own choosing.

Freedom of association is the most vital component for the establishment of a modern, peaceful, stable, and representative industrial relations system; such a system will put Cambodia on the path to sustainable economic development. By taking a far-sighted view and amending Article 281, Your Excellencies will make a decision that would provide a stable, dynamic environment to help guarantee foreign investment that benefits both the Cambodian people and the investors. Moreover, guaranteeing freedom of association will be praised by the international community and improve Cambodia's chances of meeting requirements for receiving trade benefits from the United States including GSP and OPIC. As you may know, technical assistance in crafting an amended Article 281 provision is available from the Cambodia office of the Asian-American Free Labor Institute (AAFLI), the AFL-CIO's Asia institute.

We also urge you to bring Articles 306 and 377, key worker protection provisions in the code, into compliance with international norms. Failing to provide basic worker rights in these areas will not only create difficulties in international fora, like the ILO, but will also endanger the lives and livelihoods of Cambodian workers.

We certainly understand the importance of Most Favored Nation (MFN) status, Generalized System of Preferences (GSP), and Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC) trade benefits to assist the development of Cambodia, and do not take lightly the needs of your country, which is still suffering the effects of over 20 years of war. As I'm sure you know, we continue to support the provision of international assistance to Cambodia by the U.S. and other countries.

However, if the Royal Cambodian Government decides to pass a labor law that fails to guarantee freedom of association in accordance with international standards, the AFL-CIO will oppose the granting of GSP and OPIC benefits to Cambodia and work with the Congress and the Clinton Administration to that end. Furthermore, we would also work with our friends in the international labor movement to consider other actions as necessary.

Since there is still time before this draft code comes before you and the Cabinet, I urge Your Excellencies personally intervene to amend Articles 281, 306, and 377 and bring them into compliance with the relevant ILO Conventions.

Thank you for your attention to our concerns and I look forward to hearing from you in the near future.

Sincerely,

LANE KIRKLAND,
President.

• 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.