

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

AMERICA'S STAKE IN THE UNITED NATIONS

HON. LEE H. HAMILTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 13, 1995

Mr. HAMILTON. Mr. Speaker, many of us have been critical of the management and efficiency of the United Nations. Despite these shortcomings, on the 50th anniversary of the U.N. Charter it is important to remember the critical role this institution plays.

I therefore commend to my colleagues a recent policy statement by the U.N. Association of the United States of America, "America's Stake in the United Nations and Financing the United Nations." As this statement notes, every U.S. administration has turned to the United Nations for collective action to help maintain or restore peace. The United Nations helps to spread the financial, political, and military burden of interventions. I agree with the policy statement that "Increased reliance on U.N. collective security operations necessarily complements our defense savings."

The United States cannot insulate itself from an interconnected world where transnational threats such as drugs, terrorism, and diseases respect no borders. The United Nations is an imperfect but vital tool which can help respond to those threats. I fully agree with UNA/USA's statement that the U.N. requires reform, but not wrecking. I intend to continue pressing for such reform in the United Nations.

While I do not support providing any kind of tax authority to the United Nations, it seems to me that we cannot hope for a more efficient and effective United Nations so long as its finances remain unreliable. The answer, as the report states, is simple: Nations must pay their assessed contributions on time, and in full. We should not support U.N. budgets for which we do not intend to pay.

I congratulate UNA/USA on this thoughtful policy statement, and request that it be included in the RECORD.

AMERICA'S STAKE IN THE UNITED NATIONS

Fifty years ago we, the people of the United States, joined in common purpose and shared commitment with the people of 50 other nations. The most catastrophic war in history had convinced nations that no country could any longer be safe and secure in isolation. From this realization was born the United Nations—the idea of a genuine world community and a framework for solving human problems that transcend national boundaries. Since then, technology and economics have transformed "world community" from a phrase to a fact, and if the World War II generation had not already established the U.N. system, today's world would have to create it.

The founders of the United Nations were clairvoyant in many ways. The Charter anticipated decolonization; called for "respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language, or religion"; and set up the institutional framework "for the promotion of

the economic and social advancement of all peoples." In meeting the Charter's challenges, we make for a more secure and prosperous world.

Through the U.N. system, many serious conflicts have been contained or concluded. Diseases have been controlled or eradicated, children immunized, refugees protected and fed. Nations have set standards on issues of common concern—ranging from human rights to environmental survival to radio frequencies. Collective action has also furthered particular U.S. government interests, such as averting a widening war in the Middle East into which Washington might otherwise be drawn. After half a century, the U.N. remains a unique investment yielding multiple dividends for Americans and others alike.

The U.N.'s mandate to preserve peace and security was long hobbled by the Cold War, whose end has allowed the institutions of global security to spring to life. The five permanent members of the Security Council now meet and function as a cohesive group, and what the Council has lost in rhetorical drama it has more than gained in forging common policies. Starting with the Reagan Administration's effort to marshal the Security Council to help bring an end to the Iran-Iraq war in 1988, every U.S. administration has turned to the U.N. for collective action to help maintain or restore peace. Common policy may not always result in success, but neither does unilateral policy—and, unlike unilateral intervention, it spreads costs and risks widely and may help avoid policy disasters.

Paradoxically, the end of the Cold War has also given rise in the U.S. to a resurgent isolationism, along with calls for unilateral, go-it-alone policies. Developments in many places that once would have stirred alarm are now viewed with indifference. When they do excite American political interest, the impulse is often to respond unilaterally in the conviction that only Washington can do the job and do it right. Without a Soviet threat, some Americans imagine we can renounce "foreign entanglements." Growing hostility to U.N. peacekeeping in some political circles reflects, in large measure, the shortsighted idea that America has little at stake in the maintenance of a peaceful world. In some quarters, resentment smolders at any hint of reciprocal obligations; but in a country founded on the rule of law, the notion that law should rule among nations ought not to be controversial.

The political impulse to go it alone surges at precisely the moment when nations have become deeply interconnected. The need for international teamwork has never been clearer. Goods, capital, news, entertainment, and ideas flow national borders with astonishing speed. So do refugees, diseases, drugs, environmental degradation, terrorists, and currency crashes.

The institutions of the U.N. system are not perfect, but they remain our best tools for concerted international action. Just as Americans often seek to reform our own government, we must press for improvement of the U.N. system. Fragmented and of limited power prone to political paralysis, bureaucratic torpor, and opaque accountability, the U.N. system requires reform—but not wrecking. Governments and citizens must press for changes that improve agencies' efficiency,

enhance their responsiveness, and make them accountable to the world's publics they were created to serve. Our world institutions can only be strengthened with the informed engagement of national leaders, press, and the public at large.

The American people have not lost their commitment to the United Nations and to the rule of law. They reaffirm it consistently, whether in opinion surveys or UNICEF campaigns. Recognizing the public's sentiment, the foes of America's U.N. commitment—unilateralists, isolationists, or whatever—do not call openly for rejecting the U.N. as they had earlier rejected outright the League of Nations. But the systematic paring back of our commitment to international law and participation in institutions would have the same effect.

In this 50th anniversary year, America's leaders should rededicate the nation to the promise of a more peaceful and prosperous world contained in the U.N. Charter. In that spirit, the United Nations Association of the United States calls on the people and government of the United States, and those of all other U.N. member states, to join in strengthening the United Nations system for the 21st century.

In particular, we call for action in five areas, which will be the top policy priorities of UNA-USA as we enter the U.N.'s second half-century:

Reliable financing of the United Nations system.

Strong and effective U.N. machinery to help keep the peace.

Promotion of broad-based and sustainable world economic growth.

Vigorous defense of human rights and protection of displaced populations.

Control, reduction, or elimination of highly destructive weaponry.

POST-RATIFICATION BY MISSISSIPPI LEGISLATURE OF U.S. CONSTITUTION'S 13TH AMENDMENT—ABOLISHING SLAVERY

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 13, 1995

Mr. THOMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to call to the attention of my colleagues and to the attention of the American people, a very historic action taken earlier this year by the Legislature of my State of Mississippi.

A century and three decades ago, in 1865, the 38th Congress proposed an amendment to the U.S. Constitution to end the inhumane practice of slavery—uniformly, throughout the entire Nation. Within a matter of months, the proposal had received the required approval of the legislatures of three-fourths of the States then in the Union and it resultantly became the Constitution's 13th amendment.

It also was during that pivotal year of 1865, that both houses of the Mississippi Legislature adopted a resolution rejecting, denouncing, and condemning the constitutional amendment to abolish slavery. Thus, the 13th amendment

• 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.

had made its way into the Constitution without Mississippi's official approval. As for the ensuing 130 years, that resolution of rejection remained the Mississippi Legislature's official pronouncement on the 13th amendment. Indeed, for many years, Mississippi's was the only State legislature—in the Union well before and long after that particular constitutional amendment was proposed and ratified—never to approve it. But all of that changed earlier this year. An undotted historical "i" and an uncrossed social "t" were duly dotted and crossed when the Mississippi Legislature adopted Senate Concurrent Resolution 547 on March 16, 1995, to not only postratify the 13th amendment but, also, to finally rescind the embarrassing 1865 resolution of rejection.

TRIBUTE TO REVOLUTIONARY
WAR HERO COMMODORE JOHN
BARRY SEPTEMBER 13, 1995

HON. CURT WELDON

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 13, 1995

Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer a tribute to a great Revolutionary War Hero, Commodore John Barry.

This year we celebrate the 250th anniversary of Commodore Barry's birth. Born in 1745 in Ireland, he moved to Philadelphia approximately 15 years later, where he prospered as a shipmaster and owner. While in Philadelphia, he became a strong supporter of the Revolution, fervently espousing the doctrine of independence from the British Government. When the Revolution broke out, he enthusiastically offered his services to the Continental Congress, which gave him an independent command as captain of the brig *Lexington*. Less than 1 month after his commission, Captain Barry captured the first British warship to be taken under Continental Congress authority.

Recognizing his great service in the fight for independence, the Continental Congress issued him another commission, as captain of the *Effingham*. Despite his eagerness to serve the cause, he was unable to launch the 32 gun vessel owing to the British occupation of Philadelphia. Nevertheless, using his ingenuity, resolve, and dedication to the Colonies, Captain Barry, with four small boats, captured two transports and a schooner during a daring raid in lower Delaware. This gallant effort brought the due praise of General Washington.

Receiving another command aboard the *Raleigh*, Barry stubbornly defended the vessel against superior forces when confronted by the British on September 28, 1778. Outgunned, he was forced to beach the ship, but managed to save most of his crew. In 1781, Barry took command of the *Alliance*, and defeated the sloops H.M.S. *Atalanta* and H.M.S. *Trepassey*. In the last sea battle of the Revolution, Barry defeated the H.M.S. *Sybil*, adding this final victory of his list of successes in fighting for our young Nation.

After the Revolution, in 1794, Barry was named the senior captain of the U.S. Navy. Four years later, President George Washington recognized Barry's enormous contribution to our independence, appointing him commodore. He served as the head of the U.S. Navy until his death, on September 12, 1803.

Commodore Barry's distinguished service to our country reminds us of the challenges that we, as a young nation, faced during our struggle for independence. Now, as we approach the 21st century, we should reflect back upon the heroes of our past, to remind ourselves of their efforts to improve our great Nation. By following their example, we can prosper in this new era. Indeed, we face a promising future if we conduct ourselves with the same honor, courage, and dedication as did Commodore John Barry.

HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVIST
ABDUCTED IN INDIA

HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 13, 1995

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, once again the Indian Government has shown its blatant disrespect for basic human rights. On September 6, 1995, Mr. Jaswant Singh Khalsa, the general secretary of the Human Rights Wing [Shiromani Akali Dal] was washing his car in front of his house in Amritsar, Punjab, when he was taken away by police in a van. The police have refused to reveal Mr. Khalsa's whereabouts. He has not been brought before a magistrate. Amnesty International has expressed fear that he may be tortured.

Mr. Khalsa had been instrumental in exposing the fact that 25,000 Sikhs have been cremated in Punjab, Khalistan, and then listed as unidentified while their families continue to await any word about them. Some of my colleagues and I have brought these cremations to the attention of this House previously. They are being done to destroy evidence of a campaign of extrajudicial killings in Punjab.

The superintendent of police in the Tarn Taran district of Punjab, Khalistan, has been quoted as saying "We have made 25,000 disappear. It is easy to make one more disappear." According to Amnesty International, this threat was made shortly after Mr. Khalsa filed a petition in court on behalf of the cremated Sikhs. This is not an idle threat. The Indian regime is quite capable of making Mr. Khalsa disappear without a trace.

Mr. Khalsa's "disappearance" appears to be part of a pattern of increased repression instituted by the Indian Government in the wake of the assassination of Punjab Chief Minister Beant Singh. According to newspaper reports and Sikh leader Simranjit Singh Mann, who has himself been a victim of the regime's repression, both the central government and the state government of Punjab have resorted to mass arrests in the wake of the assassination. But Mr. Mann warned that this repression will be counterproductive, and he is correct. Another wave of massive human rights violations against the Sikh people will only produce more suffering and more hatred.

Amnesty International has issued an urgent action bulletin seeking an independent and impartial inquiry to establish Mr. Khalsa's whereabouts and assurances that, if in police custody, he be allowed immediate access to lawyers and relatives and be promptly brought before a magistrate. If India is the democracy it claims to be, these actions are the least the regime can do.

Since 1984, the Indian regime has reportedly killed more than 120,000 Sikhs. In addition, the regime has killed over 150,000 Christians in Nagaland since 1947, over 43,000 Kashmiri Muslims since 1988, tens of thousands of Assamese, Manipuris, and others, and thousands of Dalits, or black untouchables. The State Department reported in its country report for 1994 that between 1991 and 1993, the regime paid over 41,000 cash bounties to police officers for killing Sikhs. Mr. Khalsa's disappearance is part of a pattern of repression that belies India's claim to be a democracy.

In the face of this kind of repression, leaders of the Sikh Nation declared independence on October 7, 1987, claiming a separate, sovereign country of Khalistan. India's brutal occupation of Khalistan has only led to continued bloodshed and repression. That serves nobody's interest. Mr. Khalsa's disappearance demonstrates yet again that the Indian Government has not done anything to bring the human rights abuses to a stop. Only when the repression and bloodshed end can peace, prosperity, and stability be restored to the Indian subcontinent. I urge the Indian regime to release Jaswant Singh Khalsa and all other political prisoners.

UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AR-
LINGTON CELEBRATES 100
YEARS

HON. MARTIN FROST

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 13, 1995

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, the University of Texas at Arlington, which is in the 24th Congressional District of Texas, celebrates its 100th anniversary this year. I'm very proud to represent such a distinguished institution and over the years have formed strong friendships with many of the fine people who work there. I have always been struck by the level of commitment of excellence at UTA. Over the years, this institution has grown from a junior college to university which now offers 55 baccalaureate, 60 masters, and 19 doctoral degrees. UTA is now the second-largest institution within the University of Texas system, with a student enrollment of over 22,000.

UTA, located in the heart of the city of Arlington, is an integral part of the community, contributing vast resources to all citizens of Arlington.

This level of excellence which has brought the university to this centennial celebration will guide it into the 21st century. Top scholars from around the country have come to UTA because of its national and international reputation. Faculty at UTA have always been committed to teaching excellence and fostering student achievement and have excelled at accommodating the returning student, who is starting a new career or building on his current one. This environment is imperative for universities in today's world.

I look forward to working with UTA in the future, and again congratulate the university upon this occasion.