

John Hume, of Derry, whom all of us have met at one time or another in the past 20 years, is the individual who really initiated the peace effort in Northern Ireland and in Derry. What a remarkable job he and others have done in Derry to bring the two traditions together, the nationalist and unionist traditions, to try and achieve economic opportunity for people. John Hume and others have worked tirelessly to attract business and promote job growth in that community. It was truly a heartwarming sight to see the American President received by John Hume in the square of Derry, while more than 50,000 people looked on. Some of these people had lined the street since 9 a.m. in the morning, and the President arrived late in the afternoon.

In the Guild Hall the President got a the tremendous reception; when the song "The Town I Love So Well" was sung, the audience was literally moved to tears. That song describes the troubles in Derry over the past two and one half decades.

In Belfast, at the Christmas tree lighting ceremony, 100,000 people gathered in the great square in Belfast—Protestants and Catholics alike—welcoming our President to their city. This is the same city, where a few months ago, you would not have thought of sending an American President because of the violence there, and where people were fearful of that when they walked into a department store or pub that place would be the subject of attack and violence.

What was particularly historic was to see this crowd—again, presenting the great traditions of Northern Ireland—come together to express their appreciation to an American President, the American people, and to the United States Congress; it certainly was one of the great sights I have witnessed in my tenure here in the United States Senate.

And then, Mr. President, the President was warmly received by the Parliament in the Republic of Ireland. The people of Dublin also came out en masse to express their appreciation. With over 100,000 people there as witnesses, President Clinton was awarded the "Freedom of the City" credentials that have only been awarded to a handful of people in Dublin. This was truly a high honor to receive. The President made very compelling remarks during his stay in Dublin.

Certainly, the sight of those children that the President constantly referred to when he talked about the opportunities and the hopes for peace in Northern Ireland—particularly the two children at the Mackie Metal Plant in Belfast—who joined hands, one Catholic, one Protestant—representing by the clasp of hands their hopes for coming together and resolving differences so people can live in peace on the island of Ireland.

As a person of Irish descent, for me it was more than just a foreign visit, but

a visit by someone whose family, on both sides, has come from Ireland, going back well into the early part of the last century. I was deeply proud that an American President had taken the actions he has over the last couple of years and that this has made a difference in people's lives.

We have seen this administration take steps in Haiti, now in Bosnia, there in Ireland, and in other places—steps that are certainly full of risks, but nonetheless I think risks worth taking, in the sense that we have been able to make a difference in people's lives.

So it was a deeply moving time for those of us who were part of this trip to have been present at a historic visit by an American President to a foreign land. For all who witnessed the reception he received, I think it makes everyone—regardless of party, ideology, or political persuasion—very proud to be an American.

JAVIER SOLANA—THE NEXT SECRETARY GENERAL OF NATO

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I had the privilege several days ago of meeting with the Foreign Minister of Spain, Javier Solana, who has recently been appointed the new Secretary General of NATO.

I happen to believe, Mr. President, that this is a very fine choice, a superb choice, one that I think should strengthen NATO and the political leadership of NATO in the months to come, particularly at a critical time when the issue of Bosnia and NATO's role there is going to be so very, very important.

I know that most Americans are probably not familiar with Mr. Solana as a foreign minister of Spain. There has been some criticism raised about this choice over Mr. Solana's opposition some 15 years ago to Spain's participation in NATO. As a result of his statements then, there have been those who have criticized his choice to head that organization.

I thought it might be worthwhile to share something of Mr. Solana's background and involvement when Spain was making the decision about NATO membership. I also think it would be informative for people to know about the critical role he has played in the Spanish Government over many years.

Finally, I believe my colleagues will be surprised to know of the deep sense of affection that Mr. Solana holds for our country, knowing it as well as he does. I say that because Mr. Solana is a physicist, by academic training. He, of course, received his undergraduate degree from the University of Madrid, and his Ph.D. from the University of Virginia, while a Fulbright scholar. He taught physics at the University of Chicago in this country before beginning any kind of a political career. He has published more than 30 books on the subject of physics.

Having spent such a great deal of time in our country and receiving a

good part of his education here, I know firsthand that he has a deep appreciation for our Nation, a great love for America and for Americans.

The breadth of Mr. Solana's government experience is also broad and varied. He has served in one capacity or another in every Spanish Government since 1982, in addition to maintaining a strong involvement in his chosen profession of physics. We are talking about someone of deep, long experience. He first served as the Culture Minister and simultaneously held the portfolio of Government spokesman in the early 1980s. In 1988, he became the Government's Minister of Education and served in that capacity until he was named Foreign Minister in 1992.

Mr. President, I am deeply disturbed that some of Mr. Solana's critics go back 15 or more years to talk about Mr. Solana's initial opposition to NATO, without bothering to discuss the historical context of Spain's participation in NATO.

At that time, Spain was emerging from a military dictatorship that they had been under for many years. Mr. Solana felt participation in NATO at that particular moment was probably not the wisest course to follow. What is important is what happens after that. The critics fail to disclose—as appropriate as it is to point out Mr. Solana's initial opposition—that it was also through his efforts several years thereafter, that a convincing case was presented to the Spanish people, on the wisdom of Spain's participating in NATO.

If Mr. Solana is going to be criticized for his opposition to Spain joining NATO in the first instance, I think it is also appropriate that his involvement in convincing the Spanish people about the wisdom of NATO membership be mentioned as well. Certainly, he played a pivotal role in that.

He has been described by his colleagues in the foreign affairs field as an "expert" and a "pragmatic negotiator," who has always adopted a very commonsense approach to diplomacy. Dr. Solana has remained untouched by recent allegations that have been lodged against certain Government officials, both with respect to corruption and to the so-called dirty war, alleged to have been conducted against the Basque rebels.

I believe, Mr. President, we should be extending our appreciation for Dr. Solana's willingness to accept the challenge of assuming the position of the Secretary General of NATO at this very critical juncture in that organization's history. I, for one, think he is the right man for the job. I applaud NATO members for the decision to appoint him.

Mr. President, at this point, I ask unanimous consent that a statement given by Secretary of State Warren Christopher in support of Dr. Solana's appointment and a brief biography be printed in the RECORD at the conclusion of my remarks.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered. (See exhibit 1.)

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I am confident that Dr. Solana is going to make a very fine Secretary General of NATO, at a time when we ought to be reaching out to new members, as Spain has been a relatively new member of NATO.

I think this is a wise move, particularly with someone who has enjoyed broad-based support, and is a great friend of the United States, a person who knows our country very well.

I had the privilege of being with him in Spain a week ago, and I had a chance to speak with him at some length. This is an individual, I think, most of our colleagues when they have an opportunity to meet him, will be deeply impressed and pleased with this choice.

So, Mr. President, I commend the NATO members for choosing him at this critical hour, and I commend Secretary Christopher for his statement, along with President Clinton's statement in support of his nomination.

EXHIBIT 1

STATEMENT BY SECRETARY OF STATE WARREN CHRISTOPHER ON THE SELECTION OF JAVIER SOLANA AS NATO SECRETARY GENERAL

I am very pleased that the North Atlantic Council has unanimously selected Javier Solana of Spain as the next Secretary General of NATO.

Minister Solana has demonstrated time and again his commitment to strengthening NATO as the core institution of our transatlantic alliance. Spain's membership in NATO is due in no small part to his efforts—efforts that were not at all popular at the time. I feel confident that he has the strength vision and leadership to guide NATO during this crucial period as we seek to bring peace to Bosnia and to pursue a measured path on NATO enlargement.

Under Minister Solana's leadership, Spain has played a key role in securing the peace in Bosnia. Through the darkest days of that tragedy, Spanish soldiers served in the UN force with distinction. Spanish airmen flew with our pilots. Now Minister Solana will lead the effort to help bring peace to that troubled region.

More broadly, Minister Solana has been a leader in promoting deeper ties between Europe and the United States. Indeed, he and

Prime Minister Gonzalez have made the strengthening of our transatlantic relationship a priority of Spain's EU Presidency. Their efforts were instrumental in laying the foundation for greater cooperation between the United States and the European Union that we hope to build upon at the upcoming U.S.-EU Summit in Madrid.

Minister Solana has also worked to bring Spain into the community of European nations. It is fitting that he will complete his term as Spanish Foreign Minister as President of both the European Union and the Western European Union—two institutions which continue a process of European integration dating to the Marshall Plan.

Minister Solana has strong ties to the United States. He was a Fulbright scholar from 1966 to 1968 at the University of Virginia, where he earned his Ph.D. in physics. He returned to this country later as an instructor in physics at the University of Chicago. He has kept up close ties to this country, personal and official, through the intervening years.

I have known Minister Solana personally for many years and have worked closely with him on a broad range of issues. I have great confidence in his leadership and his vision, which will serve the Alliance well in coming years. I congratulate Minister Solana on his appointment, and I look forward to working with him as we fulfill NATO's task of guarding peace and stability throughout Europe.

JAVIER SOLANA MADARIAGA

Minister of Education and Science (since July 1988).

A US-trained physicist, Javier Solana has been a member of the executive committee of the Spanish Socialist Workers Party (PSOE) since 1976 and a Madrid deputy in the Cortes (parliament) since 1977. Before assuming his current post, he served concurrently as Minister of Culture and as Government Spokesman.

Solana was born on 14 July 1943. He joined the youth organization of the PSOE in the mid-1960s. During his student years he was detained several times by the police and fined for unauthorized political activity. After receiving a degree in physics from the University of Madrid, Solana attended the University of Virginia studied and taught in Chicago, Illinois, and in La Jolla, California. In the early 1970s he became a professor at the University of Madrid.

Solana speaks excellent English. His wife, the former Concha Giménez Diaz-Oyuelos, directs public relations for a state-owned department store. The couple has two children. Solana's brother, Luis heads the Spanish national television network.

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ORDER FOR RECORD TO REMAIN OPEN UNTIL 3:15

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD remain open until 3:15 p.m. today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL MONDAY, DECEMBER 11, 1995

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate stand in adjournment under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 2:40 p.m., adjourned until Monday, December 11, 1995, at 12 noon.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate December 8, 1995:

THE JUDICIARY

C. LYNWOOD SMITH, OF ALABAMA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF ALABAMA, VICE E.B. HALTOM, JR., RETIRED.

WITHDRAWAL

Executive message transmitted by the President to the Senate on December 8, 1995, withdrawing from further Senate consideration the following nomination:

CORPORATION FOR NATIONAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

C. RICHARD ALLEN, OF MARYLAND, TO BE A MANAGING DIRECTOR OF THE CORPORATION FOR NATIONAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICE (NEW POSITION), WHICH WAS SENT TO THE SENATE ON JUNE 6, 1995.