

CONFESSION RECANTED

Last year, Mr. Salah was convicted of aiding Hamas terrorism and sentenced to five years in prison. He later recanted his confession, insisting the statements were coerced through abuse and torture.

Statements by Mr. Salah and other alleged Hamas activists described attacks on Israeli soldiers and civilians. They also trace more than \$200,000 provided for guns and terrorists action to a U.S. bank account.

The account, at a bank in McLean, Va., was held jointly by Mr. Marzook and Mr. Elbarasse, a former board member of the American Middle Eastern League for Palestine, an Islamic Association for Palestine parent organization.

Stanley Cohen, a New York attorney for Mr. Marzook, said it was Mr. Elbarasse who transferred \$735,000 to Mr. Salah's Chicago bank account.

Mr. Salah then had \$200,000 transferred to him in Israel, bank records show. When Mr. Salah was arrested, \$97,000 in cash was also confiscated.

Mr. Cohen said the money did not belong to his client. Mr. Marzook did not know it had been sent to Mr. Salah, the attorney said, nor did Mr. Marzook direct how Mr. Salah should spend the funds.

A man at Mr. Elbarasse's home in Falls Church, Va., hung up the phone when a reporter asked to speak to Mr. Elbarasse.

Several current and former association officials are helping Mr. Marzook with his legal troubles. Mr. Bushnaq, the former association president, is one of two signatories on the Marzook legal defense fund, Mr. Cohen said.

Rafiq Jaber and Sabri Ibrahim, current president and vice president, respectively, of the Islamic Association for Palestine, say they also are assisting with Mr. Marzook's defense by circulating petitions and encouraging contributions. Both live in the Chicago area, where the association is planning to move its headquarters.

Mr. Marzook is also a key link between Hamas and the Holy Land Foundation, one of the largest U.S. fund-raisers for Islamic charitable causes.

Founded as the Occupied Land Fund in California in 1987, the organization renamed itself and moved to Richardson in 1992. Last year the group raised \$2.25 million in donations and another \$1 million in in-kind contributions, officials said.

TAX RETURNS

According to Holy Land Foundation tax returns, Mr. Marzook contributed \$210,000 in 1992. His personal secretary, Nasser Alkhatib, contributed another \$22,450. Total contributions for the year were \$2 million.

Mr. Baker, the foundation's executive director, remembered Mr. Marzook making the contribution after an Islamic conference in Kansas City.

He cited the donation as proof that there is no secret relationship between Mr. Marzook and the foundation. Mr. Marzook knew his contribution would be reported, Mr. Baker said.

At the time, Mr. Baker said, Mr. Marzook had not stated publicly that he was a leader of Hamas.

"We'll take any money if it's legal," the Holy Land Foundation director said.

Mr. Marzook, through his attorney, denied making the contribution. Mr. Cohen said the donation came from Mr. Elbarasse.

"I'm saying that transaction was from the joint account and had nothing to do with Mr. Marzook," he said. "I'm sorry. Mousa Marzook did not donate \$210,000 to them."

Mr. Cohen acknowledged that Mr. Marzook's wife, Nadia, invested \$250,000 in 1993 in InfoCom Corp., a Richardson com-

puter company run by her cousin, Bayan El-Ashi. Mr. El-Ashi is the brother of Ghassan El-Ashi, the foundation's treasurer and InfoCom's international marketing director.

Ghassan El-Ashi declined to discuss whether Mrs. Marzook was an investor in InfoCom, and he referred questions to Mr. Cohen.

There is an even stronger link between Hamas and the Holy Land Foundation than Mr. Marzook—one which Mr. Baker and Ghassan El-Ashi readily admit and defend.

The Holy Land Foundation provides grants to schools, clinics, mosques and other social service organizations in the Middle East and elsewhere to meet Muslim humanitarian needs.

Publications say the Holy Land Foundation raises money for widows, orphans, the homeless and "families of martyrs." The group boasts it was the first to aid 413 suspected Hamas activists whom Israel deported to Lebanon in 1992.

In Gaza and the West Bank, Middle East experts say, Hamas is widely regarded as one of the largest and most efficient providers of social services. The Holy Land Foundation helps supports some of those Hamas institutions.

HAMAS BASTION

The Islamic University of Gaza is listed by the foundation as one recipient. It is known as a Hamas bastion; Mr. Marzook was one of its founders.

Mr. Baker said the Holy Land Foundation does not care about the political leanings of the people whose programs it funds. "Our humanitarian work is not colored by political reality in that area," he said.

Mr. Abdul of the Islamic Association for Palestine denied that Hamas operates social service agencies—that is a Zionist mischaracterization, he said.

Dr. Philip Mattar, executive director of the Institute for Palestine Studies in Washington, said Hamas' social service system is undeniable.

"Hamas does run social and health services in the West Bank."

There's no doubt about it," he said. "Most of their money goes to running those services. But they benefit enormously in that it generates an enormous amount of good will, especially in underdeveloped areas."

In many such organizations in the Middle East, accusations of corruption are common. "You won't find too much corruption among Hamas organizations," Dr. Mattar said. "They are quite puritanical."

Another recipient of Holy Land Foundation funds was an Islamic school operated by Jamil Hamami. Mr. Hamami, who has been called a Hamas leader by Israel, has been detained several times. His Faith School is one of the most respected in the West Bank, Mr. Baker said.

Since the bombings began in March, Israeli authorities have shut down many Muslim charities because of suspected Hamas ties. Among those closed was the Holy Land Foundation's Jerusalem office.

"Yes, that was because they are claiming we have Hamas ties," Mr. Baker said. He called Israel's action "a political move" that the foundation is challenging in Israeli court.

Ms. Lowey, the congresswoman who is seeking to revoke the foundation's tax-exempt status, contended that the Holy Land Foundation's aid to Hamas-run charities and deportees is proof of the foundation's support for terrorism.

"If you're raising money for Hamas activists, you're raising money for Hamas," she said in a statement.

MONEY NOT TRACED

Vince Cannistraro, a former CIA counterterrorism chief, said U.S. officials

have not been able to trace money raised by Muslim charities in the United States to Middle East terrorism. But he said contributions to the Hamas social service network can benefit its military operations.

"You can give money to a specific hospital in Gaza, for example, and that money will go there," he said. "And if that money is controlled by Hamas, that frees up money that can go for bad things."

Mr. Baker said the Holy Land Foundation is considering a fund-raising campaign to rebuild houses for families of suicide bombers. The Israeli government has demolished more than 100 such homes, he said.

The demolitions are against international law because they are "collective punishment" aimed at a large group of people rather than at specific individuals convicted of crimes, he said.

"My obligation as a humanitarian is to go there and rebuild those houses," he said. "I don't want the rest of the children to go and blow themselves up because they see the world is full of injustice."

Mr. Baker, who has spent half his life in the West and whose mother is Christian, said he believes Israel has a right to exist.

He said Israel's Zionist government should put aside its bigotry and permit Palestinians to have a country, too.

"A lot of good Jews are doing wonderful things in this country and everywhere. They do not deserve my anger or hate," he said. "A lot of bad Muslims are doing bad things. They deserve my frustration."

"But if you want to . . . base all your positions and attitudes in this life on religion or ethnicity or political backgrounds, you're doomed to be a failure."

TRIBUTE TO S. GOLDBERG & CO., INC.

HON. ROBERT G. TORRICELLI

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 13, 1996

Mr. TORRICELLI. Mr. Speaker, I rise before the House today to honor a very special company. S. Goldberg & Co., Inc., rose from humble beginnings in 1896 to a position of prominence in the international business world. This month they will celebrate 100 years of business, an achievement I hope my colleagues will join me in recognizing.

Samuel Goldberg first began making slippers in a tiny shop in New York City's lower east side in 1896, before moving to Hackensack, NJ, the company's present home. After Samuel's death in 1935, his son, Sidney, took over the business and began preparing his two sons, Roy and Stan, to eventually run the company. Thanks in large part to Roy and Stan's present leadership, S. Goldberg employs 450 people and has facilities in Bogota, NJ, and Hong Kong. This truly exemplifies the American dream, as S. Goldberg has achieved success through hard work and perseverance.

This company is a leader in the footwear industry because it creates and markets innovative, high-quality footwear that is value priced for its consumers. Equally as important is S. Goldberg's strong commitment to domestic facilities and its worldwide sourcing capabilities. A true family business, S. Goldberg's dedicated employees have worked for the company for up to 60 years.

Mr. Speaker, S. Goldberg & Co., Inc., is an inspiration to us all and to the international

business community. The company serves as evidence that the American dream is alive in Hackensack and is attainable anywhere with hard work and a commitment to quality.

**BEST WISHES TO TOBIN R. BOENIG
FOR A FULL RECOVERY**

HON. CHET EDWARDS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 13, 1996

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer best wishes for a full recovery to Tobin R. Boenig, a remarkable young man from Marlin, TX.

I met Toby during the summer of 1994, when he interned in my office. He worked with my staff on numerous projects, including extensive work on agriculture issues. During his brief tenure in my office, Toby earned the respect and admiration of his coworkers through his dedication, responsibility, and hard work.

As a student at Texas A&M University in College Station, TX, Toby involved himself in many campus activities. He participated in the student senate beginning his freshman year, and held the position of academic affairs committee chair, speaker pro tempore, and speaker of the student senate. In addition, Toby served on the College of Agriculture and Life Science student council and was a member of the collegiate FFA. He was also an agri-speaker, speaking throughout the Bryan/College Station area about the importance of agriculture and youth leadership. Toby was awarded the Buck Weirus Spirit Award for his contributions to the Texas A&M student body.

This past academic year, Toby served as the student body president of Texas A&M University, representing over 42,000 students to the Texas A&M administration, former students, and the State and Federal Governments. He graduated cum laude from the College of Agriculture and Life Science in May 1996.

Shortly after graduation, Toby was involved in a tubing accident on the Guadalupe River in Texas, leaving him paralyzed from the neck down. In recent weeks, he has made great progress, regaining some feeling in his arms and legs, and the medical team now hopes for a full recovery through long and intensive physical therapy. During this time, Toby has maintained his positive spirit and enthusiasm for which he is known by family and friends.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of this body of legislators, I would like to send best wishes to Tobin R. Boenig for a speedy and full recovery. He is an extraordinary young man and is an inspiration to us all. Good luck, Toby.

TRIBUTE TO DUNCAN H. KESTER

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 13, 1996

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, it is with pleasure that I rise today to pay special tribute to Duncan H. Kester, the standing chapter 13 trustee for division 5 of the northern district of California—counties of Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, San Benito, and Monterey—on his re-

tirement, effective June 30, 1996, after 29 years of service in that capacity.

Mr. Kester served with the U.S. Army Air Force in World War II as a flight officer-navigator, second lieutenant. After the war, he married Marvis Horgan on February 16, 1946. He is the father of four children, two daughters, and twin sons, and is also a grandfather.

In July 1967, Duncan Kester was appointed to serve as the first chapter XIII trustee in the newly created area 2 commercial district of the northern district of California consisting of the counties of Marin, San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, San Benito, and Monterey by the bankruptcy referees at the direction of the judges of the northern district of California. After the bankruptcy code was adopted in 1978, Mr. Kester became the standing chapter 13 trustee for divisions 3 and 5 of the northern district of California, consisting of the counties of San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, San Benito, and Monterey. After the implementation of the United States Trustee Program, Mr. Kester continued his chapter 13 trusteeship with his appointment by the new United States trustee for region 17.

Mr. Kester served as a leader holding a number of offices with the National Association of Chapter Thirteen Trustees [NACTT], including serving as president of that organization in 1975–76. He has appeared frequently as a lecturer at educational seminars before creditors, attorneys, business education students, and commercial associations.

During his long and illustrious tenure as a trustee, Mr. Kester has administered approximately 100,000 cases through which roughly one-half billion dollars was paid by debtors to creditors. Through his office, thousands of debtors have been able to save their homes and property by restructuring their finances in chapter 13 plans. In addition, thousands of small business men and women have been able to continue operating their restructured companies and maintain the employment of their workers by filing chapter 13 plans.

Mr. Kester, known as "Duke" and "Mr. K," to his friends and colleagues, has earned the respect and affection of debtors, creditors, attorneys, and judges, and his employees.

I am proud to have the honor to offer Duncan H. Kester my sincere thanks and gratitude for his many years of exemplary service to our community and ask that my colleagues join me in wishing him a happy retirement.

**ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT
TIMBER CONTRACT EXTENSION
ACT**

HON. DON YOUNG

OF ALASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 13, 1996

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to introduce a bill to extend by 15 years the only remaining long-term contract for timber on the Tongass National Forest. The extension was requested by the both Houses of the Alaska State Legislature. It is supported by Alaska's Governor. Democrats and Republicans in Alaska are behind the 15 year extension.

Some may remember that there were two long-term timber contracts when this House

last passed the Tongass Timber Reform Act. There should be two contracts, but at the urging of environmental extremists, the Clinton administration breached one and canceled it in 1994.

This bill is not the ultimate answer to the problems of the Tongass, problems with which this body has dealt too often.

Many may know that I introduced a bill last year that could give power and control over the Tongass to the State of Alaska, but the bill I introduce today is no substitute for H.R. 2413. Ultimately, the Federal political process, Federal bureaucrats, and Federal actions are no way to guide the management of treasures like the Tongass.

Indeed, the fact that I even need to introduce a bill to again attempt a Federal solution for the Tongass—just 5 years after the last Federal legislative solution—is evidence that the State of Alaska by its laws and policies should own and manage the Tongass.

I want to be clear. This bill has nothing to do with expanding clearcutting on the Tongass. The only lands subject to harvesting are those left in the timber base after the past wilderness withdrawals from past acts of Congress. This has nothing to do with the public financing of environmental improvements. The company will finance the improvements itself based on the extended contract. This contract extension is corporate workfare with a fair return to the taxpayers.

The bill I introduce today is needed because the 1990 Tongass Timber Reform Act, which was passed and signed over my objection, has failed. It failed because 42 percent of the timber economy that was not supposed to diminish after the 1990 act is gone from the Tongass. The remainder of the timber economy—at one time over 4,000 strong—is just hanging on.

With its command and control approach to Federal land management decisions, Washington, DC, has failed Alaskans and those in other States. It has failed because the promise of the land base to support timber has been eroded by administrative action, laws, and lawsuits. The latest administrative proposal is to withdraw an additional 600,000 acres from the land available for timber harvesting. That means more land withdrawn by that single administrative action than has been harvested in the Tongass since 1909. There have been so many failures by the Federal Government regarding laws and decisions on the Tongass and the 75,000 people who live there are tired of it.

One of the most grave Federal failures resulted from the unilateral timber contract modifications—over the objections of contract holders—ordered by the 1990 Tongass Timber Reform Act. While there is a deep history attached to the long-term contracts in the Tongass, overnight the Federal Government just changed the contract at its whim. It was not because of any environmental or ecological reason. It was with arrogance and the design to stop the very small amount of timber harvesting in the largest national forest.

That was one of several decisions forced onto the Federal Forest Service and is a primary reason that the Alaska Pulp Corp. wanted to begin retooling its facility in Sitka. After they began doing so, their long-term contract was canceled under orders from the Department. It was a blatantly political decision and will end up costing the Federal Government millions of dollars.