

U.N. peacekeeping in Namibia helped to create a civil administration of government. The United Nations has helped to end civil contract and hold elections in Cambodia, El Salvador, and Nicaragua. Some look of the efforts gone awry in Somalia and the former Yugoslavia as indicative of its uselessness. Yet, while the United Nations did not accomplish all that was intended or hoped, neither were those total failures either. The United Nations was able to ensure that food and other humanitarian aid reached civilians caught in the conflict. As bad as the situation was in Somalia and the former Yugoslavia, it would have been far worse without the United Nations' intervention.

The United Nations has also been fairly successful in fostering the recognition of human rights throughout the world. In 1948, the U.N. General Assembly adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. This declaration has subsequently been recognized by many legal scholars as constituting customary international law. The United Nations followed this up in 1966 with the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights. In addition, the United Nations has been instrumental in developing treaties focused on eradicating racial discrimination, gender discrimination, and torture. The U.N. Human Rights Commission in Geneva helps to monitor and enforce these international human rights.

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees [UNHCR] has also been very successful in aiding and resettling refugees, who are displaced by conflict or natural disasters. UNHCR was even awarded the Nobel Prize for this work in Europe in 1954 and in Asia in 1981.

The United Nations has many successes in health care. Everyone has benefited from its efforts. In 1980, the World Health Organization [WHO] eradicated smallpox worldwide. In 1991, it eradicated poliomyelitis from the Western hemisphere. The U.N. Children's Fund [UNICEF] works with mothers and children to reduce maternal and infant mortality rates. UNICEF provides maternal health care and vaccinations against childhood diseases in developing countries. UNICEF was awarded the 1965 Nobel Peace Prize for these efforts.

The United Nations has also been successful in aiding the development of Third World countries. The U.N. Development Programme [UNDP] has helped aid developing countries to become economically self sufficient. It has aided over 170 countries to grow their own food and to participate in the global economy. The International Labour Organization [ILO], an independent U.N. agency, has been working to establish worker's rights worldwide. It includes in its membership governmental officials and representatives of both labor and management. It has drafted numerous treaties that have helped to establish minimum health and safety standards and prohibit forced labor and child labor.

The United Nations has many environmental accomplishments, particularly relating to pollution of the ocean and the atmosphere. It was through the United Nations that the Law of the Sea Conventions of 1956 and 1982 were drafted. These conventions reflect existing customary law as well as developing law, and are designed to protect freedom of the seas,

prevent ocean pollution, and recognize the valid interests of coastal states. The International Maritime Organization [IMO] has also been instrumental in reducing pollution in the oceans—by as much as 60 percent.

It was the 1972 Stockholm Conference on the Environment that brought focus to international environmental issues. Out of this came the U.N. Environmental Programme [UNEP], which helped to clean up the Mediterranean Sea, and helped to develop a number of international treaties. These treaties include: the Convention on Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution, the Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer, the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer, and the U.N. Framework Convention on Climate Change. In 1992, the United Nations convened the Rio Conference on the Environment and Development, which helped to focus on the need for sustainable development.

The United Nations has also been important in the effort to control nuclear weapons. The International Atomic Energy Association [IAEA] is an independent agency of the United Nations that enforces the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. The IAEA was formed in order to help nations develop peaceful uses of nuclear energy and to prevent proliferation of nuclear weapons. The IAEA monitors nuclear energy plants to ensure they are not being used for non-peaceful purposes. The IAEA, working with the U.N. Special Commission on Iraq, has been inspecting Iraq's nuclear plants to make sure that they are not used to develop nuclear weapons.

The United Nations is an invaluable institution. It has been particularly important to those living in Third World countries, but even those of us in the United States have benefited from the United Nations' many-focused agencies. We have more peace, more justice, better health, more self-sufficiency, cleaner air, cleaner water, and a consciousness of the interdependence of all nations in one global village.

#### INTERNATIONAL COOPERATIVE DAY

HON. DAVID R. OBEY

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 25, 1996*

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, July 6 is recognized around the world as International Cooperative Day. This 74-year-old tradition presents an opportunity to people from all corners of the earth to recognize the important difference that cooperatives make in their lives.

The potential role of cooperative enterprises in promoting economic development in areas of most critical need, in many cases businesses, has been recognized by the United Nations. Last year, the U.N. declared that the International Day of Cooperatives should be celebrated every year by governments in collaboration with their national cooperative movements.

Next Monday, July 1, cooperative leaders from the United States and from around the world will meet at U.N. Headquarters in New

York to celebrate in International Day of Cooperatives at an event organized by the United Nations, International Day of Cooperative Alliance, and the Committee for the Promotion and Advancement of Cooperatives. This event will provide an opportunity to discuss and to demonstrate the actual and potential contribution of cooperative business enterprise to the achievement of economic goals, including:

The potential of the cooperative movement to participate as a distinct stakeholder and full partner with the United Nations and institutional procedures and structures hereby such participation may be most effective.

The contribution of cooperative business enterprise to the achievement of the goals of the International Year and Decade for the Eradication of Poverty and the realization of the goals of the World Food Summit.

The potential of the cooperative movement to develop human resources and institutional capabilities.

The cooperative movement as a means for the economic, social, and political empowerment of women.

The contribution of cooperative business to the provision of appropriate and affordable social services.

The capacity of the cooperative movement to undertake appropriate technical assistance as a complement to governmental multilateral and bilateral assistance.

The ways and means whereby partnerships may be strengthened between cooperatively organized business enterprises and the U.N. development system.

I have believed for many years that cooperatives provide people with an economic alternative that empowers them economically to help themselves. Throughout this century, this body has passed legislation that created the spark for cooperative development and opened the door for cooperatives in this country.

The result has been the creation of our rural electric and telephone cooperative systems, the farm credit banking system, the National Cooperative Bank, and credit unions and community development credit unions. All of those have been tools that allow people to accomplish together things they could not accomplish alone. All are owned by the members who benefit from them, and are controlled through the election of boards of directors by that membership.

It is fitting that the international community should recognize that power and the possibilities that cooperatives represent in developing countries. Today, over 760 million people around the world are members of cooperatives. And that fact has made all of their lives a little brighter.

I encourage my colleagues to look to their own districts and recognize the existence of cooperatives there that meet their constituents needs. What you will find is over 100 million Americans and 45,000 businesses ranging in size from small buying clubs to businesses included in the Fortune 500. Today, we have cooperative businesses in the fields of housing, health care, finance, insurance, child care, agricultural marketing and supply, rural utilities and consumer goods and services.

Cooperatives have helped to make this country the economic powerhouse of the world. It's a legacy we should share with the rest of the world.

PROPOSED: THAT ISRAEL UNILATERALLY WITHDRAW FROM LEBANON

HON. NICK J. RAHALL II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 25, 1996*

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in praise of Stephen S. Rosenfeld, the author of an op-ed piece which appeared in the Washington Post, on June 21, entitled: "For Israel in Lebanon—a Unilateral Withdrawal."

Mr. Rosenfeld's article breathes new life into what I have been saying now for many years—get Israeli soldiers out of Lebanon, and the guerrilla Hezbollah will disappear as well—making it safe for both Israeli citizens in north Israel, and for Lebanese civilians who live in or near the southern border.

The Rosenfeld column is extremely timely given two recent and related events in the Middle East. First of all, the totally inappropriate and devastating attack on Lebanon civilians by the Israelis during operation Grapes of Wrath. In that operation 170 innocent Lebanese civilians were killed, and more than 400,000 men, women and children were left homeless, grievously injured, and suffering from the grave loss of their loved ones and of destroyed infrastructure on which they relied for life's daily necessities.

Second, what Rosenfeld has to say is timely because we have just witnessed the election—the first direct election—in Israel which replaced the Labor party with the more conservative Likud party—leaving most of us wondering about the future—if any—of the Middle East peace process.

Third, in the contest of a continuation of the Middle East peace process, where does it leave the innocent bystander nation known to the world as Lebanon, as it struggles with Syrian soldiers on the one side, and Israeli soldiers on the other.

In that context, I bring to the attention of my colleagues the column by Stephen Rosenfeld for the Post, in which he says what I and the Lebanese have been saying for years: get Israel to withdraw from southern Lebanon—and the rest will take care of itself.

Mr. Rosenfeld states at the outset: "Here is a good way for Benyamin Netanyahu to start off his foreign policy on the right foot. Remove Israeli troops from southern Lebanon and its larger occupier, Syria, but without negotiation. Just do it."

Rosenfeld also notes that "southern Lebanon, after all, is not part of the 'Land of Israel,' and no Jewish settlers live there." I agree completely with that observation and urge my colleagues to understand its deeper meaning in the context of Middle East peace. And I also agree that to rid Lebanon of Israeli soldiers would also rid southern Lebanon of the Syria-sponsored Hezbollah guerrilla infestation—because with Israeli troops gone, the guerrillas would have to go too. Syria's credibility would definitely be on the line.

I could not agree more. Just do it. And please, for the sake of humanity, do it without another operation first, which undoubtedly will only cause further civilian casualties.

Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the above-referenced newspaper article be printed in the RECORD at this point.

[From the Washington Post, June 21, 1996]

FOR ISRAEL IN LEBANON—A UNILATERAL WITHDRAWAL

(By Stephen S. Rosenfeld)

Here is a good way for Binyamin Netanyahu, Israel's new prime minister, to start off his foreign policy on the right foot. Remove Israeli troops from southern Lebanon. Right away. With notice to Lebanon and its larger occupier, Syria, but without negotiation. Just do it.

The advantages for Lebanon are obvious. It would be rid of the Israeli occupation. More important, Lebanon could reasonably anticipate being rid of the provocative presence of the Syria-sponsored Hezbollah guerrilla infestation. For without Israeli troops to attack on Lebanese soil, Syria loses the last pretext to keep Hezbollah in Lebanon. With Israeli troops gone, the guerrillas would have to go too.

There, of course, lies the advantage for Israel. The Israelis are dreadfully cynical about Lebanon, alternately bemoaning, exploiting and aggravating its weakness. But surely Netanyahu's Likud, newly validated as the party of security, is capable of serving the goal it professes. What greater interest does Israel have in Lebanon than to stop the relentless drain of its soldiers' blood in the Israeli-occupied border zone and to safeguard its own now-threatened northern villages? These results would flow from calming the Lebanon-Israel border.

Perhaps Prime Minister Netanyahu is more interested in flexing Israel's military power. In that case, he would want to wait for suitable Hezbollah provocation—they come along regularly—and conduct a bash. This is the traditional Israeli way to try to intimidate the guerrillas and reassure folks at home.

But set aside, as Israelis do, the repeated disasters this policy of reprisals has bought upon Lebanon. Netanyahu must know the policy has been an utter failure for Israel. Israeli soldiers are still being ambushed, Israeli towns still rocketed. This record and this prospect have to be the starting line of any serious Israeli effort to deal with Lebanon.

I hear you out there saying, wait a minute, if the Israelis pull back, Syria and Hezbollah may simply conclude that Israel has lost its nerve, that Netanyahu and his Likud have gone squishy, and stay in place. This fear of having one's resolve underestimated is the defining anxiety of Likudniks, especially those in America.

My answer is that Hezbollah's withdrawal is integral and implicit in the politics of the Middle East. In an Israeli pullback, Hezbollah and its patrons would be able to claim victory: to say they had driven Israel from Lebanon. They would have no reason to stay. Lebanon's residual nationalism and self-respect and Hafez Assad's care for his own credibility would propel the guerrillas out.

But Israel too could claim victory—the safety of its soldiers and civilians alike. An Israeli government devoted to security that did not explore this option would have its own problems of credibility. Southern Lebanon, after all, is not part of the "Land of Israel," and no Jewish settlers live there: key factors in easing any possible Likud doubts about a pullback.

Netanyahu campaigned on a claim that only his Likud Party could make the tough decisions necessary for peace. Here is a tough decision, one perhaps that the left-leaning Labor could not have made but that the right-leaning Likud can.

The prime minister has been saying he wants to move away from his predecessor's attempt to find a "comprehensive" approach

to Syria and adopt an "incremental" one. Okay, here is an increment, a nice bite-sized one; there aren't so many others.

Netanyahu has been making public the "guidelines" for his foreign policy. For most of them, he would seem to have no Arab partner, not soon, anyway. But for this one he could very well have a partner, Syria, which is in a position to bring along poor Lebanon and the killers of Hezbollah.

As for doing it unilaterally, the case for it is that this is how to get the thing done quickly and cleanly. Israel would simply announce its plans, reserving, of course, a "right of return" for the Israeli army if the Syrians don't deliver. The worst that could happen would be to go back to the unsatisfactory but manageable status quo.

In the early 1970s, I asked the Israeli prime minister, Labor's Golda Meir, if she had considered a unilateral withdrawal of Israeli forces from their positions on the Suez Canal back to the Sinai passes, with both sides free to police the evacuated territory to keep it demilitarized. She drew herself up in executive unanswerability and thundered: "I suppose you want the entire Egyptian army directly on our frontier!" Soon came the 1973 war, leaving the Israeli army at the passes.

In 1992 some in Likud thought the reason Yitzhak Shamir lost to Shimon Peres was that Shamir had not acted on Likud suggestions to withdraw unilaterally from troubled Gaza. Then as now the argument rested on Israel's security needs. Most foreign policy fixes take two. Here is one in Netanyahu's hands.

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF LONG BEACH MASONIC LODGE NO. 327 F.&A.M.

HON. STEPHEN HORN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 25, 1996*

Mr. HORN. Mr. Speaker, for the past 100 years, members of the Long Beach Masonic Lodge No. 327 F.&A.M. have worked hard toward the betterment of the Long Beach area community, while actively promoting the highest principles of Masonry. Southern California is a better place for their efforts.

History records that it was due to the untiring efforts of Charles E. Mitchell, master of Wilmington Lodge No. 198 in 1895, that Long Beach Lodge No. 327 had its birth. Masons living in Long Beach held memberships in Wilmington, Los Angeles, and other towns. But roads were poor and traveling was difficult so it was decided that the time was right to start a Masonic lodge in the city of Long Beach, population 1,600.

On April 21, 1896, 21 brethren who recognized each other as Master Masons' meet in a small building on the north side of Ocean Boulevard, between Pine and Pacific Avenues, for the purpose of applying to Grand Lodge for dispensation to establish a lodge of Free and Accepted Masons in Long Beach.

Dispensation was granted on June 29, 1896, by Grand Master Edward M. Preston and Long Beach Lodge "Under Dispensation" held its first stated meeting on July 9, 1896. The meeting place was a lodge room on the top floor of a three story building known as castle hall on the northwest corner of Pine Avenue and Ocean Boulevard.

On October 15, 1896, at the 47th communication of the Grand Lodge of California, a