

Amending the Palestinian National Covenant in regard to Israel's destruction is long overdue. We surely cannot permit the purveyors of chaos and hate to have the last say. They will not alter the progressive agenda and valiant vision to yet turn swords into plowshares, hallowing the gift of life through the gift of peace.

YOUNG AMERICAN STUDENTS MAKE A DIFFERENCE

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 26, 1996

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to note for my colleagues the charitable work carried out by some of our young high school students from Rockland County in my congressional district. The Ramapo Children of Chernobyl Fund, founded after the 1986 Ukrainian nuclear reactor explosion at Chernobyl, by Ramapo high school teacher Don Cairns, has engaged young people from that school in gathering medical supplies for children of Belarus affected by the radiation released by that explosion.

Once again this year, students working through the Ramapo Children of Chernobyl Fund participated in a humanitarian relief program for those children in Belarus. On April 18, 1996, a delegation of 19 students left for a 10 day trip to the Republic of Belarus to act as ambassadors of international goodwill and understanding. Upon their arrival in Minsk, the American students, led by Don Cairns, were welcomed by the Premier of the Republic, Micheslav Gryb, who praised their efforts.

Through their travel to Belarus, these American students provided not only moral support for the children suffering from the effects of the 1986 Chernobyl explosion, but presented 5 million dollars' worth of medical supplies and toys to hospitals and orphanages. To date the Ramapo Children of Chernobyl Fund has provided \$20 million in such aid to Belarus. Part of the assistance delivered on this most recent trip was given to the Children's Hospital of the Radiation Medicine Research Institute in Aksakovtchina, while the rest of the donations were distributed to other hospitals in the provinces of Mogilev and Gomel where children affected by Chernobyl are undergoing treatment.

In addition to bringing charitable aid to Belarus, the Ramapo High School students also put on musical performances for the children, performing a total of 21 times throughout Belarus as they visited nine schools, nine hospitals and appeared on national television. They also put on a performance for the Belorussian foreign minister, the Belorussian Friendship Society, the American Embassy and for the Belorussian President, Alexander Lukashenko.

Mr. Speaker, the Ramapo High School students' charitable efforts in Belarus are helping the United States to strengthen its relations with the republic of Belarus. And I should note that this most recent trip took place at a time when radiation was again being released from the contaminated Chernobyl area, this time by fires in the area around the nuclear facility. Our young American students decided to continue their visit in Belarus, despite that potentially threatening situation. Fortunately the del-

egation safely returned to the United States on May 1, 1996, with their charitable mission accomplished. Their service abroad serves as a model for all young people in our country, and demonstrates how young students' efforts can indeed make a difference.

Mr. Speaker, at this point I would like to insert letters representing the good work done by the young students, written by Don Cairns, president of the Ramapo Children of Chernobyl Fund; by the President of the Republic of Belarus, Aleksander Lukashenko; and, by Arseny Vanitsky, president of the Belorussian Friendship Society.

RAMAPO CHILDREN OF CHERNOBYL FUND,
Spring Valley, NY, May 15, 1996

BENJAMIN GILMAN,

Congress of the United States, Middletown, NY.

DEAR BEN: Enclosed please find some information and pictures from our most recent humanitarian trip to Belarus.

We are very proud of our 19 member Student Delegation who visited the village of Shklov, the city of Mogliev, the village of Polotsk, the village of Sharkovchina, the World War II Memorial, Khatyn, and the city of Minsk. They worked very hard as they performed a fifties' song and dance routine and hand carried and delivered medicines, supplies, and toys to children in 9 hospitals and 9 schools. They were transported by a Belarus Military bus to visit numerous cathedrals, museums, and other historical points of interest. The students performed 21 times in ten days in the hospitals, in the schools, for the Belorussian Foreign Minister, Vladimir Saenko, for Metropolitan Filoret, for the Belorussian Friendship Society, for the United States Embassy, and for Belarus President, Alexander Lukashenko. They were televised three times detailing their achievements.

This trip was a unique experience for students and adults alike. We stayed in families and made many new friendships. Our group was the first group of Americans to visit the remote village of Shklov and we planted two chestnut trees together with school children in the village of Sharkovchina. Emotions flooded from all who participated and our students vowed to return to see the trees grown.

The Ramapo Children of Chernobyl Fund has delivered \$20,000,000 in supplies since we began our program in 1990. Our students are our best ambassadors. They have truly begun bridges of friendship that will indeed MAKE A DIFFERENCE in their future.

Thank you for helping us and for your continued support of this very important program of children helping children.

Sincerely,

DON CAIRNS & PAT DEFRANCESCO.

APRIL 26, 1996

Mr. CAIRNS,

President of the "Ramapo—Children of Chernobyl Fund"

The Belarus Society of Friendship and Cultural Affairs with Foreign Countries expresses its deepest gratitude for the tremendous work of "Ramapo—Children of Chernobyl Fund". This Fund is helping the victims of Chernobyl nuclear catastrophe.

Significant help that was presented to the people of Belarus, first of all the children, is priceless with its compassion, nobility and participation.

The emergency medical supplies played an enormous role in the fight for life of the people of Belarus.

People of Belarus know and deeply appreciate the role of the Fund, the staff and students of Ramapo, for building relations and mutual understanding between the youth of both countries.

We hope that in the near future we will continue to work together towards peace and prosperity for mankind.

Respectfully

A. VANITSKY.

PRESIDENT OF THE
REPUBLIC OF BELARUS,

April 29, 1996.

To the teachers and students of Ramapo Senior High School and to the persons associated with the Fund entitled "Ramapo—for Children of Chernobyl."

DEAR FRIENDS: Heartfelt greetings to the teachers and students of Ramapo Senior High School, and also to the leaders and members of "Ramapo—for Children of Chernobyl" Fund.

Your Fund and your great work are well known to the people of Belarus. You became a symbol of amicable relations between our countries.

The help with medicine and medical supplies from overseas is still extremely important for our republic, although 10 years have passed since the catastrophe in Chernobyl. As a consequence of the tragedy many things are being affected. The area where the accident took place is not habitable and people still experience great economic difficulties.

Even more important to us are the spiritual gifts, you generosity, understanding and solidarity, as well as the program which is based on the wonderful relationship of two growing generations of our countries, USA and Belarus. The mutual understanding of our young people will make the world stronger in the next millennium of its history.

Dear Mr. Donald Cairns, Patricia De Francesco, members of "Ramapo—for Children of Chernobyl", we sincerely appreciate your caring for our children, all victims who have experienced this terrible tragedy. We also thank you for building bridges of friendship between our nations. It is our honor to join with you on this significant occasion, the 10th anniversary of the Chernobyl tragedy.

Accept our words of appreciation which come from the bottom of our hearts for the support and friendship you have extended to us, showing the best qualities of the American people. Belarus will always keep a close relationship with America.

ALEKSANDER LUKASHENKO.

TRIBUTE TO HERBERT AND
MILDRED TANZMAN

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 26, 1996

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, July 9th, a reception will be held at the Zimmerli Art Museum in New Brunswick, NJ, in honor of two of Middlesex County's most esteemed citizens, Herbert and Mildred Tanzman of Highland Park, NJ.

Beginning with the time he served his country in World War II, Herbert Tanzman has maintained a distinguished legacy of community service. For his service in WWII's Naval Aviation unit, Mr. Tanzman was awarded the Navy Air Medal by the President. A veteran of the Battle of Iwo Jima, he has served as commander of the Veterans Alliance, commander of Jewish War Veterans Post No. 133, New Brunswick, member of the National Executive Committee of the JWW, national representative and national foreign affairs chair of JWW of the

USA, and executive board member of the Navy League. Currently, Mr. Tanzman serves as JVV national foreign affairs chairman.

Mr. Tanzman has demonstrated his leadership through every facet of his life. He has enjoyed a distinguished career as director for the real estate firm of Jacobson, Goldfarb and Tanzman Associates. He rose to the ranks of leadership in his profession as president of the New Jersey Real Estate Commission. He also demonstrated his commitment to his community as a councilman and mayor of Highland Park. He served on the State of New Jersey County and Municipal Government Study Commission, and the board of directors of the New Jersey State League of Municipalities.

In his tireless efforts to further the cause of human rights and intergroup relations, Mr. Tanzman served as the national liaison officer to the Catholic War Veterans, national civil rights chairman and national legislative chairman and national chairman of American Indian Affairs. He has helped to build the civic life of his community and his country as a member of the executive committee and board of directors of United Community Services, trustee of the Middlesex-Somerset Chapter of the Multiple Sclerosis Association, board member of Job Corps, member of the board of directors of YMHA, chairman of the Building Fund Campaign, and member of the board of directors of the Central New Jersey Home for the Aged.

Mr. Tanzman's hard work has been driven by the quintessential Jewish goal of rebuilding and improving the world around him. He currently serves as national vice chairman and national campaign cabinet member of Israel Bonds, and has served as general chairman of the Raritan Valley UJA Federation, as an executive board member of the Greater Monmouth Jewish Federation, a chair of Monmouth County's UJA, and regional chairman for Israel Bonds.

For Mildred S. Tanzman, Tikun Olam—rebuilding the world—has been the guideline by which she has lived her life. Her devotion to the Highland Park Conservative Temple has been a commitment for over 50 years. It includes active sisterhood and service on the Sisterhood Board. Mrs. Tanzman has been a life member of Hadassah and has served on the Hadassah Board. She has also served on the National Council of Jewish Women, Deborah Hospital, Roosevelt Hospital, Brandeis University, the Central New Jersey Jewish Home for the Aged, the Jewish War Veterans Post No. 133 Auxiliary, and as president of the Lions Club Auxiliary of Highland Park. She has been involved for a long time with the Borough of Highland Park Juvenile Court Commissions.

Several years ago, Mr. Tanzman met the internationally known Nazi hunter Beate Klarsfeld, and the two women became friends and colleagues in the effort to be vigilant against Nazi and neo-Nazi groups still operating throughout the world.

She has also been involved with an organization known as "Chamah," originally begun as an underground movement in the pre-Glasnost Soviet Union, which now works to start schools for Jewish children in Russia, as well as helping to provide Passover Seders for families in Russia, and assistance for Russian immigrants beginning new lives here in the United States.

Mr. Speaker, Mildred and Herbert Tanzman have dedicated much of their lives to serving others. Their dedication to their family, their community, the United States, the Jewish peo-

ple and the State of Israel has been exemplary, an inspiration to us all. It is an honor for me to pay tribute to these two outstanding leaders and to wish them continued happiness and success.

IF YOU THOUGHT THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY WAS SOMETHING

HON. JAMES A. BARCIA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 26, 1996

Mr. BARCIA. Mr. Speaker, the only thing more golden than a golden anniversary is the ones that come after that. The wonderful commitment two people make to each other that lasts half a century is more powerful, impressive, and exemplary with each passing year. This Sunday, June 30, Hannah and Harold McDowell will be celebrating their 60th anniversary.

Harold McDowell and Hannah Wright were married at Saint Andrews Episcopal Church in Flint, MI, on June 30, 1936. At a time when our Nation was struggling to shake off the shock of the depression, these two wonderful people found strength in each other to build a fulfilling life together.

They were blessed with three children: Sharon Rae, Jolene, and Harold Jr., who rewarded them with eight grandchildren and four great grandchildren. Over the wonderful years of their marriage, Harold and Hannah have had a fantastic share of memorable moments, both sweet and probably some everyone might prefer not to remember. But it is precisely those kinds of moments that make our lives worth living, and our families so precious.

Harold and Hannah were valuable members of the Flint production community. Harold worked for the Buick Motor Co. for 42 years. Hannah was a valued employee of Advance Furniture for a number of years as well.

Mr. Speaker, devotion to family is to be honored. Commitment to one's family is to be praised and emulated. Consistent hard work is to be respected. Harold and Hannah McDowell are the kind of people that we would like all Americans to be. I urge you and all of our colleagues to join me in wishing them the very best on their stellar 60th anniversary, and extend our best wishes for many more to come.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JAMES M. TALENT

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 26, 1996

Mr. TALENT. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to insert the following statement into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. On June 26, I missed three rollcall votes on the fiscal year 1997 VA/HUD appropriations bill because I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted as follows:

On rollcall vote 272, I would have voted "yes";

On rollcall vote 273, I would have voted "no"; and

On rollcall vote 274, I would have voted "yes."

WINNING ODYSSEY GROUP

HON. RONALD D. COLEMAN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 26, 1996

Mr. COLEMAN. Mr. Speaker. I rise to pay tribute to a group of students from El Paso. They recently won first place at the Odyssey of the Mind World Finals in Ames, IA. Six girls from Glen Cove Elementary School, Lori Wurdeman, Michelle Ojeda, Danielle Borgaily, Tiffany Tajiri, Stephany Nebhan, Haley Cowan, and their coach, David Dominguez, deserve our recognition and congratulations for their extraordinary accomplishment.

At a time when it is easy to criticize our education system, those who represent the positive aspects of our public schools stand out. I hope the Odyssey of the Mind Team from Glen Cove Elementary School will continue to better their school and community. An article from the El Paso Herald-Post about the team follows.

[From the El Paso Herald-Post, June 11, 1996]

WINNING ODYSSEY GROUP GETS STAR TREATMENT

By Sonny Lopez

The frayed nerves and rushes of adrenaline are little more than distant memories for members of the Glen Cove Elementary School Odyssey of the Mind team.

After beating out teams from throughout the world, the six El Paso girls are reaping the rewards, giving televised interviews and making plans for next year's competition.

"When we first got there, we were pumped and just ready to go," said 11-year-old Tiffany Tajiri, who co-wrote the team's idea from a book about the Little Mermaid.

"But then we just got nervous because there was nobody there, but us on stage. It was like the world disappeared and it was just us."

Lori Wurdeman, 10, agreed, saying, "Nothing else mattered. We just ran out there when they announced we'd won. It was great!"

The Glen Cove team not only bested teams from countries including China, Venezuela, Hungary, Russia, Iceland and the Philippines, but was given the Ramatea Fusca Award for excellence in the spontaneous section of the contest.

The team was the only group from El Paso and West Texas at the world finals which were held in Ames, Iowa, in last month. The girls' received a gold medal for winning the finals and another for their top-notch work in the spontaneous session.

The Odyssey of the Mind contest, which was created by a university professor, is designed to enhance creativity.

Groups of students are given a set of rules and guidelines and then are asked to develop a long-term project, mainly a play, and subject themselves to a spontaneous session of questioning.

When performed, the completed play must be eight minutes long, must have cost \$90 or less to develop, must have been designed entirely by the team members and must have comedic value.

The spontaneous session can involve anything from a word association game to descriptions of an object.

For the Glen Cove team, the winning combination included Tajiri; Wurdeman; Haley Cowan, 11; Danielle Borgaily, 10; Stephanie Nebhan, 11; and Michelle Ojeda, 10.

They entertained audiences throughout El Paso and the region with a play about Queen