

for responsible parents, decency on television and in the movies, and a crackdown on gangs. Reiterating themes he has often expressed in the past, he put heavy emphasis on working together as a community and reaching across the lines that divide us in order to find common ground and to make America work better. Again and again he said that the future can only be achieved by teamwork between Republicans and Democrats and between government and the private sector.

He spent remarkably little time talking about the protracted struggle over the budget, sounding at times as if the fight was already over. His eyes were clearly focused on the future and not the contentious and hostile battles going on with Congress. He did not lambast the Republicans, indeed he complimented their commitment to a balanced budget and took the high road throughout his speech.

The speech was significant in that it proposed few if any bold new initiatives and basically repeated calls the President has made in the past. He is clearly constrained by the fact that he has little money to play with and his emphasis on the limitations of government. The prominence of the traditional values of family and work were strong themes in his speech. A significant omission in the speech was any reference to his and the First Lady's problems with Whitewater.

PROTECTING AGAINST EXCESSES

I think the President sought to portray himself as a reasonable man who shared many of the goals of his political opponents but thought their means were too harsh. He conceded that government programs had become too costly and inefficient, but he did not abandon the fundamental obligations to the people who rely on Medicare and Medicaid, stating: "America cannot become stronger if they become weaker." I think the President is saying that he will cut back big government but he will do it compassionately, that he will keep many government programs but he will run them more efficiently.

CONCLUSION

The themes the President hit in his speech—limited government, an optimistic view of the future of America with great challenges and possibilities—hit responsive chords among Americans. In outlining the challenges to the country, the President for the most part chose not to attack his political opponents' positions but rather to emphasize common ground, and that also was well received. The key test for the President will be whether he is able to follow through on the themes and vision he laid out.

TRIBUTE TO OFFICER RUSSELL F. PITKIN

HON. BILL BAKER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 31, 1996

Mr. BAKER of California. Mr. Speaker, in March, one of California's finest law officers will retire after 31 years of dedicated service. Russell F. Pitkin has been an integral part of the Contra Costa Sheriff's Office for more than three decades, providing the kind of leadership and excellence that sets the standard for his peers.

During the course of his career, Mr. Pitkin participated in the 99th session of the FBI Academy in Quantico, VA. A holder of a master's degree in public administration, he rose

from being a deputy sheriff to becoming undersheriff, and has served in every rank in the investigation division.

One of the highlights of his career came when he was involved in the felony investigation involving members of the Symbionese Liberation Army, which resulted in the arrest warrants for the kidnappers of Patty Hearst. His diligence in this effort was characteristic of his assiduous performance throughout his time in the sheriff's office.

The men and women who daily put their lives on the line for our safety and well-being are among the true heroes of our time. Russell Pitkin is one of the foremost of these heroes, and all Contra Costans owe him a debt of gratitude for all he has done to make the east bay the wonderful place it is. I am honored to recognize him today in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, and to wish him every success in his retirement.

TRIBUTE TO H. E. AMBASSADOR SIDDHARTHA SHANKAR RAY

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 31, 1996

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to my friend and colleague, Ambassador Siddhartha Shankar Ray, India's envoy to the United States. During his 4 years in the United States, Indo-United States relations significantly improved. Ambassador Ray's efforts on behalf of his nation helped to educate so many of us in the Congress about the important economic reforms currently being implemented in the world's largest democracy. A distinguished diplomat, gentleman, and friend, Ambassador Ray and his wife, Maya, will be missed in Washington.

Prior to coming to Washington, both Ambassador and Mrs. Ray had distinguished legal careers and both also served their nation as Members of Parliament. Immediately preceding his current post, Ambassador Ray served with distinction as Governor of Punjab. Those of us who closely follow events in South Asia fully recognize the challenges Ambassador Ray faced in Punjab. Despite the seemingly intractable problems in that region, Ambassador Ray left Punjab, as he now leaves Washington with an impressive list of accomplishments.

Mr. Ray was appointed Ambassador to the United States on October 10, 1992, with the rank of Federal Cabinet Minister. That appointment, at that level, demonstrates Prime Minister Rao's confidence in Ambassador Ray. As chairman of the House International Relations Committee, I fully agree that the Prime Minister's confidence was well-placed.

It was during Ambassador Ray's tenure in Washington that Prime Minister Rao addressed a joint session of the U.S. Congress—the highest honor our Nation can convey upon a foreign dignitary. It was during Ambassador Ray's tenure in Washington that the United States and India moved beyond almost all of the difficulties of the cold war. The improved climate in Indo-United States relations can be tangibly measured by the number of high-level United States official visits to Washington.

It is with great regret that we bid farewell to Siddhartha and Maya Ray. We commend the

Ambassador and Mrs. Ray for their outstanding work in Washington and we wish them success in all of their future endeavors.

INTERVIEW WITH PRESIDENT WILLIAM J. CLINTON

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 31, 1996

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, in a very succinct and incisive interview with Middle East Insight president and editor George Nader in the magazine's 15th anniversary issue in December President Clinton articulated his vision for the future of the Middle East and for American interests in the region. The President said, "We want to see the establishment of a peaceful and prosperous region in which all nations and people can live in freedom and security."

Real progress made in the Middle East peace process under the Clinton administration has been unprecedented. As the Israeli-Syrian talks continue to move ahead, and our attention remains focused on further process toward lasting peace in the Middle East, I commend the entire interview to my colleagues.

[From Middle East Insight, November-December, 1995]

INTERVIEW WITH PRESIDENT WILLIAM J. CLINTON

(By George A. Nader)

In this 15th Anniversary issue, President Bill Clinton gives an exclusive interview about U.S. interests in the Middle East to Middle East Insight editor George A. Nader. This interview is a follow-up to President Clinton's first interview with Middle East Insight as President-elect.

President Clinton's term in office has been marked by historic agreements between Israel and the PLO, a formal peace treaty between Israel and Jordan, ongoing negotiations under U.S. auspices between Israel and Syria and Lebanon, and continued enforcement of dual containment of Iraq and Iran. President Clinton had developed a warm and productive relationship with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin before his assassination last November, and will now be working closely with his successor, Shimon Peres, on many vital areas of interest to the United States in the Middle East.

We are privileged to have President Clinton share his views below on these subjects as well as his vision for the future of the region.

Q: Mr. President, as spiral of violence in the Middle East, capped by the assassination of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, has challenged the peace process. What are your thoughts about the impact of this assassination on the state of the peace process?

A: The tragic death of Prime Minister Rabin was an attempt to stop the historic progress which has been made toward a comprehensive and lasting settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict. But the reaction in Israel, the Middle East, and around the world to this crime demonstrates the marginalization of those who would use violence to achieve their ends and the overwhelming support which exists for the peace process. The world lost a great man and I—along with all Americans—a great friend in Yitzhak Rabin. A champion of his nation in conflict, he became a hero for reconciliation

and understanding as well. His life paralleled that of the Middle East in his time: he fought tirelessly for the security and prosperity of his people, and then turned that same strength and wisdom to forging a peace that would ensure that this security and prosperity would live on after him.

His death reminds us all that the cost of leadership is sometimes very high. But his life serves as an example for what can be achieved through courage and determination to do what is right. The tributes paid to Prime Minister Rabin by King Hussein, President Mubarak, and other leaders from the region and around the world have been mirrored in the unprecedented outpouring of support expressed by the people of Israel for his living legacy, the pursuit of a just and enduring peace of all the people of the Middle East. I am committed to continue doing all I can to ensure that this goal is realized.

Q: What is your view of the importance of Palestinian economic development to the success of the peace process?

A: We agree that Palestinian economic development is a key ingredient in building a lasting peace. It is essential that the Palestinian people see that the peace process has produced tangible benefits in their daily lives, that their future—and that of their children—has changed for the better because of the decision to pursue dialogue and reconciliation over confrontation. Since October 1993, the United States has taken the lead in mobilizing the international donor effort to support the Palestinian Authority and to help provide the foundations for a better and more prosperous life for the Palestinian people.

The United States has met fully its pledge of \$100 million per year in assistance and we are encouraging other donors to ensure that their aid commitments are fulfilled as rapidly as possible. In order to help the Palestinian Authority meet its responsibilities under the Interim Agreement and to move forward on infrastructure development projects critical to the building of a vibrant economy, we are a major organizer of the Conference on Assistance to the Palestinians to be held in Europe this December.

In addition to our leading role in the international donor effort, we are also working to improve the environment for private sector economic growth and investment. We are discussing with Israel and the Palestinians the possible establishment of industrial zones, as well as ways in which Israel's justifiable security concerns can be addressed consistent with our shared desire to promote development of the Palestinian economy. Consistent with our desire to promote Palestinian entrepreneurship, US Trade Representative Kantor has recently announced an agreement to extend duty-free treatment to Palestinian goods entering the United States.

Q: With the recent imposition of Presidential sanctions on Iran, US-Iranian relations have reached a new low. What are the prospects for the success of sanctions on Iran and what is the potential value of a dialogue with Iran?

A: Our problem is not with the people of Iran; it is with the unacceptable behavior of the Iranian government: direct and indirect support for and use of terror; subversion of states friendly to the United States; military intimidation of its neighbors; and acquisition of weapons and technologies of mass destruction—including nuclear.

The Executive Order I signed earlier this year, imposing a complete ban on US financial and commercial dealings with Iran, is intended to demonstrate our resolve that Tehran pay a price for continuing its threatening activities. To be fully successful, we need the support of Iran's other trading part-

ners in Europe, Asia, and around the world. We are urging them to follow our example and help ensure that sustained and meaningful economic pressure is brought to bear until the behavior of the Iranian government changes.

While we are prepared to have a dialogue with authoritative representatives of the government of Iran at any time, it must be made clear that normal relations cannot exist until such time as Iran ceases its objectionable activities.

Q: UN economic sanctions have been imposed on Iraq for five years now. While the sanctions seem to have checked the military capabilities of Saddam Hussein, he still remains in power and the Iraqi people suffer. How successful can sanctions be?

A: The United States is committed to the maintenance of sanctions against Iraq until Baghdad complies fully with all its UN Security Council obligations. Recent revelations by Iraqi defectors and the work of UN inspectors provide compelling evidence that Saddam Hussein has consistently attempted to deceive the United Nations. They also show that as recently as last summer, Saddam was planning new threats against his neighbors.

We are deeply concerned about the humanitarian plight of Iraqi people. But there must be no doubt that Saddam is responsible for their suffering. He has refused to avail himself of the opportunity under UNSC resolutions to sell oil to pay for food and medicine, preferring to divert resources to his supporters and military and to use his own people as hostages in the pursuit of international sympathy for lifting of the sanctions.

Sanctions are the primary means available to the international community to compel Iraqi compliance with Security Council resolutions and to ensure that Iraq does not again become a threat to the region. Given Saddam Hussein's track record, the Council has a responsibility to hold him to the highest possible standard. With respect to the future of Saddam Hussein and his regime, that is a matter for the Iraqi people alone to decide.

Q: As you are involved in the peace process, and as the region undergoes important changes, what is your vision for the future of the Middle East and for America's interests there?

A: Our vision for the future of the Middle East is a simple one. We want to see the establishment of a peaceful and prosperous region in which all nations and peoples can live in freedom and security.

There is much work still before us, but we are making real progress toward our goal. The peace process has made unprecedented advances in the last two years, and despite the loss of one of its greatest champions, it continues to gather momentum. The enemies of peace such as Iran, Iraq, and Libya are increasingly isolated. More and more regional governments are recognizing that dialogue and reconciliation—and the trade and development that accompany and reinforce peace—are the best means of ensuring a better future for their nations. The United States will continue to stand by those who take risks for peace and work together with them to ensure that our mutual vision is realized.

OCEAN TOWNSHIP HADASSAH
PAYS TRIBUTE TO ISRAEL
PRIME MINISTER RABIN

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 31, 1996

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, in memory and honor of the late Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak

Rabin, Ocean Township Hadassah in Monmouth County, NJ, has pledged a donation to the Hadassah-Hebrew University Medical Center at Ein Karem, Israel, so that it may continue its life-saving work of healing, teaching, and research. I rise today, both to pay tribute to the slain Israeli soldier, statesman, and peacemaker, and to my friends from the Jersey shore area who are striving to pay a lasting tribute to this great world leader.

Mr. Speaker, I shall never forget September 13, 1995. On that brilliantly sunny day I was fortunate to be among those on the White House lawn to witness the signing of the Israel-PLO treaty by Prime Minister Rabin and PLO Chairman Yasir Arafat. We witnessed in person, as did millions of others the world over who watched on television, an event we had hoped for but never really thought we would see. In his moving speech, the Prime Minister summed up the feelings of the people of Israel and their many strong supporters here in America: "Enough of blood and tears. Enough."

Yitzhak Rabin's life in many ways mirrored the history and destiny of his country. He fought valiantly in Israel's War of Independence in 1948. In the Six Day War of 1967, he brilliantly led the Israel Defense Forces in a stunning victory that greatly enhanced Israel's security. Yet it would still be many years before Israel's recalcitrant Arab neighbors were ready to negotiate with the Jewish State. First, Egypt's President Anwar Sadat came forward in the cause of peace—and, like Yitzhak Rabin, paid with his life at the hands of fellow countrymen who were not yet ready to say "Enough" to war. Finally, PLO Leader Arafat and, more recently, Jordan's King Hussein, also chose the road of peace with Israel. During the years that the Arab state of war and economic boycott against Israel remained in effect, Yitzhak Rabin stood ready to fight, if necessary, to defend Israel's security. Yet, late in his career, the Prime Minister had the courage to recognize a changing world and to accept, indeed embrace, change. The huge turnout of world leaders at Mr. Rabin's funeral demonstrates—including many of his former Arab enemies—just how rare and impressive his courage was. While most of us will remember Mr. Rabin's gruff demeanor and military bearing, minutes before his death, Yitzhak Rabin was smiling and singing a song of peace with thousands of Israelis in Tel Aviv.

On the day of the historic signing of the peace accord, my guest was Sharon Portman of Ocean Township, a long-time supporter and leader in Ocean Township Hadassah and many other community organizations. Sadly, Sharon passed away last summer. Sharon had dedicated so much of her time and energy to working for a strong and secure Israel, and believed passionately that one day Israel would achieve peace with her Arab neighbors. Whenever I think back to that signing ceremony on the White House Lawn, there is a tinge of sadness as I think about Sharon.

Mr. Speaker, Ocean Township Hadassah is a volunteer organization of close to 450 women ranging in age from their midtwenties to their midfifties. After the assassination of Prime Minister Rabin, members of the organization, as well other members of the community, sought a way to make a lasting tribute consistent with Mr. Rabin's life-long dedication to the betterment of the Jewish State. Prime Minister Rabin spoke to the women of Hadassah at their convention in Israel last summer,