

Buckaroo Ball co-chair Alexanna Padilla Heinemann said she could not credit any single aspect of the multi-faceted fund-raising effort for the increased success this year.

"But this party had a particularly good feeling about it," she said. "Everybody's spirits were so high; Pam Tillis was an incredibly energetic performer; the tent decorations, which only cost \$500, looked great.

"And it even rained for us, just before the party," she said. "It was perfectly cool and wonderful."

Regular sales of 1,000 tickets to the event (at \$200 apiece and up for sponsors) raise only about \$70,000, she said. Private and corporate donors contribute the rest.

This year's largest single donor was Ron and Susie Dubin, a Connecticut couple who have a home in Santa Fe. The Dubins contributed \$25,000 toward the entertainers' fees, Heinemann said.

The only other fund-raiser in Santa Fe that rivals the financial success of the Buckaroo Ball is the 11-year-old Santa Fe Opera gala weekend, which begins tonight with its annual ball at Eldorado Hotel. The gala weekend raises at least \$500,000 a year for the opera's apprentice program.

Heinemann said the Buckaroo Ball committee soon will begin conducting its usual research to develop its list of charities to which it will contribute next year. That research also will be used to determine to which charities the extra \$200,000 raised at this year's ball will be donated, she said. Decisions will be made by late August.

Charity projects already slated to receive money from the proceeds of this year's ball are:

The renovation of the Teen Center at the Santa Fe Boys & Girls Club;

A salary for an adult leader for an after-school program offered by Girls Inc.;

Children's educational opportunities and pediatric dental equipment for La Familia Medical/Dental Center, which serves primarily low-income families;

The expansion of grief support and counseling for youth in 10 Santa Fe County elementary schools offered by the Life Center for Youth and Adults;

And a program to identify and treat children and teen-agers with eating disorders coordinated by Women's Health Services.

COMMUNIST CHINA DOES NOT BELONG IN THE CIVILIZED CLUB OF NATIONS

HON. GERALD B.H. SOLOMON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 24, 1996

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, I would like to insert in the RECORD an article by Jessica Mathews from the Washington Post of July 22 entitled "Beijing Pulls a Fast One." The article describes an act of duplicity that is remarkable even against the low standards of behavior for which the Communist dictatorship in Beijing is notorious.

According to the article, the Communist Chinese Government pressured the IMF to include a Chinese national working at the Fund, Hong Yang, on a delegation to Beijing. Just after arriving, Hong Yang was whisked off by Communist Chinese authorities and tried and convicted on possibly trumped up bribery charges.

Whether or not Hong Yang was guilty, Beijing, as Ms. Matthews puts it "abused the mutual trust among members and institution that an international organization needs in order to operate."

Which leads me to ask, Mr. Speaker, why is this totalitarian regime in the IMF at all? And why are we seriously considering letting them into the WTO and the G-7? And why is the rest of the world, led by the United States, loaning this tyrannical government over \$4 billion a year? Are there any standards whatsoever for inclusion in these groups other than economic ones?

I say there must be. When considering Communist China's admission to the WTO and G-7, when considering the next Export-Import Bank guarantee, and when considering the next international loan to this regime, we must remember who we are really dealing with. We must remember the intimidation of Taiwan. We must remember the drive for regional military hegemony. We must remember the countless examples of irresponsible and dangerous weapons proliferation. We must remember the piracy of American intellectual property.

And we must remember, as this article displays yet again, the fundamentally duplicitous, dictatorial and abusive nature of this regime.

BEIJING PULLS A FAST ONE

(By Jessica Mathews)

The case of Hong Yang and the International Monetary Fund casts a harsh light on China's attitude toward the community of nations and the leading role therein that it believes it deserves. The incident should influence international strategy to engage the Asian giant.

Hong worked at China's central bank when he was recommended for a one-year training stint at the IMF. Late last year the Chinese government "pressured" (the IMF's word) the fund to include him on a delegation for an annual discussion of China's economic policies in Beijing.

Normally, the IMF does not include citizens of the country being visited on such a delegation. Moreover, Hong was far too junior for such a role. However, the fund acquiesced. Shortly after the group arrived in Beijing Hong disappeared, arrested on a charge of having taken a bribe while at the central bank. In March he was tried and after a highly unusual six-week delay, he was sentenced to 11 years in prison late last month.

The next day, several hundred staff members held a silent vigil at the IMF's Washington headquarters demanding a stiffer response from the fund. The staff association issued a press release decrying China for having "violated the standard of conduct" expected of IMF members and calling on it to "void the decision" against Hong.

The IMF had, in fact, been practicing active, though extremely quiet, diplomacy. It had retained a lawyer for Hong and had extended his contract so that he remained its employee. The long delay before sentencing and the prison term instead of execution—a frequent outcome in such cases—may have been the result of its protests.

Sources at the fund and its sister institution, the World Bank, and at the State Department now suggest—though not explicitly and never for attribution—that Hong was guilty. If so, it is hard to explain why he would have willingly returned to Beijing when he and his family were safely in Washington.

His guilt or innocence may never be known and are, in any case, beside the point. What is clear is that China framed the IMF. It is not merely individual nations—even the likes of the United States and Germany—that Beijing feels it can deal with on its own terms. China has shown itself ready to violate commitments under international agreements from the missile control regime and the nonproliferation treaty to promises to halt the piracy of intellectual property. At the World Bank China is borrowing so much that leverage has shifted from lender to borrower. Until now, though, no country—including the confirmed outlaws—had dared mess with the IMF.

Whether the fund should have smelled something fishy and refused to include Hong on the delegation, or whether it could have done more after the arrest, are matters for Monday morning quarterbacks. What nothing can disguise is the red mark on the institution's face from the stinging—and seemingly gratuitous—slap Beijing has dealt it. Why not, after all, wait until Hong returned from his IMF service to arrest him?

Beijing may have done nothing illegal in duping the fund, but it certainly abused the mutual trust among members and institution that an international organization needs in order to operate. Evidently, China believes that its size and economic clout entitle it to its own rules of behavior.

The next steps up the ladder of international status for China are membership in the World Trade Organization and initiation into the G-7, the club of world economic powers. China still has a long way to go to meet even the clearly defined economic criteria for WTO membership. The Hong case adds to already substantial doubts that China will abide by what it agrees to.

The episode also suggests that recent proposals to include Beijing in an expanded G-7 are premature. The G-7 concept linking economic power and democratic principles may be elastic enough to include uncertain and lightly imperfect democracies, but it cannot stretch far enough to encompass a country openly disdainful of international comity without breaking.

Businesses, too, have to consider the implications. If an international employee—carrying a United Nations laissez-passer, though not diplomatic immunity—can be snatched, the same could certainly happen to a foreign investor's employee.

One of the most curious aspects of the Hong story is the lack of attention it has received. China experts and human rights activists are puzzled by how little they have been able to discover. The IMF is known to be a tight-lipped institution, but in today's world few secrets can be kept this well. As the case unfolds, one of the questions to be explored is whether this one should have been kept under such close wraps.

Did the IMF ask national governments, which share an interest in the integrity of international institutions, to press Beijing? Did it ask other international organizations? Would the pressure of public opinion have helped or hurt Hong? How should a similar incident be handled in the future?

There is, finally, a message here for those who principally blame the United States for the many recent difficulties in the U.S.-Chinese relationship. There is a pattern of behavior emerging for which responsibility rests in Beijing. Demonizing China will gain the United States nothing. Neither will blinking at facts.

EXTENDING MOST-FAVORED-NATION STATUS TO ROMANIA

SPEECH OF

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 16, 1996

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to the House voting to extend permanently MFN for Romania, H.R. 3161. Romania has just completed, after three rounds, its election of local officials throughout the country, and national elections are now set for early November. I strongly believe that the House should consider the legislation before us only after Romania's national elections.

There are a number of issues, from freedom of the media and rights of the minorities to democratic reform, which remain unresolved. Romania enjoys all the benefits of MFN under the current semiannual review process, and granting permanent MFN now will remove this important review of these remaining issues of concern and the conduct of the upcoming elections. Mr. Speaker, we all know that within a democratic system, the political will to address outstanding problems is always greater during an election season. Let the 105th Congress consider this issue after Romania's national elections.

The current MFN review process has served as a helpful opportunity to gauge Romania's democratic reform and their respect for human rights. Freedom of the media, for example, continues to be a concern. Under Romanian law, individuals who are convicted of insulting or defaming public officials can be subjected to prison terms. The Romanian Senate recently passed legislation which would increase these criminal penalties if the insults are committed in the written or audiovisual press. This type of potential liability, in my opinion, has a chilling effect on the media.

Mr. Speaker, the Government of Romania should ensure absolutely the freedom of the media—at all times—but particularly during the heat of election campaigns. Unfavorable commentary by the media regarding government officials should not be viewed as a threat to national security and result in calls for restrictions on those who dare to criticize. I was dismayed by the reaction of the chairman of the ruling party in Romania to critical news reports filed by the local BBC correspondent during the recent local election campaign. Chairman Adrian Nastase, who is also President of the Romanian Chamber of Deputies, attacked the BBC for its critical reporting and called on the national licensing agency to review that respected international news organization's right to rebroadcast on local Romanian radio stations.

Minority rights continue to be of concern. Ethnic minorities face certain restrictions to their receiving, at the higher levels in particular, instruction in their native language, and a law was passed which now limits the taking of college entrance exams solely in Romanian. This law was not implemented this year but the law remains on the books. And official obstacles remain which prevent the restoration of the Hungarian university in Cluj.

Human rights are best protected by governments which must answer to their electorate. As with any fledgling democracy, the campaign season for the just completed local elec-

tions and the conduct of the national elections in the fall are particularly important tests for Romania's commitment to freedom of the press, their conduct of orderly, free, and fair elections, and their provision for domestic observers for the national elections. Reports from objective election observers clearly indicate that the conduct of the local elections did not allay the potential problems which had been raised by NGO's. The most serious concerns included widespread, gross inaccuracy of the voter lists; significant logistical problems which arise when campaign periods are truncated; and uneven interpretation of the election law by local officials with no central election bureau to serve as arbiter, which contributed to inconsistencies around the country and even a lack of trust in the system.

In my view, Mr. Speaker, projecting a vote in the U.S. Congress on the political landscape of Romania would certainly be seen as a congressional judgment on Romania's current political leaders. The vote tallies of the recently held local elections indicate strong, grassroots support for the opposition parties. In fact, the ruling Party of Social Democracy in Romania and the opposition Democratic Convention of Romania [CDR] received about equal percentages of the vote in the mayors' races. The CDR and other opposition parties, including representatives of the Hungarian minority, significantly out-poll the ruling party in country, city, and mayoral races in many regions. Mr. Speaker, this is a political environment in which every issue, especially closely watched foreign policy issues such as Romania's MFN status with the United States, affects the voters' perception of the effectiveness of the ruling party.

Mr. Speaker, there are a number of areas in which the Romanian Government could take timely and constructive steps to ensure that the national elections are conducted in a way which garners confidence in the electoral process. I hope and expect that the Government of Romania will make every effort to ensure that the national elections in November are conducted on the basis of up-to-date, accurate voting lists in each locality, backed up by consistent and uniform interpretation of the election law by local officials. In my view, the establishment of a permanent, professional election bureau would ensure such consistency and accuracy, and go a long way toward enhancing voter confidence in the system.

Finally, it is unclear at this time whether domestic election observers will be permitted at the polling stations in November. A one-time provision for local observers was made during the 1992 national elections, however this authorization has not been renewed. Mr. Speaker, in my view domestic as well as international observers are crucial to ensuring the conduct of free and fair elections. Domestic observers play a positive role in enhancing public confidence in the electoral process and the experience of election monitoring gives ordinary Romanian citizens an opportunity to develop skills and experience applicable to other aspects of democratic citizenship.

I am hopeful and expectant that Romania's next leaders will be chosen through elections which will be free, fair and representative, and that the protection of human rights will continue to improve under the newly elected government. I urge my colleagues to vote against H.R. 3161 today. The people of Romania have had the benefits of MFN since 1992. Making

the judgement about the transition to permanent status should be undertaken only after these critical elections are completed in November.

CABLE'S COMMITMENT TO EDUCATION

HON. NEWT GINGRICH

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 24, 1996

Mr. GINGRICH. I would like to applaud a recently announced initiative by the cable industry to bring Internet access to schools free of charge. When students can use state-of-the-art technology, they are equipped for bright futures:

CABLE'S ON-GOING COMMITMENT TO EDUCATION

The cable industry has a long-standing, on-going commitment to use its state-of-the-art technology and quality programming to provide enhanced learning resources for America's students. Cable's High Speed Education Connection is the latest contribution. This initiative builds on the foundation established by the industry's education centerpiece, Cable in the Classroom, and continues to demonstrate how cable technology expands our children's educational opportunities with capabilities unmatched by any other telecommunications provider or technology. The industry's commitment manifests itself in a number of programs and initiatives, including:

CABLE IN THE CLASSROOM

Since 1989, Cable in the Classroom has been the foundation of the cable industry's educational commitment. Cable systems and program networks collectively have spent over \$420 million on Cable in the Classroom, a program that benefits students by connecting schools to cable's network, free of charge, and donating other technology, commercial-free programming and curriculum materials. Involving 8,400 cable systems and 32 national cable networks, Cable in the Classroom currently reaches over 38 million students in more than 74,000 schools with over 6,000 hours of commercial-free, educational programming every year—at no cost to schools.

THE FAMILY & COMMUNITY CRITICAL VIEWING PROJECT

The Family & Community Critical Viewing Project is a partnership of the National PTA and the cable industry that provides parents, teachers and children with critical viewing skills to evaluate and analyze what they see on TV. The project is designed to help families make better, more informed choices of the TV shows they watch. Launched in 1994, Critical Viewing Workshops offer parents and teachers concrete steps to control the effects of TV violence and commercialism on young people. To date, more than 1,500 cable & PTA partners have been trained, over 1,000 workshops have been presented nationwide, and more than 75,000 copies of "How to Take Charge of Your TV," a critical viewing resource guide, have been distributed.

CABLE IN FOCUS

Cable in Focus teams cable operators with cable networks to conduct a series of educational screening events each year, promoting high-quality, original cable programming selected according to a theme (e.g. literacy, the environment, diversity). In the past year alone, more than 400 cable systems