

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

OBSERVING THE HISTORIC PALESTINIAN ELECTIONS

HON. NICK J. RAHALL II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 24, 1996

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, the Arab-American Institute [AAI] January 23, 1996 delegation, which I had the high honor to chair, traveled to Palestine to witness the first ever, historymaking free national elections in that country.

I was accompanied by Dr. James Zogby, president of AAI, and by former Members of Congress Mary Rose Oakar (D-OH), Toby Moffett (D-CT), and by Ruth Joseph, mayor and State representative of Waterville, ME, Thomas Lazieh, former mayor Central Falls, RI, Teresa Isaac, vice mayor, Lexington, KY.

Also present during the observation were Kenneth Handel, partner at Arnold and Porter law firm of New York with previous international electoral experience, and Dr. Najat Arafat Khelil, co-coordinator of the Palestinian Jewish Women's Dialogue Group.

The delegation was coordinated by Zogby and Washington businessman Hani Masri with assistance from Hady Amr, a political consultant with electoral monitoring experience in South Africa. My special thanks and that of the delegation goes to Jim Zogby for making it possible, and to Hani Masri for all of his unstinting support that helped lead to this historic occasion and who shared his electoral monitoring skills with us during this important observance.

Thanks goes also to Mr. Said Hamad, deputy director of the PLO office in Washington who did an excellent job of coordinating events on the ground in Palestine and smoothing our way there.

We witnessed a professional, politically progressive, patriotic, and proud Palestine people parade to the polls for their historic first national elections.

An excitement and enthusiasm permeated the air and ran in the veins of a people tasting and thirsting for freedom.

Nothing can detract from the success of a people determined to regain control of their destiny—over their dreams and aspirations for their children.

We witnessed Palestinians traveling to the polls via cars, trucks, buses, tractors, donkeys, horses, carts, hobbling on canes, and once arriving having to wait hours in long lines due to huge voter turnouts. But to many who have waited a lifetime to vote freely—a couple more hours' wait was very little.

The International Community of Observers and former President Carter were encouraged and impressed and gave the Palestinians very high marks.

The bottom line—these elections were free; these elections were fair. They were conducted in a highly professional manner.

The President-elect, Yasir Arafat and his elected leadership team, many of whom were

elected not as Arafat candidates but as independents, deserve our praise and congratulations. Tremendous duties have been bestowed by the people and they now embark upon a new journey as the freely elected representatives of Palestine.

Our presence demonstrated clearly to the Palestinians that America and the world are strongly with them in their quest for democratic development and in their quest to quash disruption by extremists from all sides.

The Israeli Government and Prime Minister Peres deserve commendation for their support as well as of this electoral process and, with a few exceptions, allowed Palestinians to conduct themselves freely.

From revolutionary to Ra'ees—Arabic for President—many in our delegation, like Representative Mary Rose Oakar and Toby Moffett, and Jim Zogby, have personally stood by President Arafat for a portion of his long, long, long journey to this point in history.

From the bowels of Beirut in 1980 and 1982 to the palace of the President in Gaza last Friday, where the lights flickered from lack of sufficient power, we have conversed with, we have pleaded with, we have sought dialog, we have agonized with and we now celebrate a new-era President Arafat and the Palestinian people. He fully recognizes that with new legitimacy from the people comes new responsibilities.

Israel Prime Minister Peres will now allow all PNC members to meet in Palestine so as to conduct the people's business and properly amend the PNC charters per the Oslo accords.

As both men enter final status negotiations this coming May 4, may they enter with a greater strength within themselves and greater faith in each other, and a greater resolve to enhance and spread his peace of the brave among their people and among all mankind—two states, two peoples living side by side in peace—Israel and Palestine forever.

STATE OF THE UNION

HON. BRIAN P. BILBRAY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 24, 1996

Mr. BILBRAY. Mr. Speaker, last night President Clinton delivered a good speech. Our hope is that he follows his words with his deeds. President Clinton acknowledged in his address last night the need to pay special attention to our problems with illegal immigration.

However, President Clinton forgot to mention to the American people that he vetoed a bill which would have provided Californians \$1.6 billion in reimbursement funds over the next 5 years for the costs of providing health care to illegal immigrants. He also vetoed the 1996 Commerce-State-Justice Appropriations Act, thus denying Californians more than \$300 million as reimbursement for the cost of incarcerating alien felons.

Mr. President, your actions speak louder than words; and words alone will not solve our problem. This lack of attention has a human cost. Last year at San Diego's border with Mexico, a Border Patrol agent fell to his death while chasing illegal immigrants. Last week, a man trying to evade U.S. Border Patrol agents plunged to his death, and five other men were injured when they ran off a 120-foot cliff near Otay Lakes Dam.

Words are hollow if they are not backed up with actions. Our hope in the California delegation is that President Clinton joins us with the force of his actions, as we address these difficult immigration problems.

EXTRADITION OF INDICTED WAR CRIMINALS

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 24, 1996

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise this afternoon to express my solid support for language contained in H.R. 1530, the National Defense Authorization Act, providing for the extradition of indicted war criminals from the United States to the International Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia and Rwanda in the Hague. This legislation provides the legal basis for the surrender of such persons and closes a technical loophole which could undermine efforts to prosecute those responsible for the commission of war crimes. Adoption of this provision should serve as an example to other countries to undertake similar action consistent with our obligations to cooperate fully with the important work of the Tribunal. To date more than 50 individuals from the former Yugoslavia have been indicted, including the Bosnian Serb leaders Radovan Karadzic and Ratko Mladic. Last November, I had an opportunity to meet with Chief Prosecutor Richard Goldstone to discuss his on-going investigations. He stressed that those responsible for war crimes must be held personally accountable, regardless of their relationship to peace negotiations.

As Chairman of the Helsinki Commission, I urge my colleagues to demonstrate their firm commitment to the pursuit of justice in the former Yugoslavia and Rwanda by passing this implementing legislation and ensuring that the Tribunal receives the resources it needs to accomplish the vital tasks it has been given. Mr. Speaker, I ask that the text of a letter to the President on this matter be included in the RECORD.

COMMISSION ON SECURITY AND CO-
OPERATION IN EUROPE,

Washington, DC, February 8, 1995.

The PRESIDENT,
The White House, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT: As members of the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe, we have been following with great

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

concern all aspects of the former Yugoslavia's violent disintegration. In this regard, our Commission held a hearing on January 31, at which we received compelling testimony from the Bosnian Prime Minister, Haris Silajdzic. Although the Prime Minister raised a number of issues regarding the crisis, we would like to focus on one issue in particular: the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia.

After overcoming considerable barriers to its establishment and staffing, the Tribunal issued its first indictment in early November, is proceeding with investigations and is expected to bring cases to trial later this year. We understand that the Tribunal's UN budget will be under review during the second half of this month and that officials from the Tribunal have requested a \$28 million budget for the coming year to proceed with the work they have begun.

Non-governmental experts have already suggested that this figure may be too low given the costs of gathering testimony from the thousands of victims of, and witnesses to, war crimes and in light of the on-site investigations that the effective prosecution of war criminals will require. Nevertheless, it appears that securing even these funds may be an uphill battle with the UN bureaucracy.

We urge you to instruct the U.S. delegation to the United Nations to press vigorously at these upcoming budget meetings to ensure adequate funding for the Tribunal. The establishment of this body, in spite of considerable political resistance and technical complications, is a credit to strong U.S. leadership. But, without proper funding, the Tribunal will never be able to execute the historic tasks that have been set for it.

We also support an additional voluntary contribution to the Tribunal by the United States of an amount not less than the \$3 million cash contribution provided last year. Monetary, as well as personnel or other in-kind donations, enhance the ability of the United States to foster the effectiveness of the Tribunal by strengthening specific aspects of its work. In addition, this would enable the United States to play a leadership role in urging other UN member states to make similar contributions. If the United States, at this juncture, inexplicably reduces the level of financial support it has provided to the Tribunal, it might send a regrettable signal of weakening U.S. resolve to see war criminals held truly accountable.

We would also like to take this opportunity to raise the issue of implementing legislation. UN member states are already bound as a matter of international law to deliver to the Hague persons indicted by the Tribunal. But most countries—including the United States—will require the passage of implementing legislation to ensure that a national legal basis exists for doing so; without such legislation, a technical loophole would exist in most countries that would give indicted persons the legal grounds to challenge jurisdiction and avoid trial.

Convinced of the importance of this issue, a bipartisan U.S. delegation to the 1994 CSCE Parliamentary Assembly achieved agreement to review, at future meetings of the Assembly, steps that the CSCE (now OSCE) participating States have taken to ensure that they are able to comply with the orders of the Tribunal. As Members of Congress, we feel a special responsibility to ensure that the necessary implementing legislation is passed. It is possible that some countries—states likely to find themselves with war criminals in their territories—will need international prodding if they are to cooperate with the Tribunal. Passage of U.S. implementing legislation will enable our country to foster compliance by others.

We understand that the Department of Justice has been working on draft imple-

menting legislation for over a year. We urge you to communicate to the Department of Justice the high degree of urgency that you, as President, attach to the tasks of bringing war criminals to justice and of taking concrete legislative measures to that end. To follow up on the Commission's inquiry of April 1994, we would like to know when the administration anticipates presenting such legislation to Congress.

Finally, we again call for the appointment of a CSCE (OSCE) Special Rapporteur on the War Crimes, Tribunal, a Commission proposal that was endorsed at the 1994 meeting of the CSCE Parliamentary Assembly. A Special Rapporteur would be tasked with monitoring the participating States' required cooperation with the Tribunal and reporting back to the decision-making bodies of the OSCE for further action in cases of willful noncompliance.

We understand that the U.S. delegation to the 1994 CSCE (OSCE) Budapest Conference included this proposal in a package of ideas addressing the many urgent crises in the former Yugoslavia but that, regrettably, this package was not adopted. We urge the United States to pursue the adoption of this proposal as a priority matter at the on-going OSCE meetings in Vienna, where negotiations on Bosnia-related questions continue.

Mr. President, we cannot sufficiently underscore our conviction that holding war criminals accountable for the heinous crimes they have committed in this conflict will be an essential element for any long-term resolution of this tragedy. To this end, we look forward to hearing from you on these matters.

Sincerely,

CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH,
Chairman.

ALFONSE D'AMATO,
Co-Chairman.

STENY H. HOYER,
Member of Congress.

GREATER SAINT PAUL AFRICAN EPISCOPAL CHURCH CENTEN- NIAL ANNIVERSARY

HON. CARRIE P. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 24, 1996

Mrs. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to inform my colleagues of an important benchmark for a religious lighthouse in the Metropolitan Dade County community. April 14, 1996 will mark Greater Saint Paul African Episcopal Church's centennial anniversary. It is with great pleasure that I recognize and thank the congregation for their vision and years of continual service to the Miami community.

I urge Members to read the church history I am inserting into the RECORD.

GREATER SAINT PAUL AFRICAN EPISCOPAL
CHURCH

(By Mrs. Esther M. Armbrister)

During the 1880's the first Negro settlers arrived in small numbers from the Bahama Islands by way of Key West, Florida. Between 1885 and 1889 Negroes from West and North Florida began to migrate to Coconut Grove, which was called at the time the last frontier to be settled. One of those settlers was the late Jeremiah A. Butler, who was to be the minister founder and organizer of the first African Methodist Episcopal Church in Dade County, Saint Paul AME Church.

The late Rev. Samuel Sampson was the founder of the first church for "colored peo-

ple" in Coconut Grove, St. Agnes Baptist Church. At that time blacks and whites worshipped together at Union Chapel. As one elderly pioneer related the story, the "colored folks" were not use to the type of quiet service being held, and whites could not understand the blacks' reactions of shouting, clapping of hands and the stumping/stamping of feet. After a gift of property on Thomas Avenue from Count Jean Hodonville, a young French man, to Rev. Sampson and the black pioneers, St. Agnes was built in 1895, and thus, henceforth, was the beginning.

In the early part of 1896 Rev. Butler and twelve members withdrew from the newly organized St. Agnes, and founded and organized Saint Paul AME Church on Evangelist Street. Evangelist Street was purchased, and on November 21, 1896 when it was recorded. A small church was built at that time to accommodate a small membership. Trustee whose names appeared on the abstract title were J.H. Butler, J.P. Brookins, Walter Burrows. In 1897 the names of Murray Burrows, J.W. Gibson, Williams Counts, Theodore Blackshear, D.C. Williams and Hiram McLeod were added. At that time the population of Coconut Grove was less than 300.

By the year 1900 it was decided there were enough "colored" children to warrant a school, and henceforth the first school in Dade County was held at the St. Paul AME Church. The school, with only twelve children, was taught by the late Dr. John Davis.

In the year 1902 the first choir, the Mozart Choir, was organized with the late J.P. Brookins as president and choir director. Since the membership was so small the larger children were placed in the choir to replace the adults when death or some other reasons occurred. In 1910 the first cornerstone was laid by the pastor at that time, the late Reverend Thomas Henry. Two more men were added to the Steward Board, which had been organized earlier, consisting of the men of the church. Men also comprised the trustee board and the ushers.

In 1914 the late Mrs. Agnes Armbrister organized Armbrister's Quartet, which was comprised of her four oldest children. She also organized other singing groups.

In 1915 the first Stewardess Board was organized with the late Mesdames Aramintha W. Roberts, Mary Sands, Agnes Armbrister, McCleod, Elsa Gibson and Estella Counts as members. Their first project was to purchase individual communion glasses. Communion bread was made by the late Mrs. Sands and Mrs. McCleod.

In 1915 the parsonage was built. Property was purchased at 3352 Charles Avenue, and the house which presently stands was used.

In early 1920's people were still migrating from other parts of Florida, Georgia and Alabama.

During the 1926 hurricane quite a bit of damage was done to the church. A steeple was completely damaged. In the same year an organ was purchased.

In 1932 under the administration of the late Rev. M.P. Chappelle a new church was built to facilitate a growing membership. Bro. A.G. Lattimore gave the first \$200 toward the purchase of the property on the present site. The church was built with all of the membership working as one to accomplish their dream.

Wood and other materials were salvaged from the church on the hill, and used in the construction of the new church. The salvaged materials were guarded by Mrs. Aramintha W. Roberts and her children.

In 1932 Rev. Chappelle organized the Supreme Usher's Board (#2 Usher Board). The White Rose Usher Board (#1 Usher Board) had been organized between 1918 and 1920. Rev. Chappelle also organized the Gospel Choir (Choir #2).