

respected McKinsey Company, says, "U.S. firms have developed the best practices over the greatest range of industries." This is certainly true of the U.S. chemical industry!

The U.S. is the world's largest producer of chemicals, accounting for almost one-fourth of total world chemical production.

Chemical exports have doubled in the past five years to more than \$60 billion.

One out of every ten U.S. export dollars earned comes from chemical sales.

And, since 1993, chemicals have been the largest U.S. export sector, running ahead of agriculture and far ahead of the aircraft industry.

Exports create American jobs. In 1986, the chemical industry employed 1.02 million people. In 1996, the number stood at 1.04 million—in jobs that wages that are one-third higher than the average wages for all of manufacturing. In a time of downsizing and restructuring, and of maturing markets in the developed world, the U.S. chemical industry has preserved and strengthened high-paying, high-tech jobs for more than a million people.

The ability to compete internationally has been critical to our success. It's likely you've heard this statistic before, but it remains true: Every billion dollars in export sales creates or preserves 4,000 jobs.

And the U.S. chemical industry has not sealed itself off from international competition or opportunity. Quite the contrary—we are active players in every part of the globe. Three years ago, 201 U.S. chemical companies operated a total of 3,050 foreign affiliates. These foreign investments create demand—and pipeline—for U.S. technology and products. And the sales made by these affiliates help underwrite the research and development necessary to continually renew and strengthen U.S. competitiveness.

MAINTAINING OUR NUMBER ONE POSITION

Every developing nation wants to build its own chemical industry—to support their growing manufacturing industries, to add value to their raw materials and to create a technology base that will improve the quality of life for citizens today and in the future.

These nations will move to meet these needs—with or without the U.S. chemical industry. Today's chemical industry is global, and there are plenty of competitors from Europe and Japan who will compete with us to establish footholds in these developing countries.

The U.S. chemical industry today is vibrant and strong—but success is not a given. Our ability to succeed must be nurtured and encouraged. The competitive environment gets tougher, while the margin for error gets smaller. In the past, companies might have been free to raise prices to cover miscalculations, or could have relied on their reputation to become the sole source supplier—but no longer.

The old markets—the developed world of Europe and Japan—are where we cut our trading teeth and built trade surpluses. But they are not the growth markets of the future.

Asia and Latin America are our future. Why? Because within these regions, 11 countries hold more than two-thirds of the world's population. And these economies are growing at astounding rates—double or triple the economic rates of the U.S.—and they will continue at these rates for the foreseeable future! Yet today, just 13 percent of the total chemical industry investment abroad is located in these countries.

AN AGENDA FOR ACTION

These growth markets also are the very same markets that have the highest degree of protectionism in the form of tariff and non-tariff barriers. The U.S. has done a great job of tearing down trade barriers and unlocking closed economies—but we still have more to do if we are to level the international playing field. We need your help.

For starters, we need Congress to renew "Fast Track" authority to allow the Presi-

dent to negotiate future trade agreements. Expansion of free trade agreements in which the U.S. is a partner is a competitive necessity!

This is especially true in Latin America. Having seen the benefits of free trade sparked by NAFTA, Latin American countries are moving quickly and aggressively to form strong regional pacts. These include MERCOSUR, which includes the Southern Cone countries led by Brazil, and the Andean Pact, which includes the East, Central and Northern Tier of South America.

Yet we also see another trend developing—one that is somewhat alarming. The Latin American regional pacts I just mentioned are forming agreements and having discussions with Europe and Japan. All of this can and will lead to preferential trading status for these countries—more preferential than U.S. status.

Here's just one example of what this can mean to the bottom line from my own company, Rohm and Haas. If MERCOSUR enters into a free trade with the European Community, monomer exports from our plant in Houston, Texas will be taxed at a 14 percent rate of duty. Product coming to Latin America from European-based companies will be taxed at duty rates of between 0 and 2 percent. At that point, the options for Rohm and Haas will be limited—either lose customers or be forced to build a brand-new plant within the Latin American free trade zones. Can you imagine what impact that might have on the economic health of our existing world-scale production facilities in the United States?

The U.S. cannot afford to sit on the sidelines! We must have Fast Track trade negotiating authority.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT AND ENCOURAGEMENT

Many chemical companies have restructured in order to compete. In fact, it's fair to say that this industry has been through a decade-long makeover. We have taken the steps needed to become a force a global markets.

The legislative and regulatory process, along with our conduct of foreign affairs, must keep pace in order to help U.S. businesses maintain their number one, leading position. That means that government must be knowledgeable, nimble and involved in the international arena.

There will be some companies—and some nations—who will be forced to drop out of this race because they cannot compete. I can tell you that we in the chemical industry are working hard to stay at the top. We won't let up. You can help by shaping our country's international and trade agenda. We are ready to work with you toward that end.

You can tell by my accent, that I was raised in the South. I also was raised to be polite and to say thank you when you have asked someone to join with you in completing a task.

So today I say "thank you" on behalf of the U.S. chemical industry—for what many of you have already done—and for the actions you will take to help us remain a vibrant, growing, dynamic part of this economy and this country.

THE 15TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE WESTERN QUEENS GAZETTE

HON. THOMAS J. MANTON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 3, 1997

Mr. MANTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 15th anniversary of the Western Queens Gazette, a weekly community newspaper that serves Queens County, in the State of New York.

Mr. Speaker, the first edition of the Gazette was published on January 27, 1982. At its in-

ception, the Gazette was a modest, 12 page weekly community newspaper. Today, the Gazette averages 80 pages weekly with a circulation of close to 100,000 for a single edition.

Under the direction of its Publisher/Editor Tony Barsamian who has owned the Gazette since 1990, the paper has expanded the geographic region it serves as well as its news features. The Gazette now serves the Queens neighborhoods of Astoria, Ditmars, Dutch Kills, East Elmhurst, Hunters Point, Sunnyside, Woodside, Laguardia Airport, Long Island City, Jackson Heights, North Corona, Ravenswood, Roosevelt Island, Steinway, East Flushing, and Bayside.

In New York City, the media capital of the world, there is a wide variety of news outlets for New Yorkers to choose from. However, to get quality, local community-based reporting residents of Queens turn to the weekly pages of the Western Queens Gazette. The Gazette covers the important issues facing residents of Queens on the national, state, and city level with a particular focus on neighborhood news. The Gazette brings attention to the neighborhood news that is often overlooked by the daily newspapers.

The Gazette has regular weekly news features including community reporting, insightful editorials, op-ed pages, a religious column, political profiles, the local police blotter, sports, community calendars dining and entertainment reviews, legal notices, and complete classified ads.

In their own words, the Western Queens Gazette is "Dedicated to bringing our readers a vital locally oriented view of the News." Indeed, the Gazette effectively brings this local view of the news to their readers every week of the year. The Gazette is community reporting of neighborhood news at its very best.

Mr. Speaker, I know my colleagues join me in congratulating Tony Barsamian and everyone associated with the Western Queens Gazette on the joyous occasion of its 15th anniversary of publication.

NATO EXPANSION CANNOT BE LIMITED

HON. GERALD B.H. SOLOMON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 3, 1997

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, I have just returned with the U.S. congressional delegation led by Congressman DOUG BEREUTER from attending a meeting of the North Atlantic Assembly, the parliamentary arm of the NATO alliance, that took place over the just concluded congressional recess. There we discussed with parliamentary representatives from all of our allied countries the need to enlarge NATO in order to ensure its continued success without drawing any lines that would exclude additional countries from future enlargement. In fact, Mr. Speaker, if and when any of the former Communist and Soviet dominated countries meet the criteria to become eligible for NATO, which include irreversible democracy, a commitment to free market principles and the rule of law, respect for human rights and liberties, and a military that's interoperable with NATO forces, they should be extended an invitation for full and open membership in the alliance.

In that vein, Mr. Speaker, I would like to draw your attention to the remarks delivered by Congressman BEREUTER at the plenary session of the North Atlantic Assembly. His

comments are right on the mark in emphasizing that the first tranche of NATO enlargement, with invitations set to go out to a handful of countries this summer at the Madrid Summit, can in no way close the door on invitations to other countries. I have said and stand by my assertion that should we exclude those countries who miss the first round of enlargement, NATO will fail. I urge you and all Members of the House and the Senate to carefully read Congressman BEREUTER'S speech, the rationale for continued enlargement, continued peace and prosperity in Europe, is laid out in crystal clear terms.

NAA PLENARY STATEMENT BY REP. DOUG BEREUTER, JUNE 1, 1997

Mr. President, North Atlantic Assembly colleagues, we can say with conviction and satisfaction that the argumentation about whether NATO will expand is behind us. Now the questions indeed are who and how. In less than forty days, at the July 8-9 summit in Madrid, NATO will invite several countries—probably between three to five—to launch accession negotiations with NATO. As the Just-Goss report of the Political Committee notes, “five countries seem to be on a short list of possible invitees (the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Romania, and Solvenia)”, but another eight countries regard themselves as candidates. Undoubtedly there will be more.

At Yalta lines were drawn across the face of Europe which have lasted more than fifty years. In a different way they still do exist. My colleagues, by our actions we must say: no more lines—never again. We must seize the opportunity to bring those countries east and southeast of the NATO alliance countries to join in our collective defense alliance when they qualify. If we assure, as we must, that the first countries offered NATO membership are not the last and that other qualified countries' NATO membership are not unduly delayed. Then we do not replace the infamous Yalta lines with new ones. Under an open-door, dynamic expansion procedure there are no new lines drawn between Russia and NATO—not even lines excluding Russia itself. The Baltic nations, Ukraine, and other countries will not be neglected for NATO membership. The door to membership is open to one and all. The unprecedented fifty-two years of European peace can be extended in time and eventually all across the face of Europe. And by mutually beneficial and selfless action the Europeans can and should supplement our NATO protective umbrella by offering these new NATO members full membership in the European Union as soon as possible. The NATO security blanket and the economic integration through the EU together are the lasting answers to the quest for peace and prosperity in Europe. It is also the way to contain, it not eliminate, the ethnic, social, religious, and national animosities that so tragically scar our civilization. Another Bosnia, or another Holocaust, need not happen!

Indeed we citizens of NATO countries have reason to take pride and great satisfaction that the criteria we have established for PFP and NATO membership have, in the applicant countries, already settled national boundary disputes and ethnic conflict and discrimination, advanced democracy and pluralism, fostered civilian control of the military, developed confidence-building measures, gained greater transparency in military budgets, and created greater out-of-area interoperability for out-of-area operations for peacekeeping or against aggression as in Albania or Kuwait. More advances will come as applicants continue to strive for NATO membership. In fact, the events of the

last week between NATO and Russia at the very dawn of NATO expansion suggest that it may bring us increasingly together for even more understanding, cooperation and trust. Rather than the dire results predicted in Russia if NATO expands, it well could be the dawn of a new and better day.

Of course, the decision on which countries will be in the first wave of expansion must be followed by the unanimous ratification in our sixteen NATO countries. The debate in our parliamentary bodies and nations will probably have heightened fervor as the reality of action is in sight. Arguments about the costs of expansion to NATO countries will certainly rage, especially in light of the exaggerated and erroneous assumptions made by those who do not understand that the same infrastructure, nuclear weapons deployment, and out-of-country military deployment of NATO troops we find in the current NATO “front-line states” are not needed in the new NATO countries.

But, then after the budget issues are raised in America and in every other NATO country, the crucial item of debate and the answer demanded by our respective constituents will, as one respected American Democratic Senator said, be this plaintive question: “Congressman, why are you willing to send my son (or my husband) to protect Poland?” His answer was this: “Madam, taking Poland into NATO makes it less likely, not more likely, that your son will fight and die in a conflict on the Polish border.” I agree! That is the argument all of us in the NATO 16 must and can make.

Finally, and on a much different level of specificity, I feel compelled to advance to case of first-round membership in NATO for Slovenia even though the Madrid Summit is fast approaching. The “Visegrad three” seem a cinch for membership and Romania is pressing its case very aggressively, with vocal support among one or more countries and among numerous organizations, experts, and opinion leaders. Because Slovenia has until recently been almost entirely forgotten, and nearly unknown in my country, because its independent status dates only back to 1990, because its military formation and modernization was delayed by the arms embargo for the Bosnia conflict, and because the U.S. Senate leadership added Slovenia to the list of the “Visegrad three” countries after earlier House action, I took ten of my House colleagues to Slovenia on week ago for several days of intensive examination of their case.

(We also visited the country temporarily known in some international organizations as the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, or Macedonia as they prefer. They too strong desire NATO membership and they are energetically seeking to meet the criteria. We note with satisfaction their progress and praise their commitment and determination.)

However, on the case of Slovenia, my colleagues in the Assembly, I speak for the enthusiastic and unanimous or near-unanimous view of my House delegation colleagues—Slovenia deserves first-round membership in NATO. Indeed an objective examination of the Slovenians case would probably show that they better meet the criteria than any other applicant country. Indeed, nobody can really argue that Slovenia doesn't meet the criteria. Slovenia's case has simply been largely neglected. I know of no reputable opposition to Slovenia. This country is in the “well-I-guess-I-don't-know-any-reason-why-they-shouldn't-be-a-member” category. They simply have lacked a major proponent among NATO countries. In fact, however, we House members feel we can objectively advance their case because we have no special American benefit or relationship with Slove-

nia and we have no big ethnic constituency in our country as we do in the cases of Poland or the Czech Republic.

Because my time is brief I will in capsule form list only a few special reasons for Slovenian membership:

1. First and foremost, again, they meet the membership criteria—perhaps better than any other candidate.

2. While the costs of enlargement will be a factor in ratification debates in NATO countries, Slovenia has the financial capacity and commitment to meet its military costs—again better than any other candidate.

3. Slovenia has never been and will not be considered by Russia to be a threat against it—it's membership will be an example or proof that NATO expansion is not simply hostility directed at Russia. It's acceptance by NATO will only recognize as one nation's effort to enhance its security against any threat by joining the Alliance. (A NATO expansion won't be seen as a finger pointed against Russia, but an open hand that it can grasp.)

4. Slovenia's admission on the merits of its case and not as part of any grand “horse-trading scheme, bargaining chip,” or “political quid pro quo” will reassure all applicants and would-be applicants that their cases will be decided by the Alliance on the merits—by objective standards.

5. Slovenia's admission will serve as an incentive for action and a model to follow for the now independent parts of what was Yugoslavia, and indeed for all of the countries of the Balkans or southeastern Europe.

6. Finally, at a time when NATO is faced with a terrible dilemma in Bosnia, recent and perhaps prospective combatants in Croatia and Serbia, with potential threats to Macedonia, and with Albanian ethnic difficulties stretching from Kosovo to Albania itself, Slovenia as a NATO member would be a good source of counsel, and potentially of mediation, in those grave controversies.

My colleagues, that is the short list of reasons why it must not be too late to wake up to Slovenia's case for first-round NATO membership—strictly on the merits of its case and because of the advantage of NATO itself. Our House delegation will make its case to our colleagues in Congress and to the Clinton administration. We strenuously urge all of you to consider and make this case, too, in your own respective countries. Slovenia deserves first-round membership and it has a unique position and circumstances to strengthen NATO now!

CONGRATULATING EAGLE SCOUT
AARON JAMES MYERS

HON. GEORGE W. GEKAS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 3, 1997

Mr. GEKAS. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to join with so many others in congratulating Aaron James Myers for his achievement of the Eagle Scout Award from the Boy Scouts of America. Aaron began his Scouting career in 1985 as a tiger cub with Pack 202 of Chambers Hill, PA. During his years as a Boy Scout he has earned a total of 24 merit badges and attended Philmont, the National Boy Scout High Adventure Program in New Mexico. He has held the positions of quartermaster, senior patrol leader, troop guide and junior assistant scoutmaster. He also earned the religious award for the Catholic faith—Ad Altare Dei.