

PHILADELPHIA OLDTIMERS SOCCER ASSOCIATION 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ROBERT A. BORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 26, 1997

Mr. BORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Philadelphia Oldtimers Soccer Association. I would like to speak in honor of this group because of their commitment to the community. They have focused their love of a sport into an organization that makes a positive contribution to the youth of Philadelphia.

Founded in 1947, the Philadelphia Oldtimers Soccer Association [POSA] was a synthesis of managers, benefactors, and players. The founders original intent to give something back to young people participating in the sport has been upheld through POSA programs for 50 years. POSA makes this contribution through many different means.

The National Soccer Hall of Fame included the Philadelphia Oldtimers Hall of Fame original inductees as founding members in 1953. There are now 16 members of POSA in the National Hall of Fame. At an annual banquet, POSA honors a male and female coach of the year, a referee of the year, a manager of the year, male and female player of the year, and a club of the year.

POSA annually selects an all-scholastic team. The Philadelphia Catholic, Philadelphia Public, Inter-Academic, and Suburban One Leagues individually submit candidates for the POSA team. The final 22 players and 4 alternates are selected through a tryout process from a pool of about 90 players. This final team goes on to play teams from Lehigh Valley, western suburban Philadelphia, Staten Island, Cape May, and other prominent local clubs.

Helping the players receive college scholarship funding is one of the oldtimers fundamental goals, and the all-scholastic team provides a medium through which college coaches can assess and recruit POSA players. Many members of the team have received scholarships, with some continuing on to play professional soccer.

POSA has recently added a new focus to its efforts—the development of a girls program. They are committed to offering the same opportunity to girls that the boys all-scholastic team has provided to its players in the past. POSA's move to provide female soccer players with the same springboard to college soccer is a step in a positive direction for female athletes in the Philadelphia area.

When the POSA teams put their best foot forward, they are also representing the best of Philadelphia. Not only are they building a reputation of great soccer and teamwork for themselves, they are contributing to the reputation and success of Philadelphia's student athletes. On their 50th anniversary I would like to congratulate the Philadelphia Oldtimers Soccer Association and its players on their achievements, and wish them future success in the sport of soccer and beyond.

ADDRESS BY FRANCIS SEJERSTED

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 26, 1997

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, last November, Bishop Carlos Ximenes Belo and Dr. Jose Ramos-Horta were awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for their efforts in bringing peace to East Timor. I had the opportunity to attend the ceremony in Oslo with my colleague, the gentleman from Ohio, TONY HALL, who nominated Bishop Belo for the prize in 1994 and 1995. I then had the opportunity to visit Bishop Belo in East Timor in January.

As part of our bipartisan effort to recognize the Nobel Prize winners today, I am submitting for the RECORD the speech made by the chairman of the Nobel Committee when he presented the award.

ADDRESS BY FRANCIS SEJERSTED, CHAIRMAN OF THE NORWEGIAN NOBEL COMMITTEE, ON THE OCCASION OF THE AWARD OF THE NOBEL PEACE PRIZE FOR 1996

Your Majesties, Presidents, Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen: On behalf of the Norwegian Nobel Committee, may I extend to everyone a warm welcome to this year's Nobel Peace Prize ceremony. It is one hundred years to the day since Alfred Nobel died. A year earlier, he had drawn up his will, in which he determined that his considerable wealth should provide for annual awards of five prizes, three for science, one for literature, and one for peace, to those whose work, as he wrote, "shall have conferred the greatest benefit on mankind". It was also laid down in the will that the Peace Prize should be awarded in Norway by a committee appointed by the Norwegian Storting. Our thoughts today go also to Stockholm, where the other awards are being made, and where the centenary is being marked of the death of Alfred Nobel.

Nobel was, of course, an unusually successful businessman. But that was not where his heart lay. His happiest times were spent in the laboratory. Inventions, it has been said, became for him a way of life. He was also very widely read. He was in other words greatly interested, indeed a believer, in science and literature. What was remarkable was his moral approach to those activities, which he saw as opportunities for promoting a better world. This perspective emerges most clearly in his decision concerning a peace prize. It can be argued that the invention of dynamite, and concern at the more powerful weapons which it made possible, contributed to his increasing commitment to peace. But there were other impulses, too, impulses which appealed to his deeply rooted moral instincts, first and foremost his contact with the future Peace Prize Laureate Bertha von Suttner and with the contemporary peace movement.

Nobel left an important inheritance, consisting of a vision of a better world, and an award institution which was to contribute to the realization of that vision. We who have been entrusted with managing that inheritance do so in humility and with deep respect for the man Alfred Nobel, whose memory we honour today.

It is with great pleasure, and in the conviction that with this year's choice we have managed Nobel's inheritance in the best possible way, that we welcome our Peace Prize Laureates today. Carlos Filipe Ximenes Belo and José Ramos-Horta have been awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for 1996 for their long-lasting efforts to achieve a just and peaceful

solution to the twenty-year-old conflict in East Timor. To reach this peaceful winterland Norway, you have come about as far from your home country as it is possible to travel on this earth. Yet the distance between us is much shorter in miles than in opportunities for peace, justice and reconciliation. We are grateful and proud that, in the middle of your important and self-sacrificing work, you have found time for the journey here, thereby giving us this opportunity to honour you.

The conflict in East Timor has been called "the forgotten conflict". It has not, however, been completely forgotten, having figured on the international agenda, with varying degrees of prominence, throughout those twenty years. But it has so to speak never caught on. There have been so many other interests and regards to attend to, and East Timor is so small. Rarely has the cynicism of world politics been more clearly demonstrated. The numerous considerations of "Realpolitik" have enabled an exceptionally brutal form of neocolonialism to take place. Of a population of between six and seven hundred thousand, nearly two hundred thousand have died as the direct or indirect result of the Indonesian occupation. And the violations are still taking place today. Many are the countries which have given higher priority to their "Realpolitical" cooperation with Indonesia than to regard for East Timor. This is the apparently hopeless situation in which our two Laureates have so untiringly striven for a just and peaceful arrangement for their people.

The autumn of 1975 was fateful for East Timor. First the old colonial masters, the Portuguese, withdrew. Then an internal struggle broke out between the Timorese Democratic Union on the one hand and the Fretilin liberation movement on the other. And the autumn ended with the Indonesian invasion. In the twenty-one years that have passed since, this conquest of a country and a people has never been internationally recognised. Ramos-Horta was a Fretilin leader, one of the moderates whose ideal was social democracy. During the so-called civil war, he was out of the country, and on his return in September he tried to reconcile the parties. Since the invasion he has lived abroad, unceasingly and with great personal sacrifice collecting and communicating information on the repression, torture and killing in his home country, and acting as East Timor's principal international spokesman. At the same time he has successfully kept up his efforts to unite the various East Timorese groups in a single national front, while constantly seeking opportunities for a peaceful solution to the conflict with Indonesia, based on respect for the integrity of the East Timorese people. "We used to joke that he was more an informal member of the Democratic Union than a Fretilin leader," says Union leader João Carrascalão. The remark illustrates the part played by Ramos-Horta as a mediator and conciliator. No serious negotiations aimed at resolving the conflict are conceivable today without the participation of Ramos-Horta or one of his aides, as Bishop Belo has also emphasized.

As a relatively unknown priest, Bishop Belo was appointed Apostolic Administrator for the Roman Catholic church in East Timor in 1983, since when he has served on his home ground. Again and again, in the midst of everyday terror and suffering, he has intervened, trying to reconcile and mediate and lessen confrontation, and in doing so he has saved many lives. Intervening in a violent conflict entails a risk of being crushed between the antagonists. "Pray for me, please," he said in one such situation, "because now I have to defend myself on both sides". But Bishop Belo has become

much more than a mediator: this man of peace has also become a rallying point for his sorely tried people, a representative of their hope for a better future. The love his people feel for this mediator springs from certain fundamental principles he has adhered to. Show the people respect. Give them freedom to develop their humanity to the full. Then ask them whether they want to be Indonesians, Portuguese, or independent. Bishop Belo shares with his people the insight of the oppressed, an insight deeper than that of generals or oppressors. Why all this brutality? It does not even serve its purpose. You do not gain respect if you do not show respect.

This year has seen the commemoration, forty years on, of the Soviet Union's brutal crushing of the popular rising in Hungary in 1956. The West did not intervene. Since Hungary lay within the Soviet sphere of interest, it was necessary "Realpolitik" to accept the invasion. We would do well to recall that at that time, a marking of the event forty years later in a free Hungary lay beyond the bounds of what most people thought possible. It has been said that Indonesia's annexation of East Timor is a historic fact. But history has never established anything as a fact forever. History always moves on. If we have learned anything in the past decade, it must be that the most repressive regimes are the most fragile. There are forces in history more powerful than the strongest military force. Violence and terror do not lead to peace. Not until one builds up the courage to break out of the vicious circle of violence do opportunities arise for an enduring peace.

The right to live, the right to full development as human beings, the right to respect, are at the heart of the concept of human rights. Since the award of the Nobel Peace Prize for 1960 to Albert Luthuli, work for human rights has been one of the principal criteria for the award. We have constantly received confirmation that this was the right path to take, although the choice of this criterion has also been criticized because it allegedly has nothing to do with peace. But it is precisely in forging a close link between the human rights criterion and peace that we believe we are realizing that criterion's most universal and most fundamental aspects. Peace, stability and harmony must be based on mutual respect. That, so simple and so universal, is the message. Once it has been heard, the next step is to institutionalise the respect, in various ways according to cultural traditions. Violence, on the other hand, systematic violence on the part of those in power, can never be justified within the framework of a universal concept of human rights. That is a fact to which the victims of violence could testify. Never forget to listen to the voice of the victims, the voice of the nearly two hundred thousand whose lives were lost in massacres or from the hunger and want which resulted from the Indonesian invasion of East Timor.

This year's two Peace Prize Laureates, Carlos Filipe Ximenes Belo and José Ramos-Horta, have labored tirelessly, and with great personal sacrifice, for their oppressed people. Under extremely difficult conditions, they have preserved their humanity and faith in the future. It is in admiration of their work and in the hope for a better future for East Timor that the Norwegian Nobel Committee today honors them with the Nobel Peace Prize for 1996.

LECTURE BY JOSÉ RAMOS-HORTA

HON. PATRICK J. KENNEDY

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 26, 1997*

Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island. Mr. Speaker, in honor of Mr. José Ramos-Horta's visit to Washington, DC, the week of February 24, 1997, I ask permission to include in the RECORD the Nobel Lecture of José Ramos-Horta before the Norwegian Nobel Committee on December 10, 1996.

THE NOBEL LECTURE GIVEN BY THE NOBEL PEACE PRIZE LAUREATE 1996 JOSÉ RAMOS-HORTA

My deepest appreciation goes to the Nobel Committee for having chosen us for the 1996 Nobel Peace Prize. Your generosity in thinking of the wretched of the earth, and your courage in standing up to the might of States, the cynicism and indifference of too many, betrayal by some, tells also a lot about the soul and history of courage of this great country of yours that fought bravely during World War II.

In recent years Norway has played a central role in fostering dialogue and peace among historical enemies. In the Middle East and Central America, your discreet nature, determination and creativity have proven that some of the world's seemingly intractable conflicts can be resolved when there is an honest mediator and when the parties in the conflict are willing to end the war.

Small countries like Norway, Costa Rica and Portugal, and others, can succeed in mediating conflicts when mighty powers failed. Diplomacy and mediation are not prerogatives of the major powers. The small and medium-size countries without ambitions to a neo-imperial role and whose strength is there moral integrity are best placed to open dialogue among the parties in a conflict.

THE EAST TIMORESE CHURCH

The real winner of the 1996 Nobel Peace Prize is our spiritual leader, Dom Carlos Filipe Ximenes Belo. He is the embodiment of the East Timorese people's resilience, moral rectitude, dignity and identity, and its long quest for peace and freedom. In Dom Carlos the people of East Timor have found spiritual comfort and some sense of security from the daily threats to their very existence.

The people of East Timor owe almost everything to their Church. Hence, the 1996 Nobel Peace Prize is a tribute to the whole church, the courageous priests, nuns and lay workers and the people of East Timor.

My share of the Nobel Peace Prize will go entirely to a foundation to be called Peace and Democracy Dom Martinho da Costa Lopes. I know this is too small a tribute to this great man who gave his life to his church and people.

THE SOLIDARITY MOVEMENT

I would like also to express my gratitude to three organizations that in the past honored my people with less well-known awards but with equal importance for our people. To Professor Thorof Rafto Human Rights Foundation from Bergen, Gleitsman Foundation, from California, and the Un-Represented Nations and Peoples Organisation (UNPO) based in The Hague, goes my profound gratitude.

With the men, women and children in many parts of the world who have given us so many years of their lives I wish to share this moment of joy. Without the generous solidarity movement we would be even poor-

er and alone. Some of our good friends have passed away from this Earth. Denis Freney, Michelle Turner, Michel Robert, Carlos Vilares, the little and beautiful Sarah Taylor whom God took away at age 15. We will remember them for ever.

ANGOLA, CAPE VERDE, GUINEA-BISSAU, MOZAMBIQUE, SÃO TOMÉ AND PRINCEPE

My special greetings of friendship and eternal gratitude to my good friend, President Joaquim Chissano of Mozambique, for having taken the trouble to fly to Oslo to be with us.

You have been with us in our most lonely years when the rest of the world pretended we did not exist or offered us advice on how best to surrender. From this noble rostrum I bow to your late predecessor, Samora Moisés Machel, one of the greatest men Africa has known.

My special greetings and deepest gratitude to Presidents José Eduardo dos Santos of Angola, Mascarenhas Monteiro of Cape Verde, Nino Vieira of Guinea-Bissau, and Miguel Trovoada of São Tomé and Príncipe for their friendship and generosity.

Your peoples and countries have been with us through our lonely years and I believe that you will be with us still in the years to come.

To the people of Angola who have suffered beyond imagination and are still in a painful process of national reconciliation, I extend our solidarity and friendship.

Angola paid a heavy price for the liberation of Namibia and South Africa. Yet there has not been enough recognition of the enormous contribution that the two lusophone countries. Angola and Mozambique, gave to the liberation of Southern Africa.

PORTUGAL

I wish to state from this august rostrum the eternal gratitude of the people of East Timor and my own to the people of Portugal, the President, our good friend Dr. Jorge Sampaio and his predecessor, Dr. Mário Soares, a man of principles and compassion.

Through Your Excellency, Mr. President, I humbly ask you to convey to your wonderful and generous people, members of Parliament and government, past and present, our most heartfelt appreciation for your gallant efforts in support of our struggle.

For many years you fought a lonely battle in the European Union against the indifference and even hostility of some of your partners. You have shown not only to us the East Timorese but to other smaller nations in the world that principles and morality have not been taken over completely by mercantile interests.

BRAZIL

I recently visited Brazil and was warmly welcomed by everyone. I humbly ask President José Sarney to convey to President Fernando Henrique Cardoso and through him to all the people of Brazil our admiration and affection for your great country and people. My warmest greetings to Betinho, Dom Paulo Evaristo and Dom Hélder Câmara, the conscience of the poor of Brazil and the world.

Your Majesties: This speech belongs to someone else who should be here today. He is an outstanding man of courage, tolerance and statesmanship. Yet, this man is in prison for no crime other than his ideas and vision of peace, freedom and dignity of his people.

Xanana Gusmão, leader of the people of East Timor, remains incommunicado in a prison thousands of miles away from his country. His trial in 1993 was universally condemned as a charade and was no more valid than the Dutch imprisonment and trial of the late President Sukarno, founding father of the Indonesian Republic.