

nation the size of the United States can find no one else to maintain diplomatic contacts with Palestinians.”

This statement, if quoted correctly, is deeply offensive on two counts. First, it is patently anti-semitic, or more properly, anti-Jewish. Its conspiratorial overtones reflect the worst traditions of hate-mongering that characterizes classical anti-semitism.

Second, it is a thinly veiled attempt to manipulate our sovereign right as a country to choose whoever we wish to represent us diplomatically. It also evinces complete ignorance of the American system.

I am confident that the individuals to whom Mr. Medein refers were not chosen for their religious beliefs, but rather on the strength of their qualifications for the jobs for which they were selected. Anyone who thinks otherwise has great deal to learn about this country.

If Mr. Medein or anyone else in the Palestinian Authority has difficulty meeting with American representatives who happen to profess a particular religious faith, then that is their problem, not ours.

I would submit, Mr. President, that we have the right to choose a person of any faith, any gender, and any race to represent us in any place. Should we choose an American who happens to be a Muslim to represent us in Israel, a Hindu to represent us in Pakistan, a Jew in Syria, a Roman Catholic in Yugoslavia, a Greek Orthodox in Turkey, or a Buddhist in China, then that is our sovereign right as a nation. The only criterion should be that the person be qualified for the job for which he or she is selected. Religious affiliation should have absolutely nothing to do with it. Zero. Zilch.

That is what distinguishes us from the rest of the world. For unfortunately, Mr. Medein's views are not isolated ones. They reflect an all-too-common obsession with race, religion, and ethnicity that plagues much of the world.

We may not be perfect, but our guiding ideals are unassailable. And we have successfully put those ideals into practice, with the result that many others seek to emulate us.

Mr. President, the day we pause even for a fraction of a second to contemplate the possible validity of remarks such as Mr. Medein's is the day that we abandon our most fundamental beliefs.

Bigotry must be denounced, whether it is at home or abroad. American representatives who are the object of bigoted attacks deserve to know that their country stands four-square behind them.

THE VERY BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, at the close of business yesterday, Monday, May 19, 1997, the Federal debt stood at \$5,344,451,048,224.65. (Five trillion, three hundred forty-four billion, four hun-

dred fifty-one million, forty-eight thousand, two hundred twenty-four dollars and sixty-five cents)

Five years ago, May 19, 1992, the Federal debt stood at \$3,920,456,000,000. (Three trillion, nine hundred twenty billion, four hundred fifty-six million)

Ten years ago, May 19, 1987, the Federal debt stood at \$2,291,418,000,000. (Two trillion, two hundred ninety-one billion, four hundred eighteen million)

Fifteen years ago, May 19, 1982, the Federal debt stood at \$1,066,133,000,000. (One trillion, sixty-six billion, one hundred thirty-three million)

Twenty-five years ago, May 19, 1972, the Federal debt stood at \$428,331,000,000 (Four hundred twenty-eight billion, three hundred thirty-one million) which reflects a debt increase of nearly \$5 trillion—\$4,916,120,048,224.65 (Four trillion, nine hundred sixteen billion, one hundred twenty million, forty-eight thousand, two hundred twenty-four dollars and sixty-five cents) during the past 25 years.

TRIBUTE TO COL. ROBERT LEARY

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, it is a privilege to take this opportunity to pay tribute to Col. Robert Francis Leary, who died on April 27 at his home in Concord, MA.

Colonel Leary served in the U.S. Army for 34 years, retiring in 1987. His tours of duty included positions as executive officer of the 373rd General Hospital, and chief of staff of the 804th Medical Brigade, coordinating the medical readiness of Army Medical Units in the United States, the United Kingdom, and Germany. He also served as commandant at Fort Devens, MA, successfully conducting this course the first time it was exported outside of Fort Sam Houston, TX. Colonel Leary was the recipient of numerous military awards for distinguished service, including Meritorious Service Medals, the U.S. Army Commendation Medal, and the Legion of Merit.

Colonel Leary also had a distinguished civilian career. He was employed by the Department of Veterans Affairs in Bedford, MA as coordinator and supervisor in the Social Work Service Department. Most recently, he was program manager of the Veterans Homestead transitional housing program in Leominster, MA. In addition, he served as an equal employment opportunity Officer at Veteran Affairs Central Office in Washington, DC, and in several capacities in private practice as a licensed independent clinical social worker.

Colonel Leary shared his many wide-ranging interests with his family and friends including politics, travel, golf, hockey, baseball, and soccer. He was constantly involved in youth sport activities and was his children's most avid fan. To all who knew him, he was a model citizen and family member. His patriotism and commitment to service are an example to us all, and I am honored to pay tribute to him today.

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Williams, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE ORDER PROHIBITING NEW INVESTMENT IN BURMA—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT—PM 38

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; which was referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

To the Congress of the United States:

Pursuant to section 570(b) of the Foreign Operations, Export Financing, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 1997 (Public Law 104-208) (the “Act”), I hereby report to the Congress that I have determined and certified that the Government of Burma has, after September 30, 1996, committed large-scale repression of the democratic opposition in Burma. Further, pursuant to section 204(b) of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1703(b)) (IEEPA) and section 301 of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1631), I hereby report that I have exercised my statutory authority to declare a national emergency to respond to the actions and policies of the Government of Burma and have issued an Executive order prohibiting United States persons from new investment in Burma.

The order prohibits United States persons from engaging in any of the following activities after its issuance:

- entering a contract that includes the economic development of resources located in Burma;
- entering a contract providing for the general supervision and guarantee of another person's performance of a contract that includes the economic development of resources located in Burma;
- purchasing a share of ownership, including an equity interest, in the economic development of resources located in Burma;
- entering into a contract providing for the participation in royalties, earnings, or profits in the economic development of resources located in Burma, without regard to the form of the participation;
- facilitating transactions of foreign persons that would violate any of the foregoing prohibitions if engaged in by a United States person; and

—evading or avoiding, or attempting to violate, any of the prohibitions in the order.

Consistent with the terms of section 570(b) of the Act, the order does not prohibit the entry into, performance of, or financing of most contracts for the purchase or sale of goods, services, or technology. For purposes of the order, the term "resources" is broadly defined to include such things as natural, agricultural, commercial, financial, industrial, and human resources. However, not-for-profit educational, health, or other humanitarian programs or activities are not considered to constitute economic development of resources located in Burma. In accordance with section 570(b), the prohibition on an activity that constitutes a new investment applies if such activity is undertaken pursuant to an agreement, or pursuant to the exercise of rights under an agreement that is entered into with the Government of Burma or a non-governmental entity in Burma, on or after the effective date of the Executive order.

My Administration will continue to consult and express our concerns about developments in Burma with the Burmese authorities as well as leaders of ASEAN, Japan, the European Union, and other countries having major political, security, trading, and investment interests in Burma and seek multilateral consensus to bring about democratic reform and improve human rights in that country. I have, accordingly, delegated to the Secretary of State the responsibilities in this regard under section 570(c) and (d) of the Act.

The Secretary of the Treasury, in consultation with the Secretary of State, is authorized to issue regulations in exercise of my authorities under IEEPA and section 570(b) of the Act to implement this prohibition on new investment. All Federal agencies are also directed to take actions within their authority to carry out the provisions of the Executive order.

I have taken these steps in response to a deepening pattern of severe repression by the State Law and Order Restoration Council (SLORC) in Burma. During the past 7 months, the SLORC has arrested and detained large numbers of students and opposition supporters, sentenced dozens to long-term imprisonment, and prevented the expression of political views by the democratic opposition, including Aung San Suu Kyi and the National League for Democracy (NLD). It is my judgment that recent actions by the regime in Rangoon constitute large-scale repression of the democratic opposition committed by the Government of Burma within the meaning of section 570(b) of the Act.

The Burmese authorities also have committed serious abuses in their recent military campaign against Burma's Karen minority, forcibly conscripting civilians and compelling thousands to flee into Thailand. Moreover, Burma remains the world's lead-

ing producer of opium and heroin, with official tolerance of drug trafficking and traffickers in defiance of the views of the international community.

I believe that the actions and policies of the SLORC regime constitute an extraordinary and unusual threat to the security and stability of the region, and therefore to the national security and foreign policy of the United States.

It is in the national security and foreign policy interests of the United States to seek an end to abuses of human rights in Burma and to support efforts to achieve democratic reform. Progress on these issues would promote regional peace and stability and would be in the political, security, and economic interests of the United States.

The steps I take today demonstrate my Administration's resolve to support the people of Burma, who made clear their commitment to human rights and democracy in 1990 elections, the results of which the regime chose to disregard.

I am also pleased to note that the Administration and the Congress speak with one voice on this issue, as reflected in executive-legislative cooperation in the enactment of section 570 of the Foreign Operations Act. I look forward to continued close consultation with the Congress on efforts to promote human rights and democracy in Burma.

In conclusion, I emphasize that Burma's international isolation is not an inevitability, and that the authorities in Rangoon retain the ability to secure improvements in relations with the United States as well as with the international community. In this respect, I once again call on the SLORC to lift restrictions on Aung San Suu Kyi and the political opposition, to respect the rights of free expression, assembly, and association, and to undertake a dialogue that includes leaders of the NLD and the ethnic minorities and that deals with the political future of Burma.

In the weeks and months to come, my Administration will continue to monitor and assess action on these issues, paying careful attention to the report of the U.N. Special Rapporteur appointed by the U.N. Human Rights Commission and the report of the U.N. Secretary General on the results of his good offices mandate. Thus, I urge the regime in Rangoon to cooperate fully with those two important U.N. initiatives on Burma.

I am enclosing a copy of the Executive order that I have issued. The order is effective at 12:01 a.m., eastern daylight time, May 21, 1997.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON.

THE WHITE HOUSE, May 20, 1997.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, which were referred as indicated:

EC-1933. A communication from the Acting Executive Director of the U.S. Commodity Futures Trading Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of the final schedule of fees received on May 15, 1997; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-1934. A communication from the Assistant Administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to conditional registration; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-1935. A communication from the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of the Farm Credit Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to debt; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-1936. A communication from the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of the Farm Credit Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Referral of Known or Suspected Criminal Violations" (RIN3052-AB33) received on May 1, 1997; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-1937. A communication from the Chairman of the Farm Credit System Insurance Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the annual report for calendar year 1996; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-1938. A communication from the Secretary of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the annual animal welfare enforcement report for fiscal year 1997; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-1939. A communication from the Administrator of the U.S. Small Business Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, a rule entitled "Small Business Size Regulations" received on May 12, 1997; to the Committee on Small Business.

EC-1940. A communication from the Administrator of the U.S. Small Business Administration, transmitting, a draft of proposed legislation of the SBA budget for fiscal year 1998; to the Committee on Small Business.

EC-1941. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of State (Legislative Affairs), transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of the certification of a proposed issuance of an export license; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-1942. A communication from the Deputy Secretary of the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, a rule entitled "Custody of Investment Company Assets Outside the United States" (RIN3235-AE98) received on May 14, 1997; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-1943. A communication from the Federal Register Liaison Officer of the Office of Thrift Supervision, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a rule entitled "De Novo Applications For A Federal Savings Association Charter" (RIN1550-AA76) received on May 15, 1997; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-1944. A communication from the Chairman of the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the annual report for fiscal year 1996; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-1945. A communication from the Secretary of Veterans' Affairs, transmitting, a draft of proposed legislation entitled "The Veterans' Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment and Benefit Programs Improvement Act of 1997"; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

EC-1946. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of State (Legislative Affairs),