

and included several important worker training and education provisions. It is now time for the House to pass this bill as well.

This bill includes provisions so that 55% of the H-1B education and training fees go toward Department of Labor demonstration programs and projects to provide training for workers. Twenty-two percent of the fees will go toward low-income scholarships and fifteen percent of the fees will go toward National Science Foundation grants for math, technology and science education in primary and secondary schools. It also provides after-school technology grants to encourage youth education in these subject areas.

Earlier this year, I cosponsored "The Helping to Improve Technology Education and Achievement Act of 2000" introduced by Congresswoman ZOE LOFGREN and Congressman DAVID DREIER. This bill was critical to the debate on this issue and I am proud to have worked with those sponsors, as well as with members on both sides of the aisle who have been dedicated to bringing this bill to the floor.

I recognize the enormous difficulties that the current worker shortage poses to high tech companies. At the same time, however, I want to insure that we do all that we can to reach the best and brightest in America and providing opportunity for and training to American workers as well. Today's bill is attentive to both of these needs. I urge all of my colleagues to vote for S. 2045.

PASS THE CARAT ACT: H.R. 5147

HON. TONY P. HALL

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 4, 2000

Mr. HALL of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, many of us are gravely concerned about the role the trade in diamonds has in fueling some of the most brutal wars in Africa. Much is made of the fact that the number of these diamonds is small—between 4 and 15 percent. The reality is that blood diamonds account for 30 percent of the profits the industry earns.

The link between diamonds and war is well-documented, and I urge our colleagues to get the complete story by requesting a briefing by U.S. intelligence agencies. In the meantime, I am submitting for the RECORD a selection of excerpts from respected publications. This is by no means exhaustive, and it omits reports on the industry's recent efforts to repair its damaged reputation.

I hope this selection is useful to the American public—which buys two-thirds of the world's diamonds. And I urge my colleagues to review this situation and join in efforts to combat this terrible trade.

"The flow of uncut diamonds from rebel-held mines to market centers around the world—valued at hundreds of millions of dollars a year—is keeping rebel armies in Angola, Congo and Sierra Leone supplied with tanks and assault rifles and even uniforms and beer, American and European officials say." U.S. May Try to Curb Diamond Trade That Fuels Africa Wars, *New York Times*, 8/7/99.

"The brutal war in Sierra Leone, which left thousands maimed and mutilated, was prolonged by at least 18 months because of the ability of the rebels to quickly trade diamonds for arms, an Administration official

said. . . ." U.S. May Try to Curb Diamond Trade That Fuels Africa Wars, *New York Times*, 8/7/99.

"In many African nations, the natural resources that should be used to feed and educate people are instead being used to destroy them. . . . Loot, not better government, has motivated the psychotically brutal guerrillas of Sierra Leone." The Business of War in Africa, *New York Times*, 8/8/99.

"Sierra Leone was founded in the 18th century as a safe haven for freed slaves. At the close of the 20th century, its people are enduring horrors at the hands of their countrymen and bearing scars from a civil war of atrocities perpetrated by an army of thugs and desperadoes." The Amputees of Sierra Leone: Civil War's Brutal Legacy, *Washington Post*, 10/18/99.

"The eight-year conflict that has shattered this country and brutalized its 5 million people has been fueled by foreigners' hunger for diamonds. . . . These conflicts are singularly brutal, scholars say, because many of their sponsors are outsiders with little motive to limit destruction." Diamond Hunters Fuel Africa's Brutal Wars, *Washington Post*, 10/16/99.

" . . . a prosthetics specialist for Handicap International . . . said he had never seen a double-arm amputee until he came here. 'It was shocking,' he said, 'I don't think you will find double amputees of the upper limbs anywhere else in the world—maybe isolated cases, but not like in Sierra Leone.' In the Amputee and War Wounded Camp. . . . the double amputees are considered the unluckiest. Those without arms . . . openly express envy of those with a missing leg, who will one day wear trousers over an artificial leg, or those with at least one good arm. . . . a psychologist who treats the amputees, said the Revolutionary United Front appeared to have selected men whose maiming would most profoundly affect the social order. 'It was the goal of the rebels to take away their role as men, fathers and husbands.'" Sierra Leone Measures Terror in Severed Limbs, *Washington Post*, 8/22/99.

"The residents of this camp [for amputees] lost their arms and feet to a rebel force that spread terror among Sierra Leoneans not by killing but by leaving people . . . as living, limbless symbols of its savage power. The campaign worked." *Sierra Leone Measures Terror in Severed Limbs*, *Washington Post*, 8/22/99.

"That dazzling diamond necklace you buy for that special someone at a swank Fifth Avenue jewelry store may be funding the activities of a canibal gang in Sierra Leone. . . . It's the dark side of the diamond industry. . . . and the profits—estimated to be \$2 billion a year—are funneled back to some of the worst mass killers this century has ever seen. The money is used to buy arms and military hardware, and to hire private mercenary firms to keep these internal African conflicts raging, according to a recent report by the State Department's Bureau of Intelligence and Research." *Dirty Diamonds*, *New York Post*, 11/9/99.

" . . . are New York diamond dealers worried about having their glittering product follow in the footsteps of the fur coat and labeled parish products? 'No . . . We've weathered many storms before. We'll weather this one too.'" *Dirty Diamonds*, *New York Post*, 11/9/99.

"Some of Africa's worst violence—in Angola, in Congo, in Sierra Leone—where hundreds of thousands have died or lost arms and legs: This turmoil has been financed in large part by stolen diamonds that end up in jewelry stores around the world. . . . There is so much money at stake, it won't be easy to stop rebels who have used the beauty and value of diamonds to create misery and

death in Africa." ABC World News Tonight, 11/26/99.

"In an African tragedy, the world's purest gems are funding one of the dirtiest wars in history." *Diamonds in the Rough*, *Time*, 12/6/99.

"More than 10,000 people had been murdered, raped, abducted or maimed by rebels in a campaign of calculated terror. In their vividness and gratuitous cruelty, the mass amputations epitomized the powerlessness of ordinary Africans at the turn of the millennium. They also marked a climactic spasm in a grinding eight-year civil war shaped by familiar patterns. Outsiders exploited Sierra Leone's diamonds and other resources. . . . The international media paid little attention. And the great power stood aside, numbed by Africa's wars and poverty." *Peace Without Justice: The Other War*, *Washington Post*, 1/9/00.

"Rebel armies in Angola, the Congo, and Sierra Leone wage brutal civil wars funded by an extensive, smuggled diamond trade. The rebels take control of a diamond mine, falsify a few documents, and then sell the diamonds in the international markets. . . . Rebels in Sierra Leone used their diamond money, funneled through dealers in Liberia, to build an army that started with just 400 volunteers, into a fighting force with more than 20,000 paid soldiers." *Is Your Engagement Ring Funding a Civil War?*, *Shewire*, 2/23/00.

"In many parts of Africa, diamonds don't mean glamour, purity or eternal love. Instead, they mean slaughter and sadistic brutality. In civil wars in Angola, Congo and Sierra Leone—among the world's bloodiest yet most ignored conflicts—guerrilla groups earn hundreds of millions of dollars annually from mining and exporting diamonds. They use the money to buy huge arsenals and terrorize enormous expanses of countryside." *Glittering Currency of African Warfare*, *San Francisco Chronicle*, 3/6/00.

"The diamond-financed escalation of war in Angola in the last decade has cost the lives of about 500,000 people while displacing about four million others, according to human rights groups and the United Nations." *U.N. Sees Violation of a Diamond Ban by Angola Rebels*, *New York Times*, 3/11/00.

" . . . the glittering stones have become agents of slave labor, murder, dismemberment, mass homelessness and wholesale economic collapse." *New York Times*, 4/6/00.

"Sierra Leone remains one of the poorest countries, despite its diamond wealth. Or rather because of it. 'The diamond mines are central to the conflict in two ways. One, they provide the spoils. Two, providing the RUF with the money to continue waging war.'" *A Conflict Rooted in Rebels and Diamonds*, *Christian Science Monitor*, 5/15/00.

"Clausewitz called war 'the pursuit for politics by other means.' But war is just as often a device for the pursuit of business. In Sierra Leone, war is caused by diamonds. The limb-chopping rebels of the Revolutionary United Front (RUF) started out in 1991 as a small band. Then they captured the diamond region, got rich and became a very big band. . . . They fight not to win but to keep hold of the diamond trade." *Diamonds are for Killers*, *Washington Post*, 5/16/00.

"The international diamond trade needs to be regulated . . . Better accountability is not too much to ask of an industry with annual retail sales worth \$56 billion. Western governments can carry on financing peace-keeping missions while their consumers finance mayhem." *Diamonds are for Killers*, *Washington Post*, 5/16/00.

"Sierra Leone is being ripped apart because of diamonds. The Revolutionary United Front, or RUF, the leading rebel group, controls the country's richest diamond areas . . . refugees have no hope of

profiting from their hometown's natural wealth so long as the RUF remains there. 'I am living like this all because of diamonds,' [a refugee] said, surveying a crush of humanity at the camp's food distribution center." A War Driven by Diamonds, Los Angeles Times, 5/26/00.

"That a criminal economy can eat away at the heart of states and whole nations is nothing new. But recent events in Lierra Leone have shown that it can also divert to its own advantage an entire peacekeeping operation run by the United Nations and supported by the main foreign powers . . . We must be clear about who is involved. Barbaric, drug-crazed and dragooned by the warlords as they may be armed and desperate young men could not have brought UNAMSIL to it knees all on their own. The UN has been ensnared by something different, something newer and more insidious; by a struggle between two rival groups supported by businessmen intent on gaining control of mineral wealth." *Sierra Leone's Diamond Wars*, *Le Monde*, 6/00.

"The Kalashnikov lifestyle helps our business, sing the child-soldiers of the RUF. When these kids with guns—doubly cursed by a war in which they are born to live as killers and then die young—watched the blue berets moving towards the diamond fields last March, they did not see them as representatives of an international community intent on disarming them and generously giving them an education, health, social protection and work. This is just one more faction that wanted to take their territory away from them so as to deprive them of their source of wealth . . ." *Sierra Leone's Diamond Wars*, *Le Monde*, 6/00.

"At least three wars in Africa are 'fueled' by diamonds . . . A campaign partly financed by Britain, is seeking to alert consumers to 'conflict' diamonds. Seeing what animal-rights campaigners did to fur, this has terrified the whole industry." *Losing Their Sparkle: How to Stop Diamonds Paying for Nasty African Wars*, *The Economist*, 6/3/00.

"When they chop off people's hands, they will say to the victims, 'Let's see how you're going to vote now,' [Sierra Leone's Ambassador] Liagh explained. 'In Sierra Leone, people re in a state of shock. Nobody throughout the fellow Africans could be this vicious' The extreme violence, he said, is explained by the diamonds, which the rebels—who have received support from Libya and neighboring Liberia—seek to control. 'The greedier you are, the more violent you are,' he said." *An African Ambassador Battles Terror and Indifference*, *New York Times*, 6/5/00.

"As the people of Sierra Leone, Angola and the Democratic Republic of the Congo have found to their cost, diamonds from rebel-controlled mines are the perfect currency to discreetly buy arms, bribe officials and keep soldiers fed and fighting. Stones smaller than a fingernail can be easily hidden and sold for thousands of dollars with no question asked." *African Diamonds are a Rebel's Best Friend*, *Reuters*, 6/8/00.

"DeBeers is stepping up its attempts to make such Robin Cook and others do not stigmatize diamonds as 'the new fur' through constantly associated them with wars in Africa. Diamonds are commonplace in some parts of the [African] Continent and their high value is dependent on a pure image and DeBeers' restricting supply. The company has always had a huge marketing arm and 'diamonds are forever,' coined in 1947, is one of the most successful advertising slogans of all time." *African Images Could Hurt Diamond Trade*, *Daily Telegraph*, 6/12/00.

"The [United Nations'] main objective is to take the diamond fields in the east, which finance the rebels' war chest . . . From the diamond fields, the threats of the conflict lead

over the border. The RUF smuggles diamonds into neighboring Liberia, where President Charles Taylor (who helped launch the RUF) is, according to the British, swapping them for weapons and ammunition." *Sierra Leone: Staying On*, *The Economist*, 6/17/00.

"Many rebel leaders inciting civil conflict are really more interested in lucrative commodities such as diamonds, drugs, timber and coffee than in the political grievances they espouse, the World Bank says in a report release last week. . . . When the main grievances—inequality political repression, and ethnic and religious divisions—are measured objectively, they provide no explanatory power in predicting rebellion. . . . By contrast, economic characteristics—dependence on primary commodity exports, low average incomes, slow growth, and large diasporas—all are significant and powerful predictors of civil war." *Report Links Conflicts with Commodities*, *UN Wire*, 6/22/00.

"In Sierra Leone, the Revolutionary United Front, a rebel outfit seeking to conquer diamond fields in the eastern part of their country, routinely chops off the limbs of citizens to force evacuations of the countryside surrounding the mines. The rebels barter diamonds for weapons and fund their movement with illicit diamond trade. . . . While the vast majority of diamonds come from conflict-free zones in Africa and are traded legitimately, enough diamonds are mined in conflict zones to create a reasonable doubt about any stone's origin." *Rights Groups Take the Stick to Carat of Conflict Diamonds*, *Congressional Quarterly Daily Monitor*, 6/28/00.

" . . . public perception of diamonds has been marred by the gems' links to such armed conflicts as the one in Sierra Leone, reports the Karachi Dawn. 'Suddenly, instead of being glamorous and eternal, the precious stones are shooting to the top of the political hate list,' wrote Doug Alexander. 'Their sparkle has faded in a matter of weeks.'" *Diamonds Becoming Unpopular Due to Ties to Conflict*, *UN Wire*, 6/29/00.

"We have always maintained that the conflict in Sierra Leone is not about ideology, tribal or regional difference," [Sierra Leone's Ambassador] Kamara added. "It has nothing to do with the so-called problem of marginalized youths or . . . an uprising by rural poor against the urban elite. The root of the conflict is and remains diamonds, diamonds and diamonds." *New York Times*, 7/6/00.

"Two weeks ago the World Bank reported that the struggle for diamonds and other commodities had overtaken politics as the biggest cause of civil war globally. The deaths of countless Africans are now inextricably linked to the glittering object that has symbolized the promise of a lasting marriage." *In Search of Hot Rocks*, *Newsweek*, 7/10/00.

"By far the most potent symbol of the suffering 'conflict diamonds' can inflict are the amputees of Sierra Leone. [Today] Sankoh's rebels cut the hands off defenseless civilians in order to sow terror and clear people out of diamond-rich areas. Later, long after a peace agreement had been signed, Sankoh's forces attacked U.N. peacekeepers just as they were preparing to move into rebel-held diamond zones. That audacious assault clearly demonstrated just how important diamonds had become to the RUF." *In Search of Hot Rocks*, *Newsweek*, 7/10/00.

"Rather quickly, the world is waking up to the role of diamonds in fueling Africa's civil wars." *Africa's Death Stones*, 7/15/00.

"Diamonds have long conjured the most romantic notions. . . . In parts of conflict-ridden Africa, however, diamonds inspire little sentimentality. African warlords have taken control of some of the most valuable

diamond mines on the continent, using the proceeds to buy guns and machetes. Their involvement in the international diamond trade has given birth to a new gemstone: the blood diamond." *A Rebel's Best Friend*, *Washington Times*, 7/23/00.

"Consumers have begun to ask where their diamonds come from, prodding the industry to start certifying that it does not finance civil wars, merchants said. . . . The diamond merchants say they are working under pressure from their customers." *Diamond Industry Makes Proposals*, *Washington Post*, 9/7/00.

"Buyers would be appalled to learn that money paid for diamond rings and bracelets may ultimately support politico-criminal bands which exploit child-soldiers and survive by atrocities and terror. The business would be ruined overnight if the barbarous crimes committed in Sierra Leone—and wholesale atrocities against civilians in the struggles over control of diamonds and minerals in the Congo, Angola and elsewhere—became associated by the Western public with luxury jewels." *How Pressure on the Diamond Trade Can do Good for Africa*, *International Herald Tribune*, 8/25/00.

"The diamond trade is hard to control since the stones are so easily concealed and transported. . . . On the other hand, nearly all traded jewel diamonds pass by way of four countries: South Africa . . . Belgium and Israel, . . . and the United States. All are serious countries that can suppress much of the illicit trade, if they want." *How Pressure on the Diamond Trade Can do Good for Africa*, *International Herald Tribune*, 8/25/00.

"DeBeers was rocked by disclosures that in 1992 the company bought \$14 million worth of diamonds from Angolan rebels and has since scrambled to burnish its public image . . . [its] strategy may prove a spectacularly profitable act of reinvention." *A Gem of a New Strategy*, *Time*, 9/25/00.

"Nine years of civil war . . . has devastated the civilian population of Sierra Leone. The conflict has killed over 75,000 people, displaced one-half of the country's 4.5 million people, and resulted in egregious human rights violations. . . . The RUF, however, has continued to finance its military operations through the illegal sale of diamonds." *Sierra Leone: Diamonds for Arms*, *Human Rights Brief*, Spring 2000.

"The photographs of sad-eyed babies whose hands were hacked off by a vicious rebel force have shocked the world's conscience. So too have reports that the wealth and weaponry of Sierra Leone's insurgents come from their control of their country's diamond fields. The horrifying juxtaposition of severed limbs with twinkling gems has even riveted the attention of the diamond industry. U.S. consumers have a particular reason to deplore the link between diamond purchases and the funding of the psychotic rebel forces in West Africa. Americans reportedly account for 65 percent of the world's diamond jewelry sales. But at present there is no way for those buying this symbol of love to make an ethical choice." *Deadly Diamonds: Gems Sold in the United States Pay for Atrocities in West Africa*, *Legal Times*, 9/11/00.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RUBEN HINOJOSA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 4, 2000

Mr. HINOJOSA. Mr. Speaker, yesterday I was unavoidably detained and missed rollcall vote No. 509, making further continuing appropriations for the fiscal year 2001. Had I been present I would have voted "yea."