

VILNIUS INTERNATIONAL FORUM  
ON HOLOCAUST-ERA LOOTED  
CULTURAL ASSETS

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 26, 2000*

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I want to call the attention of my colleagues to the four-day Vilnius International Forum on Holocaust-Era Looted Cultural Assets, which was held in Vilnius, Lithuania, earlier this month. Representatives of 37 countries, the Council of Europe, and 17 non-governmental organizations participated in this important conference. The United States was very ably represented by our Deputy Secretary of Treasury, Stuart E. Eizenstat, who is our Government's representative on Holocaust restitution issues.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the Government of Lithuania for hosting this important conference. I also want to pay particular tribute to my dear friend Emanuelis Zingeris, a former member of the Lithuanian Seimas (Parliament), who conceived and organized this outstanding Vilnius Forum, and served as the Chairman of the Forum Organizing Committee. Zingeris' parents were among the few members of Lithuania's once-flourishing Jewish community who survived the Holocaust. An estimated 95 percent of Lithuania's Jewish community were killed by Nazi murderers during World War II.

Mr. Speaker, the Vilnius Forum was the result of a resolution on "looted Jewish Cultural Property," which was prepared by Emanuelis Zingeris and adopted last year by the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe. It called for the organization of a European conference to follow up on the Washington Conference on Holocaust Era Assets and give special attention to the return of cultural property and relevant legislative reform.

In an outstanding address opening the gathering, Mr. Zingeris expressed the importance of the conference internationally and for Lithuania in particular: "As long as a society fails to perceive the need to seek justice, it may not be called a civic society. The moves taken here in Lithuania like the Vilnius International Forum, are a significant contribution to the development of our civic society. These processes, including the Forum, are our ticket back to Europe."

The purposes of the Vilnius Forum, which it admirably met, were to review progress on the implementation of the statement of principles that was adopted at the Washington Conference, to provide a forum for the discussion of the process of compiling an inventory of cultural assets looted during the Holocaust and their restitution to their rightful owners, and to establish legislative and other guidelines for the implementation of a process for the return of such Holocaust-Era assets. In particular, the Forum focused discussion on the legal, historical, archival, and museum-related problems related to the search, identification, and restitution of plundered cultural property. The declaration issued at the conclusion of the Forum called upon governments to work together to achieve these objectives.

Mr. Speaker, I am delighted that important progress was made at the Vilnius Forum. The Lithuanian Seimas (Parliament), on the eve of the opening of the conference, voted to turn

over 370 Torah scrolls to Jewish groups in a gesture consistent with the objectives of the Forum. These scrolls, which have been kept in the Lithuanian state library, will be turned over to Jewish organizations and Jewish synagogues within Lithuania.

A second important result of the conference, Mr. Speaker, was the breakthrough agreement reached by the governments of the United States and Russia on opening Russian archives to assist in the recovery of art and cultural treasures looted by the Nazis during the World War II. The agreement includes the establishment of a U.S.-based foundation which will help identify plundered cultural assets by creating a register of such cultural items. Christie's Auction House in the United States secured an initial \$500,000 contribution from my dear friends Ronald Lauder, the President of the Conference of Presidents of Major Jewish Organizations, and Edgar Bronfman, President of the World Jewish Congress, to establish this register.

Mr. Speaker, access to Russian archives has long been a crucial concern of Jewish communities and others concerned about the restitution of art and other property stolen from Holocaust victims by the Nazis. This new agreement is an important step forward with the effort to catalogue seized property in Russian museums, and it follows the adoption of legislation by the Russian Duma last May establishing the legal right of Nazi victims to claim assets removed to the Soviet Union at the end of World War II.

Mr. Speaker, I invite my colleagues to join me in expressing gratitude and appreciation to the Government of Lithuania for hosting the highly successful Vilnius Forum, to Stuart Eizenstat for his outstanding efforts in representing the position of the United States at this conference, and particularly to Emanuelis Zingeris for his enthusiastic leadership in bringing this important event together.

ALASKA LANDS EXCHANGE

HON. DON YOUNG

OF ALASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 26, 2000*

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I wish to provide this clarification of legislative intent to Section 761 of H.R. 1000, the FAA Reauthorization bill, P.L. 106-181, enacted earlier this year.

Section 761 provides a process for land exchanges to facilitate a railroad track realignment and straightening project through Elmendorf AFB and Fort Richardson, Alaska. Track is to be relocated further away from the runway landing clear zone, ammunition storage areas, and other military facilities. It will also provide safety and operational benefits for the combined passenger and freight rail line. The small land parcel segments that need to be exchanged on a nearly acre-for-acre basis will be between the state-owned Alaska Railroad on the one part, and the Secretary of the Interior, the Secretaries of the Army, Air Force, or such other federal agencies as may be necessary, on the other part.

Of course, it is the intent of Section 761 that matters needed to facilitate these land exchanges between the federal agencies and the state railroad, as well as the overall pur-

poses of this project, are necessarily implied therein. For example, it will obviously be necessary on a temporary basis during surveying, preliminary engineering, and construction, for one or more of these entities to be present simultaneously on each others' parcels of land, regardless of the exact dates legal title may be transferred. The railroad may, by necessary implication, locate and construct its new track facility without the need for a separate fee or use permit being processed under the usual federal land management statutes. Section 761 already authorizes the applicable Secretary to impose additional terms on the railroad as appropriate to protect the U.S. interests.

Further, while Section 761 did not directly amend The Alaska Railroad Transfer Act of 1982, under which the federally-owned railroad was sold to the state, once again, it is logically and necessarily implied that the revisionary provisions of the 1982 Act will not apply to land segments given up by the railroad to facilitate this project. Instead, the revisionary provisions will transfer and apply to the new land acquired by the railroad from the federal entities in the exchange.

Finally, Section 761 had no intent to imply any derogation of the permanent withdrawal and agreement under Section 1425 of ANILCA, P.L. 86-487, as to any of the lands being exchanged. It is the intent of Section 761 that the lands received by each grantee, either the railroad or the federal entities, shall have in its hands the same status with respect to Section 1425 of ANILCA and the agreement as did the lands granted in exchange by each such grantee. Further, it is intended that any land or interest reconveyed by the railroad to a federal agency will be automatically considered a part of the surrounding public land withdrawal without need for further administrative action respecting those lands.

ICCVAM AUTHORIZATION ACT OF  
2000

SPEECH OF

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 17, 2000*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 4281, the ICCVAM (Interagency Coordinating Committee for the Validation of Alternative Methods) Authorization Act. This commonsense piece of legislation has received overwhelming support from all interested parties, including endorsements from 72 bipartisan cosponsors, the animal rights community, a coalition of chemical and product manufacturers, and the administration.

ICCVAM was established by the director of the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences in 1994 and is still in operation today. Thus, the bill does not create a new Federal bureaucracy. Rather, it improves upon an existing interagency committee and streamlines the regulatory process without eliminating discretion by any Federal agency. H.R. 4281 simply gives ICCVAM statutory authority to continue establishing guidelines and recommendations that promote the regulatory acceptance of scientifically valid, new, revised or alternative test methods, thereby eliminating duplicative, time-consuming and costly test

method validation at several other government agencies. In addition, because ICCVAM already exists, passage of H.R. 4281 will not require any additional budget expenditures.

In conclusion, I would like to say that H.R. 4281 provides a win-win situation for all groups and individuals involved with toxicology testing. For chemical and product manufacturers, who are required to test their products for safety before bringing them to the market, the bill offers them a centralized body to ensure that new test methods are scientifically valid and acceptable for regulatory use before they spend large sums of money on conducting the tests for government approval. For animal protection organizations, this legislation promotes an improved forum in which alternatives to animal testing can be scientifically validated for regulatory use. From a broader standpoint, the tests approved by ICCVAM will provide Federal agencies with adequate data to protect human and environmental health and safety, a development which benefits all Americans.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in supporting H.R. 4281. Let us ensure that ICCVAM continues its important work on behalf of the Federal Government, animal rights activists, and regulated industries across the United States.

SALUTE TO THE KANSAS CITY WIZARDS

**HON. KAREN McCARTHY**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 26, 2000

Ms. McCARTHY of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer my congratulations to the Kansas City Wizards and owner Lamar Hunt for their 1–0 win over the Chicago Fire in Major League Soccer's 2000 championship game on Sunday, October 15. The Wizards are a testament to the perseverance of hard work and determination in athletics. Their drive and resolve produced the best season in the Kansas City Wizard's six year history.

Goalkeeper Tony Meola and veteran players Uche Okafor, Mo Johnston, and Preki capped their stellar season with Major League Soccer's ultimate glory, giving loyal Kansas City fans their first Major League Soccer title. The Wizards' fluid teamwork and appreciation for the game were best exemplified by the unselfish style of play that spearheaded their drive towards the trophy. By foregoing individual statistics, the players came together under one common goal and achieved it in championship fashion.

In addition to their Major League Soccer championship trophy, seven proud Wizards players were selected to join the U.S. National team for an October 25 exhibition match against Mexico. Rookie defender Nick Garcia joined fellow defender Brandon Prideaux, midfielders Kerry Zavagnin, Matt McKeon, Chris Henderson and Chris Klein, and goalkeeper Tony Meola in Los Angeles to lead the United States to a 2–0 win over the Mexican national team. Congratulations to the Wizard Members and to the entire U.S. national team for an inspiring victory.

The MLS trophy has special meaning for Wizards' owner Lamar Hunt, who has long

been a champion of soccer in the United States. Major League Soccer is now the fastest growing American sport, and its popularity in Kansas City is a credit to Mr. Hunt and his commitment to its success. Mr. Hunt's great admiration for his players was noted after the game when he stated proudly that, "These are pages of a memory book that these players will never forget."

The Wizards weekly youth programs have given thousands of children in the Kansas City area the opportunity to meet and interact with the athletes they admire. Young athletes receive fundamental training by a member of the Wizards. These programs provide positive reinforcement for youth on and off the field. Since the inception of these programs in 1995, Kansas City youth soccer has doubled in player participation among our youth.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in saluting the Kansas City Wizards for the winning example they've provided to the young athletes of Kansas City, and for their inspired Major League Soccer championship season and U.S. National Team success. The Wizards embody the principles of teamwork essential for success. I ask the House to join me in Congratulating the Kansas City Wizards, Major League Soccer's 2000 champions and their owner, Mr. Lamar Hunt.

CONGRATULATIONS, GLORIA JEAN OLIVER A WOMAN OF INFLUENCE

**HON. DONALD M. PAYNE**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 26, 2000

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to call to the attention of my colleagues here in the U.S. House of Representatives the accomplishments of a person who has truly made a difference in her community, Ms. Gloria Jean Oliver. Retired as a captain from the East Orange Police Department, Ms. Oliver has been selected as one of the recipients of the prestigious YWCA "Women of Influence" awards. She will be honored at a special luncheon in New Jersey on November 4, 2000.

Born in Glenridge and educated in the East Orange school system, Ms. Oliver attended Upsala College and received a bachelor of arts degree in Social Science.

In 1969, she distinguished herself by becoming the first female to be hired by the East Orange Police Department after placing first on the New Jersey Civil Service exam. After breaking this barrier, she spent her first decade as a detective in the Juvenile Aide Bureau while also taking on an assignment in the rape squad. She continued to be a pioneer in her field, becoming a founding member of the Afro-American police organization with the formation of the East Orange Kinsmen, Inc. She was the first recording secretary of the organization, which was dedicated to serving the local community.

After a promotion to sergeant in 1979, Ms. Oliver supervised the robbery squad. In 1986, while assigned to the Patrol Division, Gloria was promoted to lieutenant and was in charge of the "Safe Neighborhoods Division." She commanded the 4 p.m. until midnight tour of the Patrol Division, was the Record's Bureau supervisor and was in charge of the Commu-

nications Division. In 1998, she was promoted to acting captain, where she served ten months as the commander in charge of the 4 p.m. until midnight tour before her retirement in September of 1999.

Among the hobbies she enjoys are reading, traveling and writing poetry. A true family person, she is devoted to her eighty-eight year old father and takes great pride in her two nieces, Shelly and Krystal, and her great nieces and nephews. Ms. Oliver is now enjoying a well-deserved retirement where she continues to be active as a member of the Board of Directors of the North End Nursery.

Mr. Speaker, I know my colleagues join me in commanding Ms. Oliver for her outstanding professional achievements and her service to the community. Let us extend our congratulations as she receives the Women of Influence Award and our very best wishes for continued health and happiness.

IN HONOR OF THE VASCULAR ANOMALIES PROGRAM AT NEW YORK UNIVERSITY MEDICAL CENTER ON VASCULAR ANOMALIES FAMILY DAY

**HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 26, 2000

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, today I honor the Vascular Anomalies Program at New York University Medical Center which will celebrate Vascular Anomalies Family Day on October 29, 2000. The Vascular Anomalies Program at NYU is an exceptional medical program that serves a notable role assisting my constituents with their medical needs.

The Vascular Anomalies Program began at NYU in the 1980s as a subsidiary of the Institute for Reconstructive Plastic Surgery at NYU Medical Center in order to better assist patients with vascular anomalies such as hemangiomas, lymphatic malformations, venous vascular malformations, and arteriovenous malformations. The medical team assembled to serve in the Vascular Anomalies Program consists of physicians specializing in plastic surgery dermatology, radiology, hematology, psychology, ophthalmology, otolaryngology, and gynecology.

With the skills and guidance of these medical professionals, the NYU Vascular Anomalies program addresses the numerous medical and psychological issues confronting its patients. The needs of its patients sometimes require the program to coordinate the participation of numerous physicians in order to implement a successful plan of care.

The physicians in the Vascular Anomalies Program meet twice every month with patients to discuss their concerns. The program which is funded by the National Foundation for Facial Reconstruction, recently met with federal elected officials involved in health care issues to discuss facial deformities in children.

This week, the Vascular Anomalies Program will celebrate Vascular Anomalies Family Day to salute the network for parents who support each other through the challenges of raising a child with a facial deformity. I congratulate the NYU Vascular Anomalies Program on this special day and applaud the valuable work of this exceptional program.