

# EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

## SECRETARY ALBRIGHT'S REMARKS ON THE ANNIVERSARY OF BURMA'S MILITARY COUP

**HON. TOM LANTOS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 23, 2000*

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, just a few days ago, here on Capitol Hill, our outstanding Secretary of State, Madeleine K. Albright, and the National Endowment for Democracy, joined by a number of Members of Congress marked the 10th anniversary of the election victory of Burma's National League for Democracy led by Aung San Suu Kyi in free Burmese elections in May 1990. Shortly after that democratic victory, the Burmese military annulled the results of the election and seized power in a military coup.

After the military crackdown against the victors of the democratic election, supporters of the National League for Democracy were arrested and many were forced to flee their homeland. Aung San Suu Kyi was placed under house arrest, and has been harassed and intimidated by the vicious and brutal military dictatorship. In appropriate recognition of her peaceful struggle for democratic change in Burma, Aung San Suu Kyi received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1991. The continued military harassment of Ms. Suu Kyi was so intense and bitter that she refused to leave Burma last year when she learned that her husband was dying of cancer in the United Kingdom. It was clear that the military junta would not permit her to return to Burma if she had left.

Aung San Suu Kyi was able to speak to the gathering only via a videotaped message, but she expressed thanks to the United States and other countries for "supporting us in our endeavor to have the results of the 1990 elections recognized at this time, when the military regime are trying hard to pretend that the results of the elections are no longer valid."

Mr. Speaker, in marking this important Burmese anniversary last week, Secretary Albright delivered an impassioned message of support for Aung San Suu Kyi and the Burmese patriots of the National League for Democracy. Secretary Albright said: "We renew our commitment to Aung San Suu Kyi and the National League for Democracy. As long as you struggle, we will do all we can to assist. And we know that you will not stop struggling until you prevail."

Mr. Speaker, that spirit truly pervades the position of the Administration, the Congress, and the American people toward the repressive regime in Burma and toward the heroine, Aung San Suu Kyi, who has the courage and integrity to stand up against that vicious anti-democratic military junta. In her outstanding speech, Secretary Albright strongly reaffirmed the American commitment to the people of Burma. Mr. Speaker, I ask that Secretary Albright's entire speech be placed in the RECORD, and I urge my colleagues to give serious attention to her thoughtful remarks.

## REMARKS AT NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR DEMOCRACY

Secretary of State Madeleine K. Albright

SECRETARY ALBRIGHT: Thank you very much, Carl, and I am truly pleased to be here today for this event, and I am very pleased to be here with my good friend, Ambassador Vondra, Ambassador Jayanama, and the members of Congress who just left.

But I'm very glad they were here. Congressman Pelosi and Congressman Kucinich, Congressman Lantos and Congressmen Payne and Porter. And they have really been wonderful supporters of democracy and I'm always very pleased to be able to work with them. And there are so many other distinguished colleagues, guests and friends who are here.

The National Endowment for Democracy is one of my favorite institutions. And I think Carl explained why. It has pioneered the use of our own civil society to work with supporters of democracy from other countries and cultures. It's had extraordinary success in helping democracy-builders learn from each other by sharing experiences across national lines. And by so doing has helped to give global impetus to the movement to democracy.

The Open Society Institute and the Institute for Asian Democracy provide further evidence that the desire to choose one's own leaders freely and without fear is indeed a universal human aspiration. It is also a universal human right.

Today, we assemble to mark the tenth anniversary of the last time that right was exercised by the people of Burma, and to pay tribute to the overwhelming winner of those elections, the National League for Democracy, and to its leader Aung San Suu Kyi.

As many of you know, Aung San Suu Kyi is the daughter of the late Aung San, the hero of Burmese independence. She was educated abroad, but in 1988, returned to Burma. This was a period of turbulence, but after years of military rule, a democratic opening did, in fact, seem possible.

Although reluctant at first, Aung San Suu Kyi began to speak out with fearless eloquence, and to electrifying effect. As a result, the 1990 elections were a rout. The NLD won more than 80% of the Parliamentary seats contested.

But instead of respecting the people's voice, the military tried to silence it. The authorities consolidated their own powers, threw dozens of elected representatives in jail, and drove others into exile. Aung San Suu Kyi, herself, spent more than five years under house arrest.

Some time ago, when I was serving as US Permanent Representative to the UN, I traveled to Burma. I met with General Khin Nyunt, head of the military intelligence. We didn't get along very well.

According to the General, the authorities are saving Burma from chaos by imposing stability upon an ethnically diverse population. Thus, he said, the government is not only respected by the Burmese, but loved. "After all", he said, "our people smile all the time."

I replied that, under repressive regimes, people may smile, but they do so out of fear, not happiness. And no true nation can be built on fear.

This is also Aung San Suu Kyi's core message. She has written that it is "not power

that corrupts but fear. Fear of losing power corrupts those who wield it and fear of the scourge of power corrupts those who are subject to it."

As Carl mentioned, I did meet Aung San Suu Kyi in 1995. I went to Rangoon immediately after the Women's Conference in Beijing. And she and I, I must say, hit it off immediately. She is a remarkable woman of fragile beauty and inner strength, and I admire her more than almost anyone that I have met.

People often ask me about the symbolism of my jewelry. Well, today here the freedom light and here is a necklace that Aung San Suu Kyi gave me. And if in any way she would know that, I would be very pleased. She is a wonderful person who has kept the spirit alive.

She is using the tenth anniversary of elections to renew her call for a dialogue aimed at returning her country to democracy. The authorities have responded with a new wave of arrests and slanders. In a sense, the battle of wills between Aung San Suu Kyi and the government is grossly unequal. The military has all the weapons of coercion.

So each time Aung San Suu Kyi speaks to her supporters in Burma, she is vulnerable. Each time she expresses outrage about the lack of opportunities available to Burmese children, or the decline in education, the spread of disease, the loss of freedom—she is vulnerable. And each time she records a videotape of the type we just watched, she is vulnerable. Always, she is vulnerable.

We, here in the United States, cannot change that. But we can ensure that Aung San Suu Kyi and her Burmese allies are never alone, for their bravery and sacrifice are part of a larger struggle that has engaged the energies and courage of humankind for generations.

After all, Gandhi was vulnerable when he told a Court in colonial India that "non-cooperation with evil is as much a duty as cooperation with good." In fighting apartheid, Mandela was vulnerable. In defending Jewish emigration, Shcharansky was vulnerable. In asserting her rights, Rosa Parks was vulnerable.

The struggle for freedom is never easy and never over. Progress depends on courageous leaders such as Aung San Suu Kyi, and on those willing to undergo hardships and grave risks such as the members of the NLD. It also depends on us.

Vaclav Havel, who endorsed Aung San Suu Kyi for the Nobel Prize, has told me many times how important it was for those struggling to bring freedom to Central and Eastern Europe to know they had friends around the globe.

Last year, the National Endowment helped bring together the World Movement for Democracy in New Delhi. Next month, the United States will participate in a Community of Democracies conference in Warsaw. And our purpose is to see that the democratic tide remains a rising tide around the world, by helping those who have gained freedom to sustain it, and by expressing solidarity with the efforts of those who seek freedom to secure it.

Today, we renew our call to the authorities in Rangoon to abide by the democratic wishes of their people; and to free political prisoners, end torture, fight narcotics production, and halt forced labor.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

We renew our commitment to Aung San Suu Kyi and the National League of Democracy. As long as you struggle, we will do all we can to assist. And we know that you will not stop struggling until you prevail.

The yearning for freedom is relentless. The walls it cannot overwhelm, it will nevertheless erode. And I am confident the day will come when Burma is free. And Aung San Suu Kyi's democratic dream will become a reality through the inspiration of his daughter, the bravery of the Burmese people, and the support of those who love liberty around the world.

I thank you all very much for participating in this event because I think that for Aung San Suu Kyi to know that there are people all over that support her must be a source of strength to her. She a truly remarkable woman, and we owe her a great deal.

Thank you very much.

#### COLORADO STATE REPRESENTATIVE MARCY MORRISON

### HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 23, 2000*

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I wanted to take this moment to recognize the career of one of Colorado's leading statesmen, State Representative Marcy Morrison. In doing so, I would like to honor this individual who, for so many years, has exemplified the notion of public service and civic duty. It is clear that Representative Morrison's dynamic leadership will be greatly missed and difficult to replace.

Elected to the Colorado House of Representatives in 1992, a seat she would hold to present time, she served on the Health and Judiciary Committees. She sponsored the Post Delivery Care for Stays in Hospitals and immunization for more Colorado children. Marcy has also been very active on the health care issues for seniors, the disabled, and child care.

Representative Morrison received many honors. She received the Women of Spirit Award from the Colorado Counseling Association, as well as, the Outstanding School Board Member award-Gates Scholarship from the Kennedy School. Marcy has also received awards from the Colorado Obstetrics & Gynecology Society, the Pediatric Society and the Colorado Planners Association.

This year marked the end of Representative Morrison's tenure in elected office. Her career embodied the citizen-legislator ideal and was a model that every official in elected office should seek to emulate. The citizens of Colorado owe Representative Morrison a debt of gratitude and I wish her well.

#### 1999-2000 GED GRADUATES—COOSA VALLEY TECHNICAL INSTITUTE ROME, GA

### HON. BOB BARR

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 23, 2000*

Mr. BARR of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, the first graduate equivalency diploma (GED) tests were developed in 1942 to help returning World War II veterans finish their studies and re-enter civilian life. Then, as now, the GED tests measure the academic skills and knowledge expected of high school graduates in the United States. The GED program has served as a bridge to education and employment for an estimated 13 million people over its 58-year history. Approximately one in seven high school diplomas issued in the United States is based on passing the GED tests, and 68 percent of GED test-takers plan to enter a college, university, trade, technical, or business school in the very next year. During the past 10 years, the number of adults taking special editions of the GED tests (audio cassette and braille) more than doubled.

Today I salute the 1999-2000 GED graduates of Coosa Valley Technical Institute in Rome, GA. Coosa Valley Tech is an official GED testing center, under contract with the Georgia Department of Technical and Adult Education and the American Council on Education. Adults who are 18 years of age and officially withdrawn from school are eligible for testing. Those who pass the GED are awarded the General Educational Development Diploma, and, in Georgia, most are eligible for a \$500 HOPE voucher from the State of Georgia to defray costs of continuing education at eligible schools.

The environment of the school is designed to give special attention to adults returning to school to resume educational programs which were interrupted in earlier years. These adults may be refreshing their basic skills to re-enter the job market after a layoff; preparing for the GED tests to qualify for a job or educational program which requires a high school diploma to enter; or working toward a personal educational goal which they have set for themselves. More than 95 percent of employers in the United States consider GED graduates the same as traditional high school graduates when making hiring, salary, and promotion decisions.

Nationwide, statistics indicate more than 800,000 adults take the GED tests each year. Those who obtain scores high enough to earn a GED diploma outperform at least one-third of today's high school seniors.

Some prominent GED graduates include: actor Bill Cosby; Wendy's founder, Dave Thomas; and U.S. Senator BEN NIGHTHORSE CAMPBELL (R-CO).

Not only have adults who obtain their GED worked diligently to reach their educational goal, many did so while holding down full time jobs. Many are mothers or fathers who must care for the needs of their children. Most certainly, they are to be congratulated for their diligence and hard work in achieving their goals. It is hoped each of them will continue to succeed in future endeavors, and statistics indicate that will likely be the case.

It is my honor to place this recognition of the 1999-2000 GED graduates of Coosa Valley Technical Institute into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD of the 106th Congress of the United States of America.

#### HONORING LOCAL LEGACIES PROJECT PARTICIPANTS

### HON. VERNON J. EHLERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 23, 2000*

Mr. EHLERS. Mr. Speaker, today I recognize the Local Legacies project that has served as the focal point of this year's Library of Congress Bicentennial celebration. Last year, each Member of Congress was asked to submit audio, visual, or textual documentation for at least one significant cultural heritage that has been important to his or her district, serving as a record for future generations. This documentation will be permanently housed in the collections of the Library's American Folklife Center. This evening, Members of Congress and Local Legacies project participants from across the country will gather in the Great Hall of the Thomas Jefferson Building to celebrate the completion of this magnificent collection of historical material.

I am proud to have participated in the Local Legacies project and personally thank volunteers Kathy Kuhn and Eileen Schwarz-Duty, who deserve an enormous amount of credit for gathering and compiling the Local Legacies project for the Third District of Michigan. Kathy and Eileen coordinated the massive effort of documenting The Festival of the Arts: The Nation's Largest All-Volunteer Arts Festival. This Festival is a three-day celebration of the arts held the first full weekend of June in downtown Grand Rapids, Michigan. The first festival was held in 1970 and has grown considerably over the years. In 1998, 20,000 volunteers helped showcase the work of several thousand artists, dancers, musicians, poets, and other performers. Festival is also known for its wide variety of food booths set up by non-profit organizations that highlight various ethnic themes and culinary specialties. Festival hats, water bottles, beanie babies, posters, programs, pins, and a video are just a few of the many items that were submitted on behalf of the Third District. Because of the passion these two individuals have for Festival, the Library of Congress has received the best possible representation to what our major West Michigan event is all about.

I encourage everyone to take a moment to explore the Local Legacies materials that have been submitted for inclusion in the Library's collection. All information regarding Local Legacies, including a complete project listing, can be accessed through the Library's Bicentennial Web site at: <http://www.loc.gov/bicentennial>.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and our colleagues to applaud the efforts of volunteers from across the country who have helped in the bicentennial celebration of America's oldest federal cultural institution, the Library of Congress. Thanks to their work and care in preserving the past, the cultural heritage of our nation will be preserved.