

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

INTER-AMERICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK FUNDING FOR JOB PROGRAM OF AMIA JEWISH COMMUNITY IN ARGENTINA

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 11, 2001

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, today at noon, the President of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), Mr. Enrique V. Iglesias, and Dr. Hugo Ostrower, President of the Argentine Mutual Aid Association (AMIA), signed an agreement here in Washington under terms of which \$3.5 million will be provided by the IDB to AMIA to assist Jewish organizations in Argentina to provide employment assistance.

The serious economic problems that have struck Argentina have had a particularly heavy impact upon the middle class, creating unemployment and impoverishment. The significant Jewish community in Buenos Aires and other Argentine cities has been particularly affected by the economic problems, and recent reports indicate that as a result of the economic crisis fully a quarter of the Jewish community in the country are impoverished. Hundreds of young Jewish couples are seeking employment assistance, and community dining rooms feed numerous Jews in need of basic nourishment. Many Jewish families face serious housing problems, and many live in shanty towns and even on the street. These deteriorating conditions have occurred rapidly in just the past few years.

Mr. Speaker, AMIA is an organization with a history of service for the past 107 years, and it is the core Jewish service organization in Argentina. This organization has been playing a critical role in helping the Jewish community deal with the severe economic difficulties. AMIA established an Occupational Center for Labor Development, which has helped some five thousand people find jobs over the past five years. According to IDB reports, the Center "has become the largest employment source based on the number of firms served and by its effectiveness in securing jobs."

The new agreement establishing the IDB-AMIA cooperative project with funding of \$3.5 million will strengthen the capabilities of AMIA's Employment Center, by expanding its services and will permit the opening of similar centers in various locations throughout greater Buenos Aires, as well as in the Argentine cities of Cordoba, Rosario, Tuchuman, and La Plata.

Mr. Speaker, I commend the Inter-American Development Bank for providing this generous and significant support to AMIA. I also want to recognize Dr. Hugo Ostrower, the President of AMIA, for his record of leadership and service to the Jewish Community of Argentina and the creative approach to assisting members of that community to find employment. These efforts are obviously beneficial not only to the

Jewish Community, but also for all Argentines. It will be an important contribution to the economic recovery of the country.

Mr. Speaker, for most Americans, AMIA became a household word after the July 18, 1994, bombing of the AMIA Jewish Community Center in Buenos Aires, Argentina. In that vicious terrorist attack, some 86 people were killed, hundreds more were injured, and property damage was enormous. That vicious terrorist action was only one of the many such attacks that terrorists have inflicted upon innocent civilians virtually around the world over the past decade. Because of that horror brought upon AMIA seven years ago, it is most appropriate that ADB is providing this assistance to AMIA at this time when we are moving decisively in concert with our allies and all civilized nations against those who perpetrate such atrocities.

HONORING PENNSYLVANIAN VOLUNTEERS

HON. GEORGE W. GEKAS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 11, 2001

Mr. GEKAS. The tragedies that befell our country on September 11, 2001 claimed many, many lives. The impact of this loss of life rippled out across this great land of ours even to the far reaches of the earth.

These ripples brought back waves of support from our friends and allies across the world. However, the sweat and labor of those who toiled to rescue our fallen, take care of the injured and clean up the destruction left behind in the aftermath belonged primarily to the good people of America.

The citizens of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania have always had a giving spirit. The attacks of September 11 brought out volunteers by the hundreds from Pennsylvania. I would like to take this time to thank all the volunteers from my home state who gave so much during this difficult time.

In my district, organizations like the Salvation Army, The Red Cross, county fire departments, the Central Pennsylvania Food Bank and the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Administration reacted so quickly and with much kindness to the disaster sites in New York and the Pentagon. As I toured Camp Unity at the Pentagon, I was touched by the tremendous effort put forth by all of the volunteers.

Many companies from my district helped in the recovery efforts with food, supplies and monetary donations. M&M Mars and Hershey Foods sent food to the relief workers at the Trade Towers and the Pentagon. Employees from companies like Armstrong World Industries, Isaac's Deli, Kuntz Lesher LLP, Rettew Associates, and the Dana Corporation have contributed money and/or blood to help in the relief efforts.

I would remiss if I did not mention the brave men and women of the Pennsylvania National Guard who aided in search and rescue efforts in New York.

All the names of volunteers, non-profit organizations and commercial companies are not known to me because of the humility of all those involved in the relief efforts. The names I provide have been acquired by happenstance and research on the part of my staff.

I wish I could name all who have given of themselves, so their names would be forever engraved in history in this record. I can but offer my sincerest thanks to all the nameless persons who came to America in her time of need.

I submit the following names of volunteers from Pennsylvania. A great portion of these individuals resides in the Seventeenth Congressional District. Thank you, my friends, for your kindness, decency, sweat and tears. You are patriots in your own right. God bless.

Paul A. Andronolis; David Baer, Jr.; Ken Baer, Jr.; Douglas M. Bair; Jeremiah Bayer; Richard M. Benditt; Herbert M. Berger, Jr.; Duane Black; Kevin Brady; Kurt Braeunle; Louis J. Brasten; Jeffrey W. Brouse; Steve Cassel; Donald W. Chesbro; John R. Conklin; Robert Crossfield; Ray Culbreth; Major Ron Dake; John "Butch" Dietrich; James R. Dickson, M.D.; George C. Drees; Captain Gregory Durand; John Earwood; Fred Endrikat; David Eiceman; Sylvester Evans; Hazel Feliz; Christopher Fisher; Michael Foley; Albert J. Gilgallon; John Gilkey; Michael Gittle; John D. Glenn; Shawn J. Glynn; Sue Grassman; Daniel Gruber; William A. Hamilton; Major Joyce Hardy; Daniel N. Hartman; Rich Harvey; Alta Hendricks; Andrew J. Henry; Patti Homan; Thomas A. Homer; Michael R. Horst; Alfred E. Howard; Warren C. Humphrey; David S. Jaslow, M.D.; Robert F. Keehufus; Roseann Keller; Dawn Khamvongsa; James R. Kramer; Michael P. Kurtz; George J. Lazorchick; Richard E. Lenker, Jr.; Joseph J. Lockett; Major Timothy Lyle; Joseph G. Mack; Lee Manifold; Robert T. McCaa; James McHenry; Gerard McKeown; Robert Meyer, Sr.; Bess Minnich; Timothy M. Moffa; Craig Murphy; Thomas G. Murray; Martyn R. Nevil; Gregory G. Noll; John O'Neill; Jeffrey D. Orledge, M.D.; Cynthia M. Otto; David R. Padfield; Donald Pelton; Margaret Pepe; Murray Peterson; Nelson Powden; Chief Earl Reidell; Shirley Remis; Joseph W. Reynolds Jr.; Betty Robertson; Ed Robertson; Terry Rodenhaber; Stephen M. Rosito; John D. Ross; Danny R. Sacco; Joseph M. Santoro; Walter Sawruk, Jr.; Kelvin L. Seigle; Chris Selfridge; Timothy Sevison; Anne Shanahan; Hurshel Shank; Gerald T. Smink; Captain Chris Smith; John M. Smith; Jeff Snyder; Gregg W. Staub; Robert T. Strasbaugh; Cherianita Thomas; Jeffrey L. Tracey; David Tretter; Francis A. Werner; Michael A. Whalen; Christopher M. Wilhelm; Joseph K. Williams; Gerry Winters.

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