

He figured that this—the third summer of the program—would be pivotal.

He had joined forces with directors of the Shiloh Development Community, a teenage mentoring project in Columbia Heights, and with the addition of the Shiloh group was bringing the largest number of players yet to Guatemala: 11. He had included two girls, hoping that they would serve as role models for the Mayan girls who also would turn out for the basketball clinics.

There were preparatory meetings, with Bryan telling the players about Guatemala's indigenous Mayan community and urging them to heed the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.'s challenge: "The most urgent and pressing question in life is what are you doing for others."

He was focused on lofty ideals and aspirations. But the players including one young man who, despite two previous trips with him to Guatemala, was still fighting the lure of the street—presented the kind of mundane and vexing problems that young people sometimes exhibit: Stubbornness. Laziness. Lack of common sense. Failure to think through the consequences of their actions. Anger. Indifference to other people and their problems.

The oldest and the veteran of these trips was Sean Thomas, 23, who in his mid-teens was sent to a drug boot camp and was slowly realizing that he needed to break out of Adams Morgan to straighten out his life. He was flashy and street smart but erratic—Just like one of his favorite ballplayers, former Sacramento Kings point guard Jason Williams. Sean wore his Williams Jersey in Antigua and tried out the little Spanish he remembered from his two previous summers in Guatemala: *Vamos, chicas*. "Let's go, girls."

The first female Hoops Sagrado volunteer, 16-year-old Carrie Sartin—a tall, thin Sheryl Swoopes wannabe, walked the cobblestone roads of Antigua that first night, carrying "T& Whiskers," a black and white stuffed cat she had brought along. "They have rocks as streets," she said later.

The guys also included Clayton Mitchell, a brash 18-year-old, who walked through Antigua's empty and peaceful central plaza at midnight, pausing for a moment to advise the others: "Enjoy the night. You can't do this in D.C."

Dwayne Crossgill, 18, knew that. An all-around athlete, Dwayne ran track and played football and basketball. He longed for opportunities to get out of the District. He thought that there was more to life than the view from his second-story apartment in Columbia Heights, where he lives with his mother. There, drug dealers stand on stoops and push their wares. Dwayne had heard the occasional gunshot. He had attended more than one friend's funeral.

"Living in D.C., I realize there's a lot of bad in the world, a lot of crimes," he said before he left for Guatemala. "It's good to see the there's other ways of life."

Bryan eventually found out—the hard way—that teenagers who don't know each other don't magically get along and that even the most well-meaning adult counselors can clash. He later realized that his charges were not as prepared as they should have been about the culture and mores of Guatemala, about how to talk, act and dress in a vastly different culture. And he also discovered how hard it can be to persuade a teenager that behavior or dress that is acceptable in Washington could easily be offensive or provocative in a Mayan village.

But those lessons came later.

TRYING TO CONNECT

Bryan had brought with him the autobiography "I, Rigoberta Menchu," and a few days

after the group got to Guatemala, he asked Sean to read to the group a paragraph from Chapter 1, in hopes of setting the right tone for the trip. Menchu is a Mayan who grew up not far from where the Hoops Sagrado team was headed.

During Guatemala's 37-year civil war, as she tells the story, members of her family were raped and killed, like hundreds of thousands of Mayan Indians. Menchu, living in exile in Mexico, won a Nobel Peace Prize in 1992 for her work in promoting social justice and human rights for Guatemala's indigenous people. The work has been criticized for exaggeration and misstatements, although it has also been widely praised as an accurate portrait of what it was like in Guatemala in those years.

Menchu was Sean's age, 23, when she told the story of her life, a narrative that turned into the book. So Bryan hoped the words would resonate with him, as well as the others as they embarked upon their journey into the Mayan world:

"I'd like to stress it's not only my life. It's also the testimony of my people. It's hard for me to remember everything that's happened to me in my life since there have been many very bad times but, yes, moments of joy as well," Sean read haltingly.

"The important thing is that what has happened to me has happened to many other people, too: My story is the story of all poor Guatemalans. My personal experience is the reality of a whole people."

SO DIFFERENT, SO SIMILAR

But that first night, Menchu's world was far removed from these young people, armed with their headphones and gangsta rap and hip-hop CDs. Their T-shirts bore the slogans: "Thug Life" and "Scarface," "Kids and Guns Don't Mix" and "Sexy." And on their feet they wore the equivalent of what could pay for several school scholarships for Mayan children: silver Nike Solo Flights and black patent-toe Air Jordans; leather Reeboks and New Balance cross-trainers.

What they did share with many Mayan children wasn't so obvious: broken homes, families wracked by alcohol or substance abuse, apathy and discrimination.

Daily, the Hoops Sagrado team would travel a road up a mountain to get to the village of Xecam and the basketball clinics. It was a strain, up a steep and gutted road, marked by hairpin curves and treacherous cliffs.

But the real effort, it turned out, would come from within. The road from Washington to Guatemala and back was marked by tears, turmoil, anger, doubt and misunderstanding.

Dwayne's favorite T-shirt was imprinted with the words of a Swahili slogan that bore the prophecy for this group. "Life has meaning only in the struggles," it read. "Victory or defeat is in the hands of the gods. So let us celebrate the struggles."

There were plenty of struggles ahead.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL LAW ENFORCEMENT INFORMATION SHARING ACT OF 2001 H.R. 3483

HON. STEPHEN HORN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 13, 2001

Mr. HORN. Mr. Speaker, today, I am introducing the Intergovernmental Law Enforcement Information Sharing Act of 2001. This bipartisan bill is designed to increase the flow of critical information among Federal, State and local law enforcement agencies.

Interagency cooperation has always been an important factor in protecting the safety and security of this Nation. But the unimaginable events of September 11 and the ensuing Anthrax attacks have drawn unparalleled attention to the need for a timely interchange of meaningful information.

I am pleased to have bipartisan support of this legislation from my colleagues: Mr. BURTON of Indiana, chairman of Government Reform Committee, Mr. SHAYS from Connecticut, who is chairman of the Subcommittee on National Security, Veterans Affairs, and International Relations; Ms. SCHAKOWSKY from Illinois, Ranking Member of the Subcommittee on Government Efficiency, Financial Management and Intergovernmental Relations, which I chair; and Mrs. MALONEY from New York, Ranking Member on the Subcommittee on Domestic Monetary Policy, Technology, and Economic Growth and former Ranking Member of my subcommittee.

On October 5th of this year, the Subcommittee on Government Efficiency, Financial Management and Intergovernmental Relations held a hearing on bio-terrorism. During that hearing, Baltimore Police Commissioner Edward T. Norris testified that the FBI did not provide his agency with adequate descriptions or photographs of those suspected of participating in the September 11th attacks until weeks after the tragic events.

Following the hearing, FBI Director Robert S. Mueller pledged to increase the role of non-Federal law enforcement agencies in the Government's efforts to combat terrorism, and to share more information with State and local agencies. On November 13th, our subcommittee held joint hearing with Mr. SHAY's subcommittee to discuss the Federal Government's efforts to enhance information sharing with State and local governments.

Local officials, including Commissioner Norris, testified that progress had been made in intelligence sharing with Federal agencies. However, their inability to obtain classified information remained a significant impediment to their ability to prepare for potential terrorist threats within their jurisdictions. The bill I am introducing today addresses that problem.

H.R. 3483 would require the Attorney General to carry out security clearance investigations of senior government and law enforcement officials of any political subdivision of a State or territory with a population of 30,000. In addition, the bill requires the Attorney General to conduct security clearance investigations of senior law enforcement officials whose agency participates in a Federal counter-terrorism task force or working group.

Upon successful completion of these investigations, the Attorney General is to grant the appropriate security clearances. The cost of such investigations is to be paid by the requesting State or local agency, not the Federal Government.

This legislation also calls for the Attorney General to conduct a study to examine methods of enhancing the sharing of sensitive Federal law enforcement information with State, territorial and local officials. The study would include a review of appropriate safeguards to protect confidential sources and methods, mechanisms for determining the credibility of information relating to potential threats, and restrictions on access to Federal databases.

Governors, mayors and chief law enforcement officers are responsible for protecting

their constituents. These State and local officials are the first responders to emergencies. They need access to critical information on potential threats within their jurisdictions. The "Intergovernmental Law Enforcement Sharing Act of 2001" will enhance their ability to get that information.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

H.R. 3483

A bill, to amend title 31, United States Code, to provide for intergovernmental cooperation to enhance the sharing of law enforcement information.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Intergovernmental Law Enforcement Information Sharing Act of 2001".

SEC. 2. CONGRESSIONAL FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) Governors and mayors are responsible for the protection of their constituents, and State and local agencies are typically the first responders to emergencies. Therefore, State and local officials and agencies must be able to receive information regarding potential threats within their jurisdictions.

(2) Most State and local law enforcement authorities currently have mechanisms in place to receive and protect classified information provided by Federal officials. These mechanisms must be supplemented to include elected officials and additional senior law enforcement officials in every State.

(3) Expanding the issuance of security clearances, consistent with all applicable Federal standards and investigative requirements, is an important means of improving information sharing among Federal, State, and local officials.

(4) There is a need for a comprehensive review of procedures within Federal law enforcement agencies in order to identify and remedy unnecessary barriers to information sharing among Federal, State, and local law enforcement agencies.

SEC. 3. SECURITY CLEARANCES AND ENHANCED INFORMATION SHARING.

Chapter 65 of title 31, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

“§ 6509. Intergovernmental cooperation to enhance the sharing of law enforcement information

“(a) The Attorney General shall expeditiously carry out security clearance investigations for the persons identified in subsection (b), and shall grant appropriate security clearances to all such persons who qualify for clearances under the standards set forth in applicable laws and Executive orders.

“(b) The persons referred to in subsection (a) are:

“(1) Every Governor of a State or territory who applies for a security clearance.

“(2) Every chief elected official of a political subdivision of a State or territory with a population exceeding 30,000 who applies for a security clearance.

“(3) At least one senior law enforcement official for each State or territory, as designated by the Governor of such State or territory.

“(4) At least one senior law enforcement official for each political subdivision described in paragraph (2), as designated by the chief elected official of such subdivision.

“(5) Law enforcement officers from State, territorial, and local agencies that participate in Federal counter-terrorism working groups, joint or regional terrorism task forces, and other activities involving the

combined efforts of Federal and non-Federal law enforcement agencies.

“(6) The chiefs, commissioners, sheriffs, or comparable officials who head each State, territorial, and local agency that participates in a working group, task force, or similar activity described in paragraph (5).

“(c)(1) The Attorney General may charge State, territorial, and local governments, in whole or in part, for the costs of carrying out security clearance investigations and granting security clearances under this section. Such charges may not exceed the amounts charged for carrying out such investigations and granting such clearances for Federal employees.

“(2) The Attorney General may waive any charges that would otherwise apply under paragraph (1) to a State, territorial, or local government if such government agrees to promptly provide Federal officials, without charge, access to the criminal databases of such government for the purpose of conducting personnel security background investigations for military, civilian, and contract employees.

“(d) To the maximum extent practicable, the Attorney General shall ensure that information systems, including databases, are configured to allow efficient and effective sharing of information among appropriate Federal, State, territorial, and local officials and agencies.”

SEC. 4. STUDY BY THE ATTORNEY GENERAL.

(a) STUDY REQUIRED.—The Attorney General shall conduct a study of methods to enhance the sharing of sensitive Federal law enforcement information with State, territorial, and local law enforcement officials. The study shall review—

(1) appropriate safeguards to protect confidential sources and methods;

(2) mechanisms for determining the credibility of information relating to potential threats;

(3) restrictions on access to Federal databases by State, territorial, and local elected officials and law enforcement personnel; and

(4) any other matter that the Attorney General considers appropriate.

(b) PARTICIPATION.—The Attorney General shall ensure that officials from State, territorial, and local law enforcement agencies participate in the study.

(c) REPORT.—Not later than 6 months after the date of the enactment of this Act the Attorney General shall submit a report containing the findings and recommendations of the study to the Committee on Government Reform and the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Governmental Affairs and the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate.

SEC. 5. DISCLAIMER.

Nothing in this Act shall be construed to limit the authority of the head of a Federal agency to classify information or to continue the classification of information previously classified by an agency.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 13, 2001

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, during rollcall vote No. 494 on December 12, 2001 I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted “yea.”

MIDDLE EASTERN TERRORIST INCIDENTS

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 13, 2001

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, on September 11th, the U.S. suffered the most destructive terrorist attack on its soil by Middle Eastern terrorists with the suicide bombing of the World Trade Center in New York City and the Pentagon in Washington, D.C., which killed over three thousand Americans and wounded many more. This was the highest casualty toll ever recorded for a single terrorist incident anywhere. Yet the U.S. is by no means the only country to feel the wrath of Middle Eastern terrorists in recent months.

The cancer of terrorism that has plagued the Middle East for decades has now transformed into new and more deadly forms that pose grave challenges to the United States and our allies. Middle Eastern terrorists are now striking outside their home region, boldly attacking high-profile targets, and killing in a more indiscriminant manner.

Nonetheless, the Middle East is a hotbed of state-sponsored terrorism. Five of the seven states that have been branded by the U.S. government as sponsors of international terrorism—Iran, Iraq, Libya, Sudan, and Syria—are part of the troubled Middle East region. The Middle East is not only infested with more terrorist groups than any other region, but the Middle East remains the world's foremost exporter of terrorism, with most of the spillover afflicting Western Europe and the United States. These state sponsors of terrorism are concerned with furthering their national goals only through the use of their terrorist networks. It remains imperative, therefore that the United States and our allies track down and destroy these terrorist groups and their global reach wherever they may be.

Accordingly, in wanting to bring to the attention of my colleagues a list of the significant Middle Eastern terrorist incidents from 1961–2001 based on the findings of the State Department's Office of the Historian, I request that this terrorism list be printed at this point in the RECORD.

SIGNIFICANT MIDDLE EASTERN TERRORIST INCIDENTS: 1961–2001

1961–1982

Munich Olympic Massacre, September 5, 1972: Eight Palestinian “Black September” terrorists seized 11 Israeli athletes in the Olympic Village in Munich, West Germany. In a bungled rescue attempt by West German authorities, nine of the hostages and five terrorists were killed.

Ambassador to Sudan Assassinated, March 2, 1973: U.S. Ambassador to Sudan Cleo A. Noel and other diplomats were assassinated at the Saudi Arabian Embassy in Khartoum by members of the Black September organization.

Entebbe Hostage Crisis, June 27, 1976: Members of the Baader-Meinhof Group and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) seized an Air France airliner and its 258 passengers. They forced the plane to land in Uganda, where on July 3, Israeli commandos successfully rescued the passengers.

Iran Hostage Crisis, November 4, 1979: After President Carter agreed to admit the Shah of Iran into the U.S., Iranian radicals