

for its recent decision to open a U.S. Embassy in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea. Indeed, the investment of Federal funds and State Department personnel for representation in the small African country may pay huge dividends in the form of American lives saved and U.S. national interests protected.

According to the State Department, over 1,500 Americans live and work in Equatorial Guinea—primarily in the oil industry. Additionally, U.S. investment in Equatorial Guinea is over \$5 billion. As the U.S. presence increases, it is critical that the U.S. provide services and assistance to our citizens. For example, in the case of a natural disaster, access to American embassy officials who can serve as liaisons between Americans and the local hospital could mean the difference between life and death for those Americans caught in the country during the emergency. Also, maintaining a U.S. embassy in Equatorial Guinea would allow U.S. businesses to explore future investment opportunities in the country. Such investments would be important for a region which is struggling to build economic stability for the long term.

DR. HELLER NAMED FIRST DIRECTOR OF CENTER FOR HEALTH WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

HON. CONSTANCE A. MORELLA

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 18, 2002

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker, I am delighted to advise my colleagues that Dr. Barbara R. Heller, a former constituent, and friend, who served in my office as a legislative fellow, will leave her position as Dean of the University of Maryland School of Nursing. She will be accepting a position as the first Executive Director of the newly formed Center for Health Workforce Development and the first Rauschenbach Distinguished Professor, an endowed professorship dedicated to the improvement of nursing and nursing education.

A nationally and internationally known nursing educator, Dr. Heller will leave behind a significant legacy after twelve years of visionary leadership at the University of Maryland School of Nursing. During her tenure, the school has received four consecutive top 10 rankings by U.S. News & World Report, moved into a new state of the art nursing school building, and raised nearly \$10 million for Maryland's premier public institution.

The State of Maryland has been the beneficiary of Dr. Heller's energy and commitment to the School's mission of community service. Since 1990, the school has developed a new model of clinical instruction and health care service, resulting in five Wellmobiles, 14 school-based wellness centers, a high school based family support center, the Open Gates Health Center, as well as the Pediatric Ambulatory Care Center, which serves our most vulnerable populations.

Dr. Heller's leadership has transformed the School of Nursing into a nationally recognized center of excellence. She has recruited prominent nurse researchers and scientists, resulting in a 900% increase in grants and contract awards for the School of Nursing. During a critical period of the national nursing shortage, the School of Nursing has also seen increases

in both enrollment and diversity due to aggressive strategies of outreach, enhanced scholarship support, marketing and student recruitment. In fact, the School's minority student population has more than doubled in the past dozen years, from 15% to 35%.

On June 20, 2002, Maryland elected officials, University officials, faculty, staff, students, alumni and friends will honor Dr. Barbara Heller for her many years of leadership. I join them in saluting her for her critical role in preparing nurses for the 21st century.

HONORING NATIONAL HISTORY CONTEST WINNERS

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 18, 2002

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, it is always a privilege when I have the opportunity to recognize a young person for a special accomplishment. Today, I feel especially fortunate to acknowledge a group of students who have used their talents to explore a wide variety of historical issues.

I want to congratulate eight young women from the Fourth District of Minnesota who have embraced the subject of history and taken it one step further. These students not only participated in this year's National History Day competition, but also came away with national prizes. These bright, ambitious students worked as true historians in creating their projects—they were actual documentarians, playwrights, researchers, and curators. They applied what they learned in the classroom and used it in a real world setting.

Anna Rice, a tenth grader from Central High School in St. Paul, took the prestigious Grand Prize in the National History Day competition by submitting a top-notch research paper. Anna should be very proud to be recognized as the Nation's top young historical writer.

Caitlyn Ngam and Madeline Kreider, eighth graders from Capitol Hill Magnet School in St. Paul, won third place for their outstanding exhibit on tobacco reform. Their fellow classmates, Kirsten Slungaard and Meredith Pain, earned seventh place for their exceptional documentary on Tibet.

Melissa Brown, Kaitie Cochrane and Lindsey Jans, seventh graders from Sunrise Park Middle School in White Bear Lake, walked away with a national prize for their performance of "Separate But Equal: Brown v. Board of Education." These students also had the honor of performing their project at the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of American History in Washington, DC.

I am very proud of all the students who participated in this year's contest. The time and dedication they have committed to their projects should be commended. It is wonderful that these eight students received special recognition for their work. The fact that they were singled out among over half a million participants nationwide is astonishing.

I will continue to lend my support to this important competition. Events such as the National History Day Contest not only give young people a chance to shine, but allows them to use their talents and creativity to make a difference in their communities.

CONGRATULATIONS TO MRS. ALMA V. WHITE OF GARY, INDIANA

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 18, 2002

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, on occasion, I am fortunate enough to come to the floor to congratulate a person who has devoted her entire life to improving the lives of others. Today, I am proud to congratulate Mrs. Alma V. White of Gary, Indiana, as she retires from her position as Assistant Director of the Lake County Department of Family and Children, after serving more than 18 years in that position and 48 years in service to the residents of Lake County. Her presence in the discipline of social services will not be easily replaced. Throughout her life, Mrs. White has helped many of the less fortunate in her community overcome their difficult circumstances.

In addition to her career in public service, Mrs. White has also been involved with numerous community organizations. She is a member of Grace United Methodist Church, as well as such noble organizations as the American Red Cross and the National Council of Negro Women, among many others. Mrs. White's commitment to her community has consistently earned the praise of her peers. She has been named "Woman of the Year" three times by the Gary Business and Professional Women Organization and has received numerous other awards of achievement throughout her exceptional career.

Amidst the celebration of her career, there is sadness that the services of such a great woman will be unable to be matched in the future of the Department of Family and Social Services. Not only does Mrs. White diligently work to provide for the needs of her community, but she also cares about the vital issues that she encounters on a daily basis. This combination of commitment and compassion distinguishes Mrs. White from her stellar colleagues, and the people of Lake County are fortunate to have such a devoted individual working on their behalf. Her services to the Lake County Division of Family and Social Services will be sorely missed.

But, Mr. Speaker, I am confident that Mrs. White will continue to serve her community for many years to come. It cannot be disputed that Mrs. White has improved the lives of countless people. This is the mark of a true public servant.

Mr. Speaker, I hope that you and all of my colleagues will join with me in congratulating Mrs. Alma White for her 48 years of distinguished service and wish her a happy and healthy retirement. Although she may be retiring from the Division of Family and Children, the residents of Lake County will continue to reap the rewards of her benevolent spirit.

WAR CLOUDS GATHERING IN SOUTH ASIA

HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 18, 2002

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, the danger of war in South Asia concerns us all.

Such a war would be useless, dangerous, and a disaster for Pakistan, India, the minorities of the subcontinent, and the world.

Many South Asia's watchers speculate that India needs a war to keep its multinational empire together and to divert attention away from its other internal problems. They have even speculated that India's collapse is not a fantasy, and that even L.K. Advani, the militant Hindu Home Minister of India, is worried about India's territorial integrity.

However, a war in South Asia could become the trigger that brings freedom to the minority nations such as the Sikh homeland of Khalistan, predominantly Christian Nagaland, Kashmir, and others, just as World War I brought independence to many nations living under the rule of the Austro-Hungarian Empire and the Ottoman Empire. The end of the Cold War brought freedom to many nations which had been living under Soviet rule, including Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, and others. A war in South Asia could have a similar effect on the nations and peoples of the subcontinent.

The Council of Khalistan recently called on Sikh soldiers not to fight for India, but to fight to free their homeland, Khalistan. Given the oppression that has killed over 250,000 Sikhs since 1984 according to the Punjab State Magistracy, that continues to hold 52,268 political prisoners, which the Movement Against State Repression reported that the Indian government has admitted to, that has killed over 80,000 Muslims, over 200,000 Christians in Nagaland, thousands upon thousands of other minorities like Bodos, Dalit "Untouchables," Tamils, Assamese, Manipuri's, and others, why should any of these minorities fight for the Indian state?

The Council of Khalistan's recent Open Letter contains much more information on this. To help my colleagues and constituents stay fully informed about the sentiments of many Sikhs within India, I would like to put that open letter into the RECORD at this time.

COUNCIL OF KHALISTAN,
Washington DC, May 21, 2002.

OPEN LETTER TO THE SIKH NATION

CLOUDS OF WAR BETWEEN INDIA AND PAKISTAN GATHER; INDIA IS ON THE VERGE OF DISINTEGRATION—SIKH SOLDIERS AND OFFICERS SHOULD NOT FIGHT FOR INDIA BUT TO FREE KHALISTAN; NOW IS THE PERFECT TIME TO LAUNCH SHANTMAI MORCHA TO LIBERATE KHALISTAN

DEAR KHALSA JI: WAHE GURU JI KA KHALSA, WAHE GURU JI KI FATEH!

War clouds are gathering in South Asia. War between India and Pakistan looks imminent. It is expected to break out this fall. Troops have been gathering on the borders, and the recent killings in Kashmir provide the Indian government with an excuse to attack Pakistan. The killing of Abdul Ghani Lone, a leader of the Kashmiri freedom movement, merely heightens the tensions.

Remember that the fanatic BJP leaders are on record that they want to make an "Akand Bharat" by defeating Pakistan and incorporating it into India. Their aggression in Kashmir is internationally known. They will not hold a plebiscite in Kashmir, as they promised to do in 1948. It is India that launched the nuclear arms race in South Asia and has nuclear weapons pointed at Pakistan. Despite the militant Hindu nationalist government's statement that they do not intend to attack Pakistan, it is clear that their drive for hegemony over all of South Asia continues.

If war breaks out, Sikh soldiers and officers should not fight for India. Instead,

Sikhs should take this opportunity to reclaim our lost sovereignty and liberate our homeland, Punjab, Khalistan, from Indian occupation.

L.K. Advani has said that when Kashmir goes, India will fall apart, and he is right. We must take advantage of this situation to reclaim our lost sovereignty. Sovereignty is our birthright. The Guru gave sovereignty to the Khalsa Panth. ("In grieble Sikh ko deon Patshahi.") Banda Singh Bahadur established the first Khalsa rule in Punjab from 1710 to 1716. Then there was a period of persecution of the Sikhs. Again Sikhs established a sovereign, independent rule from 1765 to 1849, when the British annexed the Sikh homeland, Punjab, into British India.

This is a wake-up call for the Sikh Nation. The massacre of Muslims in Gujarat is a testament to this. The fanatic Vishav Hindu Parishad (VHP) burned Christian missionary Graham Staines and his two young sons alive. They murdered priests, raped nuns, and burned churches. They are assimilating Christianity, Islam, and every other minority into Hinduism. The Sikh Nation must free itself from India to ensure its survival as a nation and to enjoy a prosperous future. Without political power, nations perish.

About 80 percent of the sacrifices during the fight to regain freedom from the British were Sikhs, even though Sikhs formed only 1.5 percent of the Indian population at the time. At the time of India's independence, Sikhs were equal signatories to the transfer of power from the British. The Sikh leadership should have gotten an independent country for the Sikhs at that time, but they were fooled by the Hindu leadership of Nehru and Gandhi so Sikhs took their share and joined India on the promise that they would have the glow of freedom.

We have seen this "glow of freedom" in the form of the attack on the Golden Temple in June 1984, when over 20,000 Sikhs were killed in Punjab in a single month. Sikhs can never forgive or forget the desecration of the Golden Temple. This is the history and tradition of the Sikh Nation.

The next massacre of Sikhs occurred after the assassination of Indira Gandhi in Delhi. There was a mass murder of Sikhs throughout India, including Delhi. The Sikhs were pulled out of trains and burned alive. Sikh truck drivers were pulled out of their trucks. Hindu militants put tires around their necks and burned them to death. Sikh police officers were disarmed and confined to their barracks. This is very similar to what happened recently to the Muslims in Gujarat.

Human Rights Watch Asia has clearly stated that the Indian government orchestrated the recent genocide in Gujarat. Policemen stood and watched while Muslims were attacked and murdered. One policeman said that he was ordered not to stop the violence. This is the same modus operandi that the Indian government used in 1984 to burn the Sikhs alive and destroy their property. For the Sikh Nation to ensure their safety, we must free our homeland, Punjab, Khalistan, from Indian occupation. We pray every day "Raj Kare Ga Khalsa." We must do our best to realize our God-given right to be free.

The Indian government has murdered over 250,000 Sikhs since 1984. The U.S. State Department reported in 1994 that the Indian government paid out over 41,000 cash bounties to police officers for killing Sikhs. According to a report by the Movement Against State Repression (MASR), the Indian government admitted that 52,268 are rotting in Indian jails under TADA, which expired in 1995. Many of them have been in illegal custody since Operation Bluestar in 1984. In February, 42 Members of the U.S. Congress from both political parties wrote to President Bush to get these political prisoners re-

leased. The U.S. government recently added India to its "watch list" of violators of religious freedom. It should impose sanctions to stop the oppression of Sikhs, Christians, Muslims, and others.

Jaswant Singh Khalra, who exposed the government killing of Sikhs in fake encounters, became a victim of the Indian police himself. He was kidnapped outside his house and murdered in police custody. Even Akal Takht Jathedar Sardar Gurdev Singh Kaunke was murdered by SSP Swaran Singh Ghotra and then his body was disposed of. The Badal government was forced to conduct an inquiry by three Punjab police officials under the leadership of DIG Tiwari into the killing of Jathedar Kaunke. As of today that report has not been made public.

The only solution is the formation of a Khalsa Raj Party under new, honest, dedicated, and committed leadership. Now is the time to do it. Let's not waste time and prolong the suffering and agony of the Sikh Nation. The only remedy is to sever our relationship with Delhi completely, declare independence from India and start a peaceful agitation to free the Sikh homeland, Punjab, Khalistan. The present Akali leadership of Badal, Tohra, Mann, and others are under Indian government control. Their betrayal of the Sikh Nation is well documented in the Book Chakravyuh: Web of Indian Secularism by S. Gurtej Singh.

Sikhs are a sovereign, independent nation and ruled Punjab until 1849. The only way the Sikh Nation can protect itself from the Indian government's ongoing efforts to destroy the Sikh religion is to achieve independence for our homeland, Khalistan. Guru gave sovereignty to the Khalsa Panth. The new Sikh leadership must launch a Shantmai Morcha to liberate our homeland. The only way the Sikh Nation can prosper is to free the Sikh homeland, Punjab, Khalistan. The freedom of the Sikh Nation will bring prosperity, stability, and peace to Punjab and to South Asia.

Panth Da Sewadar,

DR. GURMIT SINGH AULAKH,
President, Council of Khalistan.

THE MORE THINGS CHANGE, THE MORE THEY REMAIN THE SAME:
ERIC HOFFER ON ISRAEL IN 1968

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 18, 2002

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I recently came across an article by the American social philosopher Eric Hoffer, about the double standard to which the world holds Israel. The sad irony is that this extraordinary piece was written 34 years ago, and it is just as relevant today as it was then. Mr. Hoffer's insightful analysis was published in the Los Angeles Times on May 26, 1968.

Eric Hoffer was an American social philosopher, author of nine books and a winner of the Presidential Medal of Freedom. His first book, The True Believer, published in 1951, was widely recognized as a classic.

This article, which as I mentioned appeared in 1968, describes the trend of international scorn focusing solely on Israel; whether it is the status of refugees, fighting in self-defense, or ending armed conflict, Israel is consistently held to a standard that is different from that which is applied to the rest of the world. Put simply, what other nations freely do, Israel cannot.