

COMMEMORATING THE 90TH
ANNIVERSARY OF HADASSAH

HON. LOIS CAPPS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 5, 2002

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the 90th anniversary of one of America's foremost organizations, Hadassah, the Women's Zionist Organization of America. This organization has grown to become the largest women's and Jewish membership organization in the United States, comprised of over 300,000 individuals. Hadassah will begin to celebrate its 90th year on February 26, 2002.

Since its founding in 1912, Hadassah's devoted members have helped improve the lives of women and indeed, all of humanity. Foremost among these contributions is Hadassah's incredible contributions to health care in Israel. Their flagship project, the Hadassah Medical Organization, provides health care of the highest caliber to a myriad of individuals from throughout the Middle East, without racial, religious or national prejudice, and also aids the training of health care workers. In addition, Hadassah's humanitarian mission has long made the organization a supporter of a peaceful and stable Middle East.

Within the United States, Hadassah is an active player on a number of critical public policy concerns. This includes a program for breast cancer detection and awareness, Jewish family programs, and the encouragement of civic participation. Hadassah also places an emphasis on education of both its members and the general public, especially in regard to American-Israeli relations, separation of church and state, and women's health.

I congratulate Hadassah on its commitment to improving the lives of countless people in the Middle East and here in America. The past 90 years have demonstrated the need for organizations such as Hadassah, and I wish its members nothing but continued success in the future.

TRIPARTITE MEETING ON CLIMATE CHANGE AND RENEWABLE ENERGY

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 5, 2002

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I recently participated in the Tripartite Meeting on Climate Change and Sustainable Energy, sponsored by GLOBE USA, the affiliate of Global Legislators' Organization for a Balanced Environment (GLOBE), a voluntary non-partisan educational association comprised of Senators and Representatives from our Congress that is dedicated to promoting a balanced and informed policy regarding our environment. I applaud the work of our distinguished colleagues Representatives SHAYS, the chairman of GLOBE USA; JIM GREENWOOD, president of GLOBE International; MARK UDALL, vice president of GLOBE International and co-chair, House Renewable Energy and Efficiency Caucus, and all of our colleagues who attended and contributed to the informative sessions with our colleagues from Canada, the UK, and the EU.

One thing we all agree upon is the important role that renewable and alternative sources of energy play in our national energy policy and debate. H.R. 4, which passed in the House on August 2, 2001, contained provisions for alternative and renewable sources of energy. On December 5, 2001, the Senate Energy Committee chairman introduced S. 1766, an omnibus energy bill that responds to H.R. 4, which also contains provisions for research and development funding for alternative and renewable sources of energy. H.R. 4, drew much criticism as a result of its provisions allowing for oil exploration and drilling in ANWR and for not adequately increasing the CAFE Standards of light trucks and SUV's. It is imperative that our two legislative bodies reconcile their differences, so that our nation may have a comprehensive energy plan that makes sense for the American people. Today's meeting reemphasized the importance of renewable and alternative sources of energy in our ever evolving and dynamic global community.

I have long advocated renewable energy and strongly believe that we can not continue to utilize fossil fuels at the rate of our consumption. It is only through research and development of renewable and alternative sources of energy that our Nation can be free from its reliance on foreign sources of oil from nations that are hostile to our Nation, our democratic system of government and our way of life.

Mr. Speaker, when the price of crude oil trades at \$38 a barrel, we hold hearings, send letters to the President, the Secretary of Energy, the Secretary of Commerce and the Secretary of State seeking their intervention with the OPEC nations to bring the price of oil down. Congress threatens sanctions and passes resolutions condemning OPEC. Now that the price of oil is low, and where we can purchase a gallon of gasoline for less than \$1.10, there is a tendency for all of us to become complacent and we fail to remember the exorbitant price of gasoline. The fact is, that the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) is a cartel, and in a very short period of time the price of imported crude may spike, and for the most part there is very little that we can do when OPEC shuts off the spigot, but watch oil prices soar. We can not out pump OPEC and the only way to beat them at their own game is to develop a robust "portfolio" of alternative and renewable sources of energy. There is an energy crisis confronting our Nation, and like cancer it is in temporary remission, waiting to rear its ugly head when we think we have defeated it and when we least expect it. When that occurs it is at the expense of the hard working people of our nation, impacting every sector of our economy.

By incorporating renewable and alternative sources of energy such as wind, biomass, hydropower, geothermal, photovoltaic, fuel cells and the hybrid-vehicle technology, not just as part of our national energy plan, but as part of our national persona, we not only accomplish our goal of energy self-sufficiency, but we will also fulfill one of our national security priorities. Former CIA Director Woolsey asserts that our reliance on foreign oil is one of the top three national security threats to our nation. By adopting a comprehensive program of research and development in renewable and alternative sources of energy, we not only will

reduce a major threat to our national security, but we will also strengthen our homeland defense initiatives, by taking a threat out of the equation.

By establishing realistic goals, utilizing and harnessing the entrepreneurial and technological spirit, drive, creativity and ingenuity of the American people in developing alternative and renewable sources of energy; we will also reduce the catastrophic effects that fossil fuel has on our environment, thereby preserving our precious environment and our resources for generations to come.

Moreover, I believe that the Administration should continue to be engaged in the Kyoto negotiations process and we should continue to use our leadership and consensus building to enter into an agreement that is both realistic and enforceable for our nation, and is amenable to its prospective signatories.

Mr. Speaker, I urge our colleagues to make alternative and renewable sources of energy a national priority. By working with our colleagues throughout the world we can achieve our shared energy goals.

IN HONOR OF EDUCATORS IN CLEVELAND

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 5, 2002

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Cleveland teachers for today's event: Salute to Teachers—Celebrating Cleveland's Educators.

Today's event celebrating the efforts of Cleveland teachers originated from the work of Fox 8 photojournalist Herb Thomas and Assistant News Director Sonja Thompson who, while working on special assignment on the issue 14 campaign, became familiar with the work and efforts of Cleveland educators. Their discovery compelled them to hold this event to inform the public and recognize the many good works of Cleveland area teachers.

Teachers are often a source of inspiration and success to many of us. Indeed, Cleveland teachers have a most important responsibility of giving our children the educational tools needed to equip them to face any challenge in their future lives. Being in contact with their students almost daily, a teacher's influence goes beyond just textbook reading, writing and arithmetic. Teachers are, by virtue of their position, often charged with the responsibility of caring and nurturing each student's personal, social and emotional development. They come to develop strong interpersonal relationships with their students which often last well beyond the elementary and secondary school years. Cleveland educators deserve high recognition for their efforts in enriching the minds and hearts of many of our community's children.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring Cleveland educators who are touching the lives of thousands of students. They have given their time and dedication to the local community and have earned the respect of students, faculty, and the entire Cleveland community.

INDIA MUST RELEASE SIKH
POLITICAL PRISONERS

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 5, 2002

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, many of my colleagues are strong supporters of India. They apparently believe India's claim that it is "the world's largest democracy." But why does a democracy have political prisoners?

According to a report last year by the Movement Against State Repression (MASR), the Indian government admitted to holding 52,268 Sikhs as political prisoners. Amnesty International has reported that tens of thousands of other minorities are also being held as political prisoners. These prisoners are being held without charge or trial, illegally. Some of them have been in illegal custody for many years, despite the provisions of the law. Many of the Sikh political prisoners have been in detention since 1984. That's 18 years, Mr. Speaker. Eighteen years! How can a democratic state justify this?

Now, all of us want good relations with India and with all nations, as the President said in his State of the Union speech. But we also want to support the cause of freedom for all the people in the world. That is one of the main reasons we are fighting terrorism. We should use our increasing ties to India to pressure them to release all their political prisoners. As the bastion of democracy, it is our duty to speak up for these oppressed minority people.

Leading activists like Jaswant Singh Khalsa, former Jathedar Gurdev Singh Kaunke, and so many others have been killed by the Indian government after being made to disappear. Christians have suffered an ongoing wave of persecution, which many of us in this House have detailed repeatedly. It is time for the civilized world, under the leadership of the United States, to speak out strongly against this repression. But in addition, we must take prudent, peaceful, measured action to stop the repression of these minorities.

The Sikh leadership and the leadership of the other minorities should nominate the political prisoners for office as a way to help secure their release. This would make it much more difficult for India to continue holding them.

I might note that India has also been a practitioner of terrorism. It created the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), a Tamil militant group that our government designates as "terrorist," and harbored its leaders in the most elegant hotel in Delhi. It has been reported that the Indian Defense Minister has raised money and supplied arms for the LTTE. It has also been reported that the Indian government sponsors terrorist activity in Sindh, a border province of Pakistan. As you know, Pakistan has been a strong supporter of our efforts in the war on terrorism until India's troop movements forced them to divide their effort and pull troops off the Afghan border to counter an impending threat from India.

In addition, India paid the late governor of Punjab a lot of money to generate terrorism in Punjab and Kashmir. Indian troops were caught trying to set fire to a Sikh Gurdwara. There are numerous other incidents, such as the Air India bombing, the Chithisinghpura

massacre, and other incidents, where the evidence points strongly to the Indian government.

If India cannot behave like a civilized, democratic nation, it does not deserve to be treated like one. We should stop American aid to India until the political prisoners are released and the minorities can enjoy their full rights and liberties, and we should strongly urge India to hold a free and fair plebiscite in Kashmir, Khalistan, Nagaland, and all the nations seeking their freedom. Remember that India promised a plebiscite in Kashmir in 1948. I call on India to deliver on that promise. We should work with them to bring this about. That is the way that we can help secure the blessings of liberty for all the people of South Asia.

KAZAKHSTAN AND THE U.S.: A GROWING PARTNERSHIP IN
NEED OF OUR SUPPORT

Mr. Speaker. The terror that struck our country on September 11 brought anguish to the hearts of all caring people. Events that followed have focused the world's attention on Central Asia and the war against the terrorists.

Kazakhstan, the largest nation in that region, has offered cooperation in every area of the war effort. Kazakhstan has stood with us, and we, as Americans, must join hands with them, helping Kazakhstan and our other new allies in the area as they work to stabilize this critical region.

"Kazakhstan plays a crucial role for the international community as a bulwark against regional instability and conflict," President Bush said in a recent letter to President Nazarbayev of Kazakhstan. "America especially appreciates Kazakhstan's strong support in fighting the international scourge of terrorism," the President added.

As we are nearing the end of the military phase of the Afghan campaign and turning our attention to rebuilding that country, Kazakhstan, lying 200 miles to the north of Afghanistan, can play a crucial role in the success of these efforts. There are many reasons for this: most important are Kazakhstan's strong economic record, enormous potential, political stability and success in providing equal opportunities for all of its 130 ethnic groups, and, last, but not least, its willingness to participate fully in rehabilitation efforts in Afghanistan. Kazakhstan's largely Muslim community, although secular, has a special appreciation for the suffering and the hopes of the Afghan peoples. Already 25,000 tons of grain from the fertile lands of Kazakhstan have reached the hungry in that war-torn region. More will be coming.

For Kazakhstan to be able to realize its potential to help to the rebuilding of Afghanistan and restore regional stability, the country needs firm and long-term support from the United States. There are many reasons we should become more involved with this strategically important country. Not the least are the vast oil reserves of Kazakhstan that could potentially rival those of Saudi Arabia and will help guarantee our future energy needs. Kazakhstan's cooperation in the war on terrorism coupled with our energy concerns mean that now is the time for us to support Kazakhstan and their bright future.

President Nazarbayev's recent visit to Washington strengthened the Administration's recognition of the need to develop closer ties with Kazakhstan. The Government in Astana obviously wants closer ties, and America can only benefit from working more closely.

In the Joint Statement Presidents Bush and Nazarbayev adopted after their meeting, they confirmed a "commitment to strengthen the long term strategic partnership and cooperation". I particularly welcome the Energy Partnership Declaration, which identified "a long-term energy partnership" as "one of the key elements of the strategic interaction" between Kazakhstan and the USA. I fully support those intentions, and I ask unanimous consent to put the joint statement of these world leaders in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

I believe that the decade of growing friendship and cooperation, and particularly the strong support shown to us by Kazakhstan in fighting terrorists, has proved Kazakhstan to be our true friend and worthy of all help we can provide.

Friends help friends. There are a number of very real steps Congress must take:

First, we should work to graduate Kazakhstan from an outdated Jackson-Vanik amendment to the Trade Act of 1974 and grant Kazakhstan permanent normal trade relations status. I welcome the U.S. administration's stated intention to work with Congress on this issue and I call on my colleagues to support H.R. 1318 which I proudly cosponsored. It will repeal Jackson-Vanik in relation to Kazakhstan. This step needs to be taken during the current session. It will provide a much-needed boost for the expansion of the U.S. trade ties with Kazakhstan and will directly benefit hundreds of American businesses there. I remind my fellow members of Congress, and the American nation, that American investment in Kazakhstan over the past decade totals 5 billion dollars. That makes the U.S. the largest single foreign investor in the country, and makes Kazakhstan the clear focus of American investment in Central Asia.

Second, Congress should consider earmarking assistance to Kazakhstan in the next year's budget. The assistance should go to further solidifying Kazakhstan's successes in reforming its economy and society, as well as to strengthening its military and border protection. This move will send a clear message to the people of this important ally that the U.S. is serious about its intentions to stand by Kazakhstan as they move to become the main driving force behind the development of Central Asian stability and prosperity.

Mr. Speaker, we are truly committed to seeing the whole of Central Asia develop into a truly stable and prosperous region. Only then will it cease to be a breeding ground for terrorism and a source of threats to our homeland and other peaceful nations. The time to act is now.

JOINT STATEMENT BY PRESIDENT GEORGE W.
BUSH AND PRESIDENT NURSULTAN
NAZARBAYEV ON THE NEW KAZAKHSTAN-
AMERICAN RELATIONSHIP

[The White House, December 21, 2001]

We declare our commitment to strengthen the long-term, strategic partnership and cooperation between our nations, seeking to advance a shared vision of a peaceful, prosperous and sovereign Kazakhstan in the 21st Century that is increasingly integrated into the global economy and the community of democratic nations. To this end, we will advance our cooperation on counterterrorism and non-proliferation, democratic political and free-market economic reform, and market-based investment and development of energy resources.