

recently taken command of the 773rd Maintenance Battalion, Louisiana Army National Guard. LTC Vittoria is to be commended for her unselfish and outstanding service to our country and is deserving of our sincere gratitude.

LTC Vittoria began her career defending our country by enlisting in the Connecticut National Guard. After achieving the rank of Staff Sergeant, she attended Officers Candidate School. In January 1985, she received her commission and served as a Platoon Leader in the Virginia National Guard until June, 1986. Upon her transfer to the 123rd Maintenance Company at Fort Irwin, California, she served as the Material Service Officer, Maintenance Control Officer, and Company Commander. In September, 1993, LTC Vittoria was transferred to the 529th Forward Support Battalion in Virginia.

In February, 1998, LTC Vittoria was transferred to Detachment 1, Headquarters STARC where she served as the Administrative Chief until October 1999 when she became the Deputy Commander for the 62nd Weapons of Mass Destruction Team. From August 2000 until January 2002, LTC Vittoria served as the Operations Officer for the 199th Leadership Regiment, LTC Vittoria is a full-time member of the Louisiana National Guard and works as the Operations Officer at the Gillis W. Long Center in Carville, Louisiana.

I am proud that LTC Vittoria is a constituent in Louisiana's Sixth Congressional District and I am proud to have this opportunity to recognize her achievements.

Mr. Speaker, I know you and all my colleagues in the House of Representatives join me in congratulating LTC. Cathy Vittoria upon her promotion as Battalion Commander of the 773rd maintenance Battalion, Louisiana Army National Guard.

3M SPECIALTY MATERIALS DIVISION

HON. JIM DeMINT

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 23, 2002

Mr. DeMINT. Mr. Speaker, Whereas, 3M was founded 100 years ago in Two Harbors, Minnesota and serves as the world's leading innovative company; and

Whereas, 3M makes and sells thousands of products that improve people's lives; and

Whereas, 3M is a company consisting of 75,000 employees world-wide and 250 at the 3M Specialty Materials Division in Greenville, South Carolina; and

Whereas, the 3M Specialty Materials Division began operations in Greenville in 1973; and

Whereas, 3M makes valuable contributions to our community through jobs, environmental stewardship, charitable contributions and volunteerism;

Therefore, be it declared that, the 28th day of May 2002, shall be 3M DAY.

CELEBRATING BOB BEIN'S 40 YEARS OF SERVICE

HON. CHRISTOPHER COX

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 23, 2002

Mr. COX. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate Robert W. Bein's 40 years of service and leadership with RBF Consulting, located in Irvine, California. Now the Chief Executive Officer, Bob Bein has dedicated his life to serving his firm and his profession.

RBF Consulting is an engineering, planning, and surveying firm with over 600 employees and offices in California, Arizona, and Nevada. Bob Bein joined RBF in 1962 as a Chief Engineer, and went on to become President of RBF in 1964, and then Chief Executive Officer in 1991. Under Bob Bein's leadership, RBF has provided engineering, planning, and surveying services for land development, urban design, public works, transportation, and water projects throughout the western United States.

In addition to his role as a corporate executive, Bob Bein is a highly respected and nationally known leader in the engineering profession—involving himself extensively in professional, civic, and community organizations at the local and national levels. He is a graduate and distinguished alumnus of the University of Illinois, as well as a United States Navy veteran, and an honorary member of Chi Epsilon. Like his career with RBF, his service to the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) has been extraordinary. With stints as ASCE's national president, district director, and chair of various committees, his value to his colleagues and dedication to his profession can be measured quite simply by his numerous awards.

Bob Bein is truly an asset to his company and a cornerstone of the civil engineering profession. It's been a pleasure working with him in Congress as an advocate for so many of the county's important public works projects, from the Santa Ana River flood control project, to the Ronald Reagan Federal Courthouse and our county's many miles of interstate highways.

His decades of service in Orange County and around the United States are a testament to his character and abilities as a leader and an engineer. I congratulate Bob on his milestone, and I am honored to represent him in the United States Congress.

H. CON. RES. 410

HON. TONY P. HALL

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 23, 2002

Mr. HALL of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join Congressmen Ed Royce, Amo Houghton, Frank Wolf, and Don Payne in introducing a resolution supporting peace and democracy in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and an end to the plunder of its natural resources. H. Con. Res. 410 calls on President Bush to press for a United Nations embargo of Congolese diamonds, which are helping to fund a war that has engulfed the heart of Africa since it began in 1998, and plunged its people into a darkness where disease and misery flourish.

As the *Washington Post* reported a few months ago:

Since a rebellion erupted in 1998, Congo, which is roughly the size of Western Europe, has been effectively partitioned into several autonomous regions, each under the control of a foreign army that systematically loots its area of control. As a result, Congo's plentiful resources enrich the leaders of surrounding countries while providing no benefit to the vast majority of Congolese. . . .

Diamonds are not the cause of what has come to be known as Africa's First World War, but they play a crucial role in sustaining it. The most concentrated form of wealth ever known to mankind, diamonds are one of Africa's most liquid resources, the world's easiest commodity to smuggle, and readily available to anyone with power. From individual soldiers; to military commanders who have reoriented their troops toward full-time pillaging; to regimes that depend on standing armies and the chaos of war to stay in power; to Al Qaeda, Hezbollah, and other radical groups that have used this resource to inflict terror beyond Africa's shores—all have exploited the Congo's diamonds. They have turned a symbol that Americans treasure into a means for torturing countless thousands of people in Africa. They have put an industry that is important to American and African communities alike under a cloud, and they must be stopped.

EFFECT OF RESOLUTION

Under the terms of the Kimberley Process, the international system that aims to block conflict diamonds from the legitimate trade, conflict diamonds are defined as those embargoed by the United Nations. This means that, until the UN imposes sanctions on diamonds originating in a war zone, trade in the diamonds that fuel conflict there is not checked. The fact that diamonds currently mined in the Congo are not, technically, conflict diamonds creates a huge credibility gap for US and international efforts alike. The international system of controls aims to close that gap, but it would be foolish for the UN Security Council to postpone sanctions in reliance on a global system that is just now being devised.

Instead, the United Nations should impose an embargo similar to those on Sierra Leone and Angola's diamonds immediately. That would contribute needed pressure to regularize the trade in Congolese diamonds, combatting the criminal activities that usually accompany smuggling and compelling other countries to stop abetting this illegal trade. Some 85 percent of Congolese diamonds, worth \$854 million a year, are smuggled away; if its government collected taxes on them, some \$40 million could be added to this beleaguered country's coffers and used to respond to its people's desperate needs.

Another benefit of an embargo on Congolese diamonds would be to close the enormous loophole that the DRC has become for sanctions-busters. Currently, diamonds mined by Sierra Leonean and Angolan rebels, or trafficked by Liberia, can easily be passed off as Congolese diamonds. To leave so vast a country, which produces significant quantities of diamonds, outside scrutiny dooms international efforts to address the problem of conflict diamonds elsewhere.

Beyond these practical benefits, there is a moral reason to act. Curbing the smuggling of Congolese diamonds and other resources is essential to securing a lasting peace. A cease-

fire has held since April 2001; a small contingent of UN troops is on the ground; there are persistent efforts to settle combatants' differences through peace talks. But this is not enough. The fighting has created huge, no-go areas where disease, starvation and malnutrition prey, and combatants I desire for plunder means the stalemate and periodic violence is likely to continue. Putting diamonds beyond their reach would contribute to work trying to end the Congo's occupation and return its people's lives to normalcy and the possibility of improvement.

OTHER WAR RESOURCES

The war in the DRC is complex: seven nations and several rebel groups are fighting for political reasons and over at least nine natural resources (coltan, gold, diamonds, copper, cobalt, timber, water, tin, and cassiterite). That makes it likely that no one approach will be sufficient. Unlike the trade in other war resources, though, conflict diamonds are the focus of on-going international efforts. While far from complete, these may well be a model for work on other resources.

I sometimes have disagreed with the diamond industry's leaders, but I know them to be honorable people. Ending the exploitation of this industry's product by those whose crimes mock all it represents is as important for Africa and it is for the diamond industry, but it will be the industry's continued vigilance that determines whether this effort succeeds or collapses. I must reserve my own evaluation of the industry's promises until they are tested by practice; however, I hope that history will judge kindly its response to this scourge. I hope it will prove to be a model worthy for other industries to use and expand upon. And I want to take this opportunity to congratulate the diamond industry for its commitment to finishing this work.

In addition to the industry's constructive work on conflict diamonds, here is another reason we can be hopeful embodied in organizations like Global Witness, which first exposed the trade in conflict diamonds in 1998. Its recent report on a \$300 million conflict timber deal that is currently allowing Zimbabwe's military and political elites to log an area nearly the size of Montana is compelling. It finds that Zimbabwe entered into this deal explicitly to sustain its involvement in the DRC's war, which assures it can continue its exploitation of Congolese diamonds. In addition to tightening its ruler's grip on power, the report found,

... any natural resource exploitation by waning factions, especially foreign-backed ones, will seriously delay if not completely derail the potential for lasting peace and stability in DRC.—From Global Witness's February 2002 report, "Branching Out: Zimbabwe's Resource Colonialism in the DRC."

Ignoring timber's role in sustaining the wars over diamonds undercuts global efforts to end them. In February President Bush committed our country to tackling the problem of illegal logging around the world; and a few weeks ago, the State Department convened a roundtable discussion to focus on this problem.

Logging and mining are activities that go hand-in-hand. The roads built for one are used to open access to the other; the security and labor needs of both commercial activities are well-suited to soldiers' capabilities. Zimbabwe's operations in the DRC confirm

this approach to plunder is a way to maximize profits. Likewise, Liberia has diversified its war commerce in a way that exploits both conflict timber and conflict diamonds, using exemption of its timber from comprehensive UN sanctions to sabotage them.

A provision in this resolution urges the United Nations to put its consideration of sanctions against conflict timber on a fast track. I hope the progress made on each of these resources will lead to the comprehensive approach to resource exploitation that is essential to restoring a lasting peace in the Congo.

HUMANITARIAN DIMENSION

Sanctions—whether on diamonds or other resources—are an imperfect tool, but they have proven helpful in Sierra Leone and Angola and they are well worth trying in the DRC, if for no other reason than the magnitude of the Congolese people's suffering. Because large swaths of the Congo have been too dangerous for journalists, aid workers, and others to visit, there has been too little reporting on this battle for the valuable resources of one of the world's poorest countries. But the exposes that have been done are superb.

One of the best examples is ABC's Nightline, which did an extraordinary, week-long series on the Congo's misery early this year. One segment focused on the battle between two allies that demolished the Congo's diamond-mining capital:

Kisangani was, until not very long ago, a city of 600,000. . . . It was a center of trade. . . . [Now.] this is a city surviving on life support, suffocated by a war. . . . What was it then that set the armies of Rwanda and Uganda against one another, grinding the people of Kisangani between them? Diamonds. —From ABC Nightline's Heart of Darkness, Jan. 23, 2002.

Dr. Bob Amot of NBC's Dateline has also done heroic reporting from the Congo, bringing home to those of us who must watch from afar the tragedy of its forgotten people. The *Washington Post* also has devoted attention to the Congo, including front-page coverage of a study done by the respected International Rescue Committee. It found that 3 million people have died there, but few due to the fighting. As Karl Vick reported:

The vast majority of deaths have resulted from starvation, disease and deprivation on a scale emerging only as aid workers reach areas that have been cut off by fighting and lack of roads. . . . Villagers in the [Kasai] region—long renowned for its diamonds mines, but now ravaged by hunger—refer to two kinds of gems: white ones and red ones. The red ones are peanuts.

What makes the Congo surveys exceptional is . . . how long the conditions they document have been allowed to persist [Vick reported, quoting a Western epidemiologist, who noted that] mortality rates this high are common in humanitarian emergencies . . . but they only last a couple of months . . . because there is some sort of intervention. [But in this vast, war-torn country with few roads,] the hugely elevated mortality rates [have been] steadily racking up deaths by the hundreds of thousands. —From the *Washington Post*, April 2001.

The sad truth is the Congolese now rank among the most miserable—and most endangered people—in the world. In all, at least 2.5 million people have died, another 2 million have been driven from their homes; and one

in three is in critical need of food. Among children, the problems are staggering: 75 percent of children born since the war began dying before their second birthday; 66 percent of school-aged children are not being educated; and large numbers of children are forced to serve as soldiers or prostitutes.

Diseases also stalk the populace, whose chaotic lives make precautions against HIV/AIDS and other deadly illnesses virtually impossible. As Mr. Vick described,

... horror stories continue to emerge from a country no longer defined only by war, but also by pestilence. Untreated malaria remains the main killer, accounting for half of reported deaths. But health workers have also documented outbreaks of polio, whooping cough and even bubonic plague, near the center of Congo's rich diamond-mining area, one child out of 25 suffers from cretinism, an iodine deficiency that leaves the child half the normal size and severely retarded. —From the *Washington Post*, August 2001.

Other independent observers have reached similar conclusions:

The belligerents have no interest to see an end to the current situation in eastern Congo. There is a level of violence they can tolerate because the violence is targeting civilians. . . . The end result is that the Congolese will continue to die as [leaders] line their pockets with gold and diamonds. The Congolese are not only facing material losses, they are being crushed in the exploitation of natural resources.—From an interview with a Human Rights Watch expert, November 2001

A Oxfam's primary concern is the humanitarian impact of the war, which has caused the largest number of conflict-related deaths anywhere in Africa in the last four years. While different actors have justified their involvement in the war on the basis of security, it is clear that one of the driving forces behind the conflict is a desire by the warring parties to have access to, and control over, the DRC's vast natural resources. This wealth is not being used to reduce poverty, either in the DRC or in other countries involved in the war. In fact, wealth from natural resources is sustaining the war and bad governance. Such military activity has been described as military commercialism. Natural resource exploitation has become a key factor in determining military deployment, perpetuating the cycle of violence. —From Oxfam's report, "Poverty in the Midst of Wealth," January 2002

The choices facing children in the eastern Congo today are to join the military, become a street child, or die. The war-affected children of the eastern Congo have no opportunity for education and eat one meal per day, if they are lucky. Many are homeless, forced to flee because of acute poverty. Some have witnessed horrible atrocities committed against their families or their neighbors. Unaccompanied and traumatized, they roam into the big towns or cities.

The brutal war in the Eastern Congo, which has contributed to millions of deaths, driven thousands of people from their homes and helped impoverish a resource-rich country, will not end until the fighting factions learn that they have more to win from peace than they do from war. The most vulnerable in this situation are the children, and they are exploited both as child soldiers and prostitutes.—From the report of Refugees International, "Eastern Congo—A Slow Motion Holocaust," and a discussion of it.

THE UNITED STATES SHOULD CONTINUE TO LEAD

Mr. Speaker, this Congress has been at the forefront of efforts to end the trade in conflict

diamonds. Two years ago—before American human rights activists began their campaign against conflict diamonds, and even before the diamond industry moved to protect its self-interest—Mr. Royce and Mr. Payne began taking a hard look at this problem.

Then, six months ago, this House passed compromise legislation designed to begin severing the link between diamonds and war. During negotiation of that bill, H.R. 2722, the President's trade and diplomatic representatives assured us that, if Congress would use the Kimberley Process's definition of conflict diamonds, which are those sanctioned by the United Nations, the Administration would press the UN Security Council to extend its embargo to diamonds mined in other conflict zones, like the Congo.

Today, I urge our colleagues to call that commitment due. Please join me in pressing our government to continue to lead this work—by insisting that the United Nations act against a blood trade that is helping to fuel the world's most deadly war. Please support H. Con. Res. 410.

MICHAEL HENRY DEVLIN MAKES
HIS MARK ON THE WORLD

HON. BOB ETHERIDGE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 23, 2002

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mr. Patrick J. Devlin, Sr. of my staff and his wife Helen on the birth of their second child, Master Michael Henry Devlin. Michael was born early in the morning on Monday, May 20, 2002. He weighed 7 pounds and 6 ounces. Faye joins me in wishing Pat, Helen and their first son Patrick great happiness upon this new addition to their family. I know that the gentleman from Kentucky Mr. LEWIS joins me in celebrating Michael's birth as Helen serves on his staff.

As the father of three, I know the joy and pride that Pat and Helen feel at this special time. And I know that Patrick is excited to have a brother with whom he can play. Children remind us of the incredible miracle of life and they keep us young-at-heart. Everyday, they show us a new way to view the world. Indeed, they are one of the most important reasons why we serve in this body, Mr. Speaker.

I welcome Michael into the world, and wish Pat, Helen, and Patrick all the best as they bring Michael into their family.

SOVIET-STYLE ACTIONS IMPERIL
FREE TRADE AND RUSSIA

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 23, 2002

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, since the fall of communism and the Soviet Union, the Russian government has made significant strides in promoting free enterprise and free trade. Sometimes, however, old habits die hard.

Bureaucrats at the Russian Ministry of Agriculture seem to be living in the past. In a move reminiscent of the Soviet-era, they have

ordered the nationalization of a private company with American trademarks, Stolichnaya Vodka.

These actions run counter to the efforts of Russian President Putin who has repeatedly demanded more property rights and freedom for the Russian people. Unfortunately, bureaucrats in the government have not gotten the message.

The actions against the rightful owner, SPI International, are not isolated incidents. As SPI's counsel, Richard Edlin stated in testimony before the House Committee on Ways and Means there is a "troubling pattern of regression by the Russian government to the tactics and policies of the Soviet era."

These abuses must stop if Russia is going to be considered a reliable trading partner of the United States. It is incumbent upon the Russian government and its trading partners to demand a correction of these abuses. These problems should not be swept under the rug. These actions threaten trade, reform and prosperity for the Russian people.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that the following editorial from the May 16, 2002 Investor's Business Daily be included in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

[From the Investor's Business Daily, May 16, 2002]

MOSCOW'S STICKY FINGERS RISK ECONOMIC
FUTURE OF RUSSIA

(By Doug Bandow)

After years of economic chaos and declines, Russia is advancing. Despite serious challenges to civil liberties, press freedom and the democratic process, the Russian people are finally enjoying a growing economy.

And Moscow's success, including a surprising budget surplus, re-bounds to the benefit of America. A more prosperous Russia is less likely to slide back into its communist past. A more prosperous Russia will offer a better market for U.S. investment and trade.

Yet continued progress requires that Russia move more inefficient state enterprises into private hands. Moscow must also improve its international commercial reputation.

However, Russia unfortunately is moving in the opposite direction, at attempting to reverse previous privatizations.

For instance, vodka is big business, the nation's second largest. (The Russians do love to drink.) One of vodka's most celebrated brand name is Stolichnaya.

SPI International acquired the Stolichnaya name in 1992, and now sells 1.3 million cases in the U.S. alone. But Moscow is trying to strip away SPI's trademark. To enforce its claim, the Russian Ministry of Agriculture has impounded 180,000 cases of SPI's vodka, currently sitting on the dock in the port of Kaliningrad.

USSR CRUMBLES

SPI's state-owned predecessor first registered its vodka trademark in the U.S. in 1967. PepsiCo bought the right to import Stolichnaya into the U.S. and spent more than \$100 million over the years to encourage demand (PepsiCo has since left the alcohol business.)

When the USSR disintegrated at the end of 1991, the successor states, led by Russia, began selling off many state enterprises, SPI became a private company. In October 1992 the Russian government confirmed its right to export vodka under several trademarks.

Two years ago Allied Domecq acquired U.S. distribution rights. In reliance on SPI's property rights, Allied has undertaken a new advertising campaign and launched a

new product to compete with Smirnoff. SPI has been shipping Stolichnaya for a decade without complaint from the Russian government. SPI has invested about \$20 million to promote the brand and another \$50 million to settle the debts of its state-run predecessor.

Yet the government recently decided that it wants to renationalize Stolichnaya. It went to court to claim ownership earlier this year, and a Moscow court sided with the government.

MOSCOW SHORT-SIGHTED

Despite the vulnerability of Russian courts to state manipulation, SPI won two subsequent decisions. These judges barred the agriculture ministry from trying to exercise the trademark and from seizing SPI's vodka.

Yet the government has ignored the courts. It has established a federal enterprise to monopolize vodka sales. Officials have even threatened SPI's employees with criminal prosecution.

Moscow's campaign is curiously short-sighted. Even if the government succeeds in stripping SPI's rights in Russia, it will have no right to export to the U.S. Allied is the registered trademark holder, and SPI is Allied's exclusive supplier.

Unfortunately, Stolichnaya is not the only target of Moscow's commercial aggression. Greenberg Traurig attorney Richard Edlin complained of "a troubling pattern of regression by the Russian government to the tactics and policies of the Soviet era" at a House Ways and Means Committee hearing.

For instance, the U.S. firm Films by Jove purchased Russian copy-rights. It's spend \$4 million in making animated films. Now the Russian government has set up its own company by the same name as the firm that licenses films to Films by Jove and claims it's the true owner. A U.S. District Court upheld the U.S. company's copyright, opining that the Russian court's contrary decision, perhaps made under government pressure, was "incoherent," "irrelevant" and "shocking."

No wonder Russian Duma member Boris Nemtsov, head of the Union of Right forces, called on President Vladimir Putin to reverse the "dangerous" threat to property rights, one of the "pillars of true progress for Russia." Nemtsov worries that other reforms—Putin has flattened the income tax and legalized the sale of nonagricultural land—"will be for naught if the fundamental weaknesses of the Russian state that undermine property and minority shareholder rights are not addressed."

RULE OF LAW

Individual companies, which have invested in reliance upon property rights granted by Moscow obviously have much to fear from the surreptitious rollback of privatization.

If Russia is to continue to show economic growth, it must establish a stable investment climate to encourage demands and foreign investment. Commercial certainty is particularly important if the nation is to enter the World Trade Organization.

Putin deserves credit for having halted Russian's slide toward chaos. But real property requires establishment of the rule of law and respect for property rights.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BOB RILEY

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 23, 2002

Mr. RILEY. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained for rollcall No. 186, H. Res. 427, Waiving Points of Order Against the Conference Report on H.R. 3448, Public Health