

An initial \$10 million for the Cultural Bridges Program was approved last year by Congress for the coming academic year. I commend the State Department for moving so quickly to organize the program and bring the first group of high school students to the United States. By the end of the summer as the new academic year begins, 135 high school students will be here for a year of study in high schools in 23 States under the program.

The students are coming from many nations throughout the Islamic world—Egypt, Indonesia, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Nigeria, Pakistan, Syria, Tunisia, Turkey, and Yemen, and from the West Bank and the Gaza strip as well. Each student will live with an American host family, attend a local high school, learn first hand about our society and values, and enable our students to learn about them.

Officials in the State Department are already preparing their recruitment and outreach efforts for the 2004-2005 academic year, when they hope to double the size of the program. If all goes well, that number will double again in the following year.

The terrorist attacks on September 11 and the war in Iraq have brought into sharp focus the many negative images and perceptions of our Nation abroad. Many Muslims believe our country is at war with Islam, not terrorism. With nearly 1.5 billion people living in the Islamic world today, we ignore these pervasive anti-American sentiments at our peril.

If the United States is to win a genuine victory in the war against terrorism, we must respond on many levels. We must ensure that our defenses are strong, our intelligence is accurate, and our borders are secure. But we must also do all we can to dispel the disturbing trend of anti-American rhetoric and beliefs. An effective way to do so is to engage Islamic peoples in the realm of values and ideas.

In a May 3, 2002 speech to the World Affairs Council in California, Deputy Secretary of Defense Paul Wolfowitz spoke of the need to strengthen voices of moderation in the Islamic world and to bridge the “dangerous gap” between that world and the West. There is “no time for delay,” he said.

As we have seen in Afghanistan, Pakistan, and the Middle East, some individuals and factions and even governments have supported terrorist organizations, while others have condemned terrorism and pledged to help the United States in combating it. By reaching out in friendship to those who oppose terrorism we can reduce the breeding grounds for terrorism and begin to eliminate the sentiments that terrorist recruiters exploit.

One of the most effective ways to engage the Islamic world is through educational exchange programs, which promote people-to-people contacts between Americans and other peoples.

Exchange programs help to build strong personal relationships and com-

bat the misperceptions about the United States that threaten our security. Unfortunately, exchanges between the Islamic world and the United States are very limited today. Of the more than 500,000 foreign students in the United States, less than 5 percent are from the Arab Middle East.

There are many benefits in reaching out to students while they are young and open-minded. Today’s high school students are tomorrow’s leaders. Working with them now can improve their attitudes about our country and build future relationships based on trust and understanding. As Secretary of State Colin Powell said in his August 2001 statement on International Education Week: “I can think of no more valuable asset to our country than the friendship of future world leaders who have been educated here.”

What makes the Cultural Bridges Program unique is that it enables high school students from other lands to obtain firsthand knowledge of our country, our way of life, and our people. Our Government sponsors many exchange programs for professionals, educators, journalists and academics, but, until now, there has been no Federal program to bring high school students from the Islamic world to the United States.

After September 11, many Muslim countries condemned the terrorist attacks and pledged to help the United States fight terrorism. But in the wake of the war in Iraq, anti-American sentiment is on the rise again.

A June 2003 poll by the Pew Charitable Trust found strong public support for Osama bin Laden’s views in Arab countries whose governments are friendly to the United States. According to the poll, 55 percent of those in Jordan, 58 percent of those in Indonesia, 45 percent of those in Pakistan, and 49 percent of those in Morocco said they had confidence in Osama bin Laden to “do the right thing regarding world affairs,” and so did 71 percent of those in the areas controlled by the Palestinian Authority.

Our military action in Iraq has led to widespread fears throughout the region that we will launch other aggressive action. Majorities of those interviewed in Indonesia, Nigeria, Pakistan, Turkey, Lebanon, and Jordan worried that their country might be attacked by the United States. Even in Kuwait—where the public has a generally favorable view of the United States—53 percent expressed concern that the United States could someday pose a threat.

Especially disturbing is the finding of little support in the Islamic world for the war against terrorism—23 percent in Indonesia, 16 percent in Pakistan, 22 percent in Turkey, and 2 percent in Jordan and the Palestinian Authority. In Morocco, only one in 10 back the effort, while in Lebanon, 30 percent support the war. Only in Kuwait and Nigeria do majorities of the population now support the war against terrorism.

Clearly, we need to redouble our efforts to win the hearts and minds of

peoples in the Arab and Muslim world, and change their negative perceptions about our country and values.

There are no better ambassadors for America than Americans themselves, and this new high school exchange program is an important way to begin reaching out more effectively to the next generation of leaders in that world.

Jordan’s King Abdullah is an excellent example of what can be achieved. He is a friend of the United States, a partner in the war against terrorism, and a voice of tolerance and moderation in the Muslim world.

In 1977, as a young Jordanian, he enrolled in a high school in Massachusetts and later came to Washington to study at a university. He is living proof of the value of building bridges of understanding and tolerance with other cultures.

We need to create as many opportunities as possible for young people throughout the Islamic world to spend time in the United States and with our citizens, and we should begin to do so now. I have been delighted to work with Senators LUGAR, LEAHY, CHAFEE, DODD, HAGEL, SMITH, COCHRAN, BROWBACK, JEFFORDS, DURBIN, and FEINGOLD on the Cultural Bridges Program, and I am hopeful that it marks a new beginning in our efforts to build forward lasting relationships with the future leaders in the Muslim world.

FY 2004 ENERGY AND WATER APPROPRIATIONS

SILVERY MINNOW PROVISION

Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, I want to begin by commending my friend and colleague from New Mexico and the Chairman of both the Energy and Natural Resources Committee, and the Energy and Water Appropriations Subcommittee, for addressing a difficult situation on the Rio Grande River.

The provision at issue is Section 205 of the Energy and Water Appropriations bill and I would like to take this opportunity to engage Senator DOMENICI on that legislative language as part of the Senate’s consideration of the bill.

We worked on Section 205 together, and it concerns water use in the Middle Rio Grande and compliance with the Endangered Species Act (ESA). More specifically, Section 205 addresses the June 12, 2003 decision of the Tenth Circuit Court of Appeals in the case of Rio Grande Silvery Minnow v. Keys, and does the following:

Recognizing that importing San Juan-Chama project water from the San Juan River basin to the Rio Grande basin does not jeopardize endangered species in the Middle Rio Grande, Section 205(a) clarifies that the Bureau of Reclamation may not use discretion, if any, to unilaterally reduce or reallocate water to be delivered under San Juan-Chama project contracts for endangered species purposes in the Rio Grande River Basin.

Section 205(b) also expressly recognizes that compliance with the March 17, 2003 biological opinion concerning water operations in the Middle Rio Grande, as well as activities being conducted pursuant to P.L. 106-377, P.L. 107-66, and P.L. 108-7, constitute compliance with all ESA requirements as related to those actions, both federal and non-federal, that are incorporated as the proposed action in the biological opinion. Notwithstanding Section 205, the Secretary is to continue pursuing recovery of listed species in the Middle Rio Grande, including support for the Middle Rio Grande ESA collaborative program.

I believe we are in agreement on the effect of Section 205. Moreover, I think the legislation is an appropriate response to the Tenth Circuit's decision and strikes a proper balance by providing certainty for all water users in the Middle Rio Grande basin while still maintaining the policy that all water users have a shared interest and responsibility to comply with the requirements of the ESA. Given the benefits of this approach I would ask my colleague, as Chairman of Energy and Water Appropriations Subcommittee, to maintain this approach in the conference with the House of Representatives and to include this interpretive language as part of the conference report.

Mr. DOMENICI. I appreciate that my colleague and fellow New Mexican worked with me to help alleviate the current situation with the silvery minnow. I concur with his understanding of the language which is designed to narrowly address the silvery minnow situation in the Rio Grande. It is intended to prohibit the use of San Juan-Chama water in the Rio Grande for endangered species purposes and to implement the March 17, 2003 Biological Opinion. I also concur with his view of the benefits of Section 205 in general, and will strongly advocate for its retention in conference, as well as inclusion of this interpretive language in the conference report.

Mr. BINGAMAN. I thank the distinguished Chairman for his consideration and explanation of this important matter. I believe that this language offers hope for the minnow and protection for the people of New Mexico.

MAKAN DELRAHIM

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I would like to take a moment today to express in public my thanks and appreciation to the Judiciary Committee's Chief Counsel and Staff Director, Makan Delrahim. Makan's departure is a tremendous loss for the Senate and for me personally. But, we are fortunate that he will continue to serve our country in his new position in the Bush administration as Deputy Assistant Attorney General for the Justice Department's Antitrust Division.

Makan is, in my opinion, a fine example of a great American success

story. Makan's family fled from Iran when he was eight years old, and he quickly learned English and immersed himself in American life.

After learning business fundamentals at his father's gas station, Makan unleashed his newfound American entrepreneurial spirit and pursued several successful business enterprises before receiving a bachelor of science in physiology from UCLA. Later, he earned a law degree from George Washington University and also a Master of Science in biotechnology from Johns Hopkins. On top of it all, he became a registered patent attorney.

Clearly, his wide range of abilities and interests explain in part why he has served the Judiciary Committee and the Congress so exceptionally well. He is a brilliant thinker with the rare ability to quickly grasp a wide variety of complex issues.

It was a stroke of good fortune for me when, back in 1995, Makan joined my Judiciary Committee health staff for a term as an intern. As an intern, Makan distinguished himself as an exceptional talent, and after spending a few years practicing law at the Patton, Boggs, I convinced him to come back to the Judiciary staff as counsel handling e-commerce, antitrust and emerging technologies policy. I was once again so impressed with his dedication and ability that in 2001, I asked Makan to serve as Chief Counsel and Staff Director for the Judiciary Committee.

As Chief Counsel, Makan has been my right hand, providing valuable counsel on all matters that come before the Committee. I am particularly proud of his leadership in the development and passage of Hart Scott Rodino reform, the TEACH Act, the PATRIOT Act and the PROTECT Act, to name just a few. He has proved himself to be a skillful negotiator with the ability to bring parties together on divisive issues. It is no wonder that Makan is widely respected on both sides of the aisle.

Makan has worked tirelessly and capably, and I am afraid that his office in the Dirksen Building has become his virtual home as he has worked late into the night and many weekends over these past years. If he had stayed in private law practice and worked these hours, he would probably be a billionaire by now.

As Staff Director, Makan has demonstrated the extraordinary ability to find the greatest strengths in each staff member and to foster those strengths. And I am especially proud of Makan for helping me recruit a brilliant and impeccably qualified staff, and in doing so, bringing an unprecedented level of diversity to the Committee.

We will miss Makan's charismatic style and his ready sense of humor. And, we will miss his extraordinary ability to multitask. He is the only person I know who is capable of carrying on an intelligent conversation

while simultaneously checking his email and talking on his cell phone.

Since Makan won't be here to ignore my advice anymore, let me offer it once again: He should get married. And, on a serious note, Makan has not only been a trusted adviser, he has been a friend. He has made us proud and we will miss him.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

HONORING MONICA AND BERNARD BENNING

• Mr. BURNS. Mr. President, today I rise in honor of Monica Conter Benning and Bernard Floyd Benning, Barney, on the celebration of their 61st wedding anniversary on August 20, 2003. Monica and Barney are the only surviving couple of the Pearl Harbor attack who both were in the immediate Pearl Harbor area at the time of the bombing. As the courtship between these two officers evolved in the setting of World War II, their experiences during the attack on America, December 7, 1941, are an important part of American history.

Barney, a college ROTC 2nd Lt. from Niles, MI, was ordered to active duty to Hawaii in May 1941. Barney joined an anti-aircraft battery in Fort Kamehameha at the entrance of the Pearl Harbor channel.

Army nurse 2nd Lt. Monica Conter of Apalachicola, FL served at Walter Reed General Hospital in 1940-1941, and was the official model for the Army Nurse Corps Recruiting Program. Monica was later assigned to the new Hickam Field Hospital, adjacent to Pearl Harbor and separate by a lone chain link fence. Monica is the only nurse still living today who was on duty at Hickam Field Hospital at the time of the attack. During the attack on December 7th, a bomb fell on the hospital lawn about 60 feet from the building, leaving a large crater. A banyon tree sapling was planted in the crater several days after the attack. Today, beside the huge tree is a granite monument and plaque, honoring Monica's service as an Army nurse on duty that fateful day.

Monica and Barney Benning first met on a prearranged "blind date" in September 1941; the beginning of a lifetime together. Their courtship continued with regularity until that "Day of Infamy," December 7, 1941—the first terrorist attack on America. The following Wednesday, when Barney appeared at Hickam Hospital in a dirty, wrinkled uniform, it was quite an emotional moment when they found each other alive.

"Off Duty" time was infrequent and often they were miles apart and usually on some kind of alert status until the American victory at the Battle of Midway in May.

They wed on August 20, 1942, in the temporarily camouflaged Hickam Field Chapel; the original chapel was destroyed on December 7.