

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

COMMUNITY OF DEMOCRACIES AND SECRETARY RICE

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 5, 2005

Mr. LANTOS. Last week, the Community of Democracies held its third meeting of Foreign Ministers in Santiago, Chile. This unique group of democracies from around the world met to discuss how democratic nations can cooperate to promote democracy around the world.

I would like to inform my colleagues that at the opening plenary meeting of that Ministerial on Thursday April 29, 2005, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice made a compelling speech regarding United States support for those efforts. She expressed her deep seated views regarding the responsibilities of all democratic nations to do so and welcomed the establishment of a new International Center for Democratic Transition to be established in my hometown of Budapest, Hungary. Mr. Speaker, when Hungary was under the communist boot, I would have never dreamed that such a Center would become a reality.

I am putting Secretary Rice's speech in the RECORD and I urge all my colleagues to read it in the coming days.

REMARKS AT THE COMMUNITY OF DEMOCRACIES OPENING PLENARY

(By Secretary Condoleezza Rice)

Thank you very much to the Chilean government, particularly to President Lagos and to Foreign Minister Walker for hosting this year's meeting of the Community of Democracies I think we have been all warmly welcomed here in Chile. I know that I speak for all my distinguished colleagues when I say that we are honored to gather here together in the name of democracy.

Every democracy in the world has shared the triumph of Chile's citizens, as they have renewed their commitment to democracy. Indeed we have all experienced the profound hope of people here throughout Latin America, who have transformed their continent through their desire to live in liberty. Today, all the members of the Community of Democracies declare our deep conviction that freedom is the universal longing of every soul and democracy is the ideal path for every nation.

The past year has brought forth a dramatic shift in the world's political landscape. Since our last meeting in Seoul, we have seen free elections in Afghanistan and in Iraq, and in the Palestinian territories. We have witnessed tremendous developments in places like Georgia and Ukraine and Kyrgyzstan and Lebanon.

There comes a time when the spark of freedom flashes in the minds of all oppressed people, and they raise their voices against tyranny. The Community of Democracies must match the bravery of these men and women with the courage of our own convictions. We on the right side of freedom's divide have an obligation to help those on the wrong side of that divide.

To support democratic aspirations, all free nations must clarify the moral choice be-

tween liberty and oppression. We must let all governments know that successful relations with our democratic community depend on the dignified treatment of their people. To strengthen democratic principles, all free nations must demand that leaders who are elected democratically have a responsibility to govern democratically. Abandoning the Rule of Law for the whim of rulers only leads to the oppression of innocent people.

To advance our democratic consensus, all free nations must insist that upholding democratic principles is the surest path to greater international status. The Community of Democracies is one of a growing number of international organizations that make democracy an actual condition for membership.

In the western hemisphere, the Organization of American States has adopted the Interamerican Democratic Charter and here in the southern cone, Mercosur is helping to bolster democracy. In Europe, only democracies can belong to the European community, and democratic principles have always been the cornerstone of NATO. The democratic character of states must become the cornerstone of a new, principled multilateralism.

The real division in our world is between those states that are committed to freedom, and those who are not. International organizations like the Community of Democracies can help to create a balance of power that favors freedom. One positive action that we can take together is to work through the United Nations Democracy Caucus, to support reform of the United Nations. In particular, we should encourage the creation of a legitimate human rights body within the United Nations. Serious action on human rights can only come from countries that respect and protect human rights. Our Democratic Community can cooperate in other ways at the United Nations. The UN Democracy Fund, which President Bush proposed last fall at the general assembly, is an ideal way to provide tangible support to emerging democracies. Financial assistance is essential for all nations working to build firm foundations for freedom.

The world's democracies must also help countries with their democratic transitions, every nation in this room has experienced a democratic transition of its own, some quite recently. Hungarian Foreign Minister Somogyi has proposed the creation of a democratic transition center. This is a terrific way, Minister, for our community to share with young democracies and democratic movements, the important lessons that we have learned from our own traditions and transitions.

Democratization is after all, not an event, it is a process. It takes many years, even decades to realize the full promise of democratic reform. For nearly a century after the founding of the United States, millions of black Americans like me were still condemned to the status below that of full citizenship. When the founding fathers of America said "We the People", they did not mean me; many of my ancestors were thought to be only 3/5 of a man. And it is only within my lifetime that the United States has begun to guarantee the right to vote for all of our citizens. And so we know, in the United States, that this is a long and difficult process, and every nation in this room

has experienced moments of tyranny in its history, some not too long ago.

Today, our citizens share the common bond of having overcome tyranny through all our commitment to freedom and democracy. Now it is our historic duty to tell the world that tyranny is a crime of man, not a fact of nature. Our goal must always be the elimination of tyranny in our world. We, at the Community of Democracies must use the power of our shared ideals to accelerate democracies movement, to ever more places around the globe. We must usher in an era of democracy that thinks of tyranny as we thought of slavery today, a moral abomination that could not withstand the natural desire of every human being for a life of liberty and of dignity: This is our great purpose, together we will succeed.

KAWASAKI DISEASE AWARENESS

HON. HOWARD COBLE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 5, 2005

Mr. COBLE. Mr. Speaker, an organization dedicated to the awareness of Kawasaki Disease, A Kawasaki Heart, is striving to increase public knowledge of Kawasaki Disease (KD) throughout the United States and, more particularly, among medical professionals.

I recently learned of a close call suffered by 3-year-old Bailey Buffkin, the granddaughter of Janis Moore of Thomasville, North Carolina, and the daughter of Amber Brewer. Bailey became ill this past March and her mom wasted no time in seeking medical care. Fortunately, her pediatrician was familiar with the symptoms of KD. The accurate diagnosis and timely treatment means that Bailey has a better chance to live a happy and healthy life.

According to the American Heart Association, KD is a disease that primarily affects children under the age of 5 years. It is the leading cause of acquired heart disease in children. There are a few thousand new cases each year in the U.S. If not detected and treated immediately, it can result in permanent heart damage or even death. The cause of KD is unknown, but scientists who have studied KD think the evidence strongly suggests it is caused by an infectious agent such as a virus. Children with KD have high fever, red eyes and lips, strawberry tongue, a rash, swollen lymph nodes, and inflamed arteries. The usual treatment, intravenous gamma globulin, is highly effective at preventing the heart complications if administered within the first few days of illness. That is why it is so important that a child who is suspected of having KD is seen by a doctor quickly and diagnosed correctly.

Because there are relatively few instances of KD diagnosed in the United States, it is important that parents, guardians and the medical community become familiar with the signs and symptoms so that other children are diagnosed and treated as quickly as Bailey Buffkin.

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

Additional information may be located on the web site of the American Heart Association (www.americanheart.org) and A Kawasaki Heart (www.kawasakiheartdisease.us).

RECOGNIZING EARTH DAY IN HARLEM

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 5, 2005

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of Earth Day events in Harlem, New York, and to recognize the dedication of advocates of environmental justice. This year, Harlem will celebrate the 35th anniversary of Earth Day—a day designed to raise our collective awareness of the challenges facing our environmental and global communities.

In the first Earth Day celebration, the Nation directed its attention to the issues of the environment and ways to ensuring its protection for years to come. Congress adjourned—on a Wednesday—for the day to allow Members to hear from their constituents. Roughly 20 million Americans united to express their collective demand for a safer, cleaner, and healthier global community. The Clean Air Act, the Clean Water Act, the Endangered Species Act, and the creation of the Environmental Protection Agency followed shortly after that momentous day. These were true efforts, not in name alone, to provide important and needed protections to our environment and to make our communities safe, clean, and healthy.

This year, Harlem will focus on the environmental problems of communities of color. West Harlem Environmental Action, Inc (WE ACT) is a non-profit grassroots environmental group that has worked to improve environmental quality and to address equity and justice in environmental issues for predominantly African-American and Latino communities. For the last 7 years, they have worked to raise community awareness of environmental hazards, to identify and research ecological threats to minority communities, and to attain governmental policies to protect local communities.

As part of their Earth Day celebrations, WE ACT will honor six luminaries in the field of environmental justice: Alphonse Fletcher, the chairman of Fletcher Asset Management; Dr. Kenneth Olden, the director of the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS); Dr. Joseph Graziano from the Department of Environmental Health Sciences at Columbia University; Lucille McEwen, Esq., president and CEO of Harlem Congregations for Community Improvement; Dr. Rafael Lantigua, associate director of General Medicine at New York Presbyterian Hospital; and Full Spectrum Building and Development, Inc., a Harlem-based development firm that built the first green building in Harlem. These individuals will be awarded WE ACT for Environmental Justice Awards for making “substantial inroads to preserve natural and built environment, and improve environmental health in communities of color.” They will be honored for their hard work in ensuring that minority communities are safe, clean, and healthy communities.

Fellow Members of Congress, please join me in thanking WE ACT for its hard work in organizing Earth Day activities in Harlem, New York. This is a significant day in American history and to our future. We must do more to truly protect our environment from the threats of pollution, industrial contamination, and abuse. We must find a balance that will protect our nature, the environment, and our communities.

RECOGNIZING THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE COUNCIL OF THE AMERICAS AND THE AMERICAS SOCIETY

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 5, 2005

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Americas Society and Council of the Americas, based in my congressional district, on their 40th anniversary.

I believe the work of these organizations is invaluable in educating all of us about matters related to the Western Hemisphere. The Americas Society promotes cultural understanding through an exchange of ideas among writers, artists, musicians, filmmakers, and the general public. The Council of the Americas promotes open markets, democracy and the rule of law, through active engagement with U.S. and hemispheric governments.

Founded by David Rockefeller in 1965 as a private sector parallel to President Kennedy's Alliance for the Americas initiative, the Council of the Americas/Americas Society is now in its 40th anniversary year.

During the past 40 years, the Americas Society has promoted many of the great cultural achievements of the Western Hemisphere by showcasing Latin artists, musicians, and authors and contributing to the vibrant cultural diversity of New York City and especially my district.

I am also pleased to note the organization's commitment to arts education, which I believe is a crucial component of school curricula not only in New York, but across the country. By exposing New York City's underprivileged children to the music of the Americas, the Americas Society helps to instill a lifelong appreciation of music.

We must continue to strengthen relations among the nations in the Western Hemisphere. Like the Council of the Americas, I strongly support democracy, human rights, and the rule of law, and I commend the Council for its promotion of these ideals in U.S. policy in the Western Hemisphere.

Under the leadership of Chairman William Rhodes and President and CEO Susan Segal in New York, the Council of the Americas and the Americas Society have raised their profile significantly, adding new value to members while becoming even more active in the hemispheric policy debate. As consistent advocates for constructive engagement of the Western Hemisphere countries, the Americas Society and the Council of the Americas are contributing to peace, democratic stability, and shared prosperity in the Americas.

Today, Hispanic Americans are the fastest growing segment of the U.S. population. They are making dynamic contributions to the U.S.

economy and culture. As the U.S. population becomes more and more diverse, it will be even more important to foster deeper cultural understandings and cross-border cooperation.

I congratulate the Council of the Americas and Americas Society on their 40th anniversary.

RECOGNIZING THE ACHIEVEMENTS AND DEDICATED SERVICE OF IRVING H. LEVIN

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 5, 2005

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to commend former state legislator Irving H. Levin on his retirement from his profession as a real estate broker and insurance agent and thank him for his long career of service. Over his lifetime, Mr. Levin has worked on behalf of Rhode Islanders as a community activist, business leader, and model citizen.

Born July 21, 1915, in Providence, Irving Levin has dedicated his life to making Rhode Island a better place. He graduated from Hope High School in 1934 and attended Johnson & Wales College. He then served in the Army during World War II, which inspired his lifelong advocacy for veterans.

Mr. Levin received his real estate license in 1959, and he earned numerous honors and awards for his practice over the years. He was twice recognized as Realtor of the Year by the Greater Providence Board of Realtors, and he was honored as the Rhode Island Realtor of the Year in 1993. A true leader, Mr. Levin also served as the President of the Rhode Island Association of Realtors in 1990.

From 1971 to 1991, Mr. Levin represented Cranston and the citizens of the 27th district of Rhode Island in the General Assembly. During his tenure at the State House, he served as Vice Chairman of the House Corporations Committee and Chairman of the Joint Committee on Veterans Affairs. By the time he retired, Mr. Levin was the longest-serving member of the Rhode Island House of Representatives. In the General Assembly, Mr. Levin focused his priorities on veterans and senior citizens' issues.

In addition to realtor, insurance agent, and State Representative, Mr. Levin served as president of the Greater Cranston Chamber of Commerce and the National Conference of Insurance Legislators. After leaving public office, Mr. Levin continued his activism with the Jewish War Veterans and served as President of the United Veterans Council of Rhode Island. Mr. Levin's distinguished career has no doubt inspired countless others to follow in his footsteps.

I am proud to honor Mr. Levin today. It is through the efforts of dedicated public servants and community leaders like Mr. Levin that Rhode Island has moved into the 21st century ready to face whatever problems arise. I am confident that if other leaders follow the model set forth by Mr. Levin, Rhode Island and our Nation will continue to be a source of pride for all of us. I hope my colleagues will join me in commending Irving H. Levin.