

National Mall during a groundbreaking ceremony on June 5, 2008. President Bush and Speaker Pelosi will offer remarks.

The building will house the U.S. Institute of Peace (USIP), with its headquarters and public education center, an idea whose roots can be traced back to President George Washington and the framers of the U.S. Constitution.

The building will not be a monument to an individual or commemorate a significant event in our nation's history. Rather, it will be a place where the hard work of peace goes on, where globally recognized experts on conflict resolution will seek ways to prevent accidental and unnecessary wars, limit their scope and severity, and identify and facilitate exit strategies. The USIP building will symbolize America's most cherished ideal—enduring peace on earth.

The design of this historic building by world-renowned architect, Moshe Safdie, is in perfect harmony with its noble purpose. From its imaginative white roof shaped like the wings of a dove, to its open and transparent glass atrium, the USIP building seems infused with the hope and promise and work of peace.

The idea for the USIP arose during the Vietnam War, when Senator Vance Hartke tried to make the case to his friend, President Johnson, that the war was a terrible mistake, based on a misinterpretation of history, culture, and geopolitics. Unfortunately, President Johnson interpreted his dissent as disloyalty to him and his Administration. Nor did the other institutions make the case for peace. Even the State Department was for war.

At that point, Senator Hartke realized that something was missing from the Nation's decision-making apparatus on the great issues of war and peace. He saw the need for a non-partisan entity with analytical depth and institutional heft whose sole mandate was to advance the cause of peace. Joined by Senator Mark Hatfield, they introduced legislation that laid the cornerstone for the eventual creation of the USIP.

The legislation was moved forward through a commission headed by Senator Spark Matsunaga, whose members were appointed by President Carter. Public hearings were held across the country. The upshot was that experts from a wide variety of fields were offended by the notion that the search for peace was wishful thinking and futile. With a sweeping charter, the bi-partisan legislation was passed and signed into law by President Reagan in 1984.

"The somewhat radical notion underlying USIP's creation," Corine Hegland wrote in a perceptive article in the *National Journal*, "was that the science of peace could be studied, refined, and taught in much the same manner as military skills and strategies had been consciously honed for centuries."

"We got it wrong after 9/11," as USIP's Executive Vice-President Patricia Thomson sees it. "We restructured our homeland-security institutions, but we should have restructured our foreign-policy institutions." The current work of the USIP still encompasses basic research but increasingly its storehouse of best peace practices has been used and applied in countries around the world, wherever hot spots flare. USIP's Chairman, Robinson West, and President, Richard Solomon, have mobilized their staff of 142 employees to rethink conflicts with a bold view toward preventing and ending them.

The body of work of USIP shows an evolving institution whose basic values lie at the heart of civilization, whether it is recruiting statesmen like Lee Hamilton and James Baker III to lead the Iraq Study Group, or the efforts to implement the Dayton Peace Accords led by former Chairman Chester Crocker.

Forty years after he envisioned the creation of USIP, Senator Hartke's challenging and prophetic words still ring true: "I have the unshakable conviction that we have it within our power to end this war (Vietnam) and the syndrome of war itself. . . . For in the end, it is the dreamer who is the greatest realist."

MILLENNIUM CHALLENGE CORPORATION FUNDING

MR. GREGG. Mr. President, I had the fortunate opportunity to travel to Africa and South America over the Easter recess, and I want to take a moment to share some of my observations with my colleagues.

Mali receives significant U.S. foreign assistance totaling \$45 million in fiscal year 2007, \$55 million in fiscal year 2008—and \$461 million in Millennium Challenge Corporation, MCC, funding.

While Mali appears headed in the right direction, I worry that the MCC is going down the wrong path, specifically by funding a \$90 million renovation project for Bamako airport's runway and terminal. I understand that this project may have been formulated through a consultative process, but it seems to me that it should be funded through the African Development Bank or by private investment. I expect the MCC to justify to the State, Foreign Operations Subcommittee the necessity for U.S. taxpayers to fund the airport project, and to consult on the reprogramming of funds required by the derailed \$90 million industrial park project.

The funding disparity and contrast between our traditional development agency—the U.S. Agency for International Development, USAID—and the MCC was glaring in Mali. Where USAID—could benefit from a slight increase in overall funding, the MCC was struggling to determine how best to reprogram \$90 million. I am very concerned that MCC may not live up to its billing as a more effective aid delivery program, and its deep pockets may create unintended opportunities for corruption.

I had the opportunity to visit the U.S. Embassy and learned of the loss of air conditioning for a lengthy period of time which was a burden to American and local staff. This is not the first time I've heard of problems at our newly built embassies, and I encourage the State Department to make sure that no patterns exist at these facilities because of subpar contractors or equipment.

Like Mali, Nigeria receives significant U.S. assistance primarily through a new initiative, the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief, PEPFAR. Assistance in fiscal year 2007 totaled \$350 million and \$491 million in fiscal year 2008, of which \$282 million and \$410 million are for HIV/AIDS activities, respectively.

On paper, Nigeria is wealthy country with significant oil reserves, and, we were told, an estimated \$57 billion in an excess crude account. Corruption is

unfortunately a cancer that stymies development and political progress in that country; Transparency International's Corruption Perception Index, 2007, ranks Nigeria 147th out of 179th.

Nigeria is a PEPFAR focus country, with a 3.9 percent prevalence rate among adults. Given Nigeria's significant natural resources, it is imperative that the AIDS Coordinator begin a process of transitioning from U.S. to Nigeria-funded programs. America can help the Government of Nigeria spend its health dollars, but I question the efficacy of U.S. funding for HIV/AIDS programs in that country. I will have more to say on this issue when the Senate considers the reauthorization of PEPFAR, perhaps later this year.

Namibia is also a PEPFAR focus country, and received \$86.9 million in fiscal year 2007 and \$103 million in fiscal year 2008 for HIV/AIDS programs. Unfortunately, other programs for Namibia, specifically support for democracy activities, has been in steady decline over the past few fiscal years and is being zeroed out. Given that the ruling SWAPO party is no longer a monolith, and splinter parties are forming, the Administration's reduction in assistance to Namibia may be ill timed and ill advised.

My staff and I are exploring ways to ensure that sufficient funding exists for non-HIV/AIDS programs for Namibia, including immediate support for domestic election monitoring activities in that country, and like Nigeria, I encourage PEPFAR personnel to explore sustainment strategies for U.S.-funded HIV/AIDS programs.

I am also concerned that the United States is not supporting enough exchange programs with countries in Africa. I intend to increase these programs in upcoming appropriations bills.

South Africa is also a PEPFAR focus country and received \$398 million in fiscal year 2007 and \$547 million in fiscal year 2008 HIV/AIDS funding. South Africa is running a budget surplus—in this case totaling \$2.4 billion.

I am very pleased that our U.S. Ambassador understands the need for South Africa to assume greater financial responsibility for HIV/AIDS programs, and it is unfortunate that certain South Africa government officials have not been aggressive in addressing this issue. Any future support for HIV/AIDS programs in South Africa should be conditioned on the development and implementation of sustainment strategies to ensure that the Government of South Africa assume the care for its infected populations.

Crime remains a significant challenge to everyone in South Africa, and given the increased personnel requirements associated with PEPFAR, it may make sense to allow the use of PEPFAR funds for administrative and operational expenses at the U.S. Embassy, including for security purposes. New initiatives create increased desk

and office space needs, and I've asked my staff to take a closer look at this issue in anticipation of marking up the fiscal year 2009 State, Foreign Operations Appropriations bill.

I also intend to continue to work with Secretary of State Rice on resolving travel issues impacting members of the Africa National Congress, which is an unnecessary irritant in U.S.-South African relations.

Finally, although Argentina is not a major recipient of U.S. foreign assistance—some \$2 million was provided in fiscal year 2008—relations between our countries have been historically good. I encourage my colleagues to continue to follow counterdrug and counterterrorism developments in that country—and region.

ILLEGAL LOGGING

Mr. BURR. Mr. President, the extension of the Lacey Act within this legislation to cover imported timber and wood products sends a strong signal that the U.S. Congress is serious about supporting the President's Initiative Against Illegal Logging.

The practice of illegal logging—both in the United States and abroad—is a deplorable act that poses environmental threats as well as threats to legitimate businesses that operate within the rule of law.

It is crucial, that as this legislation is implemented, a clear distinction be drawn between “innocent” owners in the supply chain who in good faith trade in wood products that they believe to be legally harvested abroad, and those who knowingly traffic in illegal material.

It is the concern of Congress that this line be clearly drawn when prosecutions occur under this act.

Therefore, I support the provision included in this act that places the burden of proof in civil forfeiture cases on the government, as provided by the Civil Asset Forfeiture Reform Act.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO RALPH JACKMAN

• Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, it gives me great pleasure to bring to the attention of the Nation, and my colleagues in this body, the remarkable career of Ralph Jackman of Vergennes, VT, who has served that small city as its volunteer fire chief for the past 54 years. While it is difficult to confirm this fact definitively, it is my understanding that Ralph Jackman is the longest serving fire chief in the history of this country. This historic longevity of service is deserving of celebration, as is the quality of leadership he has brought to his community, his State and this Nation.

In much of rural America, volunteer firefighters are not just first responders, but the heart of their communities, an essential part of the glue that holds those communities together.

Everywhere across America, young people hear, and for decades have heard, the call to serve their communities; everywhere across America, and most certainly in Vermont, they answer that call at an early age. Like so many volunteer firefighters, Ralph joined his department when he was in his early twenties.

In 1953, at the age of 30, Ralph Jackman was named chief of the Vergennes Fire Department. He has served in that capacity for over half a century, protecting the citizenry and their property in this city near Lake Champlain. In large part owing to Mr. Jackman's leadership, the department was able to successfully upgrade its fire station, recruit many new members and acquire the large array of vehicles, equipment, and apparatus that his fire department needed.

Testimony to his leadership are the positions he has held and the honors he has received: two-time past president of the Vermont State Firefighters Association, past president of the Addison County Firefighters Association, ACFA, the Robert B. King Fire Chief of the Year and as the Frances J. Shorkey Fire Chief of the Year.

Today, even though he is in his eighties, Ralph Jackman continues to serve as the active fire chief in Vergennes and manages all the day-to-day operations of the department.

Not content with his service as a firefighter, and desiring to serve further, in addition to his role as fire chief, Ralph Jackman answered his Nation's call: he is a World War II veteran, and served in the Army Reserves from 1946 to 1972. He is also a member of the American Legion Post 14, continues to serve as Vergennes fire warden, and has been a member of the Rotary Club for 55 years. He has also been an organizer for Meals-On-Wheels.

I am proud of the work that Chief Jackman has done for the city of Vergennes, the State of Vermont and for the spirit of public service and volunteerism in this country. Mr. Jackman's dedication to his family, to his fellow volunteer firefighters, the fire service, and to the people of his community is worthy of commendation, and today I commend him in the highest terms.●

A TRIBUTE IN MEMORY OF JIM McCRINDE

• Mr. MARTINEZ. Mr. President, it gives me great pleasure to recognize a dedicated public servant and a patriotic American from my home State—Mr. James “Jim” McCrindle. Jim passed away on June 1, but his legacy lives on through all that he accomplished and all those he touched.

In 1961, Jim immigrated to America from Ayr, Scotland, to pursue an education and earn his piece of the American dream. He joined the U.S. Army in 1962 and attained the rank of specialist five.

Following his military service, Jim began serving our Nation in a different

capacity through his involvement in the Department of Defense's Morale, Welfare & Recreation, MWR, services and programs. His work helped to enhance the lives of these employees by promoting fitness, good health, and camaraderie.

Jim went on to fulfill his goal of receiving an education by attaining a degree in hospitality management from Cornell University. He would use these skills to support the soldiers he greatly respected and admired.

Throughout his life, Jim strived to bring comfort to members of our armed services. Among his many accomplishments, he managed the Armed Forces Recreation Center—Europe, helped to plan and execute the Department of Defense's R&R program during Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm, and was instrumental in the development of Shades of Green—a Walt Disney World Resort for members of our military.

Jim served as the hotel's manager and helped it to achieve great success. Since its opening in 1995, Shades of Green has routinely achieved one of the highest occupancy rates of any American hotel.

Jim managed Shades of Green up until his passing early this month. It was truly his pride and joy, and was one of his many contributions to our Nation. I applaud his steadfast commitment to improving the lives of others. On behalf of Florida and the people of the United States, I would like to honor this great American for reminding us all of what makes our Nation great.●

CONGRATULATING THE AMERICAN BUSINESS WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION

• Mr. BUNNING. Mr. President, I would like to congratulate the American Business Women's Association, ABWA, which will be holding their 2008 National Women's Leadership Conference in Covington, KY. For nearly 60 years the ABWA has identified and addressed the needs of working women. Local ABWA chapters continuously contribute to the professional development of their members through educational programs, along with charitable opportunities, networking, and scholarships. The national scholarships sponsored by ABWA have helped thousands of women meet their educational goals.

With several Kentucky and Ohio chapters and networks sponsoring this year's conference, over 1,000 women from around the country are expected to attend. In addition to meeting distinguished speakers, members will attend seminars and workshops on professional development, industry trends and techniques to improve their job skills.

By improving the lives of women for more than a half century, the American Business Women's Association has proven itself to be an exemplary professional development organization. I