

would vote against the U.S. at the UN, but why, for example, should we not make it clear to the Philippines or Vietnam, which during the current fiscal year receive about \$100 million, each in U.S. foreign assistance that our resources are limited and that these limited resources will, in the first instance, be made available to states that are prepared to reciprocate our friendship?

During my stay at the UN I also learned how the leaders of the anti-democratic forces transmit their voting instructions to their following. The explanation that democratic members of the NAM or the G-77 offer to explain their anti-democratic votes is that they vote the NAM or the G-77 "consensus." That raises the question of how that consensus is reached.

I was offered an explanation by an ambassador from a NAM state with whom I was having lunch. In the course of our conversation he asked me whether I knew how the NAM consensus was formed. When I told him that I did not know, he said: "You know, we used to be on the other side." By that he meant on the pro-Soviet side. He continued by telling me that on the day preceding any meeting of the NAM caucus, which had 101 members at that time, the friends of the Soviet Union, about 17 or 18 states, would have a special meeting. When they were all assembled, a small group would enter the room, always including Cubans. That group would then give out instructions on how the assembled representatives should act when they met the next day at the meeting of the full NAM caucus. Each representative would be assigned a specific task, to make a motion on a position to be taken by the NAM, to be the first speaker in support of a motion, or to be the second speaker in support. Then, the next day, when the full caucus met, the whole scenario would be played out. My colleague concluded his account of NAM procedure by saying: "And there sits the silent majority and just goes along."

To return to the events following the 1973 Burundi amendment to the anti-apartheid resolution: as we so well know, having developed the theme of correlating Zionism with apartheid, the other side did not let go. At the International Women's Year Conference in July 1975 in Mexico City a resolution was adopted which called for the elimination of Zionism, apartheid and racial discrimination. The news from Mexico City focused, of course, on the emphasis that had been placed on the rights of women. But it was in that setting, a setting that emphasized the need for progress for women that another totally unrelated step had been taken in the Zionism is racism campaign. Then, in November of that year that formula was made UN doctrine by the UN General Assembly by its adoption of the "Zionism is Racism" resolution, by a vote of 72 to 35 with 32 abstaining. Confirming the bargain that had been struck, the new controlling alliance put together by Castro and Qaddafi furnished 68 of the 72 affirmative votes. Brazil and Mexico, Cyprus and Malta provided the remaining four. A majority of the "no" votes was provided by the Western Group, but the Western Group was joined by Latin American, Caribbean and sub-Saharan African states. In addition, many of these non-Western states abstained.

What deserves mention is that if Mexico had voted "no" rather than "yes" or if Colombia and Guatemala had joined the United States in voting "no" rather than abstaining, the resolution would have been adopted only if the General Assembly had voted that the resolution was not "important." That is so because with these minor vote changes, the resolution would not have received the two-thirds vote required by the Charter for important resolution. I am mentioning these

details to underline the validity of Moynihan's observation that our side does not do the needed parliamentary spade work at the UN. That is, as noted, in sharp contrast to the extraordinarily effective work done by the Cubans to this day. My guess is that they were well aware of the two-thirds majority requirement and worked hard to attain that result.

I have described how the Zionism is racism campaign got started. Now let us move fast forward to December 22, 2007, when the UN General Assembly had before it a resolution that authorized the allocation of about \$7 million to fund the operation of a committee, chaired by Libya, whose task it was to prepare Durban II. The resolution passed by a vote of 105 to 46. The fact that the "no" vote fell only slightly short of one-third plus 1 is important because the resolution raised a budgetary question and resolutions that raise budgetary questions require a two-thirds majority for adoption. If we had picked up 7 of the 41 abstentions or absences, Durban II would not have been funded.

Now let us take a look at how Durban II came about by comparing the December 2007 vote to the Zionism is Racism vote of November 1975. Here is what we find:

(1) Most of the Western states once again voted "no," although a few, Liechtenstein, New Zealand, Norway, and Switzerland switched to "abstain."

(2) The 25 Western states have now been joined by 18 East European states, some of which had voted "yes" in 1974. Others had not been in existence then, having been republics of the Soviet Union or Yugoslavia. Three Asian UN members also voted "no." They were South Korea, the Marshall Islands, and Palau.

(3) Most of the Latin American, Caribbean and African states that had voted "no" on "Zionism and Racism" in 1975 voted for funding Durban II in 2007.

As we make this comparison between the 1975 vote and the corresponding 2007 vote, we need to note that in the interim, in 1991, the Zionism is Racism resolution was repealed by a vote of 111 to 25. The repeal was the result of a major effort, undertaken by the then Assistant Secretary of State for International Organizations, John Bolton. The substantial margin of victory for our side was also the result of the fact that the Soviet bloc had dissolved, the Soviet Union was disintegrating, and the anti-democratic coalition at the UN was in utter disarray.

But this disarray did not last long. The anti-democratic forces at the UN quickly regained their footing and were soon again in full operation. While they used to fly the flag of the Non-Aligned Movement in earlier decades, they now sail under the flag of the Group of 77. There is only one significant difference between the NAM and the G-77. China does not belong to the former, but belongs to the latter. In fact the G-77 calls itself now the "Group of 77 and China." China has become an increasingly significant player in the anti-democratic camp at the UN.

China, incidentally, is one country that has no history of antisemitism. On the contrary, Chinese intellectuals see parallels between their ancient culture and the ancient culture of the Hebrews. China has also excellent trade relations with Israel. But at the UN, China consistently votes against Israel. It does so because it is an integral part of the group of member states that use the UN to embarrass the democracies.

As we watch the totalitarians at work in Geneva, using the UN umbrella in their attacks on the basic principles on which the UN was founded, it is understandable that there are many observers who are prepared to give up on the UN. The response that I

want to offer to these pessimists is that while we can clearly identify the symptoms of the disease from which the UN suffers, it is a disease from which it can be cured. What is needed is for the governments of the democracies, particularly of the United States, to engage in more effective parliamentary work at the UN.

Let us take a look at the roll calls on the two votes that I have cited the 1975 Zionism is Racism vote and the 2007 Durban II funding vote. On the first of these the "no" vote was 32.7%. On the second it was 30.5%, an insignificant difference in the percentages. As we look at this almost imperceptible change in percentages, we should note that the Freedom House categorizations for 1975 and 2007 show a wholly different pattern. In 1975, Freedom House classified 27% of the UN membership as free. In 2007 the percentage of free countries was 46%, a major increase.

Why was that difference not reflected in the votes on the two resolutions? Our side had indeed picked up Eastern Europe's new democracies. But we had lost the support of many Latin American, Caribbean, and African states, most of them fellow-democracies. The additional votes cast for our side were not the result of any diplomatic effort on our part. They reflected the political beliefs of the new East European democracies. The democracies whose votes we lost, on the other hand, were lost as a result of a failure on our part to engage them fully on UN issues, combined with the extraordinarily clever manipulation by the other side.

So, as we watch Durban II unfold, let us keep in mind that effecting change at the UN is not a hopeless cause. The percentage of UN member states that Freedom House classifies as "not free" is down to 22%. Under these circumstances should it not be possible for the democracies to return the UN to the principles spelled out in the Charter? I submit it can be done if the United States Government will commit itself to spend the time and energy needed to attain that goal. And it is our task, as citizens, to urge our Government to do just that.

Let me conclude my remarks by expressing the thanks of all of us assembled here to those whose idea it was to arrange for this counter-conference and who did the necessary organizational work. All of us who believe in the fundamental principles on which the United Nations were founded need to stand up against those who are fully engaged in efforts to subvert them. That is what this counter-conference is doing. And we shall overcome!

HONORING STEVEN MICHAEL KINNAMAN

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 2009

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Steven Michael Kinnaman a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 145, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Steven has been very active with his troop participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Steven has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Steven Michael Kinnaman

for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE STAFFORD CONNECTICUT FIRE DEPARTMENT NO. 1

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 2009

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the 75th Anniversary of the Stafford, Connecticut Fire Department No. 1. For 75 years the men and women of this department have dedicated themselves to protecting the people and the community in which they serve.

While the department was not formally incorporated until November 11, 1936, it began its work in Stafford on May 10, 1934 in the B. Schwanda and Sons button factory. The eight founding members later began meeting in an unused garage and dance hall that later became incorporated into station 145. While membership grew over the next ten years, a shortage of able bodied men during World War II forced the department to allow members of the Junior Fire Department over the age of 14 to join the full department.

In June 1949, a committee was formed to begin work on plans for a new firehouse located on Colburn Road. Just a few years later, this new department was built to house the members, vehicles and equipment. That structure is still used to this day as the home base for the ET-145, ET-245, Rescue 145, Forestry 145, Service 145 and Marine 145. In 1953, the department won first prize in a statewide contest conducted by the Hartford County Mutual Fire Insurance Company as the volunteer department with the most improved facility with the best fire prevention program available.

In March of 1956, under the leadership of then chief Benjamin Muzio, the Auxiliary of the Stafford Fire Department No. 1 was organized to assist the department with fundraising efforts to acquire necessary equipment and supplies. Through the years, the Auxiliary has raised funds through a variety of events including the annual chicken BBQ that draws people from communities far and wide every year.

The men and women of this department have put their lives on the line for the past 75 years and they deserve our thanks and praise. On behalf of the people of Connecticut's Second Congressional district, I want to thank you for your service.

ACKNOWLEDGING AND COMMENDING NATIONAL LIBRARY WEEK

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 2009

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, from April 12–18, 2009, our nation celebrated National Library Week and the vital role that these insti-

tutions and their dedicated staff play in supporting our communities. On April 22, 2009, the House of Representatives passed H. Res. 336, supporting the goals and ideals of National Library Week and encouraging Americans to take full advantage of these wonderful public resources.

In Oregon, we pride ourselves on our strong community and a commitment to quality of life and education. Public libraries are a vital piece of this fabric and, in fact, Oregon has the second highest circulation of public library materials in the nation and the only 5-star library in the Northwest. As the economic downturn has pushed family budgets to the brink, these resources are more important than ever. In addition to public reading and visual materials, libraries offer Internet and computer access for all, free of charge. Many also serve as community spaces for gatherings and events.

Another library that deserves recognition is our very own Library of Congress. In 2008, to highlight the world-class work of this institution I formed the Library of Congress Caucus, now nearly 50 Members strong. I have the distinct honor of co-chairing this bipartisan organization with my friend Congressman ZACH WAMP. Our goal is to draw further attention to the nation's library, its collections and curators, and to encourage further use by Members of Congress and the public alike.

The Library of Congress not only houses the much-appreciated Congressional Research Service, it also offers 1.6 million visitors access to 15 million primary-source documents and operates the Veteran's History Project and the Surplus Books Program. One of my favorite programs, the Surplus Books Program is an innovative book donation program, through which Members may send library materials to the schools and libraries in their home district. At a time when funding for libraries is scarce, this is a simple way to reduce book waste and distribute excess resources to our communities and schools where they are needed most.

I strongly encourage members to take advantage of these extraordinary programs and resources, and congratulate all our nation's libraries, librarians, and library-enthusiasts.

CHRISTOPHER ALLEN CARPENTER

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 2009

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Christopher Carpenter of Kansas City, Missouri. Christopher is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 260, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Christopher has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities and 29 merit badges. Over the many years Christopher has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned titles such as Den Chief and Patrol Guide, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Christopher Carpenter for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

CELEBRATING THE CORNBREAD FESTIVAL OF SOUTH PITTSBURG, TENNESSEE

HON. LINCOLN DAVIS

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 2009

Mr. LINCOLN DAVIS of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the people of South Pittsburg, Tennessee on their 13th annual National Cornbread Festival. In 1996, a group of residents in this small city of 3,500 decided to take action to promote economic activity, which had waned as surrounding areas developed and a newly constructed highway directed traffic away from South Pittsburg's local businesses.

The goals of the Cornbread Festival were to promote the unique sights, sounds, tastes, and history of South Pittsburg and, Madam Speaker, they have done a fine job. Each year, during the last weekend in April, people have traveled from across the country and around the world to take part in the vibrant heritage of southeast Tennessee. This festival, which has been featured several times in national publications and on the Food Network, celebrates the southern delicacy of cornbread and the culture that surrounds it. Local artists and musicians keep the region's great traditions alive. Visitors can also see the great history of the local cast-iron industry around which South Pittsburg grew, and which still produces the skillets used to make the world's best cornbread.

Most importantly, Madam Speaker, this festival has made a great contribution to the community that created it and continues to run it. Proceeds from the National Cornbread Festival have been used to landscape streets, help build athletic fields, and support Boy Scouts, schools, daycares, and libraries. It serves as an economic driver which has helped to revitalize downtown South Pittsburg and its local businesses. It is a true testament to the power of community involvement and self-determination.

Madam Speaker, I congratulate South Pittsburg on a thirteenth year of what I hope will be a longstanding tradition. I encourage my colleagues and the American people to take note of the National Cornbread Festival and to consider a trip to see what's cooking in South Pittsburg, Tennessee.

HONORING THE 34TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FALL OF SAIGON

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 2009

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Madam Speaker, it is my honor to rise today to recognize a day of great historical significance to my constituents and this nation.

On April 30, 1975, the city of Saigon fell to communism. This day was a somber day marked by hardship and loss of life for both Vietnamese and Americans. Thousands of people fled Vietnam by boat from the late 1970s to the mid-1980s. One half of those who fled by boat did not survive the journey.

Indeed, many Vietnamese-Americans come from a line of brave folks who left an oppressive regime to search for freedom. Citizens of