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WASHINGTON, TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 1996

No. 19

House of Representatives

The House met at 11 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore [Mrs. MORELLA].

The Chaplain, Rev. James David Ford, D.D., offered the following prayer:

Let us pray using the words of Psalm 66:

Praise God with shouts of joy, all people.

Sing to the glory of his name; offer him glorious praise.

Say to God, "How wonderful are the things You do.

Your power is so great that Your enemies bow down in fear before You.

Everyone on Earth worships You; they sing praises to You, they sing praises to Your name." Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House her approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Mississippi [Mr. MONTGOMERY] come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. MONTGOMERY led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The Speaker pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, February 13, 1996.

Hon. NEWT GINGRICH,
The Speaker, U.S. House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 5 of Rule III of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, I have the honor to transmit a sealed envelope received from the White House on Friday, February 9 at 11:45 a.m. and said to contain a message from the President whereby he transmits an Agreement between the United States and the Republic of Poland concerning fisheries off the coasts of the U.S.A.

With warm regards,

ROBIN H. CARLE,
Clerk, House of Representatives.

AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF POLAND CONCERNING FISHERIES OFF THE COAST OF THE UNITED STATES—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 104-172)

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, without objection, referred to the Committee on Resources and ordered to be printed:

To the Congress of the United States:

In accordance with the Magnuson Fishery Conservation and Management Act of 1976 (16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*), I transmit herewith an Agreement between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Republic of Poland Extending the Agreement of August 1, 1985, as amended, Concerning Fisheries Off the Coasts of the United States ("the 1985 Agreement"). The Agreement, which was effected by an exchange of notes at Warsaw on December 15 and 20, 1995, extends the 1985 Agreement to December 31, 1997.

In light of the importance of our fisheries relationship with the Republic of Poland, I urge that the Congress give favorable consideration to this Agreement at an early date.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON,
THE WHITE HOUSE, February 9, 1996.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, February 13, 1996.

Hon. NEWT GINGRICH,
The Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 5 of Rule III of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, I have the honor to transmit a sealed envelope received from the White House on Friday, February 9 at 11:45 a.m. and said to contain a message from the President whereby he transmits a 6-month periodic report on the national emergency concerning terrorists who threaten the Middle East peace process.

With warmest regards,

ROBIN H. CARLE,
Clerk, House of Representatives.

REPORT ON DEVELOPMENTS CONCERNING NATIONAL EMERGENCY WITH RESPECT TO ORGANIZATIONS THAT THREATEN TO DISRUPT THE MIDDLE EAST PEACE PROCESS—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 104-173)

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, without objection, referred to the Committee on International Relations and ordered to be printed:

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

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



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To the Congress of the United States:

I hereby report to the Congress on the developments concerning the national emergency with respect to organizations that threaten to disrupt the Middle East peace process that was declared in Executive Order No. 12947 of January 23, 1995. This report is submitted pursuant to section 401(c) of the National Emergencies Act, 50 U.S.C. 1641(c), and section 204(c) of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (IEEPA), 50 U.S.C. 1703(c).

1. On January 23, 1995, I signed Executive Order 12947, "Prohibiting Transactions with Terrorists Who Threaten to Disrupt the Middle East Peace Process" (the "order") (60 *Fed. Reg.* 5079, January 25, 1995). The order blocks all property subject to U.S. jurisdiction in which there is any interest of 12 terrorist organizations that threaten the Middle East peace process as identified in an Annex to the order. The order also blocks the property and interests in property subject to U.S. jurisdiction of persons designated by the Secretary of State, in coordination with the Secretary of the Treasury and the Attorney General, who are found (1) to have committed, or to pose a significant risk of committing, acts of violence that have the purpose or effect of disrupting the Middle East peace process, or (2) to assist in, sponsor or provide financial, material, or technological support for, or services in support of, such acts of violence. In addition, the order blocks all property and interests in property subject to U.S. jurisdiction in which there is any interest of persons determined by the Secretary of the Treasury, in coordination with the Secretary of State and the Attorney General, to be owned or controlled by, or to act for or on behalf of, any other person designated pursuant to the order (collectively "Specially Designated Terrorists" or "STDs").

The order further prohibits any transaction or dealing by a United States person or within the United States in property or interests in property of STDs, including the making or receiving of any contribution of funds, goods, or services to or for the benefit of such persons. This prohibition includes donations that are intended to relieve human suffering.

Designations of persons blocked pursuant to the order are effective upon the date of determination by the Secretary of State or his delegate, or the Director of the Office of Foreign Assets Control (FAC) acting under authority delegated by the Secretary of the Treasury. Public notice of blocking is effective upon the date of filing with the *Federal Register*, or upon prior actual notice.

2. On January 25, 1995, the Department of the Treasury issued a notice listing persons blocked pursuant to Executive Order No. 12947 who have been designated by the President as terrorist organizations threatening the Middle East peace process or who have been found to be owned or controlled

by, or to be acting for or on behalf of, these terrorist organizations (60 *Fed. Reg.* 5084, January 25, 1995). The notice identified 31 entities that act for or on behalf of the 12 Middle East terrorist organizations listed in the Annex to Executive Order No. 12947, as well as 18 individuals who are leaders or representatives of these groups. In addition the notice provides 9 name variations or pseudonyms used by the 18 individuals identified. The list identifies blocked persons who have been found to have committed, or to pose a risk of committing, acts of violence that have the purpose of disrupting the Middle East peace process or to have assisted in, sponsored, or provided financial, material or technological support for, or service in support of, such acts of violence, or are owned or controlled by, or to act for or on behalf of other blocked persons. The Department of the Treasury issued three additional notices adding the names of three individuals, as well as their pseudonyms, to the List of STDs (60 *Fed. Reg.* 41152-53, August 11, 1995; 60 *Fed. Reg.* 44932-33, August 29, 1995; and 60 *Fed. Reg.* 58435-36, November 27, 1995). Copies of the notices are attached to this report. The FAC, in coordination with the Secretary of State and the Attorney General, is continuing to expand the list of Specially Designated Terrorists, including both organizations and individuals, as additional information is developed.

3. The expenses incurred by the Federal Government in the 6-month period from July 23, 1995, through January 22, 1996, that are directly attributable to the exercise of powers and authorities conferred by the declaration of the national emergency with respect to organizations that disrupt the Middle East peace process are estimated at approximately \$2.6 million. (The expenses for the previous period, incorrectly stated in the report of July 27, 1995, to be approximately \$55,000, were about \$2.5 million.) Personnel costs were largely centered in the Department of the Treasury (particularly in the Office of Foreign Assets Control, the Office of the General Counsel, and the U.S. Customs Service), the Department of State, and the Department of Justice.

4. Executive Order No. 12947 provides this Administration with a new tool for combating fundraising in this country on behalf of organizations that use terror to undermine the Middle East peace process. The order makes it harder for such groups to finance these criminal activities by cutting off their access to sources of support in the United States and to U.S. financial facilities. It is also intended to reach charitable contributions to designated organizations and individuals to preclude diversion of such donations to terrorist activities.

In addition, the Congress has pending before it comprehensive counterterrorism legislation proposed by the Administration that would strengthen our ability to prevent terrorist acts, identify those who carry them out, and

bring them to justice. The combination of Executive Order No. 12947 and the proposed legislation demonstrate the U.S. determination to confront and combat those who would seek to destroy the Middle East peace process, and our commitment to the global fight against terrorism.

I shall continue to exercise the powers at my disposal to apply economic sanctions against extremists seeking to destroy the hopes of peaceful coexistence between Arabs and Israelis as long as these measures are appropriate, and will continue to report periodically to the Congress on significant developments pursuant to 50 U.S.C. 1703(c).

WILLIAM J. CLINTON.

THE WHITE HOUSE, February 9, 1996.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, February 13, 1996.

Hon. NEWT GINGRICH,
The Speaker, U.S. House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 5 of Rule III of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, I have the honor to transmit a sealed envelope received from the White House on Friday, February 9 at 11:45 a.m. and said to contain a message from the President whereby he notifies the Congress that Japan has conducted whaling activities that diminish the effectiveness of the International Whaling Commission with respect to minke whales.

With warm regards,

ROBIN H. CARLE,
Clerk, House of Representatives.

REPORT ON ACTIVITIES OF JAPAN'S DIMINISHING EFFECTIVENESS OF THE INTERNATIONAL WHALING COMMISSION CONSERVATION PROGRAM—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 104-174)

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, without objection, referred to the Committee on International Relations and the Committee on Resources and ordered to be printed:

To the Congress of the United States:

On December 11, 1995, Secretary of Commerce Ronald Brown certified under section 8 of the Fishermen's Protective Act of 1967, as amended (the "Pelly Amendment") (22 U.S.C. 1978), that Japan has conducted research whaling activities that diminish the effectiveness of the International Whaling Commission (IWC) conservation program. This message constitutes my report to the Congress pursuant to subsection (b) of the Pelly Amendment.

The certification of the Secretary of Commerce was based on Japanese research whaling activities in both the

North Pacific and the Southern Ocean Whale Sanctuary. In 1994, Japan expanded its research whaling activities into the North Pacific by permitting the taking of 100 minke whales, 21 of which were taken. The IWC found that this North Pacific whaling failed to satisfy applicable criteria for lethal research and was therefore inconsistent with the IWC's conservation program. Nevertheless, Japan continued its whaling activities in the North Pacific, taking 100 minke whales in 1995. In addition, during 1995, Japan increased the number of minke whales to be harvested in the Southern Ocean Whale Sanctuary by 33 percent, despite a 1994 finding by the IWC that this lethal research program did not meet all applicable criteria.

In his letter to me of December 11, 1995, Secretary Brown conveyed his concerns not only over the whales that have been killed in this program to date but also over any further expansion of lethal research. While noting that the Japanese have informed us they have no plans for a further expansion of lethal research in the Southern Ocean Whale Sanctuary, he expressed particular concern over whaling activity in that area. I share these concerns.

At this stage, I do not believe that the use of trade sanctions is the most constructive approach to resolving our differences over research whaling activities with the Government of Japan. However, I have instructed the Department of State to convey my very strong concerns to the Government of Japan. We will also vigorously pursue high-level efforts to persuade Japan to reduce the number of whales killed in its research program and act consistently with the IWC conservation program. We hope to achieve significant progress on these issues by the beginning of the next Antarctic whaling season and will keep these issues under review. I have instructed the Department of Commerce to continue to monitor closely Japan's research whaling and to report promptly on any further inconsistencies between Japanese whaling activities and the guidelines of the IWC conservation program.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON.

THE WHITE HOUSE, February 9, 1996.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, February 13, 1996.

Hon. NEWT GINGRICH,
Speaker, U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 5 of Rule III of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, I have the honor to transmit a sealed envelope received from the White House on Friday, February 9 at 11:45 a.m. and said to contain a message from the President whereby he

transmits a 6-month periodic report on the national emergency with Iraq.

With warm regards,

ROBIN H. CARLE,

Clerk, House of Representatives.

REPORT ON CONTINUING NATIONAL EMERGENCY WITH RESPECT TO IRAQ—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 104-175)

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, without objection, referred to the Committee on International Relations and ordered to be printed:

To the Congress of the United States:

I hereby report to the Congress on the developments since my last report of August 1, 1995, concerning the national emergency with respect to Iraq that was declared in Executive Order No. 12722 of August 2, 1990. This report is submitted pursuant to section 401(c) of the National Emergencies Act, 50 U.S.C. 1641(c), and section 204(c) of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, 50 U.S.C. 1703(c).

Executive Order No. 12722 ordered the immediate blocking of all property and interests in property of the Government of Iraq (including the Central Bank of Iraq) then or thereafter located in the United States or within the possession or control of a U.S. person. That order also prohibited the importation into the United States of goods and services of Iraqi origin, as well as the exportation of goods, services, and technology from the United States to Iraq. The order prohibited travel-related transactions to or from Iraq and the performance of any contract in support of any industrial, commercial, or governmental project in Iraq. U.S. persons were also prohibited from granting or extending credit or loans to the Government of Iraq.

The foregoing prohibitions (as well as the blocking of Government of Iraq property) were continued and augmented on August 9, 1990, by Executive Order No. 12724, which was issued in order to align the sanctions imposed by the United States with United Nations Security Council Resolution 661 of August 6, 1990.

Executive Order No. 12817 was issued on October 21, 1992, to implement in the United States measures adopted in United Nations Security Council Resolution 778 of October 2, 1992. Resolution 778 requires U.N. Member States to transfer to a U.N. escrow account any funds (up to \$200 million apiece) representing Iraqi oil sale proceeds paid by purchasers after the imposition of U.N. sanctions on Iraq, to finance Iraq's obligations for U.N. activities with respect to Iraq, such as expenses to verify Iraqi weapons destruction, and to provide humanitarian assistance in Iraq on a nonpartisan basis. A portion of the escrowed funds also funds the activities of the U.N. Compensation

Commission in Geneva, which handles claims from victims of the Iraqi invasion and occupation of Kuwait. Member States also may make voluntary contributions to the account. The funds placed in the escrow account are to be returned, with interest, to the Member States that transferred them to the United Nations, as funds are received from future sales of Iraqi oil authorized by the U.N. Security Council. No Member State is required to fund more than half of the total transfers or contributions to the escrow account.

This report discusses only matters concerning the national emergency with respect to Iraq that was declared in Executive Order No. 12722 and matters relating to Executive Orders No. 12724 and 12817 (the "Executive orders"). The report covers events from August 2, 1995, through February 1, 1996.

1. During the reporting period, there were no amendments to the Iraqi Sanctions Regulations.

2. The Department of the Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control (FAC) continues its involvement in lawsuits seeking to prevent the unauthorized transfer of blocked Iraqi assets. In *Consarc Corporation v. Iraqi Ministry of Industry and Minerals*, No. 94-5390 (D.C. Cir. Dec. 15, 1995), the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit issued its second opinion in this case, finding in FAC's favor on all issues presented to the court. The court ordered the district court judge to direct Consarc Corporation to restore the status quo by returning \$6.4 million plus interest to the blocked Iraqi government account from which it was withdrawn after the district court erroneously held that these funds were not blocked Iraqi government property. The court also found that the unsold furnace manufactured for the Iraqi government and sales proceeds of a second furnace were blocked property. Finally, the court reversed the district court's ruling that Consarc held a specific claim against a blocked Iraqi government account for \$6.4 million, holding that any claim Consarc had against the Government of Iraq was as a general creditor only.

Investigations of possible violations of the Iraqi sanctions continue to be pursued and appropriate enforcement actions taken. Several cases from prior reporting periods are continuing and recent additional allegations have been referred by FAC to the U.S. Customs Service for investigation. Additional FAC civil penalty notices were prepared during the reporting period for violations of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act and Iraqi Sanctions Regulations with respect to transactions involving Iraq. One *de minimis* penalty has been collected from an organization for unlicensed exports in violation of the prohibitions against transactions involving Iraq. Several other penalty proceedings are pending completion.

3. Investigation also continues into the roles played by various individuals

and firms outside Iraq in the Iraqi government procurement network. These investigations may lead to additions to FAC's listing of individuals and organizations determined to be Specially Designated Nationals (SDNs) of the Government of Iraq.

4. Pursuant to Executive Order No. 12817 implementing United Nations Security Council Resolution 778, on October 26, 1992, FAC directed the Federal Reserve Bank of New York to establish a blocked account for receipt of certain post-August 6, 1990, Iraqi oil sales proceeds, and to hold, invest, and transfer these funds as required by the order. On September 5, 1995, following payments by the Governments of Australia (\$216,360.00), Denmark (\$168,985.00), Japan (\$4,075,000.00), The Netherlands (\$4,168,745.47), New Zealand (\$67,050.00), Switzerland (\$265,108.20), and by the European Union (\$647,463.31), respectively, to the special United Nations-controlled account, entitled "United Nations Security Council Resolution 778 Escrow Account," the Federal Reserve Bank of New York was directed to transfer a corresponding amount of \$9,606,711.98 from the blocked account it holds to the United Nations-controlled account. Similarly, on October 30, 1995, following the payment of \$1,504,000.00 by the European Community, and payments by the Governments of Germany (\$355,871.89), The Netherlands (\$698,348.13), Norway (\$199,983.00), and the United Kingdom (\$2,188,992.67), the Federal Reserve Bank of New York was directed to transfer a corresponding amount of \$6,947,195.69 to the United Nations-controlled account. Finally, on December 21, 1995, following the payment of \$3,062,197.28 by the European Union, and payments by the Governments of the Netherlands (\$1,922,719.00), Sweden (\$4,223,178.20), and the United Kingdom (\$208,600.44), the Federal Reserve Bank of New York was directed to transfer the amount of \$8,313,066.13 to the United Nations-controlled account. Cumulative transfers from the blocked Federal Reserve Bank of New York account since issuance of Executive Order No. 12817 now have amounted to \$200 million, fully satisfying the U.S. commitment to match the payments of other Member States from blocked Iraqi oil payments, and its obligation pursuant to United Nations Security Council Resolution 778.

5. The Office of Foreign Assets Control has issued a total of 618 specific licenses regarding transactions pertaining to Iraq or Iraqi assets since August 1990. Licenses have been issued for transactions such as the filing of legal actions against Iraqi governmental entities, legal representation of Iraq, and the exportation to Iraq of donated medicine, medical supplies, food intended for humanitarian relief purposes, the execution of powers of attorney relating to the administration of personal assets and decedents' estates in Iraq and the protection of preexistent intellectual property rights in Iraq. Since

my last report, 28 specific licenses have been issued.

6. The expenses incurred by the Federal Government in the 6-month period from August 2, 1995, through February 1, 1996, that are directly attributable to the exercise of powers and authorities conferred by the declaration of a national emergency with respect to Iraq are reported to be about \$1.6 million, most of which represents wage and salary costs for Federal personnel. Personnel costs were largely centered in the Department of the Treasury (particularly in the Office of Foreign Assets Control, the U.S. Customs Service, the Office of the Under Secretary for Enforcement, and the Office of the General Counsel), the Department of State (particularly the Bureau of Economic and Business Affairs, the Bureau of Near Eastern Affairs, the Bureau of International Organization Affairs, the Bureau of Political-Military Affairs, the U.S. Mission to the United Nations, and the Office of the Legal Adviser), and the Department of Transportation (particularly the U.S. Coast Guard).

7. The United States imposed economic sanctions on Iraq in response to Iraq's illegal invasion and occupation of Kuwait, a clear act of brutal aggression. The United States, together with the international community, is maintaining economic sanctions against Iraq because the Iraqi regime has failed to comply fully with United Nations Security Council resolutions. Security Council resolutions on Iraq call for the elimination of Iraqi weapons of mass destruction, Iraqi recognition of Kuwait, and the inviolability of the Iraq-Kuwait boundary, the release of Kuwaiti and other third-country nationals, compensation for victims of Iraqi aggression, long-term monitoring of weapons of mass destruction capabilities, the return of Kuwaiti assets stolen during Iraq's illegal occupation of Kuwait, renunciation of terrorism, an end to internal Iraqi repression of its own civilian population, and the facilitation of access of international relief organizations to all those in need in all parts of Iraq. More than 5 years after the invasion, a pattern of defiance persists: a refusal to account for missing Kuwaiti detainees; failure to return Kuwaiti property worth millions of dollars, including military equipment that was used by Iraq in its movement of troops to the Kuwaiti border in October 1994; sponsorship of assassinations in Lebanon and in northern Iraq; incomplete declarations to weapons inspectors; and ongoing widespread human rights violations. As a result, the U.N. sanctions remain in place; the United States will continue to enforce those sanctions under domestic authority.

The Baghdad government continues to violate basic human rights of its own citizens through systematic repression of minorities and denial of humanitarian assistance. The Government of Iraq has repeatedly said it will not be bound by United Nations Secu-

rity Council Resolution 688. For more than 4 years, Baghdad has maintained a blockade of food, medicine, and other humanitarian supplies against northern Iraq. The Iraqi military routinely harasses residents of the north, and has attempted to "Arabize" the Kurdish, Turcomen, and Assyrian areas in the north. Iraq has not relented in its artillery attacks against civilian population centers in the south, or in its burning and draining operations in the southern marshes, which have forced thousands to flee to neighboring States.

In April 1995, the U.N. Security Council adopted Resolution 986 authorizing Iraq to export limited quantities of oil (up to \$1 billion per quarter) under U.N. supervision in order to finance the purchase of food, medicine, and other humanitarian supplies. The resolution includes arrangements to ensure equitable distribution of such assistance to all the people of Iraq. The resolution also provides for the payment of compensation to victims of Iraqi aggression and for the funding of other U.N. activities with respect to Iraq. Resolution 986 was carefully crafted to address the issues raised by Iraq to justify its refusal to implement similar humanitarian resolutions adopted in 1991 (Resolutions 706 and 712), such as oil export routes and questions of national sovereignty. Nevertheless, Iraq refused to implement this humanitarian measure. This only reinforces our view that Saddam Hussein is unconcerned about the hardships suffered by the Iraqi people.

The policies and actions of the Saddam Hussein regime continue to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States, as well as to the regional peace and security. The U.N. resolutions affirm that the Security Council be assured of Iraq's peaceful intentions in judging its compliance with sanctions. Because of Iraq's failure to comply fully with these resolutions, the United States will continue to apply economic sanctions to deter it from threatening peace and stability in the region.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON.

THE WHITE HOUSE, February 9, 1996.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO ABRAHAM LINCOLN, THE HONORABLE CONSTANCE MORELLA, AND THE PARLIAMENTARIAN

(Mr. MONTGOMERY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MONTGOMERY. Madam Speaker, I have been informed that yesterday was your birthday and also the Parliamentarian's birthday, and as all Americans know, February 12 is Abraham Lincoln's birthday also. So, congratulations from one Member of the House, and we are very, very proud of you.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair thanks the gentleman from Mississippi for his warm greeting. It is true that it is a birthday shared with the 16th President of the United States, and in this Chamber we might be reminded that in President Lincoln's first inaugural, he said, "Let us be inspired by the better angels of our nature," and the gentleman from Mississippi exemplifies that.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. MONTGOMERY. Madam Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 11 o'clock and 7 minutes a.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until Friday, February 16, 1996, at 11 a.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XXIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

[Omitted from the Record of February 9, 1996]

2041. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. Act 11-185, "Closing of a Public Alley and a Portion of another Public Alley in Square 4546, S.O. 93-308, Act of 1996," pursuant to D.C. Code, section 1-233(c)(1); to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

2042. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. Act 11-189, "Mary's Center for Maternal and Child Care, Inc., Equitable Real Property Tax Relief Act of 1996," pursuant to D.C. Code, section 1-233(c)(1); to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

2043. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. Act 11-190, "Prevention of Transmission of the Human Immunodeficiency Virus Amendment Act of 1996," pursuant to D.C. Code, section 1-233(c)(1); to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

2044. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. Act 11-191, "Greater Refuge Church of Our Lord Jesus Christ, Inc., Equitable Real Property Tax Relief Act of 1996," pursuant to D.C. Code, section 1-233(c)(1); to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

2045. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. Act 11-192, "Petworth Methodist Church Equitable Real Property Tax Relief Act of 1996," pursuant to D.C. Code, section 1-233(c)(1); to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

2046. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. Act 11-193, "Saint African Methodist Episcopal Church Equitable Real Property Tax Relief Act of 1996," pursuant to D.C. Code, section 1-233(c)(1); to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

2047. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. Act 11-194, "Mt. Gilead Baptist Church Equitable Real Property Tax Relief Act of 1996," pursuant to D.C. Code, section 1-233(c)(1); to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

2048. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. Act 11-195, "Shrine of the Sacred Heart Equitable Real Property Tax Relief Act of 1996," pursuant to D.C. Code, section 1-233(c)(1); to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

2049. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. Act 11-196, "RAP, Incorporated Equitable Real Property Tax Relief Act of 1996," pursuant to D.C. Code, section 1-233(c)(1); to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

2050. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. Act 11-198, "Criminal Code Technical Amendments Act of 1996," pursuant to D.C. Code, section 1-233(c)(1); to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

2051. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. Act 11-200, "Property Lien Temporary Amendment Act of 1996," pursuant to D.C. Code, section 1-233(c)(1); to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

[Submitted February 13, 1996]

2052. A letter from the General Counsel and Corporate Secretary, Legal Services Corporation, transmitting a copy of the annual report in compliance with the Government in the Sunshine Act during the calendar year 1995, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552b(j); to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

2053. A letter from the Assistant Legal Adviser for Treaty Affairs, Department of State, transmitting copies of international agreements, other than treaties, entered into by the United States, pursuant to 1 U.S.C. 112b(a); to the Committee on International Relations.

2054. A letter from the Secretary of Transportation, transmitting the Department's

second biennial report entitled "Effectiveness of Occupant Protection Systems and Their Use," pursuant to Public Law 102-240, section 2508(e) (105 Stat. 2086); jointly, to the Committees on Commerce and Transportation and Infrastructure.

2055. A letter from the Chairman, Railroad Retirement Board, transmitting a copy of the U.S. Railroad Retirement Board's annual report to the President and the Congress, pursuant to 45 U.S.C. 231f(b)(6); jointly, to the Committees on Commerce and Ways and Means.

2056. A letter from the Chairperson, U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, transmitting the Commission's report entitled "Funding Federal Civil Rights Enforcement," pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 1975; jointly, to the Committees on the Judiciary and Economic and Educational Opportunities.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 5 of rule X and clause 4 of rule XXII:

Mr. KLECZKA introduced a bill (H.R. 2965) to amend title 31, United States Code, to provide an automatic continuing appropriation for the U.S. Government; to the Committee on Appropriations.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 4 of rule XXII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions as follows:

H.R. 211: Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN.

H.R. 497: Mr. CHRISTENSEN.

H.R. 997: Mr. HOYER and Mr. METCALF.

H.R. 1488: Mr. LAHOOD.

H.R. 1627: Mr. BOEHLERT.

H.R. 1948: Ms. RIVERS.

H.R. 2320: Mr. WALSH, Mr. COSTELLO, Mr. FAZIO of California, and Mr. PETERSON of Minnesota.

H.R. 2523: Mr. STOCKMAN.

H.R. 2618: Mr. CONYERS.

H.R. 2664: Mr. HAYES, Mr. ROYCE, Mr. DORNAN, and Mr. RADANOVICH.

H.R. 2740: Ms. DUNN of Washington.

H.R. 2745: Mr. PAYNE of New Jersey, Mr. MFUME, Mr. LANTOS, Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts, Mr. GILMAN, Mr. BOEHLERT, Mr. MOAKLEY, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. FIELDS of Louisiana, Mrs. JOHNSON of Connecticut, Mr. KANJORSKI, and Mr. GEJDENSON.

H.R. 2755: Mr. FATTAH.

H. Con. Res. 127: Mr. PETRI, Mr. EHLERS, Mr. HOEKSTRA, Mr. PORTER, Mr. WAMP, Mr. SENSENBRENNER, and Mr. GILLMOR.

H. Con. Res. 134: Mr. HALL of Texas, Mr. BACHUS, and Mr. EMERSON.



United States
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Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 104th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 142

WASHINGTON, TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 1996

No. 19

Senate

(Legislative day of Wednesday, February 7, 1996)

The Senate met at 10:29 a.m., on the expiration of the recess, and was called to order by the President pro tempore [Mr. THURMOND].

RECESS UNTIL 10:30 A.M., FRIDAY,
FEBRUARY 16, 1996

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate stands

in recess until 10:30 a.m., Friday, February 16, 1996.

Thereupon, at 10:30 a.m., the Senate recessed until Friday, February 16, 1996, at 10:30 a.m.

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



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S 1265

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

SALUTE TO CALIFORNIA'S RIO AMERICANO HIGH SCHOOL

HON. ROBERT T. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 13, 1996

Mr. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join with the U.S. Department of Education in saluting Sacramento, California's Rio Americano High School for recently winning recognition as one of our Nation's blue ribbon schools.

I am proud to have such a model institution within my district. For many years, the school's administration, faculty, students, and parents have devoted their collaborative efforts toward the construction of a school and student body which exceeds local, State, and national goals for educating all of its students.

Rio Americano's recognition is well-deserved and its students' phenomenal success underscores the positive results other schools can enjoy by adopting the principles of GOALS 2000: Educate America.

As testament to its success, the school boasts a dropout rate of 0.3 percent and students graduating from Rio Americano are extraordinarily competitive; 94 percent were accepted at the college or university of their choice in 1994.

The proximity to the State capitol provides Rio Americano with a highly motivated, informed community with expectations of excellence in education and the willingness to become partners in the realization of that goal.

Students take an active role in the setting of goals and priorities for the school, as well as discussions which address the implementation of these goals and priorities. This approach fosters the development of sound character, democratic values, ethical judgment, good behavior, and the ability to work in a self-disciplined and purposeful manner. The results are evident in the students' successful roles in a highly active student government, the operation of the school's radio and television stations, the production of the newspaper and yearbook, the planning of rallies and assemblies, the operation of clubs, and the chairing of meetings of student representative groups.

Parents of Rio Americano students logged 8,837 volunteer hours at the school last year alone. They are actively involved in the development of programs, representing the interests of the community, and raising resources which enable the students to participate in enriching experiences within and beyond the classroom. As part of their extensive involvement, parents are responsible for the development and management of several model programs for facilitating the exit of seniors from the schools.

Finally, the school is fortunate to enjoy the outstanding leadership of its principal, Dr. Ronald Uzelac and his dedicated faculty of educators. Together, they have structured the school to take advantage of the strengths of our community, creating and facilitating forums

for staff, students, and parents to work together to examine, debate, and develop programs which draw upon these strengths.

One such program gaining acclaim is Academia Civitas, a political academy which takes advantage of our location in the State capital by establishing a partnership with local political and educational communities. Students follow a specialized curriculum developed by study teams which prepare them to be politically aware citizens able to compete in and contribute to a global society. The academy requires community service, parent involvement, and an internship with one of the many volunteer agencies in our political community.

The State of California has recognized Rio Americano's excellence by honoring the school three times with the Distinguished School Award in 1988 and 1994 and the Sustained Achievement Award in 1990.

Again, I would like to take this opportunity to salute the tremendous efforts on the part of Rio Americano High School's administration, faculty, students, and parents. I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing this model public school and in wishing Rio Americano many years of continued successes.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

HON. BARBARA B. KENNELLY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 13, 1996

Mrs. KENNELLY. Mr. Speaker, each February, those of us who serve in Congress have the occasion to rediscover a rich history that has been carefully chronicled by educator and historian, Dr. Carter Woodson, the father of Black History Month. This year, our focus is on African-American women, their past, present, and future.

As a group, these women have made remarkable contributions to this Nation. As individuals, they have enriched lives. Over and over, their stories speak to the strength behind the struggle; to the courage that leads to triumph; to the vision that leads to victory.

This year, our Nation mourned the death of Barbara Jordan, a true champion of the Constitution. She made history from the moment she was elected to Congress as the first African-American from the South to serve since Reconstruction. With her passionate commitment to law, her burning sense of justice, and above all, a voice that spoke truth, she exemplified the spirit of African-American women.

But such heroines are found in all walks of life, and not just in Washington, but in towns and cities across the country. I am proud that Connecticut's First Congressional District is home to so many remarkable African-American women.

Some made their mark with community activism, like the late Isabelle Blake, founder of Connecticut's African-American Day Parade; Ella Cromwell; and Blanche Jackson. Some are outstanding educators, like Dr. Edythe

Gaines of the Connecticut State Board of Education and Eileen Baccus, president of Northwestern Community Technical College.

Some have served in the political world, like Alred Dyce of the Bloomfield Town Council; Carrie Saxon Perry, who broke barriers as the first African-American woman elected to lead a northeastern city; Annette Carter and Marie Lopez Kirkley-Bey, who serve in the State legislature today; and Veronica Airey-Wilson, who serves on the Hartford City Council. There are government professionals, like the city manager of Hartford, Sandra Kee Borges, and the city treasurer, Denise Nappier, and those who sit on the bench, like State Superior Court Judge Curtissa Cofield.

Some inspire us with creativity, like Dollie McLean, founder and executive director of the artist collective. Others take the lead in business, like Kyle Ballou of Fleet Bank. Some we depend on for our news, like Gayle King, WFSB-TV 3 news anchor. And some have sent our spirits soaring—like Nakisha Sales of the 1994–95 NCAA Champion UCONN women's basketball team.

It has been said that history is not what happened, but what is remembered. In this month, we seek to ensure that this precious history and these unique accomplishments are preserved forever.

THE BLUE RIBBON SCHOOL AWARD

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 13, 1996

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to rise today to commend Wilbur Wright Middle School, and its principal, Mr. Donald Guske, and Munster High School, and its principal, Dr. Kevin McCaffrey, for having been awarded the Blue Ribbon School Award. Both schools are located in Munster, IN.

Blue ribbon schools have been judged to be particularly constructive in meeting local, State, and national goals. These schools also display the qualities of excellence that are necessary to prepare our young people for the challenges of the next century. According to the U.S. Department of Education, which issues this award, blue ribbon school status is awarded to schools that have: strong leadership; a clear vision and sense of mission that is shared by all connected with the school; high quality teaching; challenging up-to-date curricula; policies and practices that ensure a safe environment conducive to learning; a solid commitment to parental involvement; and evidence that the school helps all students achieve a quality education.

State education departments, the Department of Defense Dependent Schools, the Bureau of Indian Affairs, and the Council for American Private Education, review schools in depth to determine which schools meet the high standards of the award. Following the screening process, the nominations are forwarded to the U.S. Department of Education.

• 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.

At this point, a panel of 100 outstanding educators and other professionals review the nominations, select the schools for site visits, and make recommendations to the Secretary of Education. These schools will be honored at a national ceremony in Washington, DC, this spring.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my other distinguished colleagues to join me in commending Wilbur Wright Middle School and Munster High School for a job well done. The teachers and administrators of these two schools make Indiana's First Congressional District a better place in which to live and work. There is no greater success than to successfully educate our children.

H.R. 2963, THE KEEP THE
GOVERNMENT OPEN ACT OF 1996

HON. CARRIE P. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 13, 1996

Mrs. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, the recent shutdown of the Federal Government wasted 1 billion taxpayer dollars. In January Congress passed and the President signed a continuing resolution that paid 285,000 Federal employees who were not able to work between December 16 and January 5 because of the 3-week lapse in appropriations for part of the Federal Government. This shutdown also imposed a serious financial hardship on many of the 476,000 Federal workers who were not paid during this period even though they were working.

The shutdown of the Federal Government hurt many private firms, both those that normally sell to Federal employees and those that have Federal contracts. They were unable to recoup the business lost during the shutdown.

Last week I introduced a bipartisan bill to prevent such harmful consequences if there should be another lapse in appropriations in the future. H.R. 2963, the Keep the Government Open Act of 1996, amends that Anti-Deficiency Act to permit Federal employees to continue to work and to be paid during a lapse in appropriations, if the President determines that a sufficient appropriation is likely to be made before the end of the fiscal year.

The other original cosponsors of this bill are Mr. DAVIS, Mr. HOYER, Mr. MORAN, Ms. NORTON, and Mr. WYNN.

I urge my colleagues to support this insurance against another failure to enact appropriations bills or continuing resolutions for the entire Government.

THE MONEY PLANE

HON. CHARLES E. SCHUMER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 13, 1996

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. Speaker, a weekly magazine recently published a lengthy article raising serious questions about the business activities conducted by Republic National Bank of New York with Russian banks. Republic is a large, well-respected institution serving the New York community and employing thousands of its residents. In the interest of fair-

ness, so that the other side of the story can be heard, I would like to submit for the RECORD the attached materials. Included among them are several letters from law enforcement agencies and bank regulatory bodies. These letters testify to the bank's record of compliance with the law and cooperation with law enforcement officials and bank regulators.

COMPTROLLER OF THE CURRENCY,
ADMINISTRATOR OF NATIONAL BANKS,
Washington, DC, January 17, 1996.

WALTER H. WEINER,
Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Republic
National Bank of New York, New York, NY.

DEAR MR. WEINER: Thank you for your letter drawing my attention to the article entitled "The Money Plane" in the January 22, 1996 issue of New York magazine. The article concerns sales of U.S. dollars to Russian banks by Republic Bank and includes several statements attributed to an unnamed OCC official.

We doubt that those statements were in fact made by an OCC official. However, if they were made, please be assured that the statements were unauthorized and do not represent the views of this office. More specifically, these statements do not reflect the OCC's position concerning Republic Bank's bank note dealings with Russian banks.

As you are aware, the OCC supervises and regulates all national banks, including those that have substantial bank note dealings with Russian banks. As part of our oversight, we monitor the bank note activities of those banks, including Republic. We are satisfied that Republic's bank note activities are conducted in a manner consistent with the applicable laws we administer.

Sincerely,

EUGENE A. LUDWIG,
Comptroller of the Currency.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE,
OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL
RESPONSIBILITY,
Washington, DC, February 1, 1996.

WALTER H. WEINER,
Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Republic
National Bank of New York, New York,
N.Y.

DEAR MR. WEINER: The Attorney General received your letter dated January 15, 1996, calling attention to an article entitled "The Money Plane" in the January 22, 1996 issue of New York magazine. She also received a letter from Republic National Bank Deputy General Counsel, Anne T. Vitale, concerning that same article. The Attorney General asked this Office to investigate the issues raised in the two letters and respond to you.

"The Money Plane" discusses sales of U.S. dollars by Republic National Bank to various banks in Russia. The article contains a statement attributed to an Assistant United States Attorney (AUSA) about certain accounts at Republic National Bank.

I wish to assure you that the statements attributed to the AUSA do not represent the views of the Department of Justice. More specifically, the attributed statements do not reflect any position of the Department of Justice on Republic National Bank's bank-note transactions with Russian banks.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL E. SHAHEEN, Jr.,
Counsel.

THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY,
COUNTY OF NEW YORK,
January 16, 1996.

THE EDITOR,
New York Magazine,
New York, NY.

TO THE EDITOR: I read the article entitled "The Money Plane" in the January 22, 1996

issue of New York magazine. It does raise a reasonable question about our Government's policy to permit and facilitate the sale of U.S. dollars by American and foreign banks to Russian banks. I was surprised, however, by the suggestion that it is improper for Republic National Bank to engage in this practice as well as the article's utter failure to mention that other reputable and well-known banks also engage in similar transactions.

The fact is that the U.S. Treasury, the Federal Reserve System and the State Department approve and facilitate the sale of dollars by American banks to Russian banks. Indeed, the Federal Reserve Bank of New York sells dollars with the knowledge that they are going to be resold to Russian banks. Additionally, the banks who purchase and resell the dollars file reports on each transaction with the Federal Reserve System, the United States Treasury Department, U.S. Customs and the Controller of the Currency. These are not covert transactions.

Finally, under current law, banks which buy dollars in New York and resell them to Russian banks are not required to and, indeed are unable to know, the identity of the Russian banks' customers. Republic, in fact, sells only to banks licensed by the Russian Central Bank. Unless a bank has specific information of criminal control of a Russian bank, a U.S. bank may sell banknotes to Russian banks.

My office has aggressively investigated money laundering cases for many years and does so on a regular and continuous basis. As a routine matter, we have looked at Republic's sale of dollars to Russian banks and found no evidence of misconduct or wrongdoing by Republic.

Sincerely,

ROBERT M. MORGENTHAU.

STATE OF NEW YORK,
BANKING DEPARTMENT,
New York, NY, February 1, 1996.

Mr. WALTER H. WEINER,
Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Republic
National Bank of New York, New York, NY.

DEAR MR. WEINER: This letter responds to your recent letter to me enclosing a copy of the "The Money Plane" article in the January 22, 1996 issue of New York Magazine, together with copies of the January 16, 1996 letter to you from the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, the January 17, 1996 letter to New York Magazine from Robert M. Morgenthau, the District Attorney for New York County and the January 24, 1996 letter to Republic National Bank of New York ("Republic") Senior Vice President Vitale from FINCEN Director Morris. Each of these letters relates to that article.

New York Magazine's article concerns, among other things, sales of U.S. dollars to Russian banks by Republic. It includes some purported quotations and statements of unnamed sources said to be former employees of this Department who then had law enforcement investigation responsibilities.

You can be assured that if, and to the extent that, such statements may have been made by former employees of this Department, they have not been authorized to be made by this Department, were made without our awareness and do not constitute, in any manner, statements or positions of the New York State Banking Department in respect of Republic or with regard to banknotes dealings with Russian banks by Republic and other banks.

Moreover, it is the U.S. Comptroller of the Currency, and not this Department, which has been and continues to be the primary bank regulator of Republic. Thus, in the course of our functions, we do not examine

Republic, nor have we conducted an investigation directed at Republic in respect of its banknotes dealings with Russian banks.

Very truly yours,

FINANCIAL CRIMES
ENFORCEMENT NETWORK,
Vienna, VA, January 24, 1996.

ANNE T. VITALE, Esq.,

Senior Vice President and Deputy General
Counsel, Republic National Bank of New
York, New York, NY.

DEAR ANNE: Your letter to me, dated January 17, 1996, concerned an article entitled "The Money Plane" in the January 22 issue of New York Magazine. That article dealt, in part, with the sale of American currency to banks in Russia by Republic National Bank of New York ("Republic").

As you point out in your letter, the shipment of bank notes by United States banks to other banks, in Russia or anywhere else, is permitted by U.S. law and there is nothing inherently illegal about such activities. The New York article was certainly unfair in suggesting otherwise. Furthermore, we have never encountered a money laundering scheme which seeks to convert assets already in financial institutions into bank notes.

Banks such as Republic, with a history of strong compliance programs and valuable cooperation with law enforcement authorities in this country, can be expected to recognize the risks of particular transactions in their efforts to avoid becoming ensnared in wrongdoing. Republic has indeed, as your letter also points out, been supplying voluntary reports to federal law enforcement of its shipments of bank notes to Russia and other countries in an effort to assist U.S. authorities.

Our program of partnership with the financial community relies on highly experienced officials such as you and banks such as Republic to carry out our law enforcement mission. I look forward to continuing to work with you in the fight against money laundering.

With best wishes.

Sincerely,

STANLEY E. MORRIS,
Director.

AKIN, GUMP, STRAUSS, HAUER
& FELD, L.L.P., ATTORNEYS AT LAW,
Washington, DC, January 29, 1996.

EDITOR, New York,
K-III Magazine Corporation,
New York, NY.

DEAR SIR: The article entitled "The Money Plane" in your January 22, 1996 issue of New York magazine misleads your readers by relying on anonymous innuendo to impeach the integrity of respected U.S. banks. As a former Ambassador to Russia, I have seen firsthand the importance of selling dollars to Russian banks: U.S. currency helps to stabilize the Russian economy as that nation's political leadership struggles to modernize and democratize their country and that in the best interests of the U.S. and the free world.

The circulation of the U.S. currency in Russia is an important element of U.S. trade and foreign policy. Through banknote and other transactions, U.S. banks remain engaged with their Russian counterparts, introduce them to and reinforce the high standards of the international banking system, and prevent the sort of economic isolation that could undermine the continuing development of Russia's financial system. Providing a steady supply of U.S. currency to Russian banks is perhaps the single most efficient form of support the U.S. can offer any country in a position as delicate as Russia's.

Not to be overlooked is the fact that this banking activity also opens important avenues of commerce between Russia and the West.

Your article alleges that U.S. banks, Republic National Bank in particular, knowingly conduct banknote transactions with Russian banks that are controlled by or associated with organized crime. No one can deny that crime and corruption are today among the greatest threats to the creation of a modern democracy in Russia. However, while I am no expert on the subject, my understanding is that all banknote transactions between U.S. and Russian banks are conducted in strict accordance with the reporting and "know-your-customer" evidence to the contrary. The fact is that the U.S. banks that handle banknote transactions, with Russia or any other country, monitor to the best of their ability the activities of the banks with which they do business, continuously seek reliable information regarding the integrity of those institutions, and will discontinue transactions with any institution that government authorities indicate is involved in criminal activity. Furthermore, I know of no instances where federal banking or law enforcement officials have indicated that there are Russian banks with whom business should be discontinued.

As far as criminal activity in Russia is concerned, it should be stopped by increasing the resources and capabilities of Russian law enforcement and continuing the cooperation that exists between U.S. and Russian authorities.

You did a disservice to your readers and I hope that, as a matter of integrity, you will publicly apologize and correct your misstatements that I am sure were inadvertent.

Respectfully,

ROBERT S. STRAUSS.

At a press conference on January 18, 1996, United States Ambassador to Russia, Thomas Pickering stated:

American and international banks who are depositories with the federal reserve system will be the principal conduits, may be as many as a dozen of those bringing money here to Russia, where it will be redistributed through their arrangements with the Russian banking system into the Russian system to meet the demands that people will have in this country for new dollars.

We do not believe that activities taken through the currency provide an effective remedy for money laundering or the use of currency in criminal activities and, indeed, suggestions that this be done, in our view, would produce greater negative effects on the stability of worldwide currency systems than they would produce benefits in attacking the criminal culture. . . .

IN HONOR OF MR. HENRY
SANCHEZ ON HIS 50 YEARS OF
FEDERAL SERVICE

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 13, 1996

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mr. Henry Sanchez on the occasion of his 50th year of Government service. A special ceremony will be held in his honor on Friday, February 16, at the Harbor View Community Club, Military Ocean Terminal in Bayonne, NJ.

In February 1944, Mr. Sanchez began his career in the Navy as a signalman. For his part in the WWII effort, he served on a ship transporting American troops to France during the Normandy Invasion. Mr. Sanchez was discharged from the Navy in April 1948. Two years later, he began to work at the Brooklyn Army Base in New York.

Mr. Sanchez transferred to the Bayonne Naval Supply Depot in March 1950. For over 45 years, Mr. Sanchez worked in Bayonne as a firefighter and a supervisory transportation assistant at the Seavan Container Control Division, Military Ocean Terminal. In 1980, Mr. Sanchez moved to the U.S. Air Force's Water Port Logistics Office where he held the position of deputy commander GS-12. Several years later he was promoted to GS-13 as the deputy director, Personal Property Directorate, Military Traffic Management Command, Eastern Area.

Mr. Sanchez, an outstanding leader on the job, has also dedicated much of his time to the Bayonne community. He is a board member of the United Way of Hudson County, vice president of the American Legion's Mackenzie Post 165, and a trustee for the Bayonne Veterans Relief Fund.

For his outstanding work and leadership in logistical support of the European, African, Mediterranean and Arctic regions, Mr. Sanchez was awarded the U.S. Air Force Meritorious Civilian Service Medal. He has devoted himself to serving his country with honor and dignity. I ask that my colleagues join me in honoring this wonderful individual. I am proud to have such a remarkable man working in my district.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON S. 652,
TELECOMMUNICATIONS ACT OF
1996

SPEECH OF

HON. NITA M. LOWEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 1, 1996

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, although I support the conference report for H.R. 1555, the Communications Act of 1995, I must rise in opposition to the provision in the bill that bans discussions about abortion on the internet. This is a high-technology gag rule, and it is unacceptable.

Section 507 will apply portions of the Comstock Act to the internet. In addition to banning the dissemination of obscene materials, the Comstock Act also bans the dissemination of information about abortion. As a result, section 507 of H.R. 1555 will ban both the sending and the receipt of information about abortion on the internet.

This ban will have a chilling effect on the rights of millions of Americans. Violation of the ban will be a felony, punishable by 5 years for the first offense and 10 years for each subsequent offense. Obviously, most American women will not risk a jail term, even to share necessary information about abortion—a legal medical procedure that is an integral part of basic women's health care.

Proponents of this provision have argued that because this provision is old and has not been enforced for decades, it will have no impact on women's speech about abortion. They

say that it is dead letter law, and at worst case it only bans some types of advertisements and commercial speech.

Unfortunately, we have no way of knowing whether the proponents of this provision are right about whether this provision will be interpreted very narrowly—as they claim—or very broadly. Either interpretation is possible, because the provision's scope is unclear. That is what makes this provision so dangerous. No one knows what it will do.

One problem is that no court has addressed this provision since the Supreme Court's decision in *Roe versus Wade*. In fact, the only Court decision directly addressing this ban on information about abortion was decided in 1915. Obviously, quite a lot has changed since then—most notably, the Supreme Court has held that abortion was a constitutionally protected right. What does this provision mean in a world where abortion is legal?

Would H.R. 1555 ban all discussion of abortion on the internet? Or, would it only apply to information about unlawful abortions, as the court in the 1915 held? And what, in 1996, does unlawful abortion mean? For example, abortion laws vary greatly from State to State. If a person receives information about abortion services that are legal in her State, but illegal in the State from which the information was sent, would she go to jail?

Would the provision only apply to advertisements and commercial speech, as some proponents claim? If it does, this provision potentially bars the providers of reproductive health services from having websites detailing the medical services they offer. This could also potentially bar many internet discussions of RU-486—discussions which could be described as facilitating the sale of a drug for use in producing abortions. Whatever its breadth, this provision—by limiting the information that women can get about abortion—puts the health of American women at direct risk.

Including this restriction on speech concerning the reproductive rights of Americans in the telecommunications reform bill—a bill that has nothing to do with abortion—will impede the reproductive rights of all American women. To bar all internet users from discussing abortion is outrageous. To bar any American from discussing a medical procedure flies in the face of every ideal that we hold dear as Americans.

Unfortunately, under parliamentary rules, I cannot offer an amendment to the conference

report to strike this provision. However, I have already begun discussions with many of my colleagues about working to have this provision repealed on a future technical corrections bill. Again, although I support this conference report, I urge all of my colleagues to join me in working to remove this ban on discussions about abortion on the internet. This high-technology gag rule must not stand.

HONORING THE 1996 FAIRFAX COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE VALOR AWARD WINNERS

HON. THOMAS M. DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 13, 1996

Mr. DAVIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the 1996 Fairfax County Chamber of Commerce Award Winners. On Thursday, February 15, 1996, the Fairfax County Chamber of Commerce will present the Annual Valor Awards at the McLean Hilton.

The Valor Awards honor public service officers who have demonstrated extreme self-sacrifice, personal bravery, and ingenuity in the performance of their duty. There are five categories: The Gold Medal of Valor, the Silver Medal of Valor, the Bronze Medal of Valor, the Certificate of Valor, the Life Saving Award.

The Valor Awards is a project of the Fairfax County Chamber of Commerce, in conjunction with the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors. This is the 18th year that these awards have been presented.

The Silver Medal of Valor is awarded in recognition of acts involving great personal risk.

The Silver Medal of Valor Award Winners for 1996 are: Sgt. J. Vincent Byrd, Detective Kenneth M. Pedigo, Detective Susan Lamar

The Bronze Medal of Valor is awarded in recognition of acts involving unusual risk beyond that which should be expected while performing the usual responsibilities of the member.

The Bronze Medal of Valor Award Winners for 1996 are: Detective Onzlow G. Williamson, Jr., Detective Beth A. Benham, 2d Lt. Richard H. Bearen, Sgt. Samuel J. Masiello, Police Officer 1st Class Bryan W. Holland, Police Officer 1st Class Robert D. Hill, 2d Lt. Frank J. Kitzerow, Capt. Michael LoMonaco, Sgt. Jef-

frey E. Powell, Master Police Officer James T. Stewart III, Police Officer 1st Class Rolland L. Watenpugh, Police Officer Aaron M. Kush, Police Officer 1st Class Stephen M. Needels, Police Officer Mark E. Royer, Firefighter Lawrence M. Braswell, Technician Michael A. Weldon

The Bronze Medal of Valor Unit Citation Award Winners for 1996 are: Master Police Officer Michael J. Brennan, Police Officer 1st Class Richard D. Carlton, Officer Chris C. Cochran, 2d Lt. Arthur J. Hurlock, Sgt. James Kellam, Police Officer 1st Class Steven R. Mattos, Master Police Officer Jackie L. Mitchem, Police Officer 1st Class Lee P. Northrop, Police Officer 1st Class Don C. Pierson, Police Officer 1st Class James M. Pollack, Lt. David Mr. Rohrer

The Certificate of Valor is awarded for acts that involve personal risk and/or demonstration of judgment, zeal, or ingenuity not normally involved in the performance of duties.

The Certificate of Valor Award Winners for 1996 are: Capt. Randall J. Kennedy, Firefighter Edward C. Lofties, Officer Timothy C. Benedict, Police Officer First Class Robert Egan, Sgt. Matthew W. Pifger, Master Police Officer Ralph R. Scott, Technician Edson Dewhurst, Jr.

The Lifesaving Award is awarded for acts taken in life-threatening situations where an individual's life is in jeopardy, either medically or physically.

The Lifesaving Award Winners for 1996 are: Detective Nancy G. Schaefer, Volunteer Firefighter Carl August Lief Ericson, Technician John H. Marlin, Firefighter William A. Sutphin, Jr., Master Technician Konrad A. Kurtz, Lt. Carlton G. Burkhammer, Firefighter George N. Pancione, Jr., Master Technician Michael J. Stone, Firefighter David D. Sweetland, Deputy Sheriff Kathleen A. Miller, Deputy Sheriff Sgt. Michael G. Dickerson, Deputy Sheriff Private First Class Melanie K. Sjurseth, Deputy Sheriff Cpl. John A. Craig, Deputy Sheriff Private First Class Barry V. Garlow, Deputy Sheriff Brian K. Harmon, Deputy Sheriff Alberto D. Pinto, Officer Edward K. Warren, Police Officer First Class Jarvis D. Lay, Public Safety Communications Assistant II Kimberly A. Wright

Mr. Speaker, I know my colleagues join me in commending these fine citizens who are truly deserving of the title "hero."

Tuesday, February 13, 1996

Daily Digest

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, page S1265

Senate met at 10:29 a.m. in pro forma session, and recessed at 10:30 a.m., until 10:30 a.m., Friday, February 16, 1995, for a pro forma session.

Page S1265

Committee Meetings

No committee meetings were held.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Bills Introduced: 1 public bill, H.R. 2965 was introduced.

Page H1241

Presidential Messages: Read the following messages from the President:

United States-Poland fisheries agreement: Message wherein he transmits an Agreement between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Republic of Poland Extending the Agreement of August 1, 1985, as amended, Concerning Fisheries Off the Coasts of the United States ("the 1985 Agreement")—referred to the Committee on Resources and ordered printed (H. Doc. 104-172);

Page H1237

Middle East peace process: Message wherein he transmits a report to the Congress on the developments concerning the national emergency with respect to organizations that threaten to disrupt the Middle East peace process—referred to the Committee on International Relations and ordered printed (H. Doc. 104-173);

Pages H1237-38

International Whaling Commission: Message wherein he transmits a report to the Congress as certification that Japan has conducted research whaling activities that diminish the effectiveness of the International Whaling Commission—referred to the Committees on International Relations and Resources and ordered printed (H. Doc. 104-174); and

Pages H1238-39

Iraq national emergency: Message wherein he transmits a report to the Congress concerning the national emergency with respect to Iraq—referred to the Committee on International Relations and ordered printed (H. Doc. 104-175).

Pages H1239-40

Quorum Calls—Votes: No quorum calls or votes developed during the proceedings of the House today.

Adjournment: Met at 11:00 a.m. and adjourned at 11:07 a.m.

Committee Meetings

No committee meetings were held.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 1996

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

Committee on Finance, to hold hearings on the nomination of Stuart E. Eizenstat, of Maryland, to be Under Secretary of Commerce for International Trade, 3 p.m., SD-215.

Committee on Governmental Affairs, Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations, to hold hearings to examine Medicare's billings policy for investigational devices and procedures by hospitals nationwide, 10 a.m., SD-342.

Special Committee To Investigate Whitewater Development Corporation and Related Matters, to continue hearings to examine issues relative to the Whitewater Development Corporation, 10 a.m., SH-216.

House

No committee meetings are scheduled.

Next Meeting of the SENATE

10:30 a.m., Friday, February 16

Senate Chamber

Program for Friday: Senate will meet in pro forma session.

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

11 a.m., Friday, February 16

House Chamber

Program for Friday: No legislative business is scheduled.

Extensions of Remarks, as inserted in this issue

HOUSE

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