

Vice President and Treasurer. In 1984, as President of the Oakland Chamber of Commerce, he established the Chamber Scholarship, benefiting students of the community. His respected leadership qualities resulted in his Chairmanship of four Standing Committees: Scholarship, Membership, Election and Technology.

Mr. Wright has enjoyed a career focused on providing service and intellect to the Borough of Oakland, NJ. The community will thrive for years to come because of his leadership and dedication to society.

It is therefore with great honor that I offer my sincerest appreciation and congratulations to Mr. Charles O. Wright for his committed service to the Oakland Chamber of Commerce and I wish him a future filled with continued success.

#### LOBBYISTS REPRESENTING REPRESSIVE REGIMES

#### HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 26, 2005*

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I submit for the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD an article from Harper's Magazine titled "Spin Doctors without borders: how one Washington lobbyist administers to dictatorships."

Robert Cabelly, managing director of C/R International, was recently hired to represent the Government of Sudan. As disturbing as this is, the Harper's article below reveals the lengths that lobbyists will go to represent some of Africa's most repressive regimes.

The U.S. Congress has not forgotten that genocide is still taking place in Sudan. The administration should not allow an American citizen to represent a government guilty of genocide. I call on the State Department to immediately revoke the waiver allowing this lobbying to continue.

[From Harper's Magazine, Mar. 1, 2004]

SPIN DOCTORS WITHOUT BORDERS: HOW ONE  
WASHINGTON LOBBYIST ADMINISTERS TO DIC-  
TATORSHIP

(By Elisabeth Eaves)

Lobbyists in Washington, D.C., don't just serve such U.S. interests as the oil industry and the tobacco corporations; they also solicit work from foreign governments. In an extreme, though not uncommon scenario, Americans, many of them former diplomats and public servants, make their fortunes by advancing the interests of dictatorships against those of their own nation. Take Robert Cabelly, managing director of the lobbying and P.R. firm C/R International, who last August signed a contract with the small African nation of Equatorial Guinea. Cabelly has every reason to expect that he will succeed in preventing any sanctions the U.S. Congress might wish to impose on Equatorial Guinea and in other ways shaping American policy to the liking of this repressive regime.

Equatorial Guinea, governed by President Teodoro Obiang Nguema Mbasogo, might seem like a public-relations problem. In 2002 more than 150 of the president's political opponents were arrested for allegedly plotting a coup. Blindfolded for long periods, some of the prisoners were hung in positions designed to break their bones, and at least two died. A democracy only in name (the president "won" 97 percent of the vote in 2002),

Equatorial Guinea did little to improve its human-rights record in 2003, during which a journalist was detained for reporting rumors of a coup, an outspoken pastor was arrested without charges, and an opposition-party member was moved to solitary confinement, chained to a wall, and denied badly needed medical care. But Washington, as well as ExxonMobil and ChevronTexaco, now has an interest in trade with Equatorial Guinea: oil was discovered offshore there in 1995, making it the third largest petroleum producer in Africa.

Cabelly's firm, C/R International, may have won its contract with Equatorial Guinea because of its service to African nations with even more oil. In 1995, after Sani Abacha, then dictator of Nigeria, executed nine prominent political activists, members of the U.S. House and Senate introduced bills laying the groundwork for an international oil embargo. Africa's top oil producer fought back by hiring nine U.S. lobbying and P.R. firms, including C/R (to which Base Petroleum, owned by Abachals son, paid an estimated \$1 million). The bills died, and only trifling penalties against the regime—limiting sales of military equipment and restricting visas for senior officials—were enacted. From 1996 to 2002, C/R received \$6 million from Angola. In 2001 the United States gave Angola \$2.8 million in military assistance, a marked increase from \$0 in the previous three years and a total of \$200,000 between 1962 and 1997. While C/R served Angola, the government's troops beat and raped civilians, and killed suspected rebel sympathizers.

Because of its sudden oil wealth, Equatorial Guinea has the world's fastest-growing economy, but the nation qualifies as "stable" only in that President Obiang has ruled since 1979, when he overthrew and executed his even more despotic uncle. While most of its citizens earn about \$1 a day, President Obiang neglects infrastructure and misappropriates oil revenue in favor of lavish personal expenditures. (He recently paid \$2.6 million in cash for a mansion near Washington, D.C.) As the United States tries to reduce its dependence on the Middle East, African oil has taken on greater geopolitical significance. Because of work by C/R and others, Washington will likely continue to ignore the fact that Africa's oil producers are ruled by dictatorships that continually violate human rights.

For Cabelly, daily contact with U.S. officials includes talking to old colleagues from his years at the State, Department, where he helped to negotiate the 1994 peace agreement between Angola and its UNITA rebels. Many lobbyists have worked previously in public service: in 1997, Burma hired Jefferson Waterman International, a firm run by former assistant secretary of state for international narcotics Ann Wroblewski in an unsuccessful attempt to end U.S. trade sanctions. (Since 1997, Burma has been one of the top two producers of opium in the world.) With his connections, Cabelly may urge the Bush Administration to grant Equatorial Guinea preferential trade status and will likely lobby the State Department to issue MPRI, a Virginia-based military contractor, the license it has been seeking to train the Equatoguinean military. His work for the country began on a promising note: in October, two months after the deal between Equatorial Guinea and C/R, the U.S. embassy in Malabo reopened after being shuttered for eight years.

C/R's fee of \$300,000 is a small price to pay for favorable U.S. policy. In 2002, payments to the lobbyists and P.R. firms registered under the Foreign Agents Registration Act—a total of \$408 million—covered a range of projects, from touting Caribbean beaches to

urging the removal of sanctions against pariah nations. Oil-industry insiders and excited energy experts have nicknamed Equatorial Guinea "the Kuwait of Africa" for its tiny population (500,000) and its vast oil reserves (1.1 billion barrels). Perhaps Cabelly will be so successful as to further the parallel. In 1990 and 1991, Citizens for a Free Kuwait, funded by the emir's government, paid Hill & Knowlton a record \$10.8 million over six months to create a media and lobbying campaign widely credited with convincing the U.S. public that its soldiers should defend the tiny, distant monarchy. As long as the dictatorship in Equatorial Guinea finds lobbyists to take its oil money, it has every reason to expect preferential trade policies, if not, one day, U.S. troops to defend it.

#### ANNOUNCING PASSING OF FORMER CONGRESSMEN ED ROY- BAL AND BOB BADHAM

SPEECH OF

#### HON. JOE BACA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 25, 2005*

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, our Nation lost a public servant who demonstrated conscience and commitment. The Honorable Edward Ross Roybal was a pioneer and a fighter for the disadvantaged. As a Mexican-American man in 1930s and 40s in Los Angeles, he personally experienced brutality because of his color. He fought that racism with political activism. As a city council member, activist, and 30 year Congressman in this great House, he broke barrier after barrier.

But it wasn't enough for him to break barriers simply by his presence in American political life, which was remarkable in its own right. He worked to actively pave the way for those behind him, never losing passion for giving voice to the voiceless.

He co-founded the Congressional Hispanic Caucus, dedicated to voicing and advancing, issues affecting Hispanics in the United States.

He founded the National Association of Latino Elected Officials, which empowers Latinos nationwide to participate in the democratic process.

He remained active in California politics, mentoring the next generation of young leaders.

Congressman Roybal was more than an asset to the Hispanic Community. He was an asset to the American community. In these chambers, he was a role model to us all. He voted his conscience and stuck to his principles. And America is better off because of him.

I offer heartfelt condolences to my colleague and friend, the Honorable LUCILLE ROYBAL-AL-LARD, and I join the Nation in mourning this great man.

#### HONORING AMERICA'S FALLEN HEROES

#### HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 26, 2005*

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to somberly note the 2,000th death of an