

travels and in pro forma statements. But, as the president's coming visit to China will again show, dissident political movements have not been incorporated into his strategy for changing the world. The president believes so strongly in his powers of persuasion that the transformative work once done by Lech Walesa, Alexander Solzhenitsyn, Corazon Aquino, Wei Jingsheng and others now falls largely on his shoulders. Campbell's meeting with Suu Kyi provided a useful corrective, for one country at least, to this tendency.

George W. Bush proved that it is possible to overdo support for dissident movements and the vilification of their tormentors, just as his father demonstrated that it can be underdone (see Bush 41's effort to keep the Soviet Union and Yugoslavia from disintegrating). The Bush 43 administration, in fact, bears some of the responsibility for the eclipse of the dissident in the public mind. The focus of many journalists' and political activists has recently been on U.S. human rights abuses rather than those of much more brutal foreign regimes.

So Obama's decision to reach out and encourage hostile regimes to relax their grip internally made initial tactical sense, especially in Iran. The administration deserves some credit for the current political fluidity there. Removing the United States as a heavy-handed, threatening enemy helped expose President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad's manifest failures of governance and helped meaningful dissent to surface and spread.

But the extended-hand tactic may have run its course there. Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, the country's highest authority, used inflammatory language to denounce Obama and the U.S.-originated proposal on uranium reprocessing given to Iran on Oct. 1 in Geneva. Even though U.S. officials claimed at the time that Iran had "accepted" the proposal—which effectively drops the long-standing U.S. demand for Iran to suspend its enrichment of uranium as a condition for negotiations—Khamenei said that its terms were unacceptable.

Meanwhile, protesters were voicing concern that Obama's single-minded pursuit of a nuclear deal is conveying legitimacy to Khamenei and Ahmadinejad—at the dissidents' expense. They did not seem to have been impressed by the general words of support contained in a message issued by Obama to mark not this political uprising but the 30th anniversary of the seizure of the U.S. Embassy in Tehran, an event celebrated in Iran but not here.

Syria also served notice that its priorities have not been influenced by Team Obama's repeated blandishments for better relations. Israel intercepted a major clandestine Iranian arms shipment destined for Syria and the Hezbollah guerrillas it supports in Lebanon. And *As-Safir*, a Syrian-controlled newspaper in Beirut, launched a vitriolic, sexist attack on Michele Sison, the able U.S. ambassador to Lebanon, that concluded by calling on its readers to "silence this chatterbox"—an ominous statement in a country where U.S. and European diplomats have been murdered.

Friendly, principled engagement is a useful tool—up to a point. It is probably worth exploring in Burma with new steps. But there also has to be a workable Plan B—something Obama will now have to demonstrate that he has developed for Iran and Syria.

HONORING FERNANDO C.
MACHADO

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 17, 2009

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to a man whose life and pursuits exemplify the spirit of fortitude, entrepreneurship, virtues of family and citizenship demonstrated by so many of those who strive to provide food and fiber to the citizens of this great nation. Many things have contributed to California's bountiful agriculture industry and economic well-being, but one significant underlying factor in California's agricultural success has been the presence of agricultural leaders such as Fernando C. Machado. A veteran farmer and former dairyman, Mr. Fred Machado is being honored on November 18, 2009 in Fresno, California as the 2009 Agriculturist of the Year by the Greater Fresno Area Chamber of Commerce.

Fred Machado, born an American citizen on the Azores Island of Portugal in 1932, moved back to the United States with his family in 1949. After a four-year tour in the United States Navy during the Korean War, Mr. Machado returned to California in 1955 where he began to farm twenty-six acres of rented land near Easton. To make ends meet, he also worked on dairies, at cotton gins and at various other odd jobs. Today, Fred continues to farm, but on his own 800 acres of almonds, grapes, orchards and feed crops.

Fred and his family have always been involved in the San Joaquin Valley agricultural industry in a variety of capacities over the years. He was quoted recently as saying, "I will always be in farming as long as I can, I cannot get away from the dirt." Machado continued, "It's been great for us. We've made a good living, we've raised our family there . . . We're just real happy to be involved in agriculture."

A past president of the Fresno County Farm Bureau, Mr. Machado has also served on the board of directors of the National Milk Producers Federation, Challenge Dairy and Danish Creamery and several other agriculture committees in the Valley. He has extensive community service in organizations such as Veterans of Foreign Wars Post #84, Knights of Columbus #153 of Easton, Fraternal Order of Eagles Fresno Aerie #39, and the Portuguese Fraternal Organizations—I.D.E.S.S., S.E.S., and U.P.E.C.

Fred Machado has also been the recipient of a number of other awards, among which are Fresno County Farm Bureau's Distinguished Service Award, the California Farm Bureau's Distinguished Service Award, and California State University Fresno, Ag One Community Salute Award. The award Mr. Machado is receiving this November 18th is indeed a high honor in Fresno County. Fred is truly deserving of this award. It is especially fitting to congratulate and salute Mr. Fred Machado for his outstanding service to agriculture, the people of California and our nation.

LEONID NEVZLIN

HON. ROBERT WEXLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 17, 2009

Mr. WEXLER. Madam Speaker, I would like to bring to my colleagues' attention the achievements of Leonid Nevzlin, a person who deserves recognition as a champion of the humanities in Russia, a civic leader in his adopted homeland Israel, and a philanthropist across three continents. I am proud to pay tribute to this extraordinary man, who has dedicated his life and his resources to supporting important social efforts and has provided leadership to the Jewish Diaspora around the world. His generous support for numerous organizations has made him an example to his countrymen for taking a social stand and making giving and sharing a way of life.

Mr. Nevzlin has been instrumental in introducing democratic reforms and social responsibility to the former Soviet Union. He was directly involved in a number of projects to support Russian President Boris Yeltsin in an effort to boost civil society and democratic freedoms during the Russian Federation's transition from communism. In June 2003, after helping to establish several foundations and pro-democracy organizations, Mr. Nevzlin was elected President of the Russian National Humanities University. This university, which was created to foster the country's new liberal-minded elite, has received an unprecedented \$10 million in financial support. In the autumn of 2003, Mr. Nevzlin was forced to leave Russia, at which time he became a citizen of Israel and began to expand his efforts on behalf of the Jewish people.

Mr. Nevzlin's private manner belies the fact that he is one of the most important international Jewish leaders today. His continuous efforts to give a contemporary meaning to the concept of "Jewish peoplehood"—primarily through his deep involvement in the Museum of Jewish Diaspora in Tel Aviv—has re-energized Jewish communities and organizations around the world. Mr. Nevzlin is also one of the largest and earliest supporters of the Tom Lantos Foundation for Human Rights, established to honor our distinguished colleague's memory and to carry on his work for human rights around the world. In recognition of his activism and leadership, Mr. Nevzlin was recently named this year's chairperson of the General Assembly of the United Jewish Communities, the largest gathering of the Jewish community, which will take place in Washington, DC in the fall.

It is for all these reasons, Madam Speaker, that I believe it is fitting that we recognize Leonid Nevzlin's commitment to advancing the cause of civil society and human rights and his leadership and generous support of organizations dedicated to serving the needs of others.