

will join with me today in wishing Dr. C. Delores Tucker, Burt Siegel, Operation Understanding, and George Ross the very best in their continued service to the Philadelphia community.

CONTINUE ISOLATING MOBUTU

HON. LEE H. HAMILTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 11, 1995

Mr. HAMILTON. Mr. Speaker, I recently engaged in an exchange of letters with the State Department concerning the need for the United States to maintain its policy of diplomatic isolation against Africa's longest reigning and most corrupt dictator, President Mobutu Sese Seko of Zaire.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, COMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS,

Washington, DC, August 17, 1995.

Hon. WARREN CHRISTOPHER,
Secretary of State, Department of State, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SECRETARY: It has come to my attention that the Administration may seek the assistance of President Mobutu of Zaire in providing Zairean troops to address security concerns along Zaire's borders with Rwanda and Burundi. I oppose such a move.

I agree with you concerning the seriousness of the security situation in Eastern Zaire and its connection to the incipient civil war in Burundi and the threat of renewed civil war in Rwanda. I also understand that the international community has made a commitment to the Government of Rwanda to address the security issue. I support that commitment.

But I do not believe that engaging the assistance of President Mobutu is a constructive way to address the security issue, for two reasons.

First, on a practical level, this step is more likely to exacerbate the security situation than improve it. Zairean forces in the border regions have been smuggling arms and providing resources and protection to the ex-Armed Forces of Rwanda. The population in Eastern Zaire is sympathetic to the Hutu cause. It is doubtful that Mobutu has the capacity to improve security in Eastern Zaire.

Second, seeking Mobutu's support sends exactly the wrong message to Zaire. Mobutu will use this appeal to claim legitimacy. For many years, during the Cold War, Mobutu posed as a "friend of the West" in order to gain Western acquiescence and support for his corrupt regime in Zaire. I fear that the proposed initiative will reinvigorate this charade. The outcome will be that Mobutu will be less likely to work with Prime Minister Kengo and the various opposition forces in facilitating a democratic transition in Zaire.

Mobutu's exit from the political scene is necessary to resolve Zaire's political crisis. To that end, I continue to support a policy of isolating Mobutu and denying him a legitimate role in international affairs. For these reasons, I do not believe the United States should have any role in seeking his help to address the deteriorating security situation in Eastern Zaire and along Zaire's border with Rwanda and Burundi.

I look forward to your reply.

With best wishes,

Sincerely,

LEE H. HAMILTON,
Ranking Democratic Member.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, DC, September 25, 1995.

Hon. LEE H. HAMILTON,
House of Representatives.

DEAR MR. HAMILTON: I am responding to your letter of August 17 to the Secretary recording your opposition to seeking President Mobutu's assistance in providing Zairian troops to address security concerns along Zaire's borders with Rwanda and Burundi. We have no intention of conferring "legitimacy" on President Mobutu. We agree that this would seriously weaken our policy to support the transition to democracy in Zaire.

Contrary to recent press reports, the U.S. has not approached Mobutu for assistance with the refugee crisis and security in eastern Zaire. Our contacts were exclusively within cabinet ministries, particularly the prime Ministry and Foreign Ministry. It is correct that the United States, acting with its Troika partners (France and Belgium), has in the past not excluded outright any possibility of conversation with President Mobutu. You may recall, however, that Mobutu refused to receive the Troika representatives when its members wished to present a joint demarche regarding obstacles to the transition to democracy in April.

Regarding your concerns that Zairian forces are unlikely to improve the security situation in eastern Zaire, UNHCR notes that the elite Zairian security contingent operating in the camps under its auspices has performed professionally and had a demonstrably positive effect on camp security, to the pleasant surprise of many observers of the region. We agree, however, with your concern about indiscipline among Zairian forces generally, which is exacerbated when their salaries are not paid. (UNHCR pays the salaries of the troops seconded to its camps.) The performance of the non-UNHCR Zairian troops during the recent (now-suspended) forced repatriation was certainly of concern.

More generally, we would note that the focus of our Zaire policy remains support for the democratic transition and efforts toward economic reform. We continue to view Mobutu as the principal obstacle to democratic and economic reform in Zaire. The presidential proclamation barring those who obstruct democracy in Zaire from entering the U.S. would continue to apply to Mobutu should he request a visa. In this connection, however, we must take into account our obligations as host country to the United Nations. If Mobutu wishes to attend the 50th anniversary ceremonies this fall (as we expect he will), he would be permitted to come to the United States for that purpose.

We appreciate your interest in Zaire policy, and hope that this information will be helpful to you. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have further questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

WENDY R. SHERMAN,
Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs.

CENTRAL SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY
SALUTES TOP FIVE BUSINESSES

HON. GEORGE P. RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 11, 1995

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, there is a program which involves constituents in my district which is worthy of note. In its fourth year, the Top Five program has become established as a local award that truly recognizes the best of the best in central San Joaquin Valley business.

The sponsors are: Baker, Peterson & Franklin, Certified Public Accountants; California State University Business Center; and the Fresno Business Journal.

The purpose of the Top Five is to provide the opportunity for successful companies and business leaders to interact with each other, and to stimulate businesses to persist in their efforts to redefine and reshape relations with their employees, their customers, and their communities in ways that promote the welfare of all.

The Business Journal goes on to state that the 1995 Top Five awards showcase outstanding private companies whose innovations and achievements have made a special contribution to the valley. This year, 41 businesses were nominated from a broad coverage area of Fresno, Madera, Mariposa, Kings, and Tulare Counties, with a significant number of finalists hailing from the mountain communities. Types of businesses represented by applicants range from manufacturers to services, and business sizes range from a handful of employees to nearly 1,000.

The five winners who were honored at a reception were selected by an independent panel of respected business and professional leaders. They are:

Danish Creamery Association whose CEO is James A. Gomes. Danish Creamery is one of Fresno's oldest businesses and has received many medals attesting to the association's commitment and quality. It employs 130 people.

Heidi's 1-Hour Photo in Mariposa. The owner is Heidi Vetter. She employs 6 others who offer photo finishing. Heidi has also added a custom-framing shop which allows her to process film into a family treasure hanging on the wall.

Inland Star Distributing Centers, Inc. Michael Kelton, who is president has a staff of 10. Inland Star began in 1981 as a local, single-site, public warehouse. It is now a national, five-site, full-service distribution organization.

Ruiz Food Products, owned by Fred Ruiz employs 775 people. Ruiz Foods is a multi-million-dollar business that was recently listed No. 26 among the top 500 Hispanic-owned businesses nationwide. It, today, is the largest burrito manufacturer in the United States.

Sierra Press, Inc., in Mariposa employs 5 people. Jim Wilson is the CEO. The business was cofounded by Mr. Wilson and Jeff Nicholas. Sierra Press has built a devoted customer base through its unique approach to book publishing. They specialize in photographic scenes and memories of America's national parks.

Once again, congratulations to all the companies who participated this year.

TRIBUTE TO LINDA OVERMOYER

HON. JOSEPH M. McDADE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 11, 1995

Mr. McDADE. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to Ms. Linda Overmoyer. On Tuesday, October 24, 1995, Ms. Overmoyer will be officially honored at the annual conference of the National Industries for the Blind [NIB]. Please join me in applauding Ms. Overmoyer

for her perseverance in meeting many personal and professional challenges, for her accomplishment in winning NIB's Testimony to Work Essay Contest, and for setting an example of excellence for others.

Linda Overmoyer's submission to NIB's Testimony to Work Contest embodies the pride and accomplishment that results from pursuing excellence in her everyday life. Ms. Overmoyer, 47 and the mother of four grown children, and her husband Robert Overmoyer II, recently purchased their own home. Her employment at North Central Sight Services, Inc., in Williamsport, PA, has provided Ms. Overmoyer with full-time employment and benefits such as medical insurance and a retirement plan.

The Javits-Wagner-O'Day Act was created by Congress to provide job opportunities for Americans who are blind. Through this act, Linda Overmoyer, who has been legally blind for 20 years and totally blind for 13 years, now has the satisfaction of helping other people who are blind. Ms. Overmoyer is a member of the Williamsport Lion's Club, through which she received her guide dog, and travels throughout central Pennsylvania speaking to other Lion's Clubs and youth groups about the ways in which her job and guide dog have increased her independence.

The following is Ms. Overmoyer's winning Testimony to Work essay:

PARTICIPATING IN THE "AMERICAN DREAM"

In May of 1983, my husband and I entered into a new phase of our lives. That was the time we began our employment with North Central Sight Services, Inc. It was also the beginning of something we had thought would be beyond possibility for us.

Some people in our society do not look upon this as anything great or beyond an everyday occurrence. Much like getting a glass of water. But when you're visually impaired, this becomes a challenge much like climbing that last great mountain.

Before our employment, we were like so many who are always on the receiving end of things and never able to fully participate in the natural flow of life. We were living in government housing, participating in the food stamp program, and dependent on government medical assistance.

Since our employment, and especially since the involvement of the National Industries for the Blind (NIB), life has become more concrete and provides more of a purpose. We are no longer in government housing, we are no longer in the food stamp program and we no longer partake of the medical assistance we once did.

When NIB became a part of our production facility and work became more secure, we felt the freedom to invest in the purchase of our own home. Also, benefits have come to us such as: paid holidays, sick leave, medical coverage (Blue Cross/Shield), bereavement days, and retirement plans. All of which have improved our present life and hopes for the future.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE FIRE SERVICE

HON. MICHAEL P. FORBES

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 11, 1995

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the men and women of the American fire service who answered the call

when fire threatened my district in Long Island. In a situation that could have been catastrophic to the people of Long Island, I learned firsthand the skills and generosity of the American fire service.

As everyone knows, the recent drought in New York led to the terrible wildfires which swept across Long Island this fall. The local fire service, aided by colleagues from across the country, fought heroically to fight the fires. Despite arid conditions and a heavy fuel load, the terrific firefighters were able to protect the residents of Eastern Long Island from any loss of life.

I am extremely pleased to report that all is now quiet on Eastern Long Island. The raging fire is no more; thanks to the determination and hard work of 3,000 firefighters who came from all over Suffolk and Nassau Counties, New York and even Connecticut; along with county, State and Federal fire experts.

Tired and exhausted, our firefighters dug deep to find the strength to carry on the face of such an ominous foe. They put the health and welfare of an entire Eastern Long Island community ahead of their own safety to stop the raging flames. The perseverance, determination, bravery, and courage of some 5,000 firefighters, police, emergency medical and other personnel can be summed up simply with the words of Bruce Stark, a 24-year-old firefighter from East Islip: "Civilians are depending on us, and if they bail out we have no hope."

Our heartfelt thanks go out to each and every firefighter who selflessly worked for days to extinguish the mammoth fire.

In those few days we witnessed first hand the acts of Long Island's solid-gold, true blue American heroes and on behalf of all of us in the community, I express the utmost gratitude to all who worked so successfully to save our homes, our businesses, our schools, and our churches and synagogues.

It is a tribute to the hard work and training of the American Fire Service and the firefighters of Long Island that the fires on Long Island didn't do more damage than they did. It is my pleasure to use the occasion of Fire Prevention Week to thank all the firefighters for what they did for the people of Long Island.

NATIONAL DAY

HON. MATTHEW G. MARTINEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 11, 1995

Mr. MARTINEZ. Mr. Speaker, I would like to join the Taiwanese people in celebrating the 84th anniversary of National Day which commemorates the revolution and overthrow of the Ching Dynasty.

Mr. Speaker, Taiwan has a dynamic economy that is the envy of the world. Taiwan has the 19th largest economy in the world and it holds nearly \$100 billion in foreign exchange reserves. The United States, moreover, is Taiwan's main foreign investor and trading partner.

By any measurable standard, Taiwan is an economic powerhouse that has earned its rightful place in the world community. Taiwan has unequivocally demonstrated that it cannot be relegated to the ash heap of history.

Mr. Speaker, Taiwan can no longer be treated as a pariah, as a second class citizen within the international community of states. The Taiwanese people, through their sweat and toil, have built a great democratic nation that shines like a beacon of hope throughout Asia. Taiwan is a thriving and bustling democracy of 21 million people who demand their rightful place on the world stage.

Recent developments such as Beijing's guided missile test off the coast of northern Taiwan represents nothing more than a crude attempt at intimidating the Taiwanese people. Such efforts will not succeed in cowering the indomitable spirit of democratic reform in Taiwan.

It is time for the United States to take the lead in actively supporting Taiwan's full participation in and representation on major international organizations like the United Nations, the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, the International Monetary Fund, and the World Bank. A political and economic force as important as Taiwan deserves no less. Taiwan's participation in these international regimes would in no way diminish, prejudice or challenge mainland China's current international status.

Moreover, private visits by Taiwanese officials to America, such as President Lee Teng-Hui's historic visit this past June, should be welcomed by the United States Government. This does not mean we should disregard the legitimate concerns of the People's Republic of China. Nor does it mean the United States should kowtow to Beijing's unwarranted threats.

The ultimate fate of Taiwan must be the product of peaceful negotiations between Beijing and Taipei, between the Chinese and Taiwanese people. Military force is not and can never be a viable option to resolve the Taiwan-Straits question. There is simply too much at stake for both Taiwan and China, and for the geopolitical stability of the Pacific-rim.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I would like to salute the people of Taiwan for their tremendous democratic and economic accomplishments. Taiwan deserves and has earned our respect, admiration, and steadfast support.

HONORING JOSEPH KAMANSKY

HON. JAY KIM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 11, 1995

Mr. KIM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mr. Joseph Kamansky who on October 20, 1995, will be honored by the West End YMCA by being inducted into their Hall of Fame.

Mr. Kamansky was born in Ontario in 1914 and attended Euclid Elementary School, Chaffey High School, and Chaffey Junior College. In partnership with his brother Louis, he began ranching in south Ontario. Five years later, in partnership with Fred Beal he began a 21-year career as the owner of a service station and garage. In 1962 he and his wife Rosalie, whom he married on August 1, 1936, began their successful real estate career. Joe quickly became active on many committees for the Inland Empire West Board of Realtors, and in 1975 was presented their first Realtor