

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

A RENAISSANCE MAN OF VISION,
HUMANITY, AND TECHNICAL EXPERTISE

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 17, 1995

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the leadership James D. Wolfensohn is displaying in his new role as the President of the World Bank. At the Bank's annual meeting this past week in Washington, Mr. Wolfensohn unveiled his ambitious blueprint for the global development agency's role in a changing world. He is fully cognizant of the difficulties facing the organization, but emphasizes the new opportunities for the Bank, the donor countries, and the recipient nations to forge a more effective partnership.

Of course, Mr. Wolfensohn has been forging productive partnerships in the business, academic, and philanthropic communities throughout his long and distinguished career. Prior to joining the Bank, Mr. Wolfensohn was an international banker who played a prominent role in the performing arts.

Before assuming the presidency of the World Bank on June 1, 1995, Mr. Wolfensohn was the chairman of the board of trustees of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. From 1980 to 1991, as chairman of New York's Carnegie Hall, he oversaw the much hailed renovation of this treasured national cultural landmark.

Mr. Wolfensohn also held several key positions in the international community in addition to leading the World Bank. He is chairman of the Institute for Advanced Study at Princeton University as well as the finance chairman of the Howard Hughes Medical Institute. In addition, he is an honorary trustee of the Brookings Institution and member of the Council on Foreign Relations.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to include in the RECORD some highlights from Mr. Wolfensohn's address to the Board of Governors of the World Bank Group at their joint annual discussion on October 10. I think he offers sound advice on the future of multilateral development assistance that all of us would do well to consider:

EXCERPTS OF JAMES D. WOLFENSOHN'S ADDRESS TO THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE WORLD BANK, OCTOBER 10, 1995

"We have made good progress on poverty reduction in several areas—in East Asia and some parts of Latin America. But there are still 1.3 billion people living on a dollar a day or less. Adequate sanitation and electricity are still beyond the reach of two-fifths of the world's people.

"This shocking poverty is fueled by continuing rapid population growth—increasing by more than 80 million people a year, 95 percent of them in the developing countries. And it is compounded developing world. . . .

"It strikes me as bitterly ironic that just as we are reaching a consensus on how to address these challenges in our changing world, the threat to development assistance has

never been greater. I refer here specifically to the funding crisis facing our concessional affiliate, the International Development Association—IDA. . . .

" . . . IDA is the backbone of the international effort to help the poorest nations help themselves. And yet, despite the record, there is a serious question about the fulfillment of some donor commitments under IDA-10 (covering the years 1993-1996). Budget cutting by the U.S. Congress has led to delays, and probably large reductions in the size of the contribution by IDA's leading donor. And for every dollar cut by the United States, IDA could a total of % as other nations reduce their contributions proportionally.

"This means that if congressional estimates of a U.S. cut of approximately 50 percent materialize, overall donor contributions to IDA this coming 12 months could be reduced from \$6 billion to under \$3 billion. Achieving an adequate IDA-11 (covering the years 1996-1999) for the next three years will be extraordinarily difficult if IDA-10 is reduced so drastically. This is not only a threat to IDA, it is a threat to the long-term viability of multilateral financing for development.

"As Michael Camdessus (Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund) has pointed out, if there is a seriously underfunded IDA, we will be faced with a world of increasingly unstable nations. . . .

"The donor community needs to understand the cons of an underfunded IDA. We must explain that world citizenship has a price and that IDA is central to the whole development process. National budget cutting exercises in the developed countries must give due weight to international considerations. Money saved now for domestic purposes will lead to huge costs later. It is the donors' own self-interest to maintain an adequate level of support.

"Obviously, IDA and its partners in government and civil society must be accountable—and must be seen to spend scarce resources wisely and well. There must be a 'compact': that in return for the donor community ensuring IDA has adequate resources, recipient countries and the bank must ensure that those resources are used more effectively. Projects must be well managed and corruption eliminated. In addition, we need to provide better information about the benefits of this important work to donor governments—and to their voters. . . .

"From my experience in the private sector I know the power of partnership. This was reaffirmed during my recent travels (to China, Mexico, and the West Bank and Gaza). . . .

"We must deepen our cooperation—as we have begun to do—with the UN system, the IMF and the WTO. We can expand our cooperation with the private sector—which plays such an increasingly important role in development. And we can do much more to reach out to NGOs and civil society. Let me also pay tribute to the regional development banks with whom we work, and to their leaders who have given me so much advice and help. . . .

"Of all our partnerships, we must remember that the most important is that with the governments to which we lend—and the people that they serve. It is a point worth repeating: we must get closer to our clients.

This will mean continuing to strengthen our field presence, while maintaining a very strong base at the center. At the same time, we must be mindful that the projects we finance are not World Bank projects—they are Chinese, or Haitian, or Malawian projects. But it is for the countries to own them and be responsible for them."

BEYOND THE GREAT SATAN

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 17, 1995

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, the recent incidents involving China's proposed nuclear reactor deal with Iran have focused attention once again on Iran and its troubled place in the community of nations.

I commend to your attention a thoughtful piece which appeared in the Washington Post, written by Hushang Ansary, a former Iranian Ambassador to the United States and Minister of Finance in the Iranian Government before the ouster of the Shah in 1979. While I do not necessarily agree with or endorse all of Ambassador Ansary's proposals, I believe that he lays out an interesting road map for setting relations between the United States and Iran on a new course.

[From the Washington Post, July 9, 1995]

BEYOND THE GREAT SATAN

(By Hushang Ansary)

THE CLINTON administration has taken a series of steps to further isolate Iran and tighten the economic sanctions that could throttle its economy. If successful, these new U.S. initiatives against the Islamic Republic are likely to have a far-reaching impact on the course of events in a region that supplies much of the West's oil needs.

At the same time, U.S. failure to win strong international backing for its containment policy would allow Iran to continue its pursuit of a nuclear development program, one that continues to raise questions.

President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani has retorted that the United States will be the ultimate loser. And so far, America's European allies and Japan have not been supportive.

The latest move to raise the stakes in a decade and a half of hostility between the United States and Iran is no surprise. Secretary of State Warren Christopher has called Iran an outlaw state. President Clinton has used his executive authority to nullify an agreement between Iran and Conoco. A more alarming hint was dropped in February by Gen. Binford Peay, commander of the U.S. Forces in the Middle East, that the two countries might even become involved in military conflict.

By the time the last of the American hostages returned home from Tehran just over 15 years ago, even the most optimistic knew that the historic friendship between the United States and Iran has suffered a terrible setback. Successive U.S. administrations have pursued policies of accommodation, military pressure and sanctions against Iran. Some of these policies have backfired,

• 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.

as in the case of the Iran-contra affair. Some have inadvertently provided trading opportunities for others. By and large, this potpourri of U.S. measures has not altered the fundamental positions of Iran.

These measures have, however, helped to push Iran toward international isolation and accelerated the pace of its mostly self-inflicted social and economic ills. Even a policy of critical cooperation, advocated by Germany with French support, has not had the desired effect.

Now that the Clinton administration and the new Republican majority in Congress appear to agree on placing Iran high on the agenda of U.S. foreign policy, is it not time to address the Iranian dilemma at its roots? The United States may hold to its current course of isolating Iran, but it has to reckon with all the international forces at work on this issue. Russian and Chinese nuclear agreements, and German and Japanese debt refinancings, give evidence of the fragility of the administration's approach.

This appears to be a propitious time for a different approach and it is, therefore, worth considering how relations between the United States and Iran might be set on a new course.

Iran is now facing mass unemployment, double-digit inflation, falling productivity and massive foreign debt. The value of the Iranian currency, the rial, dropped from 75 to the dollar in 1977 to 6,000 at one point. Iran's GNP per capita is now less than half its 1977 level.

Iran is also feeling the weight of diplomatic isolation. Sixteen years after the revolution, the only Western head of state to have paid a visit to Tehran is Kurt Waldheim, the former Austrian president.

Economic and governmental disorder have unleashed political forces beyond the control of the radical clergy. In recent months, Iran has faced a number of industrial strikes and anti-government demonstrations. Important social groups, including lawyers, doctors, bazaar merchants, retired military officers, writers and journalists, have publicly challenged the government and its policies.

Even the Shiite Muslim clergy, initially the backbone of the revolutionary regime, has asserted its independence. Some senior ayatollahs have said publicly that they would support new policy makers and policies capable of turning the economy around and ending the nation's diplomatic isolation.

The constant theme of these dissenting voices is a call for a new political course, one freely chosen by the Iranian people. As the level of dissent rises, there is reason to believe that even some of the more extreme elements of the regime, their customary rhetoric notwithstanding, may now be inclined to consider a plan that would address the country's economic disorder and diplomatic isolation. General elections are scheduled in 1996 and presidential elections in 1997. A workable plan, properly monitored and performance-related, could have a positive effect on these two crucial events.

Such a plan should let the people of Iran normalize the state of the nation. At home, it should aim for democracy, respect for human rights and an agreeable quality of life. Abroad, it would need to restore the image of Iran as a responsible member of the United Nations, ready to live in peace with all other nations.

In the first phase of such a plan, Iran would have to take appropriate steps, in keeping with its constitution, to dismantle the bureaucracy it created to cope with the problems of the early years of the Islamic revolution. These steps should include the rehabilitation of those unjustly deprived of their civil rights on the basis of their political beliefs, the repeal of laws and regulations

that discriminate on the basis of sex, race, ethnicity and faith, and the removal of restrictions, often unconstitutional, on freedom of expression, association and election.

The normalization of political life in Iran would facilitate the no less complex task of bringing the country's foreign policy into line with its international obligations. This would, of necessity, include measures to dispel any notion that Iran supports international terrorism and the assassination of dissidents abroad. Iran would also need to cease its campaign against the Middle East peace process, adhere to the now renewed version of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and take steps to make credible its announced decision not to acquire nuclear weapons.

Iran could also facilitate visits by the International Committee of the Red Cross to prisons where it is alleged that prisoners of conscience and members of religious and ethnic minorities are being held, often without charges being filed. It should allow international human rights organizations access to its officials and open itself to the international media in the normal manner.

Linking its response to Iranian performance, the United States would need to give evidence of its own willingness to make positive contributions. First steps would include establishing a timetable for the final settlement of all outstanding claims between the two countries and for the release of the remaining Iranian assets, setting up a procedure in which sanctions against Iran would be lifted in stages and normalizing visa requirements for Iranian nationals visiting the United States.

The United States could encourage the formation of a Council on Trade and Economic Cooperation with Iran with the participation of the leaders of the U.S. business community. The United States might also form an appropriate body to advise on various aspects of U.S.-Iranian relations. While policies are obviously formulated by governments, this could help mobilize private resources in the services of the new set of foreign policy objectives as containment gives way to rapprochement.

In the next phase, Iran would resume its quest for democracy that started almost 100 years ago. The Iranian people would be given the opportunity to return to the electoral process and the organization of presidential and parliamentary elections in line with the provisions of Iran's constitution. These elections should be open to political parties of all denominations and conducted in a verifiably fair fashion.

The last phase of the plan would thus begin in an atmosphere of stability, without which all attempts at reviving Iran's economy through domestic and international cooperation will remain tentative and fragile. At this point, the Council on Trade and Economic Cooperation with Iran, having completed its initial studies, would be in a position to sponsor a series of conferences designed to help Iran reintegrate into the world-economy and to realize its economic potential, estimated to reach \$100 billion in annual trade and economic opportunities.

The stage could thus be set for the Middle East to open a chapter in regional economic cooperation—possibly including Central Asia, which hungers for peace and development—an enterprise that could foster opportunities not dissimilar to those in the Pacific Rim nations. Moderate Arab nations too would be helped to accelerate the pace of their social and economic transformation, and the way would be paved for a more constructive relationship between the West and the world of Islam as a whole.

Is this farfetched? It is no more farfetched than the thought of a visit to Jerusalem by

President Anwar Sadat of Egypt in the aftermath of the Yom Kippur War or the thought in the mid-1980s that the Berlin Wall could be brought down before the end of that decade. The Middle East has always dealt with logjams that block the normal course of its politics through courageous steps that have defied conventional wisdom. History belongs to those who do not merely contemplate the sour aspects of present reality, but labor with persistence to give birth to new possibilities of hope.

OCTOBER IS MENTOR MONTH

HON. CONSTANCE A. MORELLA

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 17, 1995

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the Montgomery County (Maryland) Task Force on Mentoring. The task force will be sponsoring a mentor training workshop on Saturday, October 21, 1995 in celebration of their theme, "October is Mentor Month."

The Montgomery County Task Force on Mentoring was established by the Montgomery County Human Relations Commission in response to a study of the plight of young black males in the county. In 1991, the commission hosted a conference on "Young Black Males: Is Mentoring a Solution?" At that conference, it became apparent that several mentor programs were in operation in the county unaware of each other's existence. It was obvious at that conference that an umbrella organization was needed to provide support for mentor activities in Montgomery County.

In Homer's "Odyssey," Mentor was the man to whom Odysseus entrusted the care and education of his son, Telemachus, when Odysseus embarked on his travels and adventures. The word "mentor" has come to mean "a trusted friend or teacher."

Mentoring has evolved into a time-honored tradition that smooths the path for newcomers to get ahead and allows seasoned-professionals to leave a legacy for the future. A mentor is someone who consciously serves as a career role model for students. A mentor can increase the confidence and self-esteem of students and provide the inspiration needed to persevere during the early stages of career development. Studies show that people who have been nurtured in their careers by mentors achieve more than individuals with equal talent who have not had an advocate encouraging their success.

Mentors often combat the isolation and fragmentation experienced by teenagers who lack guidance from adult role-models. Mentors have been especially important for single mothers who need encouragement to aspire to professional growth and higher-paying jobs. In many instances, mentors help their proteges overcome persistent barriers in the workplace.

Through their workshop on October 21, the Montgomery County Task Force on Mentoring hopes to assist young people who need adult guidance in their lives. Information and materials will be available to organizations interested in developing mentor programs.

Mr. Speaker, it is a proud moment for me to applaud the task force for providing organizations in the Montgomery County community with the technical assistance and support services they need to promote mentoring. I