

TRIBUTE TO THE DEDICATION
CEREMONY OF IBEW'S NEWLY
REMODELED FACILITY

HON. DAVID E. BONIOR

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 1997

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, today the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers proudly dedicates their newly remodeled facility in Detroit, MI. Their building in Detroit is a proud symbol of their dedication to the growth and prosperity of the Greater Detroit metropolitan area and its citizens.

For the past 83 years, the IBEW has provided safe electrical installation and maintenance for those who live in southeastern Michigan. The union has a long and prosperous history of faithfully serving our workers, community, and country. During the war years, Local 58 joined the war effort to maintain industries needed to sustain our arsenal for defense. Many members joined the military and sacrificed their careers and lives to fight for their country.

Within the walls of Local 58's building, union leaders and members have joined together to protect democracy and the rights of workers. Their vision of safe working conditions, fair wages, and job protection began inside those walls. Over the years, contracts have been fought and settled by generations of dedicated union members.

The exterior of the building has been altered but on the inside the same dedication to the rights of the workers remains. I would like to congratulate Local 58 for their contributions to their profession, community, and country.

ICELANDIC FOREIGN MINISTER ON
NATO

HON. GERALD B.H. SOLOMON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 1997

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, I have just returned from a meeting of the heads of delegations to the North Atlantic Assembly in Reykjavik, Iceland, where Icelandic Foreign Minister Halldor Asgrimsson delivered a remarkable speech on the future of the North Atlantic Alliance.

I am inserting the text of the speech into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD and commend it to the attention of Members.

SPEECH BY HE HALLDOR ASGRIMSSON, MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND EXTERNAL TRADE—APRIL 5, 1997

Ladies and Gentlemen, it is a great pleasure to welcome representatives of the North Atlantic Assembly to Iceland. We are proud to be one of the founding members of NATO, an institution of unrivalled importance to Iceland, European and, most importantly, Trans-Atlantic security.

Through membership of NATO Iceland shares its fate with its allies. In fact, we like to think of Iceland's membership in NATO as the very embodiment of the Trans-Atlantic link.

To reinforce our security we have since 1951 had a bilateral defense agreement with the United States, pursuant to the North Atlantic Treaty. The defence of Iceland's sov-

ereignty has thereby been based on a credible US military presence and robust reinforcement plans. It is my strong belief that this agreement has been to the mutual benefit of both countries and served to increase allied security as a whole.

The post-cold war era has called for some adjustments in our bilateral defence co-operation as reflected by the changed security environment in Europe and the North Atlantic. This has been achieved by a special understanding, or "Agreed Minute" signed one year ago, which sets the force levels at Keflavik to the bare minimum of what we consider credible defences for this country.

The nature of the threat our Alliance is faced with has changed, but the risks are still there. Russia's Northern fleet is still a force to reckon with, and is of growing importance to Russia's overall military capability and its status as a major power.

I do not wish to issue any gloomy predictions as regards future developments in that great and important country and most sincerely hope to see Russia develop as a prosperous democracy with a strong and lasting partnership with the west. But we have to be aware of the fact that there is still a level of uncertainty about Russia's future course.

The NATO base at Keflavik offers an excellent infrastructure and operational capability to preserve the security functions needed in this part of the world.

The crucial element here is the continuation of one of the basic principles of our Alliance, the indivisibility of security for the member states. This principle becomes all the more important now when we are taking the first steps towards accepting new members.

Ladies and Gentlemen, we have today the opportunity of creating a Europe whole and free, a goal that eluded us for over forty years due to the post war division of Europe, and Cold War rivalry. The profound changes and transformation that started in 1989 continue. Fortunately these have, on the whole, been positive.

Still terrifying events have also occurred of scale and cruelty we thought belonged to Europe's past and the post-cold war era has brought new risks and challenges as well as new opportunities.

I believe there are several collective lessons that can be learned from the events since 1989. One is that peace is not to be taken for granted. Another is that despite overall progress, people in our part of the world are still capable of inflicting pain and suffering on fellow human beings. A third, and fundamental lesson, is that the North Atlantic Alliance and the Trans-Atlantic link remain the base of our collective security now that we take on new security challenges that threaten peace and stability in our region.

1997 will be a landmark year for our alliance. The current issues we commonly face are of profound importance for the emerging new European Security Architecture. These are the internal adaptation of NATO, the enlargement process, the extended outreach to our partners through PfP and the proposed Atlantic Partnership Council, and the strengthening of relations with Russia and Ukraine.

The internal adaptation process is by no means easy. It is important that throughout this transformation we do not lose sight of our primary objective of ensuring credible Allied defense, well into the next millennium. As the Alliance transforms itself, we should take care not to let national aspirations stand in the way of our mutual success.

We have seen the development of the Combined Joint Task Force concept that makes the Alliance better suited to take on new

missions like crisis management and conflict prevention. Also, the decision to build and reinforce a European Security and Defense Identity within the Alliance, and not separate from it, is a key factor in the current adaptation. One of the objectives of the current adaptation should be to have European allies properly engaged in the defense structure.

At the same time the Trans-Atlantic link and a strongly visible and credible American presence in Europe and the command structure needs to be maintained. Nothing should be done to undermine that. If we do that, we threaten the very foundation of our Alliance and our common security.

Another key task facing the Alliance is the preparation for new members. At the Summit in July, the decision on which countries to invite to the first post-cold war enlargement of NATO will be made. This will be the fourth time the alliance will enlarge since its foundation.

Since the start of the enlargement process, we have seen decisive action from many of our partners, who have expressed their interest in membership, to fulfill membership criteria. This in itself has had a very positive influence on European security. Many of the countries of Central and Eastern Europe have already concluded, or are about to conclude agreements with their neighbors settling previously unresolved disputes. In this way, NATO enlargement is already proving to be of benefit to European security as a whole.

Enlargement is important to erase the artificial division of Europe and to recognize, through concrete action, that free independent countries have the right to choose their own security arrangements. This right is clearly stated in the OSCE documents and has been confirmed as recently as at the OSCE Lisbon Summit last December. It would be totally unacceptable if certain countries were to be defined as not being eligible for NATO membership. In this context I would like to draw your attention to the case of the Baltic States and ask that their needs and aspirations receive your goodwill and attention.

After the end of the Cold War NATO has engaged in constructive dialogue and co-operation with its former adversaries. In 1991 this took on concrete form with the establishment of the North Atlantic Co-operation Council. In 1994 this co-operation and dialogue was brought to a new level with the initiation of the Partnership for Peace program.

PfP has proved to be one of the most effective security co-operation programs ever, and has brought together all the NATO allies and virtually every European country, regardless of past or present affiliations. The experiences gained through PfP have been vital to the success of the peace operation in Bosnia Herzegovina.

We should enhance PfP and further strengthen co-operation with our partners with the establishment of an Atlantic Partnership Council. This will be especially important in light of the Alliance's enlargement, since unfortunately, the Alliance will not be able to accommodate all countries aspiring for membership in the first round of post-Cold War enlargement.

Again, in this context we must make it crystal clear that the Alliance remains open, and that this first post Cold War enlargement will not be the last. Furthermore, we should ensure that countries that still see membership of NATO as their ultimate goal will be able to co-operate and adapt to the Alliance's mode of operation as far as possible through the enhanced PfP and APC.

As regards those countries that do not seek membership, the APC and enhanced PfP will

also provide an opportunity to work constructively with NATO to improve security and stability in Europe as a whole.

This year Iceland has the pleasure to host a robust Partnership for Peace exercise, "Cooperative Safeguard 97," the first exercise within the framework of PfP to be conducted in here in our country.

The scenario for Cooperative Safeguard 97, focusing on natural disaster relief, is extremely important to Iceland. The Icelandic nation has always been at the mercy of the forces of nature, be it earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, avalanches or cruel seas. The exercise gives the domestic agencies and organizations working in this field an excellent opportunity to test their strength in international co-operation. Furthermore it is my strong belief that all participating partnership states will benefit greatly from the type of civil and military co-operation which is the backbone of the exercise.

The importance of Cooperative Safeguard 97 is not confined to its value as a disaster relief exercise. It also has a great political significance as a practical manifestation of the intimate co-operation and friendly relationship that has developed between NATO and non-NATO countries through PfP. Twenty countries will participate. Russian participation in the exercise is especially significant.

Russia, and Ukraine, occupy a special place in Europe and in the outreach of the Alliance to non-members. An independent, democratic and stable Ukraine is in all our interests. Therefore the Alliance is in the process of developing an effective relationship with Ukraine. I hope this new security relationship will be formalized by the time of the Madrid summit.

Our relations with Russia are at the same time going through a rapid transformation. We realize and recognize Russia's difficulty in appreciating Nato's enlargement, but frankly it is not for Russia to decide, veto, or prevent.

We have collectively been working hard to explain to the Russians that enlargement is not directed against the security interests of any country and the Alliance has always been and will continue to be defensive in nature; the Alliance has never had any territorial aspirations. NATO enlargement will happen not because the Alliance wants to expand, but because the countries of Central and Eastern Europe are exercising their sovereign right to choose their own security arrangements.

However, a constructive participation of Russia in European security is of fundamental importance. That is why we must intensify and formalize our relations with Russia through a special charter or agreement. It is very important that our Secretary General has had the full support of all allies in carrying out these discussions and I hope they will soon come to a fruitful conclusion that will be of benefit to the security of NATO, Russia and Europe as a whole.

The goal is to establish far-reaching consultative mechanisms and opportunities for extended co-operation, and even joint action, between Russia and the Alliance. The Alliances' co-operation with Russia in IFOR and SFOR has proved that facing practical problems, NATO and Russia can work together effectively and efficiently for the benefit of European security.

Ladies and Gentleman, I have briefly discussed Iceland and NATO, and some of the most important tasks facing our Alliance in the immediate future. In less than eight years we have witnessed European security changing from confrontation to co-operation, from hostility to partnership. This is however no time for complacency. We need to continuously move forward and stay alert,

otherwise we risk losing what we have already gained. That is why the North Atlantic Alliance will continue to be important, relevant and necessary to ensure that peace and stability will prevail, for current and future generations.

Finally, our Alliance is based on freedom and respect for democratic principles. Iceland has the oldest parliament in the world, founded almost twelve hundred years ago. We attach great importance to the role of parliament and parliamentarians in preserving and enhancing democracy in our country. Likewise, the importance of democratic principles is reflected in your valuable work in the different parliaments of Alliance member states. As we enlarge our Alliance to include the new democracies to our east, we will contribute to the strengthening of freedom and democratic development which is the key to prosperity and progress. Likewise it is of utmost importance that the new democracies themselves make every effort to strengthen the democratic process within as well as respect for those principles through their actions. Strong and viable democratic development is fundamental to European security and stability, and of course the enlargement of NATO.

A TRIBUTE TO THE ROTARY CLUB OF MUGELLO, ITALY, ON THE OCCASION OF ITS 20TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. THOMAS M. FOGLIETTA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 1997

Mr. FOGLIETTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the members of the Rotary Club of Mugello, Italy, who have provided civic and humanitarian services to their community for the past 20 years.

Established in 1977 in the town of Mugello, nestled in the beautiful hills of Tuscany, the club claims as members some of the most prominent business and professional leaders of the Tuscany region. They include: physicians, dentists, architects, engineers, clothing designers, manufacturers, publishers, government officials, cattle ranchers, and businessmen.

The club has strong ties to the city of Philadelphia through Circuit Judge Joseph Bruno and his wife, Kathy. It has also established a twin-club relationship with a Rotary Club in Philadelphia, as well as with clubs in France and Greece. Among its other activities through Rotary International, the Rotary Club of Mugello has established scholarship funds for Italian students to study at graduate schools here in the United States.

The Rotary Club of Mugello, under the leadership of its president, Paolo Collini and its incoming president, Alvaro Baglioni, will soon celebrate 20 years of "Service Above Self," which is the motto of Rotary International and which is particularly fitting in the case of the Mugello Rotarians. In light of their 20 years of service to the community and their continued efforts at international outreach, I ask that my colleagues join me today in honoring the Rotary Club of Mugello, Italy.

TRIBUTE TO GASPER MAGARIAN

HON. GEORGE P. RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 1997

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Gasper Magarian. Mr. Magarian, a Fresno, CA attorney, has the distinction of being the oldest practicing attorney in the State of California.

As noted in a recent article from the Armenian General Benevolent Union magazine [AGBU], Magarian's family—like many other Armenian families in Fresno—arrived in America 100 years ago. His family immigrated to Massachusetts to escape the atrocities suffered under Ottoman Turkish persecution. Magarian was born in Billerica, MA, and moved to Fresno in 1904 with his parents. His brothers and sisters were all born after the family moved to Fresno.

His brothers and sisters range in age from 85–94 years old. Magarian, the oldest brother at age 97, is the only sibling still practicing in his current profession. He has voluntarily cut back on the amount of hours that he practices at the law firm of Heyman, Krikorian and Magarian, located in downtown Fresno. The Magarian name on the firm is that of his grandson Mark, but his 62-year-old son Donald—and Magarian himself—later joined in on the firm's ventures. Grandson Mark Magarian calls his grandfather, Gasper, "one of our most valuable assets." Others in the firm speak to the advantage to having someone around with 70 years of legal experience.

Magarian remarks that life for lawyers has changed since his earlier days. Magarian graduated from a local Fresno high school and attended Stanford University in 1919. At the time, there was no tuition at Stanford and incidental fees totaled about \$60. Magarian finished law school and was admitted to the California State Bar in 1926. He began to work for a San Francisco law firm, but eventually moved back to Fresno in 1934.

In the first 50 years of his practice, Magarian handled issues ranging from bankruptcy, divorce, land transfers, and criminal cases. Magarian also handled a varied workload of paid cases, while maintaining a pro bono caseload for the middle class and the poor. Throughout his career he has also maintained a close relationship with the Armenian community.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to have Mr. Magarian practicing law in the 19th congressional district. His love for the legal profession and his perspective on life is both refreshing and inspirational. I congratulate him on his lifetime of accomplishments and ask my colleagues to join me in wishing him every success on his future endeavors.

EXTENDING STRUCTURED SETTLEMENT RULES TO WORKERS COMPENSATION

HON. JIM RAMSTAD

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 1997

Mr. RAMSTAD. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join today with Mr. SHAW and Mr. STARK