

China the former Navy base at Long Beach, and the unseemly help by the Clinton administration in facilitating the deal.

[From the Washington Times]

SOLOMON: IS COSCO "STRATEGIC THREAT?"
LONG BEACH DEAL TRIGGERS CONCERN
(By Rowan Scarborough)

A senior House Republican yesterday asked Navy Secretary John H. Dalton to report whether the Chinese Ocean Shipping Co. (Cosco) represents a "global tactical or strategic threat" to the Navy.

The effort by Rep. Gerald B.H. Solomon, chairman of the House Rules Committee, to force the Navy to make an assessment is the latest development in a campaign to block Cosco from taking over the abandoned Long Beach Naval Station in California.

"In order to understand the magnitude of the growing threat of the PRC [People's Republic of China], I would like you to state the U.S. Navy's position on [Cosco]," Mr. Solomon, New York Republican, wrote in a one-page letter to Mr. Dalton.

"Considering their potential world-wide information gathering capabilities, a history as the delivery system of weapons of mass destruction to terrorist countries and the size of this fleet under direct control of the communist regime—does Cosco pose a potential global tactical or strategic threat against the U.S. Navy?"

The Solomon letter represents a more specific question for the Navy. Before, congressional inquiries have centered on whether Cosco at Long Beach would be a regional threat. The congressman wants to know if Cosco, and its 600-ship fleet, poses a danger to the Navy itself.

Mr. Solomon was one of the first in Congress to speak out against the Chinese-Long Beach connection.

"This is almost a caricature of Lenin's prediction that the West will hand the rope to its Communist executioners," he said March 10. "The Clinton administration seems to be going out of its way to help the most serious threat to American security, the so-called People's Republic of China."

Cosco plans to lease 144 acres to operate a large container terminal, giving Beijing an important beach-head in making Cosco one of the world's largest carriers.

Lawmakers in recent weeks have emerged from closed-door intelligence briefings with conflicting interpretations.

Conservatives who oppose the deal say the intelligence shows Cosco is a tool of the Chinese People's Liberation Army, trafficking in weapons of mass destruction to known terrorist states such as Iran.

But local Long Beach legislators say the briefings show Cosco is not a threat.

President Clinton personally backed the city of Long Beach's overture to Cosco, after a commission had targeted the station for closure as part of armed forces downsizing.

The negotiations occurred at a time China is suspected of funneling millions of dollars in illegal campaign contributions into the United States in a government-sponsored operation to influence the 1996 election.

Some Republicans wonder if there is a connection between Cosco's expansion plans and the Democratic fund-raising scandal.

Reps. Duncan Hunter and Randy "Duke" Cunningham, both California Republicans, want to stop the Cosco-Long Beach marriage through legislation attached to the 1998 defense authorization bill. The House National Security Committee is schedule to write the bill next month.

However, the Cosco transaction may die before the Navy officially transfers the property to the city's Harbor Commission.

A coalition of conservationists and history buffs have filed suit to stop the project,

which calls for leveling every naval station building.

A judge in Los Angeles has ordered the city to terminate the Cosco lease and re-evaluate the plan's environmental impact.

The New York Times reported yesterday that Clinton appointee, Dorothy Robyn, in November urged the preservationists to abandon their effort to save any buildings.

Miss Robyn, who serves on the National Economic Council, told the paper she made the calls as a favor to Long Beach's mayor. She said she had no contacts with Cosco officials.

Meanwhile, Sen. John McCain, Arizona Republican, has asked the Federal Maritime Commission to report whether Cosco is guilty of predatory pricing.

NATIONAL PEACE OFFICERS MEMORIAL DAY

HON. THOMAS W. EWING

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 20, 1997

Mr. EWING. Mr. Speaker, on May 15, 1997, hundreds of law enforcement officers from across the country came together at the U.S. Capitol to honor slain law enforcement officers on Peace Officers Memorial Day.

Last Thursday we paused to pay tribute to those who have lost their lives in service to the Nation as law enforcement officers. One hundred and fifteen officers were killed 1996. Among these fallen heroes was a 26-year-old officer from the 15th Congressional District of Illinois.

On October 17, 1996, Officer Anthony Samfay of the Kankakee Police Department was shot and killed while conducting a routine traffic stop on a vehicle at Fair and Greenwood Avenue in Kankakee.

Officer Samfay said the only job he ever wanted was to be a police officer. It is with much honor that I pay my respect to Officer Samfay, his mother, the other fallen heroes, and all law enforcement officers who put their lives on the line every day to help protect and serve America.

MEMORIAL DAY

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 20, 1997

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in tribute, to the millions of men and women who have served this Nation in its Armed Forces. Call it by any name you wish, Remembrance Day, Decoration Day, Memorial Day. It is a time when this country recounts the price for the liberty and freedom it enjoys today. That cost was paid for in the numerous lives and countless sacrifices given to it, by the servicemen and women of this country. The courage and devotion they expressed are the finest example by which all Americans must measure themselves. It is their sense of responsibility and duty that has tied them to all the generations of Americans, past and present, who have answered their country's call to service.

Who are these extraordinary people who have made such a difference in our lives? they are not the sons and daughters of kings

or emperors but the hard working farm boys of the heartland, who sat in the muddy trenches of Europe in World War I. They are the former store clerks and factory workers who understood the crushing siege of Bastogne in World War II. They are the courageous men and women who fought to stem the tide of communism along the 38th parallel in Korea. They are the devoted servicemen and women who fought in the steamy jungles and rice paddies of Vietnam. In our own decade they have been our own sons and daughters and in some circumstances our grandchildren who marched off to the desert to liberate the country of Kuwait.

How does one thank these men and women who have suffered so much that many could live in freedom? Mr. Speaker the debt of gratitude we owe is immeasurable. These men and women, whose deeds and stories are countless, are the reason why this country has been able to remain a shining example of freedom and democracy for the world. To merely say thank you is not enough. This country's continued support for its veterans must be a priority. The words of the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, Jesse Brown, ring strongly: "I believe a Nation is judged by the way it treats its Veterans." It is this thought that we must bear in mind when issues arise in the Congress that may impact the veterans of this country.

To ignore these issues is to do our veterans and their families a great disservice. Their sacrifice and commitment must be equally reflected in our effort to pay a debt that can never be monetarily repaid. Mr. Speaker, what price can you put on the life of a citizen who is willing to pay the ultimate sacrifice for his or her country in a time of war or national peril?

It is fitting that on this occasion we reaffirm our support and gratitude to this special group of Americans whose devotion to duty was expressed in the highest manner. By their willingness to lay down their life for this Nation, they have assured the security and future for generation of Americans to come.

Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure and honor to express my deep and heartfelt gratitude for the service of America's veterans. Call this day by what ever name you choose, it is a memorial to all the generations of men and women who have served this Nation and upheld its finest traditions of liberty and democracy. God bless our veterans.

HONORING THE BELLAIRE LIONS CLUB ON THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THEIR CHARTER

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 20, 1997

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Bellaire Lions Club which will be celebrating the 50th anniversary of their charter on May 21, 1997.

The Bellaire Lions Club was chartered in district 13-G on May 21, 1947, with 24 original members. The district's motto is "Positive growth through teamwork," and the club is asked "to encourage service-minded men and women to serve their community." The Lions Club in Bellaire, OH, has exemplified this motto through 50 years of support and service