

drug dealers and even physically attacked, Bishop Garmendia has not wavered in his commitment to serve his God and his community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Bishop Francisco Garmendia for his selfless devotion to the Church and the Hispanic community of New York. In a time when service often goes unappreciated, we should recognize great servants like Bishop Garmendia and encourage them to continue in their courageous efforts.

#### THE CHALLENGE IN THE CONGO

**HON. LEE H. HAMILTON**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 3, 1997*

Mr. HAMILTON. Mr. Speaker, I would like to bring to my colleagues' attention my monthly newsletter on foreign affairs from May 1997 entitled *The Challenge in the Congo*.

I ask that this newsletter be printed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

The newsletter follows:

#### THE CHALLENGE IN CONGO

This is an important and dangerous time for Congo and all of central Africa. The victory by rebel forces creates both an opportunity and risk. With Africa's third largest population (46 million) and vast mineral wealth, Congo (formerly Zaire) could become an economic powerhouse for all of central Africa. Its natural bounty, however, was ravaged by the corrupt rule of President Mobutu. For years Congo has been virtually without a government. If its new leaders turn out to be little better, Congo could descend into violent conflict and even fragmentation. Given the stakes, U.S. policy should make an intensive effort to steer it toward stability, free markets, and democracy.

Roots of revolution. The successful revolution against Mobutu has its roots in the remote eastern Zaire. Rebel leader Laurent Kabila, though not a Tutsi himself, led the alliance there against Mobutu and Hutu militants from Rwanda, both of whom were oppressing Tutsis. Surprising everyone, Kabila's forces swept across Zaire in seven months, and toppled Mobutu on May 17. But Kabila did not capture the country alone. Rwanda, Uganda, and Angola gave him significant help to avenge Mobutu's meddling in their own politics.

Kabila untested. Many questions remain about President Kabila and his government. His forces are suspected of killing thousands of refugees. He has espoused Marxism in the past, yet we know little about his present intentions. In his rhetoric he supports markets and democracy, but it will be some time before we can see whether he has fulfilled his promises. He has disbanded parliament, dismantled the constitution, and banned political activity outside his movement, which he has declared the national authority.

The challenge before Kabila is formidable. Mobutu virtually destroyed the country and its society. Kabila's task is to remake both. The population must be prepared for democracy, and the country's economy rebuilt. Kabila must keep the disparate elements of his alliance together, reach out to include all elements of the population, and promote autonomy to prevent Congo from fragmenting.

U.S. interests in Congo. Though we do not have security interests in Congo, the U.S. has a significant stake there. First, Zaire has large deposits of diamonds, gold, cobalt,

and copper, and U.S. firms stand to gain from investment in a stable Congo. Second, a successful transformation in Congo could spark growth and better the lives of people throughout central Africa. Third, if Congo were to collapse, the suffering would be great. The U.S. could become involved in costly humanitarian relief or even military intervention. We should not ignore Congo, as we have in the recent past, lest the country cascade into chaos.

Our policy toward Congo should be part of an overall post-Cold War approach to Africa, working toward civilian, democratically-elected governments, and market reforms. It is in U.S. interests to see a secure Congo at peace with itself and its neighbors, moving toward democracy and meeting the basic needs of its people. We want a stable government based on fiscal discipline, an open economy without corruption, and respect for human rights.

Next steps for U.S. We have leverage with the Kabila government, and we should use it to further these interests. First, as a show of goodwill, we should extend a helping hand. We should come forward with some modest transitional aid, and offer a larger package if Congo meets conditions related to economic reform and good governance.

Second, we should continue to press Kabila to form a broad-based, inclusive, and honest transitional government. Representatives of anti-Mobutu opposition groups, church and civic groups should be invited to serve. The U.S. should also stress transparency and accountability in government: after the Mobutu years, people will want to know where funds are going. Security concerns are paramount for Kabila right now, but it is also important that he honor his pledge to hold elections within two years.

Third, the U.S. should help the UN and relief organizations gain access to refugees in Congo, many of whom are in dire need of humanitarian assistance. The U.S. must oppose any attempts to persecute refugees and should continue to press Kabila to grant access to the UN to conduct an objective accounting of reported killings of refugees during the war.

Fourth, the U.S. should urge Congo's neighbors who intervened in the war to help Congo now find the right path. Rwanda, Uganda, and Angola have significant weight with the new regime. These nations should not pursue only their narrow security interests, but should encourage Kabila to pursue reconciliation and an inclusive government.

Finally, the U.S. should encourage the World Bank and the IMF to move into Congo as soon as the Kabila government meets conditions to gain access to their funds. They have far greater resources and expertise than the U.S. or any other single donor. There must be no room for squabbling in the international community, and actions must be coordinated. The new regime is short on economic expertise, and will need outside help in setting sound economic policies. Rebuilding Congo's infrastructure and demobilizing troops are important tasks the new government faces.

Conclusion. One must admire the people of Congo. They have endured great hardship and shown resilience and courage. Now Congo is poised to move from the Mobutu years to a better future for its citizens, and the U.S. has significant interests in this transformation. For the United States, the question is whether we have the will, interest, and patience to pursue and sustain our policy. There are difficult demands ahead, and the U.S. should help Congo become a success in the heart of Africa.

THE LEGACY OF THE MARSHALL PLAN: PRESIDENT BILL CLINTON'S ADDRESS AT THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MARSHALL PLAN

**HON. TOM LANTOS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 3, 1997*

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, this past week the United States and the countries of Western Europe marked the 50th anniversary of the June 5, 1947, Commencement Address at Harvard University by then Secretary of State George C. Marshall in which the idea of the Marshall Plan are first publicly discussed.

That important anniversary was commemorated last week at a special celebration in the Hall of Knights in the Binnenhof in The Hague, the capitol of The Netherlands. Attending the festive occasion were the heads of state and government of the countries of the European Union and other distinguished European leaders.

Mr. Speaker, just a few days ago, this House considered and adopted a resolution which I introduced with the cosponsorship of a number of my colleagues, House Concurrent Resolution 63, recommitting the United States to the principles of the Marshall Plan. Mr. Speaker, that resolution recognizes the wisdom and insight of Secretary Marshall's address and of the policy that resulted from it, and it recommitments the United States to the wise policy first enunciated 50 years ago. I appreciate the wisdom of the House in rededicating our Nation to those principles.

Mr. Speaker, representing the United States for this commemoration was our President, Bill Clinton. His remarks at the celebration represent the best of American statesmanship—recognizing the importance of our country's contribution to European recovery 50 years ago, the importance of European unification initiated under the Marshall Plan and continuing today through the European Union, and the importance for democracy of the enduring links that were forged between the United States and the countries of Western Europe by our joint struggle in World War II, through the cooperation of the Marshall Plan, and our long struggle in the Cold War.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that President Clinton's remarks be placed in the RECORD, and I urge my colleagues to give them thoughtful attention. The Marshall Plan was truly one of the great milestones of American diplomacy, and the President's remarks in Holland place that great act of statesmanship in a fitting context.

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT AT COMMEMORATIVE EVENT FOR THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MARSHALL PLAN

President CLINTON. Thank you very much, Mr. Sedee, for sharing your wonderful story. I forgive you for stealing the matchbook from the White House. (Laughter.) In fact, just before we came in, I confess that I had heard did such a thing, so without theft, I brought him some cufflinks and some Oval Office candy for his grandchildren today. (Laughter.)

Your Majesty, Prime Minister, fellow heads of state and leaders of government, ministers parliamentarian, members of Congress, to the youth leaders from Europe and America, to all of you who had anything to do with or were ever touched by the Marshall