

The presence of the American Peace Corps volunteers in Fiji has made us in Fiji more aware of the importance of giving something back to society rather than expecting something from society. The fact that the volunteers have come from afar to give of themselves to a society they owe nothing to have made us realize that we are all a part of a global village. Thank you, Peace Corps, for that valuable lesson in the giving of oneself for the advancement of peace in this global community.

We, the people of Fiji, cannot be disheartened by this departure, for were it simply a matter of choice, we the people and the government of Fiji, would always prefer to maintain our personal and close relationship with the Peace Corps. We also sincerely believe that if it weren't for existing circumstances, this longing would be reciprocated by the government and people of the United States of America.

Then she concludes:

To all those Peace Corps volunteers presently serving or who have graced our tropical islands in the past, words simply cannot express the gratitude our people and government would like to extend to you all, especially your having given up a specific time in your lives to spend with us. In retrospect, I can only try and fathom the sense of your leaving behind your land of skyscrapers, freeways and mega-entertainment to come down to a country such as ours with its basic facilities, unfamiliarity, food and inclement weather.

Nevertheless, I can only be grateful for your courage and service towards humanity, for in your caring and hope for a more humane world, you have been great ambassadors of your great nation.

Mr. Speaker, I include for the RECORD the entire statement of the Deputy Prime Minister, and once again congratulate the Peace Corps, congratulate the volunteers who served, and congratulate our country for having the foresight, and a former President, President Kennedy, for establishing the Peace Corps.

The remarks of the Honorable Taufu Vakatale are as follows:

Honorable Christopher Shays, Peace Corps Director Mark Gearan, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen: It is with great pleasure that I welcome you all here tonight on behalf of the government and people of Fiji to farewell from our shores of the United States Peace Corps. Pleasure, of course, not in the Corps' departure, but in your attendance here tonight to share in this rather small gesture of appreciation towards the endurance, grace, self-sacrifice, and unwavering determination the young women and men of the Peace Corps volunteers, brought with them to our islands, and have shared with us over the last 30 years.

The contribution of the Peace Corps towards the socio-economic development of the country, among others in the immediate region, does not need any elaboration other than the fact that the cross-cultural exchanges since have further enriched our already diverse society. When the Peace Corps volunteers first came to Fiji, they were used mainly in teaching in the rural areas. The majority went out to remote rural primacy schools where they lived in thatched bures with no electricity, piped water and other basic facilities. They mingled with the villagers and spoke the language, are the local food and generally participated in all the communal activities such as fish-drives, Mekes, church services, etc.

The Peace Corps volunteers gave the local people a new insight into the English lan-

guage, with the variety of accents, pronunciations and spelling; they gave a new perception of what the white people or Europeans are really like. We learned that they are down-to-earth ordinary people—not a class above locals.

Many Peace Corps volunteers, over the years, have taken part in ceremonial Mekes, one performed with the people of Cakaudrove for Queen Elizabeth II's visit in the early 70's. One notable Peace Corps volunteer was renowned for making wine from local fruit, another helped to establish a museum collection of local artifacts, etc. in a school. Another volunteer who was a teacher in an outlying island helped the islanders to develop a cheap and effective Copra drier. Yet another, Alipate of Koro, turned to music and sang many Fijian songs which have been taped and sold locally. I could go on and on, but suffice it say that they have endeared themselves to the people of Fiji.

While Peace Corps volunteers have given their services in all areas of government, let me just highlight the Corps' contribution to education. In the early days the volunteers were posted to rural schools to help in the teaching of English and Math. We soon found, however, that we were wasting valuable resources and that this was not how we could use them efficiently. Hence they were posted to secondary schools to upgrade and assist in the teaching of math and science and at one stage, in the teaching of economics and accounting. We have not yet produced enough local teachers to replace the volunteers who were especially good in physics, chemistry and math, and my Ministry will certainly feel the gap left by the volunteers when they leave.

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The departure of the Peace Corps exemplifies one of the significant developments now taking place in our global community and which we developing countries will have to address immediately and effectively. That of diminishing assistance from developed countries in the North due to a general shift in foreign policy following the end of the Cold War and as their respective citizens demand improved public services neglected or overlooked prior to 1991.

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To all those Peace Corps Volunteers presently serving or who have graced our tropical islands in the past, words simply cannot express the gratitude our people and government would like to extend to you all, especially your having given up a specific time in your lives to spend here with us. In retrospect, I can only try and fathom the sense of your leaving behind your land of skyscraper, freeway and mega-entertainment to come down to a country such as ours with its basic facilities, unfamiliarities, food and inclement weather.

Nevertheless, I can only be grateful for your courage and service towards humanity,

for in your caring and hope for a more humane world you have been great ambassadors of your great nation. Your contribution to our nation is substantial and is gratefully acknowledged. In appreciation of your 30 years of dedication and devotion toward the progress of our nation let me say, "Vinaka Vakalevu."

The words of Dr. Albert Schweitzer come to mind as I try to find words to thank the American Peace Corps volunteers: "I do not know what your destinies will be. But I know that those amongst you who will be the happiest are those who will have sought and found how to serve."

I know you have come to Fiji to be of service and you have found how to give that service effectively to Fiji. It is thus my hope and the hope of the people and government of Fiji that you have been happy.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 856, UNITED STATES-PUERTO RICO POLITICAL STATUS ACT

Mr. SOLOMON (during the special order of Mr. SHAYS), from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 105-426) on the resolution (H. Res. 376) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 856) to provide a process leading to full self-government for Puerto Rico, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

APPOINTMENT AS PARTICIPANTS TO THE NATIONAL SUMMIT ON RETIREMENT SAVINGS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, and pursuant to the provisions of section 517(e)(3) of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (29 U.S.C. 1131), the Chair announces the Speaker's appointment of the following participants on the part of the House to the National Summit on Retirement Savings.

Without objection, the names of participants will appear in the RECORD.

There was no objection.
Ms. Meredith Bagby, NY
Mr. James E. Bayne, TX
Mr. Carroll A. Campbell, Jr., SC
Ms. Joyce Campbell, Washington, D.C.

Ms. Hilda Cannon, GA
Mr. Christopher W. Clement, AZ
Mr. Benjamin Tanner Domenech, VA
Mr. Clinton A. Demetriou, GA
Mr. Pete du Pont, DE
Mr. Adam Dubitsky, Washington, D.C.

Ms. Lynn D. Dudley, Washington, D.C.

Mr. Ric Edelman, VA
Mr. John N. Erlenborn, MD
Ms. Shannon Evans, NV
Mr. Harris W. Fawell, IL
Mr. Peter J. Ferrara, VA
Mr. Ray Gaydos, Washington, D.C.

Mr. Craig Gholston, TX
Mr. Arthur Glatfelter, PA
Mr. Dylan Glenn, GA
Mr. James T. Gordon, GA
Mr. Brian H. Graff, VA
Mr. Matthew Greenwald, Washington, D.C.