

National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA) that was declared in Executive Order 12865 of September 26, 1993.

GEORGE W. BUSH.
THE WHITE HOUSE, March 27, 2001.

HOUR OF MEETING ON
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 28, 2001

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 9 a.m. tomorrow, Wednesday, March 28, 2001.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Florida?

There was no objection.

CONGRATULATIONS TO CO-FOUNDERS OF "WOMEN OF TOMORROW"

(Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Madam Speaker, I congratulate news anchor Jennifer Valoppi and Don Brown, president and general manager of NBC 6, for outreaching to at-risk young women who choose to further their educational goals.

With the sponsorship of NBC 6, Jennifer and Don cofounded Women of Tomorrow, a mentoring and scholarship program for high-school-aged girls. The women of Tomorrow mentoring program currently operates in 17 schools in South Florida, and by January of next year, the program is expected to operate in every public high school in Miami, Dade and Broward Counties.

This year the program will award several academic scholarships as well as scholarships for books and supplies for low-income, at-risk girls.

I applaud the devotion of mentors Marita Srebnick, State Attorney Kathy Fernandez-Rundle, Judge Judy Kreeger, Attorney Sherry Williams, and the many prominent women of South Florida who dedicate their time to help mold today's young girls into tomorrow's leaders.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating Jennifer, Don, and NBC 6, and, indeed, all of the women of tomorrow for contributing to the promise of our future and for leaving a lasting legacy that is sure to benefit all of society.

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SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. BIGGERT). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2001, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentle-

woman from California (Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. BILIRAKIS addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

CONGRATULATING BANGLADESH ON ITS 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF INDEPENDENCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, I come to the House floor tonight to celebrate the anniversary of the struggle the Bengalis went through to become an independent nation 30 years ago on March 26, 1971.

I visited Bangladesh a year ago with President Clinton at this time and was impressed with the progress that the country has made. The people and the government received us very warmly as we visited the capital Dhaka and the surrounding cities.

Madam Speaker, the independence of Bangladesh was hard fought. In 1970, a strong opposition within the masses arose in east Pakistan against the injustices and discrimination levied on the Bengali people. In the early spring of 1971, Pakistani forces moved in and ruthlessly tried to suppress the uprising with death squads and indiscriminate killings. Indira Gandhi, the prime minister of India, became very vocal in her opposition to Pakistani oppression and in 1971 the Indian army was sent in to help the Bengali fighters.

In 12 days' time, the Bengali liberation force, with the help of the Indian army, drove the Pakistani forces out of the region and Bangladesh was born. I salute the brave Bangla fighters, as well as the soldiers of the Indian Army who stood firm together to help the dream of a free Bengal nation become a reality.

Madam Speaker, U.S./Bangla relations have been developing positively since Bangladesh's declaration of a free republic in 1972. Current U.S./Bangla relations are excellent as demonstrated in several visits to Washington by the Bangladeshi premiers over the last 20 years.

In 1995, First Lady Hillary Clinton visited Bangladesh. The current prime minister of Bangladesh, Ms. Sheikh Hasina, also visited the United States in 1996 and 1997.

Relations between Bangladesh and the United States have further strengthened since the participation of Bangla troops in the 1991 Gulf War Coa-

lition. The Bangladeshi soldiers also served jointly with the 1994 multinational force in Haiti.

The current government of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, elected in June 1996, has indicated that it will continue along the path of privatization and open market reforms but progress has been slow.

In the government's first year, real GDP growth of 5.7 percent and inflation of 2.6 percent were the best figures in the 1990s. We must collaborate in many ways with Bangladesh and continue our aid package to Bangladesh, and I want to congratulate my colleague, the gentleman from New York (Mr. CROWLEY) for starting the Bangladeshi caucus.

I have joined the same and hope to work with him for Bengali issues.

Under Madam Hasina, Bangladesh pursues a positive foreign policy based on friendship with all and malice towards none. While relations between the United States and Bangladesh are good, clearly there is ample room for improvement. One such area I believe U.S./Bangla relations can be improved is trade.

Madam Speaker, I would like to draw your attention to the African-Caribbean trade initiative that was introduced last year. The initiative gives only textile industries in Africa and the Caribbean duty free access to U.S. markets. A stark reality has to be understood that presently Bangladesh derives 76 percent of its foreign reserves from these exports. Taking this market away, most of which is the U.S. market, would deal a very heavy blow to the democracy of Bangladesh as it struggles to improve the conditions of its people.

Another important area where we can help, and I think my colleague, the gentleman from New York (Mr. CROWLEY) again has drawn attention to this, is the arsenic poisoning occurring in the drinking water wells in the Nawab Ganj district in Bangladesh. In the early 1970s, UNICEF, in an attempt to bring clean drinking water to the Bengali people, dug two wells to access shallow water ducts. At that time, arsenic testing was not conducted and arsenic's inherent slow-working poisonous effects were not recognized.

I ask my colleagues to urge the current administration to work on a long lasting solution for this problem affecting a great number of Bangladeshis.

Madam Speaker, on this historic occasion of Bangladesh's 30th anniversary of independence, we must show our sincere appreciation for all that Bangladesh is doing to improve itself and express solidarity with its democratic principles of governments in progress. I ask my fellow colleagues to join me in celebrating this occasion in wishing Bangladesh the very best of success in the years to come.