

Reaffirming further our support for the implementation of the Convention of the Rights of the Child;

Pleased that the WVF is a part of the Coalition Against the Use of Child Soldiers;

AVC also supports the Coalition Against the Use of Child Soldiers and the findings of the Report 'Impact Of Armed Conflict On Children.' AVC also (a) urges upon the international community to offer special care and protection of refugee and internally placed children and (b) further urges international support for the findings of the Report, including calling upon governments to prevent the recruitment and demobilization of children under the age of 18.

#### VI. BAN ON "ANTI-PERSONNEL" MINES

Noting that the US used the phrase "global humanitarian tragedy caused by the indiscriminate use of anti-personnel mines"

Reviewing the long-standing position of AVC in support of the total ban of land mines, or anti-personnel mines;

Noting at the same time that generals of the US Armed Forces established that land mines hurt the US more than they helped our Armed Forces;

Continuing to observe that around the world children and women and other civilians have sustained injuries and even death from land mines;

AVC continues respectfully to urge the President of the United States to adopt a strong position with the goal of eliminating land mines, or anti-personnel mines, from our global life.

#### VII. WORLD VETERANS FEDERATION—A HALF CENTURY OF AVC SUPPORT

Reviewing with gratification the more than half century history of the WVF and the founding membership of AVC in WVF in 1950 as well as the continuing AVC membership now in 2001;

Reviewing also the long and consistent programs and work of WVF in behalf of veterans as well as those who have suffered on account of war—the WVF program always including support of the UN;

Recalling the guidance of WVF by the CREDO created by the late UN Undersecretary General Ralph J. Bunche . . . the Credo having the celebrated phrase "None can speak more eloquently for peace than those who have fought in war";

Noting that WVF has consistently brought veterans from all over the world to its General Assemblies, Council meetings, and such special meetings as the the 1990 Conference on the Mediterranean held in Malta, and observing that WVF has celebrated its 23rd General Assembly (Paris 2000);

Taking pride in the fifty-year leadership of WVF Presidents and Secretaries General;

The American Veterans Committee continues to support without reservation the World Veterans Federation and looks forward to continuing membership and contribution to WVF programs.

#### VIII. THE SOUTHEAST BALKIN STATES

Having goals of peace, security, and development in the Balkans and well aware that what was once Yugoslavia is now Yugoslavia/Serbia (including Montenegro), Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia, Macedonia, and Slovenia and further recognizing that this European sub-region also includes such nations states as Albania, Bulgaria, Hungary, Romania, and Turkey;

Noting with appreciation that the World Veterans Federation (WVF) brought together its member organizations (International Conference, Luxembourg, 5-7 May 1996) to arrive at "principles to be followed and measures to be taken" for attainment of those goals . . . and that the Luxembourg International Conference carefully took into ac-

count the position adopted in Dayton (Ohio/USA) with respect to Bosnia-Herzegovina;

Aware that peoples of different ethnic, religious, and historical background do have differences, sometimes substantial almost insurmountable differences;

Noting further that the Stability Pact includes a "Coordinator," a citizen of a nation not among those of the Eastern Balkans;

Supporting the Stability Pact and the elections of a democratic state and urging the peoples to support the results of the elections wherever in the Balkan States;

Also supporting the position that individuals accused of "war crimes or crimes against humanity" must be brought before the appropriate court;

Believing with respect to the totality of the Balkan States that "recognition by every State in the region of all the other States in the region and renunciation of all forms of nationalism leading to the notion of 'greater State,' ethnocentrism, xenophobia, and intolerance toward minorities";

Continuing to respect the final act of Helsinki, which emphasizes the security and cooperation in Europe;

The American Veterans Committee continues to adopt the position that mediation and discussion, together with (a) peace-keeping, economic, and infrastructural support from NATO and the UN, including in both instances the US, and (b) vital governing provisions of Bosnia-Herzegovina and other Balkan States will lead to a state of multi-ethnic, multi-culture, and multi-denomination with full respect for the rights of all the people concerned.

#### IX. ISRAEL AND THE MIDDLE EAST

Applauding in the early days of AVC the establishment of the nation of Israel;

Supporting the leadership of President Jimmy Carter in bringing together Prime Minister Menachem Begin of Israel and Egypt's leader Anwar Sadat;

Noting with satisfaction the further movement toward conciliation, reconciliation, and peace formulated by Palestinian Authority and the present and immediate past Prime Ministers of Israel;

Urging the leaders of Israel and Palestine today to continue using mediation in arriving at agreements, including an agreement with respect to East Jerusalem;

AVC continues to support the right of Israel to peace and economic and sociocultural development and the use of the instruments of discussion and mediation in the consideration of all elements and aspects of difference and conflict between Israel and its neighboring peoples and nations—whether they be Palestine, Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, or any other nation state, AVC in supporting the above stated development in Israel in no way implies that it does not support similar development of Palestine as well as all other nations as they too seek peace and improvement of the quality of life for their peoples.

#### X. CUBA

Observing that Fidel Castro has been in power in Cuba for more than forty years and that all efforts to remove him and change his regime have been and continue to be futile;

Recalling that the US has resumed relations with Germany, Japan, and Vietnam after devastating wars and relations with Russia subsequent to the Cold War;

Believing that the Helms-Burton Act has not been and will not be effective in achieving its stated goal(s), and judging further that this Act of Congress has only created conflict between us and our close allies;

AVC believes that the US appropriate to the present times should establish diplomatic relations, permit commercial relations, continue to provide humanitarian aid,

and end the application of sanctions that adversely affect Cuba and our allies.

#### HONORING RICHARD "AL" SEAGLER

#### HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 14, 2001*

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to honor Richard "Al" Seagler for his service to our great nation in World War II. Anticipating that he would get drafted, Al courageously enlisted with the Navy. It is my pleasure to pay tribute to Mr. Seagler for the sacrifices he made in preserving the freedom of our nation.

Mr. Seagler experienced many sleepless nights as Japanese forces made countless attacks on his construction battalion that was located on the island of Guadalcanal. The campaign at Guadalcanal cost America a great number of lives before the United States decidedly took the island and changed the course of the Pacific Theater in World War II forever. Mr. Seagler played a vital role in America's course of action by directing a construction battalion whose job included providing a workable infrastructure for American troops and maintaining open supply lines in Guadalcanal.

These important construction battalions were known as "Seabees," but their name and recognition have since disappeared from our national memory. Mr. Seagler sweated his days away in order to sustain the American operations in the region. In addition, Al accomplished many great feats in the construction battalion while dodging the enemy's bullets, living in a disease-infested jungle, and laying down to sleep to the sound of the Japanese fighter planes bombing the Guadalcanal coast.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Seagler showed great courage and heroism as a soldier in World War II. Therefore, it is my privilege to acknowledge his honor and pride for our great Nation. Al is still an active citizen in Montrose, Colorado where he has served as a role model for both young and old. I commend Mr. Seagler for his distinguished service to the state of Colorado and our great Nation.

#### STATEMENT ON HOWARD AND RIETA PARK CIRCUMNAVIGATING THE GLOBE

#### HON. ROB SIMMONS

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 14, 2001*

Mr. SIMMONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Howard and Rieta Park, a couple from my hometown of Stonington, CT, who, on June 10, 2001, concluded a 31,000-mile sailing journey around the world.

Traveling on their 53-foot Sparkman and Stevens yawl, named COMET, the Park's odyssey took them across the Caribbean, through the Panama Canal to the Galapagos Islands, across the Pacific to the French Marquesas, the Cooke Islands, Tonga, Fiji, New Zealand, and New Caledonia.

They trekked to the Great Barrier Reef along the Australian coast, across the Indian