

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

ISRAELI AMBASSADOR'S OP-ED WARNING PALESTINIANS TO CONTROL TERRORISM

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 22, 2005

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call attention to a particularly important and insightful op-ed written by Israeli Ambassador Daniel Ayalon in yesterday's Washington Post. Ambassador Ayalon gives a forthright analysis of the precarious position that Israel finds itself in as it prepares courageously to implement Gaza disengagement.

Israel's bold decision to hand Gaza over to the Palestinians—risking its national unity for the sake of advancing prospects for resolving the Israeli-Palestinian conflict—clearly demonstrates its profound devotion to peace-making. Nevertheless, Palestinian terrorism is on the rise again. Islamic extremists from Hamas and Palestinian Islamic Jihad, in particular, continue to attack Israeli civilians with Qassam rockets, mortars, suicide bombings, and drive-by shootings. The reason is clear. The terrorists want people to believe that Israel is withdrawing out of fear, not generosity or commitment to peace.

Ambassador Ayalon rightly warns Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas that he must bring the terrorism to a halt; otherwise, he will waste the Palestinians' best opportunity ever to demonstrate that they are "capable of governing a functioning democratic society, free from terrorism and focused on improving the lives of its citizens." Mr. Speaker, I want to underscore my complete agreement with this judgment. Ambassador Ayalon is exactly right in saying that "Gaza is both the opportunity and the test for the Palestinian leadership."

With much of Israeli society in anguish over the disengagement, no one can dispute that the Israeli government is doing more than its part for the sake of peace. Now it is time for the Palestinian government to respond in kind; if it equivocates, the terrorists will win.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that the entire text of the Ambassador's soberingly perceptive op-ed be placed in the RECORD.

IN GAZA, A TEST CASE FOR PEACE

(By Ambassador Daniel Ayalon)

Next month thousands of Israelis will be uprooted from their homes in 25 settlements, against the backdrop of widespread political opposition and intensifying Palestinian terrorism. Israel faces difficult days ahead.

Prime Minister Ariel Sharon is boldly determined to move forward with disengagement from Gaza and the northern West Bank out of a deep conviction that it is critical to Israel's future. Unfortunately, the Palestinian leadership has failed to meet him halfway. The Palestinian Authority's refusal to disarm terrorist organizations has enabled the terrorists to regroup and renew deadly attacks against Israelis, compounding the difficulties of this engagement and casting

an ominous shadow on the possibility of future progress.

The sharp increase in Palestinian terrorist attacks, particularly in the past week, underscores the precariousness of the situation. While Israel is committed to completing the disengagement as planned, we will not sit idly by while our civilians are under attack. Time is running out for the Palestinian leadership to confront the terrorists. Should it fail to do so, Israel will be forced to take the necessary steps to defend its people. Lest the Palestinians miss another historic opportunity, the world should insist that they crack down on terrorism now.

After numerous failed attempts by Israelis and Palestinians to reach peaceful accommodation over the past 15 years, Sharon decided to embark on a different course. Disengagement is an immense political, strategic and indeed historical undertaking, aimed at reducing friction between Israelis and Palestinians, jump-starting the peace process and providing the Palestinians with a unique opportunity to build institutions of responsible self-governance.

At the same time, it puts a terrible burden on thousands of Israelis called on to leave their homes against their will. Many have lived there for more than three generations. Specially trained, unarmed units will move from house to house as part of a massive logistical operation involving some 50,000 security personnel, accompanied by teams of social workers and psychologists. Living, breathing communities, some more than 30 years old, will simply vanish. Businesses, factories and farms will be shut down. Schools, synagogues and cemeteries will be relocated. The removal of graves, including those of terrorism victims, will be especially heart-wrenching.

The trauma of disengagement has unleashed dangerous rifts in Israeli society. While the withdrawal is supported by most of the public, many Israelis deeply oppose it on moral, religious and security grounds. Sharon has demonstrated steadfast leadership in the face of an unprecedented political backlash from his traditional supporters. Given the intense political opposition and growing civil disobedience, the prospect of violent resistance cannot be ruled out. Regardless of the outcome, the repercussions of disengagement will be felt in Israel for years. At stake is not only the success of disengagement but also the very fabric of Israeli society.

Adding fuel to the fire, public anxiety in Israel has increased because of the resurgence of Palestinian terrorism, including suicide bombings, drive-by shootings and rocket attacks. Rather than confront the terrorist organizations and disarm them, Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas has invited Hamas into his government, thereby providing a terrorist organization with an official seal of approval. The result has been an emboldened Hamas, a further weakening of the Palestinian Authority and a potentially disastrous perception that disengagement is a victory for terrorism rather than an opportunity for peace.

Abbas must seize the moment and lead the Palestinians toward peace. The terrorist organizations must be disarmed as called for in the "road map" if Palestinian statehood is to be achieved. This is non-negotiable. Gaza is both the opportunity and the test for the

Palestinian leadership. Will that leadership prove itself capable of governing a functioning democratic society, free from terrorism and focused on improving the lives of its citizens, or will it squander yet another opportunity? After leaving Gaza, Israel will no longer provide an easy excuse for Palestinian failure.

The rock-solid, principled and bipartisan support for Israel in the United States has been vital to our ability to overcome terrorism and prepare the ground for a political initiative. The notion of disengagement would have been unthinkable had Israel not prevailed in the latest round of sustained terrorism waged by the Palestinians since September 2000.

The stakes for Israel are enormous. We are a strong but small country facing a largely hostile region roughly 500 times our size. We can ill afford to make mistakes. Iran's nuclear weapons program is imminent, posing an existential threat. Syria and Iran promote and support Palestinian terrorist groups sworn to our destruction. Hezbollah has intensified terrorist attacks against Israel from Lebanon, opening a second front aimed at derailing any progress. Despite these challenges, Israel has shown it is prepared to take difficult steps to achieve President Bush's vision for peace in the Middle East. The world should insist on no less from the Palestinians.

THE AFRICAN GROWTH AND OPPORTUNITY ACT FORUM

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 22, 2005

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring to the attention of my colleagues and this country an important announcement by the Bush Administration. This week, the Administration took two important steps in developing a strong trade and investment partnership between the United States and sub-Saharan Africa.

On Monday, President Bush announced the African Global Competitiveness Initiative, which continue and increase funding for trade capacity building efforts currently funded under the Trade for African Development and Enterprise Program. Under these new changes, the U.S. Agency for International Development's Regional Trade Hubs would be expanded from three to four in order to create greater opportunities and mechanisms for trading in Africa. The Hubs are currently located in Accra, Ghana; Gaborone, Botswana; Nairobi, Kenya. These hubs are important in identifying, promoting, and developing trading alliances that benefit the people of Africa and the U.S.

On Wednesday, during her visit to Dakar, Senegal, the Honorable Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice announced the creation of the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) Diversification Fund. The fund will provide resources to help African countries diversify their economies, including the development of transportation systems in African

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

countries. It would provide important opportunities to assist in Africa's development of new and emerging markets and technologies and aid in their economic progress.

These initiatives are useful steps forward. I look forward to working with the Administration to ensure that these programs are fully funded and that we conduct a sustained effort to promote growth in Africa that reaches everyone—working people, farmers, and businesses—by extending duty-free allowances for apparel produced in Africa using the fabric from other regions, and in diversifying the range of products eligible for duty-free treatment under AGOA.

These steps continue recent efforts of the United States and the international community to reach out to the people of Africa in order to aid in their economic development. It is important that the United States takes a role in assisting the African community in this regard. With the resources, knowledge, and manpower of this country, we should be able to reach more to our brothers and sisters in Africa. We should continue to provide aid and assistance to these developing countries in the interest of ensuring quality lives, healthy environments, and real opportunities for people who have too often been excluded from technological advances. We should find ways to address the crippling poverty, the disturbing barriers to adequate health care, and the limitations and restrictions to education and progress that predominate in the countries of Africa.

The Administration has taken two important steps in this regard in the last week. The 109th Congress should join with the President and other African leaders to ensure that everything is done to ensure that the progress of the 21st century does not pass Africa by.

I submit for the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD three statements from the Bush White House and the State Department detailing their efforts and justifications for extending our assistance to the people of Africa. Let us push forward in our efforts and our resolve to assist the continent of Africa and its people.

AFRICAN GLOBAL COMPETITIVENESS INITIATIVE

"I think one of the things that many African nations have come to discover is that through trade, they can develop a more hopeful society rather than through aid. . . . When you open up your market to entrepreneurs and small businesses, it helps spread wealth. And that's, after all, what we're trying to achieve."—President George W. Bush, June 7, 2005.

FACT SHEET

President Bush has announced the African Global Competitiveness Initiative with a five-year funding target of \$200 million of additional resources. This new initiative greatly expands the trade capacity building efforts underway with African nations through the U.S. Agency for International Development's (USAID) Regional Trade Hubs located in Accra, Ghana; Gaborone, Botswana; and Nairobi, Kenya. The Initiative will further the work of the Trade Hubs in enabling African economies to become better integrated into regional and global markets and to take advantage of trade opportunities afforded by the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA).

As part of the new African Global Competitiveness Initiative, USAID will open a fourth trade hub. The new hub will complement the efforts of the USAID trade hubs in Botswana, Ghana, and Kenya.

The Global Competitiveness Initiative will emphasize trade capacity building in the following areas:

Improve the climate for private investment in Africa;

Expand AGOA trade and intra-African trade;

Strengthen the emphasis on information and communications technology in facilitating investment and trade-related efforts in Africa;

Stimulate private sector development;

Encourage and promote the diversification of exports;

Reduce time to market and transport costs by facilitating trade at borders and along transport corridors;

Strengthen the financial sector;

Facilitate investment in infrastructure and address general barriers to competitiveness; and

Improve the capacity of African countries to meet international quality standards and U.S. animal and plant health inspection requirements.

Improving African Competitiveness

Open trade and international investment are some of the surest and fastest ways for Africa to make economic progress. With the rebounding of the global economy and recovery from several lengthy conflicts, much of Africa is poised to see more robust economic growth and an improvement in living standards in the years ahead.

AGOA is the cornerstone of the Administration's trade and investment policy toward Sub-Saharan Africa. AGOA's objectives include promoting free markets, expanding U.S.-African trade and investment, stimulating economic growth, and facilitating regional integration and Sub-Saharan Africa's integration into the global economy.

To continue to realize the potential benefits of AGOA, eligible Sub-Saharan African countries need to diversify greatly their export base, develop intra-regional trade linkages, and enhance their external competitiveness. The U.S. views trade capacity building and technical assistance programs as essential components of its trade and investment policy.

SECRETARY OF STATE RICE ANNOUNCES NEW AGOA FUND TO PROMOTE AFRICAN ECONOMIC GROWTH

On her first trip to Africa as Secretary of State, Condoleezza Rice announced the African Growth and Opportunities Act (AGOA) Diversification Fund at the U.S.-Sub-Saharan Africa Trade and Economic Cooperation Forum in Dakar, Senegal, on July 20.

This fund will provide resources through several U.S. Government agencies to help African countries diversify their economies and thus take advantage of a wider range of opportunities under AGOA. Among the projects to be funded are a feasibility study for West Africa regional rail integration and technical assistance for the development of a new West African aviation safety and security agency.

On July 18, 2005, President Bush announced another AGOA-related program, the African Global Competitiveness Initiative (AGCI). It will provide an additional \$200 million over the next 5 years to build the capacity of African nations to take advantage of trade opportunities and increase their competitiveness.

AGOA seeks to spur economic development and expedite the integration of African economies into the world trading system. It expands duty-free access for more than 6,400 products to U.S. markets. It also provides a framework for U.S. technical assistance to build trade capacity and to expand business links. In 2004, AGOA imports to the United States totaled \$26.6 billion, up 88 percent over 2003. The AGOA theme for this Forum is "Expanding and Diversifying Trade To Promote Growth and Competitiveness."

The Secretary of State's participation in the AGOA Forum reflects the importance President Bush gives to the African Growth and Opportunities Act, and highlights his vision of Africa as a continent of promise and progress.

Also attending the Dakar Ministerial are Agriculture Secretary Mike Johanns, USAID Administrator Andrew Natsios, Millennium Challenge Corporation CEO Paul Applegarth, U.S. Global AIDS Coordinator Randall Tobias, and officials from the U.S. Trade Representative's Office and the Departments of Commerce and Energy.

At the Forum, members of the U.S. delegation met with senior government officials, private sector leaders, and civil society activist from 37 African nations and the United States.

REMARKS OF SECRETARY CONDOLEEZZA RICE AT THE AGOA FORUM

Thank you very much. I want, first of all, to thank Foreign Minister Gadio for that extraordinary introduction—(laughter)—very, very kind introduction. Before I begin I want to acknowledge something that the Foreign Minister has said. I was here just about two years ago in Senegal with President Bush and we went to Gorée Island to the site of the transatlantic slavery. And as we stood at the gate that I think one could call a gate of no return, we all thought about the extraordinary bonds of kinship, of blood, of tragedy between the United States and Africa.

In my own personal case, of course, many of my ancestors may have come through that gate. And it is only in the course of the last several years that the United States has fully begun to come to terms with that great tragedy. It has become—we managed to come to terms through institutions of democracy and inclusion. But I personally want to acknowledge my gratefulness to the sons and daughters of Africa, without whom there quite literally would have been no United States of America.

(Applause.)

And as President Bush said when he was at Gorée Island, it was one of the great ironies that Africans, who came in chains to America to build America alongside Europeans, would ultimately help America to find itself as slavery was abolished and as less than 50-years ago, segregation was finally abolished in my home state of Alabama and throughout the South. We have a long heritage and history together, but we also have a very promising future.

(Applause.)

I want to thank the people of Senegal, President Wade and his (inaudible) for hosting this event. I want to thank Prime Minister Sall for his efforts. Whether measured by the distance on a map or by the strength of a partnership between America and Africa are closest together here in the city of Dakar.

I would like to welcome my fellow ministers and many members of both African civil society and the private sector, who have crossed this great continent to be here this morning. And I am pleased to join all of you for the annual Forum of the African Growth and Opportunity Act.

We gather today not two weeks after President Bush and other G-8 leaders met in Gleneagles, Scotland to launch an historic partnership with the nations of Africa. Our partnership rests on the conviction that only the people of Africa can solve the problems of Africa. But for these men and women to fulfill their dreams of democracy and security and prosperity, all developed nations have a responsibility to help.

As President Bush has said, "We believe Africa is a continent full of promise, and talent, and opportunity. And the United States

of America will do our part to help the people of Africa realize the brighter future they deserve."

With President Bush's leadership, America has tripled our development assistance to Africa. And we will double it again by 2010. I would like to recognize Andrew Natsios the Director of the U.S. Agency for International Development who is helping Africa to expand and transform our partnership here in the developing world.

President Bush has launched the largest effort ever by one nation to combat a single disease—the \$15 billion Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief. And joining us here today is Randall Tobias the President's Coordinator for Global AIDS who is helping America give hope to thousands of men, women and children living with this disease.

Just last month, President Bush strengthened America's partnership with Africa even further. He pledged \$1.2 billion to fight malaria, with the ultimate goal of covering 175 million people in 15 nations. He also proposed new initiatives to train half-a-million African teachers, to offer scholarships to 300,000 African students, mostly girls, and to help several African states better protect the rights of their women citizens.

Not only is America giving new money, we are revolutionizing how much of that money is given, together with Africans who believe in good governance, democracy, and an open society.

Under the leadership of Paul Applegarth, who is here today, our Millennium Challenge Account Initiative is providing new development grants to nations that govern justly, promote economic freedom, and invest in their people. So far, eight African countries have qualified to apply for grants, including Senegal, and one, Madagascar, has already signed a development compact worth \$110 million.

Development assistance can be catalytic. But alone, will never enable people to lift themselves out of poverty. Open markets that allow individuals to realize the benefits of their own hard work are essential. This is the purpose of the African Growth and Opportunity Act, or AGOA, which brings us here to Dakar today.

AGOA represents the strong bipartisan consensus behind America's support for Africa's development. And it enshrines the principles of good governance as a condition of membership. Governments that advance democratic reform, protect economic liberty, and strengthen the rule of law are the best partners to entrepreneurial citizens. So far, 37 sub-Saharan African countries are meeting these critical standards.

AGOA benefits everyone. African businesses create more, better-paying jobs. And American consumers receive more goods at lower prices, products like sorbet from South Africa, and woodcarvings from Tanzania, and tuna from right here in Senegal. Last year alone, non-oil imports increased 22%, and the United States imported over \$26 billion in total from the AGOA group of African nations.

To expand the success of AGOA, African economies must become more competitive and better able to seize the opportunities of trade. With these goals in mind, the United States is launching two new initiatives to build the capacity of African countries to trade in freedom.

The first, which President Bush announced today, is the African Global Competitiveness Initiative. This will provide \$200 million over the next five years to help the people of Africa participate more fully in trade. As part of this initiative, we are opening a fourth "trade hub" here in Dakar, where teams of experts will help African countries trade more effectively with one another and with the United States.

The second initiative, which I am proud to announce today, is the AGOA Diversification Fund. Through this initiative, several U.S. agencies will support the efforts of African governments to diversify their economies and capitalize further on the promise of AGOA. One project, run by the U.S. Trade and Development Agency, will provide grants totaling nearly \$1 million to help West African nations increase the safety of their air travel and plan a new railway to better integrate the region.

Ladies and Gentlemen: Africa is a continent of overwhelming promise. All human beings possess the dignity and the capacity to flourish in freedom. And AGOA is helping the talented men and women of Africa to realize their natural potential for prosperity.

The United States will always offer our full support to the people of Africa as they build thriving democracies and achieve lasting development. You have set these goals for yourselves, and by yourselves. You are taking ownership of your destiny. And America is proud to be your partner.

(Applause.)
Now, it is my great honor to welcome Prime Minister Sall to the podium. Thank you very much for your time.

TRIBUTE TO ROBERT S. (BOBBY)
REESE, JR.

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 22, 2005

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, on Saturday, August 6th we will commemorate the 60th anniversary of the birth of the Atomic Age, widely celebrated as having begun when President Harry S Truman ordered the historic and fateful mission of the *Enola Gay*. But, another event took place on that day in and of itself that could have triggered the onset of this historic period, at least in the mind of Robert S. (Bobby) Reese, Jr., who was born on that day in Florence, South Carolina to "Big Bobby" and "Gem" Reese.

Bobby worked here in Washington for more than 30 years representing the American Trucking Associations and the Altria Group. Many in this chamber have had the good fortune and pleasure to have shared much of that time with Bobby. During my tenure here, Bob has been a trusted advisor and personal friend. I, like many others in this august body, often partnered with Bobby on the golf course, and often shared with him the thrill of victory. Of course there were moments when Bobby and many of us experienced the agony of defeat. But I think that all of us will agree that he was always a reliable partner or tough competitor. And, at least with me, he never understood the phrase "customer golf."

Bobby retired about 2 years ago and he and his lovely wife, Peggy, moved back to our home State and are enjoying their retirement in the Dunes West golf course community near Mount Pleasant. Bobby and Peggy are also enjoying spending more time with their four adult children: Patty, Cynthia, Taylor and Michael and two grandchildren Tayson and Senna.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my colleagues join me in wishing a happy and festive 60th birthday to Robert S. "Bobby" Reese, and our hopes that he, Peggy and all of the Reese family and friends will have a

joyous occasion on August 6, 2005 and for many more years to come.

IN HONOR OF UNITED HEALTH
CENTERS OF THE SAN JOAQUIN
VALLEY, INC.

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 22, 2005

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate United Health Centers of the San Joaquin Valley, Inc., on the opening of their new Kerman Health Center in Kerman, California.

United Health Centers of the San Joaquin Valley has been a dedicated leader in bringing quality medical care and services to underserved rural residents. In the effort to complete its mission, United Health Centers has brought to the forefront many public issues related to unattended healthcare concerns in the community.

Through the numerous clinics located in the heart of rural California, this organization offers a variety of services including family medicine, dental, x-ray, pharmacy and laboratory. United Health Centers has also adopted a preventative agenda and taken the initiative to implement family support programs such as prenatal care, nutrition, Women Infant and Children, health education, family planning and immunization.

The new Kerman facility is the latest addition to seven already existing health centers in Fresno and Tulare Counties. The last three decades have chronicled the growth of United Health Centers into Huron, Earlimart, Mendota, Kerman, Sanger, Parlier and Orange Cove. The two-story Kerman operation will house seven dental stations, ten examination rooms and a full-service pharmacy and lab.

United Health Center's employees, directors and organizers have touched the lives of numerous economically disadvantaged individuals who are so often overlooked by existing healthcare organizations. This dedication ceremony marks an opportunity to welcome improvements in the availability of healthcare and also provides incentive to look toward the future for innovative and novel means of making adequate medical care accessible to all communities—specifically rural communities.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION
OF H.R. 3199, USA PATRIOT AND
TERRORISM PREVENTION REAU-
THORIZATION ACT OF 2005

SPEECH OF

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 21, 2005

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to oppose this closed rule and H.R. 3199, the USA PATRIOT and Terrorism Prevention Reauthorization Act of 2005.

The manner in which the amendment process of this bill was handled is shameful. Both the Judiciary and the Intelligence Committee had jurisdiction over this legislation, yet somehow, the Chairman of the Judiciary Committee