

Amending the Palestinian National Covenant in regard to Israel's destruction is long overdue. We surely cannot permit the purveyors of chaos and hate to have the last say. They will not alter the progressive agenda and valiant vision to yet turn swords into plowshares, hallowing the gift of life through the gift of peace.

YOUNG AMERICAN STUDENTS
MAKE A DIFFERENCE

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 26, 1996

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to note for my colleagues the charitable work carried out by some of our young high school students from Rockland County in my congressional district. The Ramapo Children of Chernobyl Fund, founded after the 1986 Ukrainian nuclear reactor explosion at Chernobyl, by Ramapo high school teacher Don Cairns, has engaged young people from that school in gathering medical supplies for children of Belarus affected by the radiation released by that explosion.

Once again this year, students working through the Ramapo Children of Chernobyl Fund participated in a humanitarian relief program for those children in Belarus. On April 18, 1996, a delegation of 19 students left for a 10 day trip to the Republic of Belarus to act as ambassadors of international goodwill and understanding. Upon their arrival in Minsk, the American students, led by Don Cairns, were welcomed by the Premier of the Republic, Micheslav Gryb, who praised their efforts.

Through their travel to Belarus, these American students provided not only moral support for the children suffering from the effects of the 1986 Chernobyl explosion, but presented 5 million dollars' worth of medical supplies and toys to hospitals and orphanages. To date the Ramapo Children of Chernobyl Fund has provided \$20 million in such aid to Belarus. Part of the assistance delivered on this most recent trip was given to the Children's Hospital of the Radiation Medicine Research institute in Aksakovtchina, while the rest of the donations were distributed to other hospitals in the provinces of Moguilev and Gomel where children affected by Chernobyl are undergoing treatment.

In addition to bringing charitable aid to Belarus, the Ramapo High School students also put on musical performances for the children, performing a total of 21 times throughout Belarus as they visited nine schools, nine hospitals and appeared on national television. They also put on a performance for the Belorussian foreign minister, the Belorussian Friendship Society, the American Embassy and for the Belorussian President, Alexander Lukashenko.

Mr. Speaker, the Ramapo High School students' charitable efforts in Belarus are helping the United States to strengthen its relations with the republic of Belarus. And I should note that this most recent trip took place at a time when radiation was again being released from the contaminated Chernobyl area, this time by fires in the area around the nuclear facility. Our young American students decided to continue their visit in Belarus, despite that potentially threatening situation. Fortunately the del-

egation safely returned to the United States on May 1, 1996, with their charitable mission accomplished. Their service abroad serves as a model for all young people in our country, and demonstrates how young students' efforts can indeed make a difference.

Mr. Speaker, at this point I would like to insert letters representing the good work done by the young students, written by Don Cairns, president of the Ramapo Children of Chernobyl Fund; by the President of the Republic of Belarus, Aleksander Lukashenko; and, by Arseny Vanitsky, president of the Belorussian Friendship Society.

RAMAPO CHILDREN OF CHERNOBYL FUND,
Spring Valley, NY, May 15, 1996
BENJAMIN GILMAN,

Congress of the United States, Middletown, NY.

DEAR BEN: Enclosed please find some information and pictures from our most recent humanitarian trip to Belarus.

We are very proud of our 19 member Student Delegation who visited the village of Shklov, the city of Mogliev, the village of Polotsk, the village of Sharkovchina, the World War II Memorial, Khatyn, and the city of Minsk. They worked very hard as they performed a fifties' song and dance routine and hand carried and delivered medicines, supplies, and toys to children in 9 hospitals and 9 schools. They were transported by a Belarus Military bus to visit numerous cathedrals, museums, and other historical points of interest. The students performed 21 times in ten days in the hospitals, in the schools, for the Belorussian Foreign Minister, Vladimir Saenko, for Metropolitan Filoret, for the Belorussian Friendship Society, for the United States Embassy, and for Belarus President, Alexander Lukashenko. They were televised three times detailing their achievements.

This trip was a unique experience for students and adults alike. We stayed in families and made many new friendships. Our group was the first group of Americans to visit the remote village of Shklov and we planted two chestnut trees together with school children in the village of Sharkovchina. Emotions flooded from all who participated and our students vowed to return to see the trees grown.

The Ramapo Children of Chernobyl Fund has delivered \$20,000,000 in supplies since we began our program in 1990. Our students are our best ambassadors. They have truly begun bridges of friendship that will indeed MAKE A DIFFERENCE in their future.

Thank you for helping us and for your continued support of this very important program of children helping children.

Sincerely,

DON CAIRNS & PAT DEFRANCESCO.

APRIL 26, 1996

MR. CAIRNS,
President of the "Ramapo—Children of Chernobyl Fund"

The Belarus Society of Friendship and Cultural Affairs with Foreign Countries expresses its deepest gratitude for the tremendous work of "Ramapo—Children of Chernobyl Fund". This Fund is helping the victims of Chernobyl nuclear catastrophe.

Significant help that was presented to the people of Belarus, first of all the children, is priceless with its compassion, nobility and participation.

The emergency medical supplies played an enormous role in the fight for life of the people of Belarus.

People of Belarus know and deeply appreciate the role of the Fund, the staff and students of Ramapo, for building relations and mutual understanding between the youth of both countries.

We hope that in the near future we will continue to work together towards peace and prosperity for mankind.

Respectfully

A. VANITSKY.

PRESIDENT OF THE
REPUBLIC OF BELARUS,

April 29, 1996.

To the teachers and students of Ramapo Senior High School and to the persons associated with the Fund entitled "Ramapo—for Children of Chernobyl."

DEAR FRIENDS: Heartfelt greetings to the teachers and students of Ramapo Senior High School, and also to the leaders and members of "Ramapo—for Children of Chernobyl" Fund.

Your Fund and your great work are well known to the people of Belarus. You became a symbol of amicable relations between our countries.

The help with medicine and medical supplies from overseas is still extremely important for our republic, although 10 years have passed since the catastrophe in Chernobyl. As a consequence of the tragedy many things are being affected. The area where the accident took place is not habitable and people still experience great economic difficulties.

Even more important to us are the spiritual gifts, you generosity, understanding and solidarity, as well as the program which is based on the wonderful relationship of two growing generations of our countries, USA and Belarus. The mutual understanding of our young people will make the world stronger in the next millennium of its history.

Dear Mr. Donald Cairns, Patricia De Francesco, members of "Ramapo—for Children of Chernobyl", we sincerely appreciate your caring for our children, all victims who have experienced this terrible tragedy. We also thank you for building bridges of friendship between our nations. It is our honor to join with you on this significant occasion, the 10th anniversary of the Chernobyl tragedy.

Accept our words of appreciation which come from the bottom of our hearts for the support and friendship you have extended to us, showing the best qualities of the American people. Belarus will always keep a close relationship with America.

ALEKSANDER LUKASHENKO.

TRIBUTE TO HERBERT AND
MILDRED TANZMAN

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 26, 1996

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, July 9th, a reception will be held at the Zimmerli Art Museum in New Brunswick, NJ, in honor of two of Middlesex County's most esteemed citizens, Herbert and Mildred Tanzman of Highland Park, NJ.

Beginning with the time he served his country in World War II, Herbert Tanzman has maintained a distinguished legacy of community service. For his service in WWII's Naval Aviation unit, Mr. Tanzman was awarded the Navy Air Medal by the President. A veteran of the Battle of Iwo Jima, he has served as commander of the Veterans Alliance, commander of Jewish War Veterans Post No. 133, New Brunswick, member of the National Executive Committee of the JWV, national representative and national foreign affairs chair of JWV of the