

rapidly since restrictions on travel to the mainland were lifted in 1987. According to my government, which counts only pre-approved cases of investment, as of June 2002, Taiwan's private sector has invested 24.2 billion U.S. dollars in the Chinese mainland. Other non-governmental sources estimate that Taiwan has actually invested well over 140 billion dollars in the mainland.

This trend may continue to strengthen now that both Taiwan and the mainland have acceded to the World Trade Organization. Under the WTO, Taiwan and the PRC are co-equals. They must abide by the same rules and regulations, meet the same standards, abide by the same procedures, and resolve trade disputes through the same mechanisms.

Other positive developments include some less-publicized events such as the start of the three mini links between our off-shore islands and the mainland coast, my government's decision to allow mainland Chinese to visit Taiwan as tourists, its decision to allow Taiwan-based banks to set up representative offices in the mainland, and the present efforts to establish indirect charter flights between the two sides during the Chinese New Year holiday.

Negative

But there have been negative developments as well.

First and most fundamental has been the PRC's continued insistence that Taiwan is a province of China. And since the PRC equates itself with China, this is tantamount to saying that Taiwan is a part of the PRC and should be subject to PRC leadership. Such a formulation not only runs contrary to the facts on the ground, it also alienates the people of Taiwan.

Second, because it insists that Taiwan is merely a local territory, the PRC also works very hard to deny Taiwan any room in the international community. To this day, the PRC strenuously objects to Taiwan's presence, participation, or even observance in certain non-political international organizations such as the World Health Organization or the International Civil Aviation Organization, not to mention numerous international activities. This has not helped cross-strait relations and has indeed further antagonized the people in Taiwan.

Third, the PRC refuses to resume dialogue with us or our designated liaisons. The PRC insists that no talks can be held unless we first agree to the so-called "one-China" principle. We, on the other hand, have made it clear that we are willing to discuss any issue with them including the one China issue, but that talks should be held without any preconditions.

Fourth, the PRC still refuses to renounce the use of force against us. In recent years, the PRC has deployed more than 350 advanced ballistic missiles along its coastline opposite Taiwan and is increasing the number of these missiles by 50 a year. These missiles are targeted directly at Taiwan and constitute a clear and present danger to us. In addition, they have increased their military budget by more than 17 percent a year for the past two years and they have been acquiring advanced weapons including Russian warships and fighters.

We cannot but increase our purchase of more and better defensive weapons from the U.S. It is most regrettable that resources, which could have been better used for other more meaningful purposes, must instead be used to finance those purchases.

The ROC's Policy Pronouncements

Let me now summarize the current policies of Taiwan and the mainland regarding their mutual relationship.

When President Chen Shui-bian was inaugurated almost three years ago, he declared

that so long as Beijing has no intention of using military force against Taiwan, he would not declare Taiwan Independence, change our national title, push for the inclusion of the "state-to-state" formulation in our Constitution, or promote a referendum on the question of independence or unification. He also said that the abolition of the National Unification Council or the National Unification Guidelines would not be an issue. This policy, which was quickly named the "five noes policy" by media in Taiwan, remains unchanged.

On January 1, 2002, the president further said, "If the Chinese mainland can renounce military intimidation and respect the people's free will, the two sides can begin with integration in the cultural, economic, and trade fields, before further seeking a new framework for permanent peace and political integration."

On January 1 of this year, President Chen reiterated this policy formulation and called upon both sides of the Taiwan Strait to "strive toward building a framework of interaction for peace and stability." The two sides, he said, should "foster an environment conducive to long-term engagement" and "work together, abiding by the principles of democracy, parity and peace in an effort to resolve longer term issues."

Such policy pronouncements, I believe, fully demonstrate our sincere goodwill and pragmatic approach to cross-strait relations.

The PRC's Policy Pronouncements

For its part, the PRC has toned down its rhetoric somewhat.

Last October and again yesterday, PRC vice Premier Qian Qichen also said that the establishment of direct air and shipping links between the two sides of the Taiwan Strait was a purely economic issue that need not be influenced by political factors. But, the PRC still insists on its "one China" principle and refuses to accept the role of our government whose participation is inevitable if links are to be established.

The fact is, the PRC still refuses to renounce the use of force against us. It still seeks to isolate us internationally. It still targets us with missiles, and it still insists that we must accept its "one China" principle before dialogue can be resumed. Just recently, when Jiang Zemin suggested the PRC might consider reducing these missile deployments in return for reductions in U.S. defensive arms sales to Taiwan, it was obviously an attempt to deflect criticism from their unprovoked arms buildup and their refusal to renounce use of force against us. We are glad the American people, and your leaders, see through such cynical gestures.

THE U.S. CAN BE A POSITIVE INFLUENCE

Your government, under either Republican or Democratic leadership, has frequently declared that the Taiwan Strait issue should be resolved peacefully, with the freely given assent of our people. It is very clear this policy has broad bipartisan support in your country.

Let me emphasize that we are grateful for American support of our democratic system and right of free choice.

The PRC depends greatly on U.S. trade, investment, cultural, and other relations. So we think Washington can be a very effective, positive influence in persuading Beijing to sit down and resume dialogue with us. Resolute and prudent U.S. policy commitments can go a long way towards preventing aggression and encouraging peaceful talks. Taken together, the Taiwan Relations Act and the Six Assurances of 1982, which have governed U.S. policy towards Taiwan for many years, are crucial to the trust underlying our relationship. And they are critical for peace across the Strait.

Let me point out that we have never asked the United States to act as a mediator between the two sides of the Taiwan Strait. But we do hope the U.S. continues to play an active role as a stabilizer to encourage peace across the Strait. We appreciate that the U.S. handles its relationships with both Taiwan and PRC in a very even-handed way. Balanced treatment serves the United States' own interests as well as ours.

III. THE FUTURE

What does the future hold for cross-strait relations? No one can be sure.

Leaders in Taipei and Beijing will no doubt continue fashioning cross-strait policies in light of tangible economic and security interests as well as intangible cultural and value-laden interests. But, cross-strait relations are also influenced by other sets of bilateral relations including our close and friendly relationship with the United States as well as by changes in the international environment.

Furthermore, we must keep in mind that many intractable differences remain between the two sides: (1) Our disparate economic and political systems. (2) Our different standards of living. (3) Our distinctive mentalities and outlooks. And, (4) the lingering sense of misunderstanding and distrust. Until and unless the gaps in those areas can be narrowed and/or until and unless a better appreciation and acceptance of the differences between the two sides can be realized, cross-strait relations can only proceed at a slow and deliberate pace.

And yet, there are also a number of reasons for guarded optimism. For one thing, the governments and the people on both sides seem to understand peace, security, and continued economic development are in the interests of both sides. Secondly, to meet real needs, exchanges are sure to increase. Dialogue, though interrupted, is inevitable. And, with dialogue, the two sides eventually may reach some accommodation. Third, the twin processes of globalization and technological advancement are causing both sides to move toward a higher degree of interaction, understanding, and perhaps common interests.

What is required now is patience, wisdom, and goodwill. These three things we possess in ample quantity, so I am reasonably optimistic and hopeful that a better relationship between the ROC and the PRC is in the cards.

I would therefore encourage you to keep an eye on cross-strait relations, to lend your support for positive change, and to help us bring lasting peace and prosperity to the entire Western Pacific region.

WORKFORCE REINVESTMENT AND ADULT EDUCATION ACT OF 2003

SPEECH OF

HON. RAHM EMANUEL

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 8, 2003

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1261) to enhance the workforce investment system of the Nation by strengthening one-stop career centers, providing for more effective governance arrangements, promoting access to a more comprehensive array of employment, training, and related services, establishing a targeted approach to serving youth, and improving performance accountability, and for other purposes:

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Chairman, last week the House of Representatives passed the Workforce Investment Act, a reauthorization bill short-changing job training programs in America. A current beneficiary of WIA funds is the Youth Community Technology Program administered by Korean American Community Services on the northwest side of Chicago. I am very proud to represent this organization in Congress because it has a proven record of success by helping hundreds of young people in my district learn how to build and maintain computers, gain valuable experience through internships in area non-profit organizations, and benefit from the experience and companionship of professionals working in the information technology industry.

Regrettably, the Youth Community Technology Program recently lost all WIA support to serve students, and funding to serve youth not in school was severely reduced. The consequences of diminished federal investment in youth workforce development are easily observed at the local level: Eight of 29 local WIA youth programs for in-school youth, including the Youth Community Technology Program, were eliminated in response to a 20 percent cut in federal WIA Youth Program appropriations in fiscal year 2003. As a result of these cuts, more than 150 youth were enrolled in these programs. These young people will not have the opportunities provided to Mario Argueta, one of my constituents and a participant in the Youth Community Technology Program. Without these important programs, young people like Mario could join the ranks of the more than 80,000 Chicago youth ages 16 to 24 who have dropped out of school and remain out of work or are at risk to violence, delinquency, early pregnancy, and dependency.

The bill passed by the House last week cuts WIA Youth Program formula funds, and this could have a direct impact young Americans like Mario and the community organizations that serve them. Young people deserve increased federal investment in education and training, not another funding cut. Additionally, diverting one quarter of WIA Youth Program formula funds to create discretionary "Challenge Grants" would result in yet another round of severe cuts for local providers who depend on this money to serve youth like Mario. Any new grant created through reauthorization of the WIA Youth Program must be created with additional funds, not by diverting formula funds, in order to allow providers who are already meeting the challenge to continue their critical work.

The United States is currently experiencing a jobs recession in which 2.5 million Americans have lost their jobs in the last two years, including two million in the manufacturing sector. Unemployment in Illinois has reached 6.6 percent with 17,400 jobs lost in the last month alone. It is important now more than ever to ensure that the unemployed and those workers who want to improve their skills and participate in the new economy can look forward to a future in which they can achieve the American dream for themselves and their families.

Mr. Chairman, Mario Argueta is a young man pursuing that dream. He wrote the following letter about how the Youth Community Technology Program has changed his life for the better and which I now submit for the RECORD.

THE WAY MY LIFE IS GOING NOW IS JUST PERFECT

(By Mario Argueta, participant in the Youth Community Technology Program)

My name is Mario Argueta. I was born in the city of Chicago during the summer of 1985. When I was 2 and a half months old my mother sent me to live with my grandmom in Guatemala. I grew up over there and did pretty well in school. I completed eighth grade, then my mom decided to bring me back to the United States.

I came back to the Chicago to live with my mom, when I was 13 years old. Because of language problems, I had to repeat the 8th grade. I attended Irving Park Middle School for 4 months. I graduated from eighth grade, then I started going to Edwin G Foreman H.S. It was difficult for me, because I did not speak English and could hardly understand. I was doing really badly, my grades were very low, and I had a lot of problems at home. I dropped out of high school because I got desperate and felt that I could not improve. But I knew I was a good kid with no bad habits. I was smart and also respectful to people. I realized that I needed some help.

Someone told me about Antonia Pantoja Alternative High School. I applied, passed the entrance test, and started attending that school. My grades started to improve because of all the help I was getting. There were a lot of people helping me in class, after school, during lunch, and sometimes on Saturdays. I accepted the help because I wanted a good future. My social worker at Antonia Pantoja told me about Youth Community Technology Program (YCTP). When I got in touch with them, I found out that my old English teacher at Antonia Pantoja was working as the education coordinator at YCTP.

After being accepted into the program, I went to YCTP after school, four days a week, for about three months. I had a good time, and learned a lot about computers. After teaching me how to build computers and maintain operating systems, YCTP matched me with an internship. Right now, I am working on the internship at a non-profit agency called "Computers For Schools". So far, everything is going great. While working there I have gained a lot of skills in different areas, especially in hardware. Sometimes we work on machines that need network cards, sound cards, or video cards. Sometimes we have to "ghost hard drives," which means copy an operating system to them, or sometimes wipe the hard-drives. I have fixed more than 25 machines. I work with a variety of systems. Now, I can understand a lot of things that I wouldn't have even imagined before. I have work experience to put on my resume, and am also giving something back to the community.

My long-term goal is to get a degree from a college and make the rest of my life comfortable. I still attend Antonia Pantoja right now and will graduate in two more semesters, but I'm close enough to feel like a winner already. Even though I am still learning a lot of things, the way my life is going now is just perfect.

TRIBUTE TO REV. AIMEE G. CORTESE

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 14, 2003

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to pay tribute to Rev. Aimee G. Cortese, who

will be honored at a gala later this month for her exemplary life and service in active ministry around the world. She is best known in the South Bronx area, where for 16 years she was Associate Minister to her father, Rev. Rafael Garcia, of the Spanish Assemblies of God. Rev. Cortese has remained committed to the South Bronx community where she was raised, working with her brother, former Congressman Bob Garcia. She now serves as Founder and Pastor Emeritus of Crossroads Tabernacle, which will be celebrating its anniversary on May 29, 2003. She is also a mother of four children, who are all in active ministry.

Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to insert into the RECORD the biography of Rev. Aimee Garcia Cortese in recognition of her leadership, commitment to her community and extraordinary contributions, and in wishing her continued success.

Rev. Aimee G. Cortese is a dynamic, down-to-earth speaker who leaves the listener with the experience that Jesus is a reality. Her life speaks her theology—her foundation is the Bible. Rev. Cortese is both a wife and the mother of 4 children, giving her the experience of both home and family. Her preaching and teaching ministry placed her in great demand in churches, women's groups and colleges throughout the nation. Her message is timely, Christ-centered, and with a sensitivity towards human need. She ministers with a burden for souls and a determination to reach, to touch, and to share Jesus with people from all walks of life.

Rev. Cortese has been engaged in active evangelism both in the United States and throughout the world. Rev. Cortese is best known in the New York City area. For 16 years, she was Associate Minister to her father, Rev. Rafael Garcia of the Spanish Assemblies of God. Rev. Cortese has remained committed to the South Bronx community where she was raised, working with her brother Congressman Robert Garcia. In her own words, street ministry was her specialty and desire, "I want to be where the people are, that is where Jesus is."

Outside the U.S., Rev. Cortese and her husband Joseph Sr. both served with the Billy Graham Evangelistic Team in South America. She was a delegate to the First Congress on Evangelism in West Berlin, Germany.

Rev. Cortese broke ground as the first female Chaplain for the NYS Department of Corrections and ministered in this capacity for ten years. She worked with both male and female inmates at the Ossining Correctional Facility (Sing-Sing) for men, and Bedford Hills for women.

With ten years of Chaplaincy behind her, she felt qualified to push ahead with a strong preventative work with both young people and adults. She did prison work on a volunteer basis.

For the past 18 years, Rev. Cortese was Pastor of Crossroads Tabernacle, a thriving work in The Bronx, NY. This church serves as a counseling center to meet the needs of the community, and all who may need help. She now serves as Founder and Pastor Emeritus of Crossroads Tabernacle. Rev. Cortese continues to speak at whatever events she is invited to. Hearing Rev. Aimee G. Cortese is an experience long to be remembered.