

REGARDING THE RECENT ATTACKS IN LEBANON BY THE TERRORIST GROUP HEZBOLLAH

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 12, 2006

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to condemn yesterday's brutal attack by a terrorist group on Israel, which took the lives of eight Israeli Defense Forces soldiers and captured two others, on the Israel-Lebanon border.

The actions of the terrorist organization, Hezbollah, against Israel are unconscionable. Instead of working towards peace, Hezbollah has chosen to perpetuate the violence. Terrorist attacks such as these are cowardly actions that resolve nothing. From the South, Israel has been attacked by the terrorist organization Hamas with Kassam rockets and had one of her soldiers kidnapped. Hezbollah's current terrorist assault from the North does not further any legitimate peace process. The timing of these aggressions only serves to enhance the existing tensions in the region.

Israel has complied with the U.N. charter and has completely withdrawn from Lebanon since May 2000. Now it is time for the Lebanese government to abide by the U.N.'s rules. In refusing to disarm Hezbollah as required by U.N. Resolution 1559, the Lebanese government is choosing to openly ignore the decree of the international body.

I call upon Lebanese Prime Minister Fouad Siniora to accept responsibility and take immediate action against the terrorist group which Lebanon harbors.

Let us not be misled into believing these attacks arise from a single source. The terrorist organizations, Hezbollah and Hamas, are unquestionably sponsored and guided by the Iranian and Syrian governments. The United States Congress must not allow the Iranian government to use bloodshed as a deflecting tactic against U.S. attention from their unrestricted nuclear program. The Syrian and Iranian governments should be condemned along with the terrorist groups they harbor.

In response to these brutal attacks by terrorists, Israel must have the right to defend herself. Like the United States and other sovereign nations, Israel is justified in reestablishing its deterrent posture.

I express my condolences to the families of the attacked soldiers, and offer a prayer for the safe return of the two kidnapped soldiers from the Lebanon border and the soldier kidnapped in Gaza. I pray for the ultimate end of the cycle of violence in the Middle East.

HONORING THE VETERANS OF PEARL HARBOR

HON. JOHN L. MICA

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 12, 2006

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, on July 14–16, the Pearl Harbor Survivors Association and the Sons and Daughters of Pearl Harbor Survivors will commence the Sixth District Convention in St. Augustine, Florida to remember those who served at Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941.

We welcome participants to Florida's Seventh Congressional District and wish them well as they gather in America's oldest city.

It is my privilege to honor the valor and sacrifice of those Pearl Harbor veterans from the State of Florida who recently passed away:

Allfrey, Lesley F.; Altner, Louis I.; Belisle, Frank E.; Benning, Bernard F.; Bernhard, Stephen W.; Brown, Melvin W.; Capra, Everest W.; Cardonell, Robert R.; Childers, James F.; Chilton, Harry C.; Christina, William; Cohen, Leon; Cook, Harold F. (Sarge); DeStwolinska, Adelbert; Forbis, Colbert F.; Freeman, Albert H.; Grabowski, Edward S.; Haas, Frank; Hallsman, Eldred E.; Hartley, Charles W.; Henner, Joseph E.; Henry, Robert; Hiedeman, Henry R.; Hull, Burton W.; Kearns, Joseph F.; Kennedy, Earl; Krakowski, Joseph H.; Lightkep, George R.; Loun, Jasper J., Jr.; Martin, Curtis C.; McClintock, Robert, Jr.; Miller, Howard C.; Payne, Donald; Restiva, Anthony Bilano; Rhodes, Clarence G.; Savage, Norman F.; Schnurman, John D.; Smart, Raymond; Smith, Billie J.; Spradley, Lester L.; Stephenson, Joseph, Jr.; Ulrich, Jack; Whetstone, Amos C.; Williams, Wallace R.; Wilson, George; Wright, Ralph; Young, Edward F., Jr.; and Zelenock, John P.

I know I join all those in attendance at the convention and countless Americans who continue to recognize their heroism and their families incredible sacrifice to our Nation.

DEPUTY MAYOR WALCOTT CELEBRATES CARIBBEAN HERITAGE WEEK

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 12, 2006

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend Dennis Walcott, New York City's Deputy Mayor for Education and Community Development for enthusiastically joining the Caribbean Tourism Organization (CTO) and envoys from Grenada, Guyana, and Trinidad and Tobago in celebrating the Caribbean Week.

I was a co-sponsor of the recent bill (H. Con. Res. 51) that declared the month of June as the Caribbean Heritage Month in order to recognize and applaud the contributions of the Caribbean-American communities to the United States. I have participated in celebratory activities in the said communities, including those in my district, such as parades, carnivals and festivals to commemorate this month and present an opportunity to explore the diversity within the Islands.

Mr. Walcott has joined me in this celebration. A celebrity cricket match, a Caribbean Gospelfest, Town Hall meetings featuring Ministers of tourism from the region, a Caribbean Fair at South Street Seaport, and cooking demonstrations by some of the region's top chefs has taken the city by storm. Mr. Walcott, who traces his origin to the islands of Barbados and St. Croix, envisions a win-win tourism relationship between the Islands and New York City, as well as the Nation.

Mr. Speaker I wish to enter into the RECORD, the article from the June 27, 2006 edition of The New York Carib News, titled Deputy Mayor Walcott Embraces Caribbean Week.

DEPUTY MAYOR WALCOTT EMBRACES CARIBBEAN WEEK

NEW YORK.—According to Dennis Walcott, New York City's Deputy Mayor for Education and Community Development, the recent Caribbean Week in New York, staged by the Caribbean Tourism Organization (CTO), is deeply important to the City of New York and people and nations of the Caribbean.

Walcott underscored the importance of the Diaspora to the City, and said Caribbean Week is a reinforcement of his personal roots as well as a reminder of the importance of the Caribbean here. Walcott, who traces his roots to the islands of Barbados and St. Croix, said Caribbean-Americans are key players in the running of New York City.

Caribbean Week presents an opportunity for people to understand the diversity of the Caribbean, and according to Walcott appreciate the various countries that are part of the Diaspora of the Caribbean. The Deputy Mayor envisions a win-win tourism relationship between the City of New York and CTO member nations.

A celebrity cricket match, a Caribbean Gospelfest, Town Hall meetings featuring Ministers of Tourism from the region, a Caribbean Fair at the South Street Seaport, the popular Media Marketplace and cooking demonstrations with some of the region's top chefs, were some of the exciting events that took the City by storm during Caribbean Week in New York.

Addressing a town hall meeting at Medgar Evers College in the borough of Brooklyn, Ministers of Tourism from Grenada, Guyana and Trinidad and Tobago told the audience about the importance of tourism to their respective economies, and updated nationals on crime fighting strategies in their territories.

Minister Brenda Hood unveiled plans to work with the VFR (Visiting Friends and Relatives) market, and pledged her commitment to review proposals from the Diaspora media and communications community to promote Grenada, Carriacou and Petite Martinique in the marketplace.

CONGRATULATING DECLARA NIXON BAILEY ON HER 100TH BIRTHDAY

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 12, 2006

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend DeClara Nixon Bailey on her one-hundredth birthday. Born on August 13, 1906 in Midway, Texas, Mrs. Bailey has contributed an entire lifetime to serving her fellow Texans.

While in Midway, Texas, Mrs. Bailey was an elementary school teacher. By balancing a life of career and family, she stood as an exemplary female representative and role model, in an otherwise male dominated society. Her passion to serve the community and her constant strive towards meritocracy is an example for us all.

In 1954, Mrs. Bailey moved to the greater Dallas area where she volunteered her time to mentally challenged students at the John Neely Bryan Elementary School.

In the 1960's, Mrs. Bailey's devotion to assisting the disadvantaged allowed her to become Volunteer Captain for the American Heart Association in Dallas. Her amazing ambition drove her to also volunteer her time at the Dallas Family Hospital.

Mr. Speaker, I am delighted to congratulate Mrs. DeClara Nixon Bailey on this auspicious occasion for a lifetime of magnificent accomplishments.

EXPRESSING THE CONDOLENCES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO THE VICTIMS, THEIR FAMILIES AND FRIENDS, AND THE PEOPLE OF INDIA FOR THE LOSS SUFFERED DURING THE TERRORIST ATTACKS IN MUMBAI, INDIA, ON JULY 11, 2006

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 12, 2006

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to condemn the barbaric acts of terrorism that occurred yesterday in Mumbai, India and to introduce a resolution regarding this tragedy.

Innocent civilians were traveling on commuter trains during rush hour and seven deadly blasts took their lives. More than 200 were killed and 700 were injured. These appalling blasts created horror, chaos and mayhem in Mumbai, a city of 16 million people.

I've traveled to India four times and each time has been an awakening experience. When traveling in India, I realized the vivacity of the culture and the people.

I would like to take this time to reach out to my Indian-American constituents in the 23rd District of Florida. I am deeply concerned for your loved ones back in your native land. I am praying for you and your family and hope the recovery is quick and steady.

The country of India was founded on the principle of nonviolence and it continues in the international fight against terrorism. I believe anyone who would want to inflict pain and terror onto the people of India should be denounced and prosecuted.

Upon finding out about the blasts in Mumbai yesterday, I immediately felt sorrow. I was reminded of how our nation felt after 9/11 and how India was amongst the first nations to express its condolences to the U.S. following the attacks. On behalf of the United States House of Representatives, I wish to express my condolences to the Government of India and her people. We stand with you today, we stood with you yesterday, and we will stand with you throughout the fight against terrorism.

I urge my colleagues to quickly pass this resolution.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF DR. ASSAD KOTAITE

HON. JOHN L. MICA

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 12, 2006

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, this August, The International Civil Aviation Organization will bid farewell to Dr. Assad Kotaite, who has served as its Council President for past 30 years.

The International Civil Aviation Organization, ICAO, is the United Nations agency responsible for setting the international standards of safety, efficiency and security for civil aviation.

Created in 1944 by 52 nations, its member States now total 189, all rallying behind one mission—ensuring the highest possible degree of safety and efficiency.

For the last three decades, one man has lead ICAO to unprecedented breakthroughs in aviation safety, Dr. Assad Kotaite. After 53 years of service to aviation, he is retiring from ICAO.

Dr. Kotaite and his wife, Monique, are in Washington, DC, this week. He is being honored by the community that has benefited from his expertise—the Departments of State and Transportation, the Federal Aviation Administration, the Transportation Security Administration, as well as the aviation industry.

Dr. Kotaite has earned immeasurable respect during his years at ICAO—first as Lebanon's representative on the Legal Committee, then as Secretary General, and for the last 30 years, President of the ICAO Council.

During this time, he has successfully dealt with a variety of challenges, both political and technical.

Time after time, he brought people together and negotiated a consensus on the most difficult questions debated in the ICAO Council.

His work can be found on some of ICAO's most pressing issues, including a multilateral agreement that yielded the North Pacific route system, the agreement on FIR boundaries in the Black Sea area, resolution of problems associated with the Dakar oceanic FIR and a compromise on transit problems between Cuba and the United States.

Dr. Kotaite was once asked what it was like to bring the divide between groups that didn't see eye to eye. He said:

Indeed, over the years, I have learned that the real secret in any negotiation is to first identify an area of common ground, no matter how small, and then to build upon it. It may not be the ideal solution, but at least it is workable and acceptable to all. Moreover, in international affairs, I firmly believe that one should avoid confrontation at all costs. It is essential that one listens to all parties and takes into consideration their point of view.

Perhaps his greatest legacy will be safety. Dr. Kotaite presided over the birth of the ICAO safety oversight program. Not content there, he then supported and encouraged the expansion of the Universal Safety Oversight Audit Programme to include all safety related annex provisions. And finally, at a recent meeting of the Directors General of Civil Aviation held in March of 2006, he worked behind the scenes to gain acceptance of the public availability of the findings of the safety audit—all within a ten year period—equivalent to the speed of light in international relations.

The traveling public owes a great debt of gratitude to this international civil servant for his dedication to aviation. I am pleased to recognize Dr. Kotaite for his accomplishments and contribution to aviation and I congratulate him on his distinguished career.

THE UNITED NATION'S INVALUABLE ROLE IN A POSSIBLE RESOLUTION TO IRAQ

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 12, 2006

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remind my colleagues about the importance of

the role of the much maligned United Nations. As Richard Holbrooke, a former U.S. Ambassador to the U.N. wrote in a column which appeared in the Washington Post on June 28, 2006 that the United Nations still serves U.S. foreign policy interests. It is imperative that the U.S. supports and asserts leadership on the issues before the U.N.

On June 15, 2006, two days after he returned from Iraq, President Bush sent two personal emissaries (Philip Zelikow, the counselor of the State Department, and the Deputy Treasury Secretary Robert Kimmitt) to meet with U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan and his deputy Mark Malloch Brown to discuss the coming introduction of the Iraq Compact, which requires the Iraqi government to implement a series of economic and political reforms in exchange for increased international aid. This meeting received surprisingly little public attention. Perhaps there is something in Mr. Brown's allegation that U.N. achievements are downplayed in America.

President Bush requested Mr. Annan's assistance in organizing international meetings that would lead to this agreement. On the same day, Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki called Mr. Annan to make an identical request, a further confirmation that the U.S. needs the United Nations.

The U.N. has been treated carelessly by the current administration. The U.N. is facing a major budgetary crisis due to (mainly) U.S.'s insistence on a six-month budget cycle, as opposed to a two-year one. Congress is deadlocked on the issue of allocating funds to rebuild the U.N. headquarters complex in New York. The U.N. signature building, the 38-story East River office tower, is widely acknowledged to be the major building in New York most vulnerable to a terrorist attack. Yet the Department of Homeland Security has just cut New York's anti-terror fund nearly by half claiming that the security infrastructure in New York is firmly in place. If that is so, then why does the Secret Service close down FDR Drive that runs beneath the U.N. building every time there is a Presidential visit?

Mr. Speaker, I hope that our asking for help in resolving the Iraq question is the first of many issues on which we will work with the United Nations instead of undermining its position. Mr. Brown has already agreed to travel to Baghdad for preliminary meetings that will culminate in a high-level multilateral conference in the region later this year.

Our lesson is clear. We need the United Nations. Instead of weakening the U.N., we should strengthen it. A strong active United Nations would be invaluable in representing U.S. foreign policy interests aboard as well as resolving conflicts and leading negotiations in regions like Iran, Darfur, Afghanistan, Kosovo, etc.

Ladies and Gentlemen of the Congress, I rise to enter into the RECORD, the opinion-editorial titled Turning to the U.N., Again, by Richard Holbrooke, published on June 28, 2006 in the Washington Post.

TURNING TO THE U.N., AGAIN

(By Richard Holbrooke)

In a little-noticed announcement in President Bush's news conference on June 14, the day he returned from Iraq, he said that he would send two personal emissaries to New York to consult with U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan on the political and economic future of Iraq. The next day, still with remarkably little public attention, Philip Zelikow,