Prime Minister Manning's statement will address ''The Role of Trinidad and Tobago in Shaping Regional and Global Affairs.''

Trinidad and Tobago, a liberal democracy located in the southern Caribbean, is a political leader in the region. The country is a member of the Caribbean Community and Common Market (CARICOM)—a regional organization aimed at the ultimate integration of its member economies—and also the Seat of the Caribbean Court of Justice (CCJ)—the recently established regional judicial tribunal.

''Medgar Evers College welcomes Prime Minister Manning in the spirit of ongoing international exchange. His visit is yet another indication that our work here at Medgar is receiving worldwide recognition,'' says Dr. Edison O. Jackson, President of Medgar Evers College.

The College has been a venue of choice for several government dignitaries speaking on issues of global import such as Director General of US Commercial Services Israel Hernandez, who spoke on the Bush Administration's Economic and Trade Initiatives.

ABOUT PRIME MINISTER MANNING

The Honorable Patrick Manning was elected to his third term of office as the Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago on October 7, 2002. Born in San Fernando in 1946, Mr. Manning entered politics in 1971, at the tender age of 24, emerging victorious in the general elections as the People's National Movement candidate for the Constituency of San Fernando East.

Under two Prime Ministers, young Representative Manning served as Parliamentary Secretary in Ministries ranging from Works and Transport, Industry and Commerce, to Petroleum and Mines. He became a full-fledged Minister in 1981 holding the Industry and Commerce, and Information portfolios, then Energy and National Resources. In 1986, he became the Leader of the Opposition and within two months was elected to the post of Political Leader of the PNM.

In 1991 Mr. Manning was elected Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago. Four years later he returned to opposition after a loss in the general election of 1995. In 2001, after a deadlock in the House of Representatives, Mr. Manning was appointed Prime Minister by President Arthur N.R. Robinson. A general election was then held on October 7, 2002 and Mr. Manning again emerged victorious. He is currently the Prime Minister and the Minister of Finance.

Prime Minister Manning is well-respected in the international community for his vision as a new-style Caribbean leader dedicated to propelling his nation to developed country status by 2020, while simultaneously contributing to the development of fellow regional states.

His accolades include the Guyana Institute for Democracy ''Democracy Prize'' for his outstanding work in upholding the principles of democracy in the Caribbean region (December 2003) and the Caribbean—Central American Action's ''Star of the Caribbean Award,'' for his unwavering support of Caribbean neighbors in their time of distress (December 2004).

Mr. Manning attained his primary and secondary education in South Trinidad followed by his B.Sc. Degree (Special Honors) in Geology at the University of the West Indies, Mona, Jamaica.

He is married to the Honorable Senator Hazel Manning, current Minister of Education, and they have two sons—Brian and David.

RAPE OF A NATION

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 16, 2007

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, Congo is facing a rape epidemic. The sexual violence in Congo is the worst in the world. Congolese women are raped, butchered by bayonets, and assaulted with chunks of wood. These brutal attacks leave their reproductive and digestive systems beyond repair.

The election last year has not ended the violence and instability in Congo. The government is inept. The justice system and military barely function. Large parts of Congo remain authority-free, leaving civilians at the mercy of armed militiamen, the Rastas. The Rastas are known for burning babies, kidnapping and raping women, and butchering anyone along their path. Rastas are former Hutus, who escaped into Congo after exterminating 800,000 Tutsis and moderate Hutus during Rwanda's genocide. Rastas seek to destroy the Congolese women.

According to the U.N., 27,000 women in the South Kivu Province alone reported sexual assaults in 2006. That's only a fraction of the number of raped women across Congo. This is especially disturbing because the largest U.N. peacekeeping force in the world, over 17,000 troops, is in Congo.

Rape is a common weapon of war, but the sexual assaults in Congo are now a social phenomenon. Abuse of women, even by their husbands, is now considered ''normal.''

Congolese women face an extraordinary struggle. Their husbands leave them after they are raped for fear of ''disease.'' Congo does not have enough resources to treat sexual assault victims. The lack of hospital beds forces rape victims to return to their villages before they have fully recovered.

Rape victims are often left with colostomy bags, damaged internal organs, pregnant or unable to bear children, and afraid of being attacked again.

I founded the Congressional Victim's Rights Caucus to provide a voice for victims and to advocate on their behalf. As the co-chair of the caucus, I hope we continue to raise awareness of the devastating effects of domestic violence and other crimes on victims across the world.

Congolese women are victims of sadistic sexual assaults, irreversible internal damage, and a government that has failed to protect them. And that's just the way it is.

TRIBUTE TO ALYSSA RANDALL

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 16, 2007

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Alyssa Randall of State Center, Iowa, as the recipient of the Golden Apple Award for her commitment and enthusiasm as an educator.

Alyssa teaches the Trojan Tots program at West Marshall Elementary School, which includes two separate programs for 3 and 4-year-olds. At an early age, Alyssa acquired a strong interest in utilizing her talent for working with young children. As she was growing up Alyssa's own teachers played a crucial role in this interest. I am certain that Alyssa's passion for the teaching profession is, and will continue to be, a significant influence on a number of her own students as well.

The Golden Apple Award is a special recognition given to one exceptional teacher each month during the school year by WHO-TV 13 in Des Moines, Iowa and by Allied Insurance. Alyssa's own students, Ryan and Kody Carver, nominated her for this recognition by writing letters describing why she is their favorite teacher.

I consider it a great honor to represent this dedicated teacher Alyssa Randall in the United States Congress. And, I also know that my colleagues in Congress will join me in expressing my gratitude to Alyssa and to all of our Nation's educators for their hard work and dedication to our children and grandchildren.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 16, 2007

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I would like to state for the record my position on the following votes I missed due to flooding in my county.

On Monday, October 15, 2007, I was tending to personal matters and thus missed rollcall votes Nos. 961, 962, and 963. Had I been present, I would have voted ''aye'' on all votes.

A PROCLAMATION HONORING THE 32ND ANNUAL NATIONAL CONVENTION OF THE PAN-MESSINIAN FEDERATION OF USA AND CANADA

HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 16, 2007

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker, whereas, the people of the Pan-Messinian Federation of USA and Canada celebrate the 32nd National Convention with great pride; and

Whereas, the 180th Anniversary will be celebrated, recognizing the Navy of Battle of Navarino; and

Whereas, the battle which took place on October 20, 1827 ensured Greece's independence

Whereas, they are known for fostering fraternal bonds, renewing acquaintances and annually gathering to conduct official business; and

Whereas, Pan-Messinian Federation of USA and Canada is recognized for their hard work to preserve cultural traditions, educational scholarships, and charities;

Be it resolved that along with friends, family, and the residents of the 18th Congressional District, I commend the Pan-Messinian Federation of USA and Canada for your unwavered commitment, recognizing that all great achievements are a result of dedication. With great appreciation and respect, I wish you continued success.