

We can rightfully say that the creation of the UN became a truly global and historic event.

It is profoundly symbolic that the United Nations' half-centennial anniversary coincides with a date marking 50 years since the end of World War II. The right against evil proclaimed by countries, despite differences in their political systems and ideologies, ended with a triumphant victory.

And I have every reason to be proud of the fact that Tajikistan's contribution, commensurate with its capabilities, was part of the effort by those nations that fought for this victory and formed the United Nations.

Then, 50 years ago, an unprecedented unity of nations, governments, countries and continents of the planet was being forged. The foundation of the United Nations laid by its creators turned out to be so solid, and its activities so productive that it did not only fulfill its main objective—averting the threat of another World War—but also managed to break the shackles of the Cold War.

Drawing upon the half-century experience of the United Nations, which has become a global institute for solving complex international issues, a recognized center for reconciliation of different states' interests and a vehicle for ensuring their multilateral cooperation, we have every opportunity to a meet the new challenges of our time and to find adequate answers to modern-day questions.

Today, the world-wide family of nations faces two well-known problems of a global nature. To cope with these problems, to identify the course of action necessary to solve them—this is the mission of the United Nations, whose mechanisms have proved their efficiency in the past half century. The world community has every right to count on the fact that now they will be fully utilized to minimize the destructive consequences of conflicts, which, unfortunately, are part of our present-day history.

As it is well known, the United Nations was formed specifically to help states resolve their disputes peacefully, but today's unique circumstances require a wider use of preventive diplomacy, a direction of all UN efforts toward prevention of aggravation in different regions.

Today, when new forms of collective security are being introduced, we believe the peace-making potential of the UN can be coupled with its patterns of cooperation with regional organizations, primarily toward deterring, localizing and settling armed conflicts, the fight against terrorism and radical manifestations of various kinds of fundamentalism.

In Tajikistan, we do not judge this speculatively, but based on specific peace-making activities of the United Nations, which in reality acts as an active and efficient intermediary in settling the problems around Tajikistan. Having survived the civil war, coping with its consequences, our people managed to preserve the integrity and independence of the state and its international recognition based on support and assistance of country-members of the UN and its institutes that are widely represented in Tajikistan.

We will continue to defend our national interests in cooperation with the UN, in interaction with OSCE and other international organizations.

Of course, in the first place, these interests require the earliest possible achievement of a positive result in the inter-Tajik dialogue, which is under way with the active participation of several countries and under the auspices of the UN.

Two years ago, at the 48th session of the UN General Assembly, our delegation stated that political dialogue as the only alter-

native for untying "the Tajik knot" and achieving internal accord in the country was one of the top priorities of the course we chose.

Constructive trends that permeate this dialogue today, and the fact that now it is on a higher level, became possible thanks to the UN envoys' painstaking work with representatives from both Tajik sides. Of course, it also gained some new thrust after our meeting in Kabul and Tehran. Today, the country's leadership and the opposition are working on a common agreement initiated by the Protocol on main principles of achieving peace and national conciliation in Tajikistan, signed by the parties in August of this year. It was also decided to extend through February 26, 1996 the Agreement on a temporary cease-fire and the cessation of other hostile actions on the Tajik-Afghan border and inside the country. This is a significant development. But the most important thing is that we support the earliest possible start of a standing negotiation round, which we project to determine unequivocally the thrust of achieving the accord, overcoming hostility and strengthening society and consolidation trends.

I am sure that our efforts to this end would be more efficient if it was not for the tensions in neighboring Afghanistan that still exist and affect our border areas. It looks like the explosive nature of the conflict in Afghanistan that has not yet been settled dropped out of the world community's sight. It is our deep conviction that brewing tendencies toward escalation of the conflict threaten not only our country's security, but the security of the whole region, while also carrying within themselves some destructive impulses of the global crisis.

We call upon the international community to promote the earliest possible return of peace to the long-suffering land. Overcoming the Afghan crisis requires not only constructive participation of the states in the region, but also some effective actions by the UN.

Mr. Chairman, the reality is that in the post-Soviet territory, where several independent states were formed, the main burden of settling regional conflicts is mostly carried by the Commonwealth of Independent States, with Russia as the remaining basis. In our opinion, the UN and OSCE are supposed to share this burden, drawing upon the Commonwealth as an important instrument of maintaining stability and strengthening global security. In this connection, it is essential that the UN specialized agencies and international banking and financial organizations develop a comprehensive plan supporting reforms in the CIS countries during the transition period. Otherwise, it would be unthinkable to integrate smoothly the Commonwealth states into the world economy.

The problem of the UN young member-states' economic development is closely linked to the issues of universal security.

We believe that the remaining discriminatory restrictions in the world economy, as well as the practices of conditional financial and economic assistance to countries with transitional economies clearly do not serve the purposes of achieving universal security.

In our opinion, this is the area of activity where the ideas of harmonious international relations and wider multilateral cooperation meet the demands of the new phase in the states' joint effort on both global and regional levels. We think that along these lines the UN could help develop the European idea as it applies to the lands of a new "greater Europe," whose borders are widely believed to extend—in a geopolitical sense—from Vladivostok to Vancouver, from Dublin to Dushanbe, from Murmansk to Malta.

We live in a world that is drastically different from the one we saw 50 years ago.

The United Nations has to adapt to today's turbulent evolution process of historic development that, regrettably, is characterized by civil wars, separatist movements, as well as ethnic, tribal or other clashes.

That is why today the UN has to deal with some new situations. That seems to push it in the direction of re-interpreting quite a few of its concepts, objectives and tasks.

Hopefully, recent year's tendencies toward measures of compulsion within the peace-keeping operations conducted under the auspices of the UN will not get any further momentum.

While promoting stronger UN positions in ensuring peace and stability, including in our region we believe the requirements of the security standards should be invariable.

At its 50th anniversary threshold, the United Nations has every opportunity to find effective answers to questions posed by qualitative changes in the world situation. One such answer is the streamlining of the United Nations itself, considering today's realities. It is evident that the time has come to develop a partnership strategy for the 21st century. We see the basis for such a strategy in common underlying interests, which will help build trust and extend the borders of peace and prosperity for years to come. Based on these strategic priorities, the UN streamlining efforts must enjoy unconditional support, while preserving everything productive and valuable in peacemaking operations and development programs.

Following this path, we will undoubtedly show realism, since revival is in itself a fruitful process. In this regard, proposals on re-organizing management structure in accordance with new tasks, creating accumulation mechanisms and efficient use of resources to implement vital programs are no exception. These are all problems of top priority.

However, while considering new objectives, we should rely on the half-century of UN experience and its heritage, respecting and appreciating the ideas of its founders.

Mr. Chairman, five decades are a short moment from the perspective of history. And it is as beautiful as the very idea of peace and cooperation that is part of the UN foundation.

Nevertheless, the festive atmosphere of this event should not hide the harsh reality of day-to-day life. We must properly pass the half-century experience, the whole UN heritage to the younger generations with a confidence that they will end up in reliable hands.

BOSNIA SHOULDN'T GET AN EASY NOD JUST BECAUSE SERVICE IS VOLUNTARY

HON. DOUG BEREUTER

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 18, 1995

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, this Member commends to his colleagues an editorial which appeared in the Omaha World-Herald on November 11, 1995.

[From the Omaha World-Herald, Dec. 11, 1995]

BOSNIA SHOULDN'T GET AN EASY NOD JUST BECAUSE SERVICE IS VOLUNTARY

A detestable idea has crept into the discussion of President Clinton's Bosnia mission. Some defenders of the president's position stress the fact that the U.S. armed forces are all-volunteer. The implication is that volunteers asked for it if they wind up in an unpleasant or dangerous situation.

Any such thought should be put aside immediately. The safety of the armed forces is one of the primary concerns whenever they are sent into the field. The fact that the troops are volunteers instead of draftees should make no difference.

It apparently makes a difference to some people. The idea that Vietnam was bad because draftees were used, while Bosnia is of little concern because the armed forces are all-volunteer, has appeared in forums including broadcast talk shows and the Public Pulse. Jack Germond, a liberal syndicated columnist, mentioned the volunteer status of the troops on "The McLaughlin Group."

Indeed, President Clinton, in his televised speech asking for support for the Bosnia mission, said that "my most difficult duty is to put the men and women who volunteered to serve our nation in harm's way when our interest and values demand it."

Why was it necessary to remind his audience that these were volunteers? Does Clinton, who avoided the draft, see volunteers as something different? Certainly it doesn't come as news to the public that the armed forces consist of career and professional soldiers as opposed to draftees. That has been true for more than 20 years.

When Americans lay wreaths on Memorial Day, they don't ask whether each fallen soldier was a volunteer or a draftee. Their deaths are equally profound. Mothers, fathers, wives and siblings of volunteers grieve no less. Their children suffer an equal loss.

Clinton is sending American troops into a harsh and dangerous land. Booby traps and land mines litter the countryside. The potential for terrorism is high. Roads and airports are in ruins. Water supplies are undependable. The terrain is rugged, with deep mountain valleys and dense forests. Winter brings bone-chilling cold and almost impenetrable fog.

Many Serbs who live in Bosnia have vowed to fight until the lawful government of their country is brought down. The Muslims who control that government have brought in shadowy fighters from Iran, Afghanistan and Libya, among other places. The government has agreed to ask those fighters to leave. But will they leave?

The question is whether Americans should be sent into this impossible situation. Even those who volunteered to serve.

IN HONOR OF THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE PUERTO RICAN FLAG

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 18, 1995

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the design of the Puerto Rican flag, a symbol which represents the enormous contribution the citizens of the island have made to our Nation. The flag's anniversary will be honored by the Centennial Anniversary Committee of the Puerto Rican Flag at City Hall Park in Perth Amboy on December 17, 1995.

The flag was completed in New York City at Chimney Corner Hall in Manhattan on December 22, 1895. The flag of Puerto Rico has a rich history. Dr. Julio J. Henna led a group of 59 Puerto Ricans who organized the Puerto Rican section of the Cuban Revolutionary Party. As part of their activities, a flag was created to rally support for independence from Spain.

The Puerto Rican flag was designed by inverting the colors of the single starred flag of its neighbor in the Caribbean, Cuba. The first known incarnation of the symbol was made by Manuela "Mima" Besosa, the Puerto Rican Betsy Ross. The motion to adopt the flag was approved unanimously by the Puerto Rican revolutionaries.

For 100 years, the Puerto Rican flag has symbolized a proud people. It has served as a symbol of Puerto Rico's cultural tradition and heritage. Puerto Ricans are proud of their many contributions to the United States and they are proud of the unique identity their flag represents. Puerto Rico has been referred to as the "Shining Star of the Caribbean." Her citizens residing in Perth Amboy are shining stars in their community.

It is an honor to recognize the banner of a group of constituents I am proud to represent. I ask that my colleagues join me in honoring the 100th anniversary of the creation of Puerto Rican flag.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BOBBY L. RUSH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 18, 1995

Mr. RUSH. Mr. Speaker, during rollcall vote Nos. 834, 835, 836, 837, 845, 847, and 848, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present I would have voted "aye." I ask unanimous consent that my statement appear in the permanent RECORD immediately following the above rollcall votes.

A TRIBUTE TO MR. STEPHEN H. CONGER, SR.

HON. DAVID FUNDERBURK

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 18, 1995

Mr. FUNDERBURK, Mr. Speaker, I want to pay tribute to Mr. Stephen H. Conger, Sr., one of the Nation's leaders in the hardwood lumber industry. As such, he has been a leader in helping provide wood products jobs in North Carolina and up and down the southeast coast.

He is to be commended for his tireless work in helping build Coastal Lumber Co. into the second largest producer of hardwood lumber in the United States and one of the largest independent wood products companies.

Mr. Conger's career with Coastal Lumber Company began in Lake City, SC, in 1949 after he earned a B.S. degree in forestry from the University of Georgia in Athens.

He is currently vice chairman of Coastal Lumber Co. a diverse wood products manufacturer headquartered in Weldon, NC, and he is an active member of the board of directors and advisory board of Coastal Lumber Co.

His career includes active leadership roles in hardwood lumber and relative associations. He is president of the Hardwood Manufacturers Association; past director of the National Hardwood Lumber Association and of the Forest Resources Group of the American Forest and Paper Association. He was a past president of the Southern Cypress Manufacturer's

Association, and past executive committee member of the AFPA International Trade Council, and he is a member of: the National Dimension Manufacturers Association; the American Plywood Association; the Southern Forest Products Association; the Southeastern Lumber Manufacturers Association; the North Carolina and Virginia Forestry Associations; the Society of American Foresters; and the Holland Society.

Mr. Conger has also been active in civic, community and political affairs. Born in Asheville, NC, he is married to Marian Lansdell Meiere and has four children; Susan De Camp, Stephen Halsey, Robert Cody Lansdell, and Marian Lansdell Meiere. He served for 4 years as treasurer of the North Carolina Private School Association; is a member of various clubs; and was a delegate to two Republican National Conventions. Additionally, he has been a Halifax County finance chairman of Helms for Senate and 2d District chairman for Reagan-Bush, 1984.

Mr. Conger is an American success story. His hard work and persistence made him a leader in his field. As such, we all owe him a word of thanks and a debt of gratitude.

STEPHEN AND OTTIE ADAMS: SERVICE TO THE NATION

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 18, 1995

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Senior Chief Aviation Machinist Mate Stephen Lee Adams upon his retirement from the U.S. Naval Reserve and to honor his mother, Mrs. Oattie Adams, for her dedication and great service to this country. Both Mrs. Adams and her son Stephen are longtime residents of Fremont, CA, in California's 13th Congressional District.

Mrs. Adams is a widow and the mother of 10 children. Her eldest son, Larry, enlisted in the Marines and served in Vietnam in 1962. Her son Stephen, enlisted in the Navy, served 3 tours in Vietnam and, more recently, served in the Gulf war. Her son Phillip, enlisted in the Marines and served in Vietnam in 1968 and 1969. Her son Ricky enlisted in the Navy and received a medical discharge. Her son Kim enlisted in the Army and is a first sergeant (E8) with the 1st Armored Division in Germany, who is preparing to go to Bosnia within the next 3 weeks.

Mrs. Adams has devoted her life to this country and its veterans. In early 1966, her nephew Mike Bledsoe was wounded in combat in Vietnam and was sent to Oak Knoll Naval Hospital to recuperate. When she and her husband, Charles, a World War II Marine Corps veteran, visited Mike, they saw how depressing it was in the hospital wards—the patients had a few board games, playing cards and not much else. The Adamses were determined to fix things. They began by calling on the local business community and asking them to donate items. They also began to devote all of their weekends to the wounded veterans. They visited the wards each weekend to pass out the items such as candy and games that local businesses had donated, and stayed to talk with the patients. Mr. Adams also had a