

Prime Minister Rabin's assassination "divine vengeance." And just prior to the Hamas bombing spree, Iran's Supreme Leader, Khomeini, preached that "The power of Islam will ultimately bring about the end of the rootless Zionist regime * * * which must be destroyed."

Iran has not stopped at rhetoric. It frequently meets with all the major terrorist groups—including Hizbollah, Hamas, Palestinian Islamic Jihad, and the PFL-PGC. It actively encourages these groups to use terror to destroy the peace process. It provides them with money—up to several million dollars a year in the case of Hamas, Islamic Jihad, and others; and up to \$100 million a year for Hizbollah. Iran also supplies them with arms and material support, training, and—in some cases—operational guidance.

The evidence has grown in recent months. In advance of Israel's elections, Iranian-trained terrorists have been sent to infiltrate Israel and the Palestinian territories. Some have been intercepted. Others narrowly failed in carrying out their deadly activities. Still others have succeeded in their murderous missions. We believe that an Iranian-backed group was responsible for last week's drive-by shooting of an Israeli-American yeshiva student in the West Bank. In another case, Belgium intercepted a shipment containing a mortar, which came from Iran and was probably intended for an attack on a Jewish target in Europe.

There should no longer be any debate about Iran's involvement in terrorism against the peace process. German Foreign Minister Kinkel left no doubt that in remarks he made here in Washington just two weeks ago. He said that Germany is "fully aware of the evil things that Iran has been doing and is still doing." He went on to say that "[T]he Americans and the Germans agree as to the general assessment of what Iran means by way of terrorism * * * support of Hizbollah, Hamas, and Jihad."

While we and our allies now share a similar analysis of the facts, we differ when it comes to how best to deal with Iran. The United States believes that Iran will only change its behavior when the world makes it pay a sufficiently high political and economic price. We must deny Iran's leaders the resources to finance their dangerous policies. That is why the President decided last year to impose a comprehensive embargo on U.S. trade with Iran. And that is why we have been working with Congress on legislation to further tighten economic restrictions on Iran.

In contrast, some European nations continue to engage Iran in what they call a critical dialogue, while maintaining normal trade. The Europeans themselves acknowledge that their policy has produced no significant change in Iranian behavior. We remain convinced that no amount of dialogue will alter Iran's policies, unless it is coupled with real economic pressure.

Let me stress one point: We do not oppose the EU policy because we oppose the principle of speaking with Iran. The United States has long said that we are ready to conduct an open dialogue with authoritative representatives of the Iranian government, in which we could fully air our two major concerns: First, Iran's support for terrorism, especially against the peace process. And second, its efforts to acquire weapons of mass destruction. Iran, however, has never taken up this offer.

Our determination to contain Iran and to defeat the enemies of peace is clear. But so is our commitment to press ahead with negotiations on a comprehensive Arab-Israeli peace. Anything less would hand the terrorists the very victory they seek.

To close the circle of peace, agreements between Israel and Syria and between Israel

and Lebanon are essential. Syria presents us with a unique challenge. On the one hand, we continue to have serious problems in our bilateral relationship with Syria. Syria remains on our narcotics list as well as our terrorism list.

Both President Clinton and I have consistently pressed our concerns with President Assad and other senior Syrian officials. We will continue to do so, and to make clear that these concerns must be met before the United States can build a mutually beneficial relationship with Syria.

Yet we recognize that Syria is different from Iran. Iran rejects the very notion of peace and has dedicated itself to Israel's destruction. By contrast, Syria has been negotiating directly with Israel to end their conflict. I have no illusions. Translating that willingness to negotiate into a peace agreement will be difficult. But the talks thus far have provided a solid foundation for progress when negotiations resume.

As long as we remain convinced that peace is possible, we must continue to work with the parties to achieve a breakthrough that would have far-reaching strategic consequences—not just for the Middle East, but for America's vital interests. A comprehensive peace will dramatically reduce the risks of another Arab-Israeli war. It will remove the final constraints on Israel's having normal relations with the entire Arab and Muslim world.

Finally, and perhaps most importantly, ending the Arab-Israeli conflict will allow us and our friends to harness our resources to meet the common set of strategic challenges that threaten us all—especially the rise of extremist movements that use terrorism and violence, and rogue states, like Iran and Iraq, that possess weapons of mass destruction.

These are the real dangers that we and our friends will have to address in the coming years. In pursuit of our national interests, we are determined to do so. A critical part of our strategy must be a continued effort to seize the historic opportunity that now exists to achieve a secure and comprehensive peace.

TRIBUTE TO CHARLES A. KROUT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

HON. PAUL E. GILLMOR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 23, 1996

Mr. GILLMOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an outstanding school in Ohio's Fifth Congressional District. The Charles A. Krout Elementary School was recently chosen as one of the best in the State of Ohio by the Ohio Association of Elementary School Administrators. This is an honor very few schools receive.

When you walk through the front door at Krout Elementary, you cannot help but see that the staff works extremely hard every single day for every single student. One of the points stressed at the school is the high level of parental and community involvement. The education of the children is a collective effort. About 200 parents, grandparents, and retired people volunteer for different school functions. This level of dedication should be the standard for our children.

Mr. Speaker, quality education is at the heart of America's future. Krout Elementary has done enormous good for its community and the country through solid dedication to the

power of learning and knowledge that our young people need.

This honor is a time to reflect upon past accomplishments. It is also a time to look toward new horizons. I ask my colleagues to join me today in recognizing the achievements of the Charles A. Krout Elementary School and encourage its faculty, parents, and students to continue to uphold its impressive legacy.

TRIBUTE TO ERNIE BEDROSIAN

HON. GEORGE P. RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 23, 1996

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to congratulate Ernie Bedrosian, founder of Raisin Bargaining Association. On Friday, May 24, 1996, in my district in Fresno, CA, the Raisin Bargaining Association will be honoring their founder, Mr. Ernie Bedrosian. He will be commended for his excellent work on behalf of the California raisin growers and packers.

Mr. Bedrosian founded the RBA at the age of 29 in 1966 and his work on behalf of California raisin leaders is legendary. I send to Ernie and the RBA my very best wishes for continued success.

RED HOOK V.F.W. POST 7765 CELEBRATES 50 YEARS OF SERVICE

HON. GERALD B.H. SOLOMON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 23, 1996

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to commemorate the golden anniversary of Veterans of Foreign Wars Post No. 7765. This post, I am proud to say, is based in Red Hook, NY, in the heart of my congressional district, and is celebrating its 50th year of service. And this post personifies the outstanding efforts of the entire nationwide membership to promote a strong national defense and to help veterans and their families. That is one reason I was so pleased to be awarded the V.F.W. National Commander's Congressional Award several years ago.

The V.F.W., Mr. Speaker, has been an organization of exceptional merit and service to the needs of many veterans. It is only appropriate that those brave men and women who placed themselves in harms way overseas be represented by such an able organization. The members of Post No. 7765 have been receiving just such outstanding service for 50 years now. It is comforting to know that those who served the needs of our country and fought for the principles and ideals of America all over the globe can depend on the support of an organization like Post 7765 back home in upstate New York.

Mr. Speaker, the service of this post in Red Hook is worthy of significant recognition. This post, and others like it, are the reason I fought so hard to attain Department level status for Veterans Affairs. When Ronald Reagan signed that legislation into law, veterans were finally afforded the degree of national consideration they deserve. The efforts of V.F.W. posts like this one, Mr. Speaker, having served the