

mobilization, and many of the civil rights' accomplishments which we herald today resulted from this gathering.

The Leadership Conference on Civil Rights not only played a crucial role in organizing and mobilizing African-Americans throughout the Nation, it also framed the civil rights issue in a way that all Americans could relate to and understand. In fact, it is important to note, that most of Mr. Aronson's work on behalf of the civil rights movement was performed while he was the program director for the National Jewish Community Relations Council. He thus serves as a living symbol of the historic alliance between the Jewish and Black communities.

Many of the successes that we point to today in the area of civil rights is as a result of Arnold Aronson's hard work and dedication. He was directly involved in the development of President Roosevelt's Executive order barring discrimination on the basis of race, creed, or national origin, and in the drafting of the report issued by President Truman's Citizens Committee on Civil Rights in 1947, which became the basis for the 1957 Civil Rights Act.

Mr. Aronson once said, "the struggle for civil rights cannot be won by any one group acting by or for itself alone but only through a coalition of groups that share a common commitment to equal justice and equal opportunity for every American." One of the most impressive aspects of the work of Arnold Aronson has always been his commitment to peaceful demonstration, civility, and coalition building.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to join with my colleagues to recognize the lifelong achievements of Arnold Aronson and to honor him today on his 87th birthday. This is a man who represents what is right in America, and while there is much work which remains in the area of civil rights, we must never forget the commitment and dedication of individuals like Arnold Aronson who were responsible for the historic progress of the civil rights movement in our lifetime.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to close with a quote from the late civil rights leader Clarence Mitchell, Jr., the former Washington director for the NAACP, who once referred to Arnold Aronson as "one of the giants who labored longer and earlier than many * * * none of our great achievements would have been possible without him." Our Nation is forever indebted to Arnold Aronson for his life's work and I am pleased to have been able to honor him today on the floor with my colleagues.

IN HONOR OF THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE PORTUGUESE INSTRUCTIVE SOCIAL CLUB

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 13, 1997

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an exceptional institution serving the residents of my district, the Portuguese Instructive Social Club, on their 75th anniversary. This momentous occasion will be celebrated on March 15, 1997, during an evening of festivities to be held at the Portuguese-American Hall in Elizabeth.

The Portuguese Instructive Social Club is an organization dedicated to the continuing pro-

motion of the cultural heritage of the diverse community in Elizabeth. The 5,000 individuals connected with this exemplary group have committed themselves to the betterment of both children and adults. The children of Elizabeth are fortunate to have the Portuguese Instructive Social Club preparing them for their future achievements.

Among the numerous services provided by this unique organization is a Portuguese language school, teaching 300 children. The Portuguese Instructive Social Club also promotes the physical well-being of the young people of Elizabeth through its youth soccer program. Additionally, there is a youth division of the club, Nova Mocidade, serving young people up to the age of 18.

While youthful attainment is an important mission of the Portuguese Instructive Social Club, cultural awareness is its main focus. To accomplish this laudable goal, the group is dedicated to artistic endeavors. These commendable endeavors include "Dancarees E Cantres de Portugal," serving both adults and children, a theater group, an amateur soccer group, a newsletter focusing on issues of interest to the Portuguese community, and other cultural presentations, including one by the renowned Portuguese singer, Fado. Furthermore, the Portuguese Instructive Social Club is responsible for organizing the annual Portuguese Day celebration which is attended by 10,000 ardent participants.

I ask that my colleagues join me in recognizing the outstanding work of the Portuguese Instructive Social Club. I heartily commend their accomplishments and all that they have done to pass on the rich culture of Portugal to future generations. It is an honor to have such an outstanding organization working on behalf of the constituents of my district.

MIDDLE EAST PEACE DEPENDS ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 13, 1997

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my support for more projects like the new Marriott Hotel to be built on the beachfront in Gaza. I offer the recent essay by my constituent, Mr. Ralph Nurnberger, from the Christian Science Monitor, as an excellent recognition of the need for more targeted economic aid to the West Bank and Gaza. As Mr. Nurnberger states, " * * * the real test of the peace process is how it affects the daily lives of Israelis and Palestinians. If substantive and visible improvements do not result, no international agreements can succeed." He is absolutely right. Only the development of a strong economic infrastructure will progress and peace succeed.

[From the Christian Science Monitor, Mar. 6, 1997]

NOT A HEARTBREAK HOTEL—GAZA PROJECT SHOWS WAY TO REVERSE PALESTINIAN DESPAIR

(By Ralph Nurnberger)

The day before he left for his official visit to the United States, Yasser Arafat presided over the groundbreaking ceremony for a Marriott Hotel to be built on the beachfront in Gaza.

This project says, symbolically, that the Middle East peace process might, finally, produce tangible benefits for the people in the area, especially through direct involvement of the private sector. The construction and later operation of this hotel will provide employment for hundreds of Palestinians. It will contain a modern commercial center to enable international visitors and Palestinians to conduct business as it is done elsewhere in the world. The project will include a self-contained telecommunications center for international calls, faxes, and e-mail as well as excess telephone capacity for the local market.

This project will be the first major American private sector involvement in Gaza. The total investment will be approximately six times more than all other American investments in Gaza—combined!

While diplomatic achievements are essential, the real test of the peace process is how it affects the daily lives of Israelis and Palestinians. If substantive and visible improvements do not result, no international agreements can succeed. For the majority of Israelis, the key element is security. Israelis must feel safe riding buses, shopping in malls, and sending their children to schools. If random acts of violence occur, they must be assured that the Palestinian Authority will work with Israeli officials to find and prosecute the terrorists.

PEACE DIVIDEND: LOWER INCOMES

Although more Israelis have been killed through terror attacks since the Sept. 13, 1993, signing than in any comparable period, it appears that the Palestinians finally understand their responsibility to work with Israelis to enhance security concerns. The test for most Palestinians is whether the peace accords will result in an improved quality of life. Developing a thriving economy that provides new employment opportunities will not only minimize hatreds and tensions, but will also bring about the promise of a new life.

Economic divergence exacerbates political and religious tensions. Since the first Rabin-Arafat signing, Israeli per capita income has increased from \$13,800 to over \$15,000, while Palestinian incomes have dropped by a third to under \$1,200.

Delays and reallocations of internationally pledged contributions, the reluctance of foreign investors to establish projects in Gaza and the West Bank, border closures, the slow pace of diplomatic negotiations, and difficulties encountered in setting up a viable Palestinian economy have contributed to growing frustration. Public infrastructure and services, including education, health care, sanitation, water, waste water disposal, and electricity continue to be inadequate. Despite a minor building boom, a housing shortage remains.

While the Netanyahu government has eased some limits on Palestinians seeking employment in Israel, the numbers able to cross the borders are significantly below the 120,000 able to find daily work in Israel in 1992.

Rather than growing to absorb these workers, the Palestinian economy has declined over the past two years. Thus, workers have fewer opportunities to find employment within Palestinian areas. The unemployment rate in Gaza, always high, is now estimated at approximately 50 percent, with the rate in the West Bank estimated at 30 percent. Unemployment is highest among young, single men—the most likely recruits for terror-oriented groups.

BIG AID PLEDGES, LITTLE FOLLOW-THROUGH

The US hosted an international meeting on Oct. 1, 1993, at which \$2.4 billion in assistance to the West Bank and Gaza was pledged.