

relationship based on mutually shared democratic values, common strategic interests, and moral bonds of friendship and mutual respect; and

Whereas the American people have shared an affinity with the people of Israel and regard Israel as a strong and trusted ally and an important strategic partner: Now, therefore be it

*Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the United States—*

(1) recognizes the historic significance of the 50th anniversary of the reestablishment of the sovereign and independent modern State of Israel;

(2) commends the people of Israel for their remarkable achievements in building a new state and a pluralistic democratic society in the Middle East in the face of terrorism, hostility and belligerence by many of her neighbors;

(3) reaffirms the bonds of friendship and cooperation which have existed between the United States and Israel for the past half-century and which have been significant for both countries; and

(4) extends the warmest congratulations and best wishes to the State of Israel and her people for a peaceful and prosperous and successful future.

AKIN BIRDAL—VOICE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS IN TURKEY

**HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 12, 1998*

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, many in the human rights community were horrified to learn of the shooting of Akin Birdal, President of Turkey's Human Rights Foundation, by unidentified armed gunmen at his offices in Ankara. Mr. Birdal, a widely recognized and respected human rights advocate, appeared before the Helsinki Commission in the early 1990s and most recently met with members of a Commission delegation that visited Turkey in January. Today's attack occurred against the backdrop of an ongoing campaign of harassment against human rights NGOs in Turkey. The Human Rights Foundation, Turkey's largest human rights monitoring group, has had numerous offices closed down by the Turkish authorities. The Foundation's leadership, including Mr. Birdal, has been repeatedly targeted for prosecution.

The attack against Akin Birdal in a very real sense is an assault on Turkey's fledgling civil society. The development of a genuine civil society is essential if Turkey hopes to develop into a true democracy. Mr. Speaker, instead of viewing human rights advocates like Mr. Birdal as adversaries, Turkey's leaders should embrace these courageous individuals as allies and form a partnership with those dedicated to democracy, human rights, and the rule of law. Our prayers go out to Mr. Birdal and his family in the aftermath of this senseless act.

CONGRATULATIONS TO DR. MAN J. CHA, DR. WALTER FUNG, DR. TOYOKO MAE TAKAHASHI, MR. SUTEE VATANATHAM, AND MS. IA V. XIONG

**HON. GEORGE P. RADANOVICH**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 12, 1998*

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Dr. Man J. Cha, Walter Fung, M.D., Toyoko Mae Takahashi, Pharm. D., Sutee Vatanatham, and Ia V. Xiong, for being selected the 1998 Portraits of Success Program Honorees by KSEE 24 and Companies that Care. In recognition of Asian American Heritage Month, these five leaders were honored for their unique contribution to the betterment of the community.

Dr. Man J. Cha has served as Professor of political science and public administration at California State University, Fresno since 1969. He earned his masters and doctoral degrees from the School of Public Administration at the University of Southern California. He also earned his baccalaureate degree in International Relations and Economics from this acclaimed University. Since 1965, Dr. Cha has made significant contributions as an instructor in higher education. He has taught public management, organizational theory and behavior, and many other courses related to American government and public policy issues. He has also conducted extensive research related to environmental issues, economic development and the political and social culture of South Korea. In 1988, he was awarded a Rotary Foundation International Ambassadorial Scholarship to give lectures in Korea and the United States. In 1992 he was awarded a major grant from the Korea Research Foundation to study Korean bureaucracy and public policy. More recently, Dr. Cha was on sabbatical leave conducting policy research in China and Korea. Dr. Cha has published numerous scholarly works on a broad range of social and environmental issues related to Korea, Asian-American politics and America's economic foreign policy. On the local front, Dr. Cha served as a member of Fresno City Review Committee which recommended Fresno's strong mayor form of government in 1992. He also conducts training workshops to introduce city, county, and state employees to an advanced systems approach to public management methodology and processes.

Dr. Walter Fung was born and raised in Fresno, California. He graduated from Edison High School in 1950 and later from California State University, Fresno. He received his degree in medicine from the University of California at Irvine specializing in gastroenterology. From 1971 until 1974, Dr. Fung served as the Medical Director for the Fresno County Economic Opportunities Commission, providing clinical care, immunization, and health screenings to low-income individuals and children. In 1974 Dr. Fung was confronted with a life-changing experience, which he says brought him a renewed focus on life. He was diagnosed with cancer and given two years to live. He credits this frightening experience with adding a deeper dimension to his physician-patient relationships. His own illness prompted him to serve others as much as possible. His

caring and sensitivity has earned him public recognition for providing "extraordinary patient care." More recently, Dr. Fung coordinated the building of the new First Chinese Baptist church in Fresno. The facility has become the hub of activities for the Chinese community. Dr. Fung personally was responsible for raising \$700,000 of the \$1.5 million needed to complete this project. His past community involvement also includes working with the Boy Scouts, the March of Dimes, and the Boys and Girls Club of Fresno. Today Dr. Fung says he will continue promoting "filial piety" among the Asian community. His future plans include helping to build a skilled nursing and retirement home for Asian seniors to best meet their dietary and cultural needs. Dr. Fung and his wife Barbara have been blessed with three children and two grandchildren.

Dr. Toyoko Mae Takahashi is described by her friends and professional colleagues as a "perennial volunteer" who has been active for many years helping to improve the Fresno and Clovis communities. Dr. Takahashi completed her undergraduate studies at the University of California, Berkeley. She attained a doctoral degree from the School of Pharmacy at the University of California, San Francisco. In 1959, she completed a three-year pharmacy internship at Valley Medical Center in Fresno. In 1960, Dr. Takahashi established Valley Medical Pharmacy, Inc. (Manor drugs) acting as its corporate President. From 1969 until 1987, she served as a consultant for Hope Manor and Clovis Community Hospital. She later became a Partner at Hope Manor Convalescent Hospital, and more recently founded the Professional Pharmacy Alliance, Inc. and currently serves as the corporate President. In addition to her exemplary professional career, Dr. Takahashi is recognized for her extensive community service. She has been active for many years with Central California Asian Pacific Woman, an organization that helps to raise scholarships for deserving Asian Students. As well, she is active in the Soroptomist International of Fresno's Youth Forum. The Youth Forum is organized for students in Fresno and Clovis to provide young people with unique opportunities to discuss ways in which they can help to build a better society. Dr. Takahashi also served for five years as a member of the Board of Directors of the Fresno Private Industry Council, which provides employment and training programs to local residents. She has also been very active with the Central California District Council, Japanese American Citizens League, the Central California Nikkei Foundation, and the Woodward Park Shin Zen Gardens. Additionally, she has served on numerous committees designed to promote small business development, higher education and civil rights protection of Japanese-Americans. In 1990, Dr. Toyoko Mae Takahashi was Appointed by President George Bush to the U.S. Department of Agriculture Citizen Advisory Committee in Equal Opportunity. That same year she was recognized by the U.S. Department of Justice for her support and dedication to the Japanese American Redress Program.

Mr. Sutee Vatanatham was born in Thailand in 1951. He and his family immigrated to Los Angeles, California, in the early 1970's where he attended public schools. In the mid 1970's, Mr. Vatanatham moved to Visalia, California, where he received a two-year degree in Engineering from College of the Sequoias. In

1980, he received a baccalaureate degree in Electrical Engineering from California State University, Fresno. In 1981, he opened the Thai House, the First Thai restaurant in Fresno. The restaurant has been rated the Best Thai Restaurant for four consecutive years, and three times the "Best Asian Restaurant in the Valley" by the "Fresno Bee". The Thai House employs more than 40 employees. In addition to becoming a successful restaurateur, Mr. Vatanatham has also made a significant contribution to our nation's defense. In 1988, he joined the U.S. Naval Reserve. In 1989, he was assigned to six month's active duty in Subic Bay, the Philippines, where he served in Operation Desert Shield. He later served in Bahrain, Saudi Arabia in Desert Storm. Mr. Vatanatham earned the National Defense Medal, the Achievement Commendation Medal, the South West Asian Medal, and the Kuwait Liberation Medal for his military service. On the local front, Mr. Vatanatham has distinguished himself through his charitable work and contributions. He makes year-round contributions to school activities, the Salvation Army, the Cancer Society, AMVETS, the March of Dimes, and the American Heart Association. Now, he volunteers to help build homes for Habitat for Humanity.

Ms. la V. Xiong was born in Highland Laos. She is the third daughter of seven children. Her family immigrated to the United States in 1980 when she was 12 years old. Despite the great number of obstacles that confront Southeast Asian immigrants, Ms. Xiong has distinguished herself by becoming a highly successful role model for the Hmong community and society. In 1992, she became the first Hmong-American woman to become a teacher in the Fresno-Clovis Area. Currently, Ms. Xiong works for Fresno Unified School District as a bilingual advisor. Previously, she worked six years with Clovis Unified School District as an elementary bilingual teacher. At Clovis Unified School District she designed unique bilingual reading materials and developed primary language support programs for first and third-grade Hmong students. Ms. Xiong is credited with developing unique multi cultural learning activities, such as her popular "Story Night" program. In 1987 la V. Xiong published "The Gift: A Hmong New Year." This book has become a popular resource for people wanting to learn more about Hmong culture. Her translation of "How The Farmer Tricked The Evil Demon," has become another favorite among bilingual teachers who work with Hmong students. la V. Xiong is active in community service. She currently serves as a board member for the Fresno Center for New Americans. She is also past President of the Association of California School Administrators, Region IX, and is an active participant of the Hmong Language Institute. Ms. Xiong is married to Chalee Xiong. They are blessed with two young boys, Kien and Vincent.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor that I congratulate Dr. Man J. Cha, Dr. Walter Fung, Dr. Toyoko Mae Takahashi, Mr. Sutee Vatanatham, and Ms. la V. Xiong for being recognized as the KSEE 24 and Companies that Care 1998 Portraits of Success Honorees in celebration of Asian-American Heritage Month. I applaud the contributions, ideals, and leadership they have exhibited in our community. I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing these fine individuals many more years of success.

## VETO PROMISE NOT WARRANTED

### HON. DOUG BEREUTER

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 12, 1998

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, it seems that the "Mexico City" policy will continue to be an item of contention between the House of Representatives and the Clinton Administration. This Member hopes the President will reconsider his hard-line opposition to the "Mexico City" policy, but that appears unlikely. As demonstrated during the Reagan years, there are family planning organizations which do not perform abortions that can implement the international family planning programs.

Accordingly, this Member commends to his colleagues an excellent editorial which appeared in the Norfolk (Nebraska) Daily News, on May 12, 1998.

#### VETO PROMISE NOT WARRANTED ON ABORTION MATTER, UNITED NATIONS POLICY CONSISTENT WITH REPUBLICANS

Most Americans are accustomed to meeting their obligations, even those made on their behalf by politicians and statesmen with whom they may disagree. The dues payment that the United States provides (or has refused to pay in full in the past) to the United Nations is one of those obligations. The arrears should be paid.

A long battle to reduce the size of that annual assessment, to get the U.N. to be less wasteful and more accountable, was won last year. A compromise was reached, the payment of nearly \$1 billion in back dues has been approved by Congress.

President Clinton, who favors the payment, threatens to veto the bill, however. It is because the Republican majority in Congress succeeded in aiding language to the appropriations bill that would preclude any of the federal funds from being used by international family planning organizations which advocate abortion.

Judging by the slim margin of victory for the measure in the Senate a few days ago (51-49), President Clinton could expect to be sustained in his veto action. That would leave the dues unpaid, of course.

Undesirable as it may be to attach special conditions to this sort of appropriations measure, the president needs to back down. Any one of these three reasons is enough.

1. The United Nations itself has adopted a policy consistent with that which the GOP majority is attempting to emphasize. In 1984, at an international conference related to population control, it affirmed this policy: "Abortion is never to be promoted as a means of family planning."

2. Planned Parenthood and other organizations which are involved in this field have adequate means to promote their own policies without tapping either the resources of the American government or the United Nations.

3. The bitter and unreconcilable divisions in America about when, or if ever, abortion is acceptable, should mean that no money obtained from mandatory tax levies should be used for such procedures unless there is virtually unanimous approval.

That the procedure is legal in America, under a variety of conditions approved by the Supreme Court and set forth in law, does not mean that public funds must follow. Private funding for those who choose abortion should be demanded.

President Clinton should not be allowed to claim that his congressional opponents on the abortion issue are voting, in effect, to pe-

nalize the U.N. by refusing to give him a spending bill without any strings attached. The conditions imposed are not only a valid expression of the congressional majority's views on an important issue related to international affairs, but also consistent with U.N. policy.

## U.S. POLICY ON KOSOVO

### HON. LEE H. HAMILTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 12, 1998

Mr. HAMILTON. Mr. Speaker, the situation in the province of Kosovo in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia is tense and volatile. It is getting worse by the day.

The United States and its allies and partners in the contact group are attempting to achieve the right combination of incentives, pressures and sanctions to induce Yugoslav President Milosevic to abandon the use of military force and repression and start a negotiation without preconditions with the leaders of the Kosovo Albanians. The goal of these talks would be a return of the region's former autonomy and a clarification of the future status of the region within Serbia and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

At the same time, it is also necessary to make clear to the leaders of the Kosovo Albanians and to the Albanian people of Kosovo in general that the United States and its partners in the contact group do not support independence of Kosovo as a realistic solution to this crisis. It is not at all clear that the people of Kosovo are getting this message as loudly and clearly as they should. This is the emphatic message that visiting Italian Prime Minister Prodi conveyed to the Administration and the Congress during his state visit here last week.

In late March I sent a letter to National Security Advisor Sandy Berger setting forth my policy concerns and suggestions for adjusting U.S. policy in the Kosovo crisis. These suggestions included the need for the Administration to continue to work closely with our allies in the contact group and to state unequivocally and clearly that the United States does not support independence for Kosovo—that a solution for Kosovo must be found consistent with the territorial integrity of Serbia and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

Mr. Berger's response to this letter is very helpful in clarifying U.S. policy on this and other key issues involved in the Kosovo problem. Specifically, in the letter Mr. Berger confirms that "... the difficulties in Kosovo cannot be solved through the use of force. We have made it clear that we do not support secession or independence for Kosovo, and that Kosovars Albanians must pursue their legitimate human rights grievances peacefully."

Mr. Speaker, I believe my colleagues will find my exchange of letters with National Security Advisor Berger to be helpful in clarifying Administration policy on Kosovo and in formulating their own views on the continuing crisis in that region. For this reason I am inserting both in the Record at this time. The text follows: