

the Glenn Amendment—it prohibits a variety of assistance and commercial transactions between the U.S. and any country if the President determines that that country—if it is a non-nuclear-weapon state—has detonated a nuclear explosive device.

India has disregarded regional and international stability by placing missiles and exploding thermonuclear weapons, fission weapons, and hydrogen bombs near the Pakistan border. Indeed, their behavior has been clearly unacceptable, and they are being properly punished. I applaud the President for his fortitude.

And, if the President continues to follow through with the current law, this should send a strong signal to the Indian Government that it is not going to be business as usual with the United States.

Mr. Speaker, the American people are tired of helping bullies who punish their own people and threaten neighbors. India is still the 5th largest recipient of U.S. foreign aid in the world; India is the world's largest borrower from the world bank with more than \$44 billion in loans; India votes against the U.S. at the United Nations more often than any other country, except Cuba.

It does not justify sending more hard-earned tax dollars to a country that claims to be the largest democracy in the world, but obviously shares none of our most cherished values.

Democracies don't commit genocide!

Let's put the brakes on the foreign aid gravy train to India!

Ask the President not to waiver on his stance with India!

OUR U.S. CONGRESS—KOREAN NATIONAL ASSEMBLY STUDENT INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE PROGRAM

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 8, 1998

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to rise to call to the attention of our colleagues, Michael L. Fox, a resident of Huguenot, NY, who was my 1998 designee to participate in the U.S. Congress—Foreign National Assembly Student Intern Exchange Program.

As my nominee, Michael was one of eight American interns who were selected by Members of this body, who participated in the exchange program from July 23rd to August 8th, 1998.

This exchange program, which I initiated in 1984 with the cooperation of the Korean National Assembly, our International Relations Committee, and the U.S.I.A., has been an exciting experience for hundreds of eager young adults over the years in Korea and in the United States who have participated. The Korean National Assembly Youth Exchange Program is an attempt to foster increased relations between the United States and Korea. For the 14 years that our program has been conducted, it has been a positive experience for all participants and both governments.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Fox was kind enough to report in detail his trip to Korea, a copy of which I request to be included at this point in the RECORD:

U.S. CONGRESS—KOREAN NATIONAL ASSEMBLY YOUTH EXCHANGE PROGRAM; JULY 23—AUGUST 8, 1998

I must say that this was one of the most interesting summers of my life! Participating in this exchange program to Korea is an experience which I will cherish and remember for the rest of my life.

We started with group briefings on July 18, and soon after began to have joint meetings with the Korean Delegates so that we could get to know each other. Following three days of activities, which concluded with receptions hosted by His Excellency the Ambassador of the Republic of Korea Lee Hong-Koo at his residence, and the Chairman of the House International Relations Committee, and co-founder of this exchange program, Representative Benjamin Gilman, in an HIRC committee room, the American Delegation embarked for Seoul, South Korea.

During our time in the country, which totaled almost three weeks, we had meetings and briefings with various officials and government officers. Many of our discussions centered on the current Asian Economic Crisis and unification with North Korea, along with China's role and the role of the joint South Korea-Japan-North Korea hosted World Cup 2002 Games in that unification.

The culture of South Korea is very different from that in the United States, but we did find that in-roads of "Americanization" had occurred. The youth of the nation has been turning more to American ideas and culture over the past generation. McDonald's, Baskin Robbins and TGIFridays can be found on the streets of Seoul, Chejudo Island, and elsewhere. While much of the culture still centers on respect for elders (even those one day older than you) and the importance of the group over the individual, these ideals, too, have been changing somewhat among those members of the present generation.

Turning to the Economic Crisis, the situation is growing critical. As Americans, I do not think that we can find it easy to understand the magnitude of these topics, living safely and comfortably within the borders of our great Nation, but over there banks and businesses are failing. Layoffs occur every day. Labor unions and unemployed workers demonstrate on the streets everyday, and buses upon buses of riot police are lined up all over Seoul. Making things worse, many of the officials and experts that we spoke to, including those from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Unification, expect that this crisis will continue for at least 3-5 more years before a complete turn-around can be expected. Newspaper articles discuss the disappearance of the middle-class. The poor are, as always, hurting. We saw people still working in rice paddies in many areas lacking sophisticated equipment or technology. The standard of living and poverty lines are much lower than those in the United States. In addition, as I toured the Hyundai plant in Ulsan, my guide informed me that although the labor unions were not aware of it yet, the Hyundai Motors plant was preparing to lay-off up to 40,000 workers! As more and more workers are laid off, the problems will be compounded.

Calls have been made for a restructuring of the government, an abolition of the Korean National Assembly, or a cut in the bureaucracy and size of the government. They are searching for measures that would bring relief and a solution to this great problem.

Americans are not favored or popular amongst some South Koreans. We were advised to be careful and aware of our surroundings at all times. While I did not feel that we were in real danger, I realized that we are being blamed for bringing IMF aid to

Korea, which is seen as a weakening force for the Won, and a target of accusation by the demonstrating workers.

Unification will be difficult under these conditions. Some estimates from CSIS and other agencies put production in North Korea at only about 25 percent of capacity. South Korea is afraid that unification would cost too much, and that it simply cannot afford to "prop-up" North Korea's economy, especially since its citizens are not used to, or prepared for, a productive life in a capitalist economy.

In spite of these grave problems, it is interesting to note that the National Assembly was not in session while we were there. It is incredible that as these dilemmas continue to mount, the governmental body of the nation was not convened and working toward solutions! The political, economic and social situation in South Korea is not good at this time.

Traveling to Panmunjom, the DMZ, and North Korea one comes to realize how lucky we are as Americans. As we entered the conference room, and North Korea, we came face-to-face with North Korean Soldiers. We come from a nation with no hostile borders, whose Capital is not (and has not been since the Civil War) within two hours or less of enemy territory and hostile invaders. We are very lucky indeed, and came to understand why unification is such an important topic on the Korean Peninsula today.

I found this trip to be very informative, exciting and fun. While learning about these crises and problems, we did find time to relax and have some fun. An important part of our experience came from developing friendships and relationships with Korean citizens we came to meet, including past Korean Delegates. We developed relationships through social and cultural activities, such as home visits, traditional Korean meals, hotel stays, and patronage of restaurants and places of entertainment. Cultural bridges were built in side trips to Ancient Palaces in, and around, Seoul, ancient cities and temples throughout the nation—such as those in Kyongju—and the viewing of traditional Korean theater and dances in the resort area of Chejudo Island. The overall experience was quite enjoyable, and we came away returning to the United States with a greater understanding of the culture and way of life on the Korean Peninsula, and the problems that are being dealt with even as this essay is being read.

Despite this situation, the overall program was wonderful. I would venture to say that the program succeeded in its goal of fostering a better understanding of Korean life and culture on the part of Americans, and a better understanding of American life and culture on the part of the Korean Delegates—as became apparent at our joint de-briefing held in San Francisco, California on August 8-9, 1998. We hope to maintain the friendships which developed through the program—among the American Delegation, this year's Korean Delegation, and those whom we met, and who were so gracious to us, while in Korea.

I will never forget this experience as long as I live, and I thank Chairman Gilman, my Congressman and sponsor, for giving me the opportunity to participate this year.

I cannot stress enough how important I feel it is to continue this program in years to come. There is no better way to foster understanding among nations with different cultures than through the exchange of people and ideas. In my opinion, this is a most valuable program.