

16 years ago, that the trade and commercial relationship between the region and the United States is critical, even essential, to economic development and growth in the nations of the region and is a prerequisite to political and social stability in the region. President Flores says "The enactment of CBI is the single most important thing that the United States can do to assist in the long-term development of Central America and the Caribbean region."

I am pleased to submit President Flores' editorial for the RECORD.

THE CASE FOR CARIBBEAN TRADE
ENHANCEMENT

(by Francisco Flores)

As early as this week, it is anticipated that the Senate will vote on passage of trade enhancement for the Caribbean Basin. This legislation has been pending before the U.S. Congress for five years.

Last month, the presidents of Central American countries, along with the president of the Dominican Republic and the prime minister of Trinidad and Tobago, visited Washington to advocate the passage of Caribbean Basin Initiative enhancement legislation.

We decided to visit Washington to meet with the U.S. government because enhanced trade with the United States has become critical to the region's ability to promote economic growth and maintain social and political stability.

As a region, we are urging Congress to approve legislation that enhances trade benefits to the CBI nations, so that regional exports that are currently excluded under CBI are able to enjoy quota-free and duty-free access to the U.S. market.

In simple terms, we are requesting that the trade playing field be leveled so that we can help ourselves. We regard CBI enhancement legislation as a stepping stone to the negotiation of a free-trade agreement between Central America and the United States.

Enhanced trade will create an expansion of economic opportunities that are urgently needed to preserve our region's stability by creating employment and encouraging international and domestic investment.

Conversely, a lack of trade benefits will postpone the prosperity of our region, and our democratic institutions could be threatened if governments fail to meet the expectations of the people.

An expansion of economic opportunities between the United States and Central America would provide an incentive to prevent Central Americans from emigrating outside the region to seek better jobs and living conditions. Hence, free trade will also constitute the best prevention policy against uncontrolled migration from the region that the United States can implement.

Enhanced trade between the United States and the region will also strengthen the positive trend that we have seen in trade between our two areas during the past decade.

U.S. exports to the CBI countries—among which exports to Central America are predominant—have more than doubled since 1989, going from \$9 billion to \$22.1 billion, creating almost 125,000 jobs in the United States.

CBI enhancement legislation will increase the region's purchasing power for all types of goods and services produced in the United States.

For each dollar exported to the rest of the world by the CBI countries, approximately 75 cents is imported in products from the United States. In marginal terms for each additional dollar in the CBI region's gross domestic product, 44 cents are imported from the United States.

Finally, enhanced trade opportunities for the region will bring a win-win situation for U.S. and Central American businesses.

Enhanced trade will benefit industries such as textiles and maquilas that have contributed to our economic dynamism. In addition, it will provide flexibility to U.S. industries, permitting them to remain competitive in an increasingly competitive marketplace.

In the area of textiles and apparel, extending CBI benefits to vertically integrated apparel production provides the region the best vehicle for attracting investment and creating jobs. We will not be able to compete with Asia and Mexico if we are relegated to a "cut and sew" operation.

In our view, therefore, meaningful CBI enhancement legislation should include:

Tariff treatment equivalent to the North American Free Trade Agreement to products currently excluded from CBI. In the case of sugar, CBI enhancement legislation should include provisions to monitor the effect of NAFTA on CBI countries' sugar access to the US preferential market, and if adverse, to take actions to ameliorate such effects.

Quota-free and duty-free treatment for originating textile and apparel products that comply with the "yarn-forward" rule of origin, including 807-A and 809 programs and those made with regional fabrics formed with regional yarns.

The enactment of CBI is the single most important thing the United States can do to assist on the long-term development of Central America and the Caribbean region.

It is our hope that the Senate will move swiftly to pass CBI enhancement legislation, and that the House and Senate conferees will work to provide the most comprehensive and meaningful trade package for the region.

RECOGNITION OF THE CROATIAN
GOVERNMENT'S EFFORTS TO
HOLD WAR CRIMINAL DINKO
SAKIC ACCOUNTABLE FOR HIS
CRIMES

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 1, 1999

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to invite my colleagues to join me in commending the Croatian Government's vigorous prosecution of Dinko Sakic, the commander of the notorious Jasenovac concentration camp during World War II and one of the worst war criminals alive today. On October 4, Sakic was found guilty in a Zagreb court of crimes against humanity and sentenced to twenty years in prison—the maximum allowable penalty under Croatian law. I welcome and applaud this verdict.

Tens of thousands of Jews, Gypsies, Serbs, and anti-fascist Croats were murdered at Jasenovac, called the "Auschwitz of the Balkans." Mass executions, random killings, torture, and starvation took place there and at other concentration camps run by the pro-Nazi Ustashe regime during World War II. According to evidence presented during his trial, Sakic not only supervised these atrocities, but also took part in many of them himself.

At the end of World War II Sakic fled to Argentina, where he lived for over half a century under his real name. When he was finally deported to stand trial in Croatia last year, Sakic responded to his critics by defending the genocidal policies of the Ustashe dictatorship. "I

am proud of all I did," he said. "I regret that we hadn't done all that is imputed to us, for had we done that then, today Croatia wouldn't have had problems, there wouldn't have been people to write lies!"

In addressing his personal responsibility for the atrocities that occurred under his watch at Jasenovac, Sakic asserted the defense made famous by Goering, von Ribbentrop, and other Nazi leaders at Nuremberg: He was simply following orders. "I wasn't making decisions," Sakic declared, despite overwhelming information to the contrary, "but I obeyed the orders consciously because they were in accordance with my convictions of national interests and the efforts to preserve the biological survival of the Croatian people." During the trial, Sakic laughed at camp survivors who testified against him and claimed that he has "no guilty conscience whatsoever." Based on the appalling account of his unspeakable crimes, he certainly should have a guilty conscience.

Mr. Speaker, the Croatian Government's timely and public efforts to hold Dinko Sakic accountable for his crimes merit the appreciation of all who care about international justice and human rights. It is imperative that Croatia's leaders continue to confront the country's World War II past as they have done so effectively with the prosecution of Dinko Sakic and that the Croatian government aggressively oppose World War II and Holocaust revisionism. It is my hope that other newly democratic nations in Central and Eastern Europe will follow the example of the Sakic trial, and that they will work to honor the memory of the millions who lost their lives during the Holocaust.

CELEBRATING THE SUCCESSES OF
THE INDUSTRIAL AREAS FOUNDATION
AND THE METROPOLITAN ORGANIZATION

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 1, 1999

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer my congratulations to the Industrial Areas Foundation Southwest Network and especially to one of their member organizations from Houston, The Metropolitan Organization, for their twenty-five years of service to the disadvantaged and underprivileged communities in the Southwestern United States. During their November meeting in San Antonio, the Industrial Areas Foundation will begin planning a "Domestic Policy Summit" to be scheduled in the Spring of 2000. We wish them success and look forward to their continued involvement in the issues important to our cities.

For 25 years, grassroots organizations in communities across seven states have been working with the IAF Southwest Network to make a difference in the lives of hundreds of thousands of people. The list of accomplishments is a lengthy one, and touches on many aspects of everyday life. In my home state of Texas, IAF Southwest Network has been involved in convincing municipalities to raise the minimum wage to a living wage; in improving the conditions in the communities along the Texas-Mexican border, the so-called "colonias," many of which were without power,