

I first met Stephanie when, as a representative of "Open Studios," she enlisted my help in inviting Mr. William Ivey, chairman of the National Endowment for the arts, to visit Colorado. Through her coordinating genius with the Colorado Council on the Arts, the Colorado Business Committee for the Arts, the Arvada Center for the Arts, Chairman Ivey's office and my staff, Stephanie booked the chairman to speak before full audiences in Denver, Arvada, and Boulder. This special engagement with the chairman was a triumph only to be dreamed of by others in Colorado.

For the past 4 years Stephanie has been the personable Steering Committee Chair in charge of Publicity and Marketing for "Open Studios." This program is a self-guided tour of over 130 studios of Boulder's finest visual artists. Under her inspired direction, attendance has increased nearly thirty percent, and "Open Studios" has garnered generous coverage in local and national newspapers and magazines. Her creativity in designing the unique Press Kits has generated remarkable public participation in this exceptional annual event.

In addition to the incomparable work Stephanie does for "Open Studios," she also serves as a member of the Board of the Colorado Music Festival. This festival orchestra has been described as "the best orchestra in Colorado," and "the most important orchestra between Chicago and Los Angeles." To celebrate the Colorado Music Festival's 25th Anniversary, Stephanie graciously gave me the tremendous honor of having the U.S. flag presented to the festival's accomplished young conductor, Mr. Michael Christie, for his debut season.

Stephanie has also been a member of the General Committee for the Conference on World Affairs, an annual event held at the University of Colorado each April. She has been in charge of publicity for this conference that is attended annually by over 50,000 people. She has recently been asked to use her extraordinary skills as a member of the committee to plan the World Affairs Athenaeum.

The Boulder Police Department has benefited for three years from her volunteer work as a Victim's Advocate. This program requires Stephanie to respond to the scene of a crime and inform victims and witnesses of their rights, give them resources, and help them find constructive ways to cope with incidents. She has dealt sympathetically with victims of sexual assault, assault, bank robberies, domestic violence, and harassment. She has also worked sensitively with groups of people affected by the suicide of others.

Stephanie has enhanced the "Chocolate Lover's Fling," among other projects for the Boulder Country Safehouse, a human service organization serving women and children victimized by domestic violence. She cochairs the arts committee of "Wine Women and Food," an event sponsored by the Boulder Community Hospital.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join with me in expressing our gratitude to Stephanie Rudy for touching our community socially, culturally, and artistically. Her constant and loving contributions go beyond reckoning, and I wish her good health and happiness in the future.

PARAGUAY: A TERRORIST UTOPIA

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 28, 2001

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker. With the United States war on terrorism gaining steam, Paraguay, a nation with a disturbing Pro-Nazi past, could become a country of increasing importance for United States foreign policy makers due to the high volume of narcotics traffickers now occurring there as well as various militant movements in that nation, producing an alarmingly volatile situation, according to United States officials. Ross Knutson, Research Associate at the Washington-based Council on Hemispheric Affairs (COHA), has recently authored an article of utmost importance entitled, *Paraguay: A terrorist's utopia*. The article examines United States monitoring of the clandestine activity in Paraguay that has been occurring for a number of years there. For a long time, the United States as well as the intelligent services of a number of Southern Cone countries has known about the involvement of radical Islamic terrorist organizations in the tri-border region, where Paraguay borders Argentina and Brazil. There is very strong evidence indicating that such extremist groups authored the bombing of two Jewish facilities in Buenos Aires in the early 1990s with the loss of over 100 lives.

In the wake of the terrorist strikes in the United States, Paraguay's recent history of serving as a staging ground for such militant Islamic groups as Hezbollah and the Islamic Jihad will certainly deserve closer scrutiny. Paraguayan authorities as well as the governments of Brazil and Argentina are beginning to take a more active role in monitoring these groups especially around Ciudad del Este, a well-known Paraguayan hub for such alleged terrorist activity.

Despite such efforts by the tri-border countries, U.S. authorities are becoming increasingly worried over the lack of local control over the region's numerous airstrips and waterways which terrorist groups could use to communicate and move operatives and supplies with near anonymity. As such, the United States is beginning to take greater action, with Washington offering its Special Forces to train and advise the Paraguayan military and national police on a variety of antiterrorism and anti-drug tactics. This step is associated with the United States implementing a crackdown on the drug trade by way of its increased efforts through Plan Colombia. If the war on terrorism lasts for years, as the Bush administration has stated it will, the United States could soon find itself involved in a series of protracted and complicated campaigns in countries such as Paraguay. As such, Knutson's article is of utmost importance since any U.S. activities in that country appear to be long-stayed.

THE COUNCIL ON HEMISPHERIC AFFAIRS

The Council on Hemispheric Affairs (COHA), a nonprofit, tax-exempt independent research and information organization, was founded at the end of 1975 to promote the common interest of the hemisphere, raise the visibility and increase the importance of the inter-American relationship, as well as encourage the formulation of rational and constructive U.S. policies towards Latin America. In 1982, COHA's board of trustees

voted to expand its mandate to include monitoring Canadian/Latin American relations. Since its inception, COHA has been one of the most active and broadest-based U.S. private bodies dealing with the entire spectrum of political, economic and diplomatic issues, as well as the economic and political challenges confronting the Inter-American nations.

From its founding, COHA's board consisted of the leadership of some of this country's most important trade unions, professional organizations and religious groups, as well as distinguished civic and academic figures who joined together to advance their common belief in support of representative government and pluralistic institutions throughout the hemisphere.

COHA subscribes to no specific political credo nor does it maintain partisan allegiances. It support open and democratic political processes just as it consistently has condemned authoritarian regimes of any stripe that fail to provide their populations with even minimal standards of political freedoms, economic and social justice, personal security and civic guarantees.

COHA is entirely staffed by a professional core, who contribute their services, supplemented by a large number of volunteer graduate and undergraduate students who often receive academic credit from their home institutions for the experience gained through their work here. Over the years, retired government employees also have cooperated with COHA in preparing monographs on such topics as regional development, trade policies, technology transfer, the operations of multinational corporations and the controversial development strategies of the international agencies. The staff is assisted by a number of extra-mural professionals coming from an academic background who serve as COHA senior research fellows, who are generally considered to be leaders in their respective fields of expertise.

COHA's analyses are frequently sought after by the major media, with its long-time director, Larry Burns, as well as other senior personnel regularly being called upon by the major national and international press, along with network radio and TV public affairs programs, to provide commentary on breaking regional issues. COHA contributors also appear regularly in the opinion columns on editorial pages throughout the country, and its findings frequently have been heard and seen over the BBC, Voice of America, CBC, Radio Marti, Radio Havana and U.S. radio programs. COHA personnel also have appeared one or more times on CNN, C-Span, Firing Line, CrossFire, Nightline, the CBS, ABC and NBC evening news, as well as the network Larry King program, "Good Morning America" and the "Today Show," and many National Public Radio public affairs programs.

COHA's personnel have been interviewed, or the organization's findings have been referred to in such publications as Time, Newsweek, the Atlantic Monthly, U.S. News and World Report, New York Magazine, Harper's, the New Yorker, the New Statesman, Barron's and Maclean's. On almost a daily basis, the results of COHA's work appear in the press of Latin America and Europe. COHA also has been cited in numerous occasions in the New York Times, the Washington Post, Los Angeles Times, the Christian Science Monitor, the London Observer, the Boston Globe, the Miami Herald, the Toronto Globe and Mail, the Toronto Star, the London Independent and the Guardian, among many other newspapers.

COHA has been referred to in the floor of the Senate as "one of our Nation's more respected bodies of scholars and policy-makers."

PARAGUAY: A TERRORIST'S UTOPIA

The coming months should bring an increased focus on Paraguay. In reaction to the growing U.S. presence in Colombia and other South American nations, drug traffickers as well as various militant movements are gradually fanning out, establishing what is an alarming presence, according to U.S. officials. Unstable institutions, rampant corruption and a struggling economy make Paraguay an attractive venue for would-be terrorists and drug smugglers to establish their operations.

U.S. agencies have been monitoring clandestine activity in Paraguay for a number of years. However, only recently have they begun to increase their physical presence. According to reports, the DEA (Drug Enforcement Agency) has more than doubled the size of its office in Asuncion. In the wake of the terrorist strikes in the U.S. Paraguay's recent history of severing as a staging ground for militant Islamic groups such as Hezbollah and the Islamic Jihad will certainly draw closer scrutiny.

Terrorist Cells

The U.S. as well as the Southern Cone countries have long known about the involvement of radical Islamic terrorist organizations in the tri-border region, where Paraguay borders Argentina and Brazil. Now, as the result of increased U.S. pressure, Paraguayan authorities, and to a lesser extent, the governments of Brazil and Argentina, are beginning to take a more active role in monitoring these groups. In response to the terrorist attacks on September 11, Brazil and Argentina bowed to FBI requests to tighten its borders with their neighbors. Paraguay, worried over its reputation as a country harboring terrorists, has announced that it would temporarily would severely restrict issuing visas and increase security along its borders, particularly focusing on the eastern portion of the country, an area with a large Arab community. On September 21, foreign affairs ministers from the OAS nations met to discuss terrorism-related hemispheric security concerns. Portions of the talks dealt with the Southern Cone countries' long-standing belief that Paraguay has shown little concern in addressing the terrorist elements operating within its borders. For instance, Argentina has maintained that Hezbollah terrorists used Ciudad del Este, Paraguay's principle city in the tri-border area, as headquarters for their attacks on the Israeli Embassy in 1992 and a Buenos Aires' Argentine-Israeli Community Center in 1994. A trial involving 20 low-level defendants accused of assisting the attackers recently began, with some hoping that more knowledge will be revealed concerning who supervised the terrorists. Argentine pressure is mounting, with Enrique Mathov, its new Internet Security Secretary, calling the "triple border" area a "hot zone." Indeed, it is possible that the U.S. will step up pressure on the tri-border countries to clean up this area and eliminate "rouge elements."

U.S. Involvement

President Bush's call to sustain the war "until every terrorist group of global reach has been found, stopped and defeated" indicates that U.S. authorities will certainly increase this country's monitoring of developments in the area. Triple-frontier countries have indicated that they intend to fully cooperate in helping the U.S. eliminate any terrorist threat in the region. Although Brazil and Argentina have increased their border security, Paraguay has perhaps taken the strongest position in support of the U.S. anti-terrorism efforts by asking the OAS to firmly support any U.S.-led retaliation.

Nevertheless, rhetoric and a strong anti-terrorism stance by these nations are not

deemed sufficient by U.S. authorities to quell their fears about the potential terrorist threat in the region. Paraguay's foreign minister, Jose Antonio Moreno, stated that 40 FBI agents have arrived in Paraguay and were headed to Ciudad del Este, "transit point for shadowy groups." Many experts foresaw this increased U.S. presence as inevitable; however, a deployment of this magnitude was certainly accelerated by the recent terrorist attack. The inevitability of U.S. involvement in the area was reflected in statements made by the State Department and former director of the FBI, Louis J. Freeh. The FBI's concern is rooted in a trip that Freeh took to South America in 1998 to assess security concerns. At the time, Freeh called for a multinational crackdown on crime, something he saw as an important step to establishing a hemispheric police alliance. He called the tri-border region "a free zone for significant criminal activity, including people who are organized to commit acts of terrorism." Last April, the State Department warned that the governments of Paraguay, Brazil and Argentina are not capable of preventing Islamic terrorist originating from Paraguay's hub of militancy, Ciudad del Este.

A primary Washington concern has been the lack of control of the region's numerous airstrips and waterways. Using these modes of transportation, terrorist groups can communicate and move operatives and supplies with near anonymity. To reassert proper governmental control, the U.S. is offering its Special Forces to train and advise the Paraguayan military and national police on a variety of anti-terrorism and anti-drug tactics. U.S. Special Forces already have made their presence felt in Paraguay earlier this year by participating with the country's military on a "training exercise" focused on combating drug traffickers. Many thought that the "training exercise" closely resembled a counter-insurgency operation. This could signal a change in U.S. military policy in Paraguay, as further training could focus on counter-intelligence operations and counter-terrorism tactics. If the war on terrorism lasts for years, as the Bush administration has stated it will, the U.S. could soon find itself involved in a series of protracted and complicated campaigns in that nation.

HONORING RON WALTERS

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 28, 2001

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in order to honor a man in the City of Petaluma, where I proudly reside, who embodies the spirit and best qualities of that town. He is a man who attracts people through his gift of music and humor, and has used his special voice to make Petaluma a better place to live. Petalumans would know that I'm talking about Ron Walters.

Ron Walters' was born in Ute, Iowa on Thanksgiving Day in 1932 and from the beginning people have been thankful for his giving nature. Growing up in the depression, Ron migrated to California in 1936 with his parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles in car hauling a homemade house trailer filled with all their worldly possessions. After graduating from high school in Healdsburg he attended several colleges where he excelled in sports, music and drama. Ron graduated from Gonzaga University in Washington state where he starred

in varsity basketball and also set records as the sole representative of the University's unofficial track team.

After graduation, Ron returned to California where he held several jobs and met and married Judy Paige and soon was the father of three lovely daughters, Leigh, Juli and Erin. Then in October 1963 Ron, who was looking for a way to apply his love of music, walked into the KTOB radio station in Petaluma and asked for a job, which he thought he didn't get. But the next day, the station owner called to ask, "How come you're not a work?" Ron started work the same day.

At KTOB, Ron quickly became the "Voice of Petaluma," with a regular morning program. He quickly put his humor and homespun sensibilities to use. He used his microphone to raise money for efforts including Pop Warner Football, the Petaluma Boys Club (which was in dire financial straits), medical costs for an injured high school football player and many, many other worthy causes. He was a staunch supporter of Petaluma beautification projects and played an important role in Petaluma's historic preservation efforts which has preserved much of the city's Victorian architectural heritage, including his own home.

Ron not only played music on the radio, he also taught music at Sonoma State University and was a performer. He starred in local productions of Broadway musicals including acting and singing the role of the Professor Harold Hill in the "Music Man" three times, a very appropriate role for an Iowa boy who lived in a town nicknamed "River City." Ron also performed vocal jazz with the Harmonizers and Harmonettes and sang with various local bands including those of Ernie Walker, Peter Welker, Walt Oster and Bill Sax. Ron was a featured performer at Carnegie Hall last year with the jazz group, Take Note, and will sing there again next year.

Ron Walters' voice hasn't disappeared into the airwaves. The lessons he taught about civic involvement, philanthropy, and support for youth and the arts strongly reverberates in Petaluma and will do so for a long time to come.

Ron Walters always signed off his radio programs saying, "This is Ron Walters saying thanks a heap and don't forget what I told you yesterday."

Mr. Speaker, I would like to say to Ron on behalf of all the people his life has touched, "Thanks a heap, and no, we won't forget."

TRIBUTE TO THE STUDENTS OF
SOUTH FORK SCHOOL SYSTEM

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 28, 2001

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the students of South Fork School System in Kincaid, Illinois, and their important and heartwarming efforts to help those affected by terrorism.

On October 11, 2001, President Bush made a request of the children of America. He challenged each of them to earn and send in one dollar. This money, sent by the kindness of the children of the United States, will be used to reach out to the unfortunate children in far off Afghanistan.