that Hamas be treated with the same severity as Al Qaeda's terrorist network.

White House officials said they had planned to move against the charity and two banks that helped finance Hamas later this month, but sped up the action after the bombings, which killed 25 people and wounded almost 200, many of them teenagers.

Treasury officials said the charity, the Holy Land Foundation for Relief and Development, based in Richardson, Tex., had been under investigation since 1993.

In a statement the charity denied allegations that it provides financial support to terrorists. It said ''the decision by the U.S. government to seize the charitable donations of Muslims during the holy month of Ramadan is an affront to millions of Muslim Americans.''

A senior official said the administration had delayed acting for fear of harming the F.B.I. investigation of the charity. Search warrants were executed today when federal officials seized documents at the charity headquarters and other offices.

International political considerations were also in play, other administration officials said. The White House debated whether moving against Arab extremist groups could weaken the coalition Mr. Bush has assembled in the war on Afghanistan. ''The bombings changed the politics of this considerably,'' a senior administration official said.

Speaking in the Rose Garden this morning, Mr. Bush appeared to side with Mr. Sharon in his characterization of Hamas. ''Hamas is one of the deadliest terror organizations in the world today,'' he said, adding that it ''has obtained much of the money it pays for murder abroad right here in the United States.''

The statement was something of a turnaround for the administration. Its first list of terrorist groups subject to American action, released days after the Sept. 11 attacks, made no reference to Hamas. A second list released in October called Hamas and some 20 other militant groups terrorist organizations, but said few had assets in the United States.

It is difficult to assess how effective the administration's new campaign will be in slowing Hamas. Officials said the group relied on American charities that solicit funds in many mosques around the country for tens of millions of dollars each year. Hamas has long said that the money goes to social causes, easing the suffering of Palestinians. The Treasury and F.B.I. say they have evidence the money is siphoned to the organization's terrorist arm.

The State Department says that Hamas also receives some funding from Iran, but even more from wealthy patrons in Saudi Arabia and Palestinian expatriates in the gulf. The success of the Bush administration's crackdown will depend largely on its ability to persuade those countries to follow suit.

Mr. Bush and Treasury Secretary Paul O'Neill said today that they believe many Muslims who contributed to the Holy Land Foundation did not know where their money was going. ''Innocent donors who thought they were helping someone in need deserve protection from these scam artists,'' Mr. O'Neill said at the White House. The Treasury also announced action against the Al Aqsa Bank and the Beit al Mal Holdings Company, a bank that it described as ''direct arms of Hamas.''

So far, a half dozen banks in the United States have frozen $1.9 million of the Holy Land Foundation's assets, Treasury officials said today.

In Richardson, F.B.I. agents and local police officers stood guard outside the Holy Land Foundation offices as movers removed items such as file cabinets, office furniture and computers in accordance with President Bush's order.

Movers using a tractor-trailer arrived with the seizure notice at about 8 a.m. and worked into the night.

Steven Emerson, an expert in Islamic terror networks, said that the United States knew as early as 1993 that Hamas leaders were ''meeting in America and using Holy Land Foundation as a conduit to raise money for terrorism, recruit support, and undermine the U.S.-sponsored peace process.''

RECOGNIZING THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF MESA

HON. HILDA L. SOLIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 20, 2001

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mathematics, Engineering, Science Achievement (MESA) of the University of California for being selected as one of the five most innovative public programs in the country by Innovations in American Government, a project of the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University, the Ford Foundation, and the Council for Excellence in Government.

I have long supported MESA, which helps educationally disadvantaged students to excel in math and science. MESA encourages students to develop an academic path to college and attain baccalaureate degrees in math and science fields. Parents are encouraged to become involved and learn that college can be a reality for their children. In addition, MESA brings in industry representatives in science fields to introduce the students to science-based career options.

Eighty-five percent of MESA's graduating high school seniors go on to college, compared to only fifty percent of California's graduating high school seniors overall. Seven other states have established programs based on California's MESA model. Today, more than twelve percent of the nation's historically underrepresented students who attain baccalaureate degrees in engineering are MESA students.

The Innovations in American Government program identifies outstanding problem-solving and creativity in public sector programs. This year 1,200 programs were nominated for the award. These programs underwent an extremely rigorous assessment process before Innovations determined its winners.

I applaud MESA on its accomplishments and wish the program continued success in helping California students succeed.

HIGHER EDUCATION RELIEF OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENTS ACT OF 2001

SPEECH OF

HON. PATSY T. MINK

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2001

Mrs. MINK of Hawaii. Mr. Speaker, I want to express my support for S. 1793, the HEROS Act, which will help provide relief from student loan deadlines and administrative requirements to victims and their families of the September 11 terrorist attacks, and for members of the military who are called up for active duty in response to those attacks. S. 1793 provides the Secretary of Education with the authority to waive specific aspects of the student aid programs to make sure that these people are not adversely affected financially by being victims of these attacks or being on active duty.

S. 1793 is similar to H.R. 3086, which passed the House in October by a vote of 415–0. The authority granted by the HEROS Act is similar to authority granted during Desert Storm, and expires on September 30th, 2003. The HEROS Act addresses issues of loan repayment for individuals directly affected by the attacks, and the student aid eligibility for these individuals, while ensuring the integrity of the student loan programs. The Secretary may help such individuals by reducing or delaying monthly student loan payments, or by lifting obligations for repayment by military students, or other actions that help such borrowers avoid inadvertent technical violations or defaults.

The HEROS Act would also allow the Secretary to help institutions and organizations participating in the Federal student aid programs that are affected by the attacks so that they may receive temporary relief from certain administrative requirements. For such institutions, some administrative requirements may be rendered unreasonable to meet as a result of the September 11 attacks.

Congress will also have the opportunity to learn about the effectiveness of these waivers, as the Secretary will be required to report on the waivers granted and make recommendations for any statutory or regulatory changes that may help provide these students relief in the future.

As we all know, September 11 had a devastating impact on our Nation and our economy. The HEROS Act will provide crucial relief to those students who were victims of this horrible event, and will also protect the eligibility of students serving in the military. By helping military students remain eligible for student aid, we can help ensure that our next generation of leaders is properly prepared to face an increasingly interconnected global environment, and can help rebuild our nation and protect against future attacks. The HEROS Act thus is looking to the future, while helping those burdened by our recent past and I support S. 1793.

REGARDING MONITORING OF WEAPONS DEVELOPMENT IN IRAQ

SPEECH OF

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2001

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to this resolution.

I want to be very clear: I strongly support inspection of Iraqi weapons facilities. This resolution, however, is not the best way to accomplish that goal.

We clearly stand at a moment in history when we must reinvent our foreign policy to

meet new challenges. Renewed arms inspections of Iraq should be part of that new matrix, but smarter sanctions and humanitarian engagement must also be undertaken.

Engagement is crucial. We should work with our allies to forge a policy that strengthens the cause of peace and stability in the Middle East.

There are some who call for an invasion of Iraq. I am strongly opposed to such a step.

Opposition to a United States assault on Iraq is found not only in the capitals of the Middle East but throughout much of the rest of the world as well.

International leaders such as United Nations Secretary General Kofi Annan and former South African President Nelson Mandela have strongly voiced their opposition to such an attack, arguing that the only lasting solutions lie in collective international efforts.

As Kofi Annan said earlier this month, ''Any attempt or any decision to attack Iraq today will be unwise and could lead to a major escalation in the region.'' President Mandela warned that bombing Iraq would be a disaster that would inject ''chaos into international affairs.''

Therefore, I must oppose this resolution not because I oppose inspections but because I believe it is too inflammatory and will make inspections less likely, not more likely.

This is the wrong resolution at the wrong time. At this moment we face a crisis in the Middle East as the Israeli-Palestinian conflict threatens to spin out of control. That must be the epicenter of our concern right now. Yes, we want inspections, but this is not the best way to achieve them.

TERRORIST BOMBINGS CONVENTIONS IMPLEMENTATION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. CAROLYN C. KILPATRICK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2001

Ms. KILPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, while I support the ratification and implementation of the International Conventions for the Suppression of Terrorist Bombings and the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism in H.R. 3275, I cannot support the overall bill. I am concerned that bill includes controversial language that will jeopardize future enforcement of these Conventions.

I believe that the provision in title I that authorizes the imposition of the death penalty for the offenses set forth in section 102.2 is superfluous and unnecessary. Our experience with other nations, as it pertains to the U.S. death penalty, should guide our actions on the floor today. Courts in Canada and France have refused to extradite criminals to the United States, citing our continued insistence on the imposition of the death penalty. A South African Constitutional Court ruled that a suspect on trial in Manhattan in connection with the bombing of the American Embassy in Tanzania should not have been turned over to United States authorities without assurances that he would not face the death penalty.

At a time when we are seeking the cooperation of nations to bring international criminals to justice, it makes no sense to authorize this death penalty provision, which may, in fact, impede the extradition of criminals to U.S. jurisdiction. The administration acknowledges that capital punishment is not required to implement the Conventions. Yet, even while admitting that the provision is unnecessary to implement the Convention, the administration justifies the inclusion of this new death penalty provision by claiming that it simply tracks current law.

This justification is without merit. Under U.S. law, the death penalty is justified for its deterrent effect. Surely in this case there is no punitive or deterrent basis for the death penalty. In this instance, those that the Conventions target are willing to commit suicide for their criminal causes. In this instance, it cannot be argued in good faith that fear of the death penalty will prevent terrorists from carrying out acts of terrorism.

TERRORIST BOMBINGS CONVENTION IMPLEMENTATION ACT OF 2001

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2001

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the International Convention for the Suppression of Terrorist Bombings was initiated by the United States in the wake of the 1996 bombing of Khobar Towers in Saudi Arabia. It requires signatories to criminalize terrorist bombings aimed at public, governmental, or infrastructure facilities and to prosecute or extradite those responsible. The United States has not yet ratified the convention, which went into force in May of this year. The legislation before us, H.R. 3275, implements the International Convention for the Suppression of Terrorist Bombings,

Specifically, H.R. 3275 makes it a Federal crime to unlawfully deliver, place, discharge or detonate an explosive device, or to conspire or to attempt to do so, in a public place, public transportation system, or in a State or Federal facility. It provides penalties of up to life in prison, or death for perpetrators if the bombing resulted in fatalities, and also provides for the prosecution or extradition of perpetrators who commit crimes outside of the United States, but who are subsequently apprehended in this country.

Additionally, H.R. 3275 implements the International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism, which requires signatories to prosecute or extradite people who contribute to, or collect money for, terrorist groups.

It also makes it a Federal crime to directly or indirectly provide or collect funds to carry out , in full or in part, specific acts of terrorism. It also makes it a crime for any U.S. national or entity, both inside and outside the country, to conceal or disguise the nature, location or source of any funds provided or collected to carry out terrorist acts. It also provides for the prosecution or extradition of perpetrators who commit these crimes outside of the United States, but who are subsequently apprehended in this country.

Finally, provisions in the bill make the crimes of terrorist bombings and terrorist financing ''predicate offenses'' under U.S. wiretap laws and included on the list of Federal crimes of terrorism.

Mr. Speaker, I fully support prompt ratification and implementation of the International Conventions for the Suppression of Terrorist Bombings and the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism. However, I am concerned that H.R. 3275 includes controversial changes to U.S. domestic law that go well beyond those changes required to bring our laws into conformity with the requirements of those agreements.

Specifically, we must avoid the redundancy of ancillary provisions relating to the death penalty, wiretapping, money laundering, and RICO predicates. To this end, during the recent Judiciary Committee markup of this I joined my colleagues, Mr. SCOTT and Mr. DELAHUNT in their opposition to certain ancillary provisions of this bill in relation to treaty approval.

While I fully support the efforts of our law enforcement professionals in light of the recent attacks against this Nation, I am concerned that prosecutors should be limited in the extent to which they can cast the widest possible net, often to the great detriment of those who were not initially target by Congress when the legislation was enacted.

Many of these provisions have already been included in the anti-terrorist bill which has since been passed into law on October 26, 2001. Therefore, to include the same provisions in H.R. 3275 would be redundant and would serve no purpose. As a matter of fact, Mr. Chertoff of the Department of Justice stated recently that these provisions are not even required in order to implement the treaties.

Moreover, most party states to the Conventions do not tolerate the death penalty, but are still in compliance with the treaty. This could have a profound effect on extradition and result in an inordinate burden on our criminal justice system.

These necessary changes could have easily have been facilitated on the floor by allowing amendments, and I regret that we were not allowed to address these issues due to the suspensions calendar.

Despite these concerns, it is in our best interest, as well as in the interest of the international community, that we comply with the treaty. Our message that we will not tolerate terrorism in any way, shape, or form, must be strong and clear.

I believe that this bill fulfills this obligation.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 3061, DEPARTMENT OF LABOR, HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, AND EDUCATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2002

SPEECH OF

HON. KEN BENTSEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2001

Mr. BENTSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 3061, the Fiscal Year 2001 Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations bill. This legislation would provide $395 billion for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and related agencies. This $395