

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

U.S. CIVILIAN RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION (CRDF) MARKS ITS FIRST DECADE OF CONTRIBUTING TO A SAFER WORLD

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 17, 2005

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I invite my colleagues to join me in marking the 10th anniversary of the U.S. Civilian Research and Development Foundation (CRDF). Established in 1995, the Foundation was created to employ in peaceful scientific pursuits scientists from the former Soviet Union.

The Congress adopted legislation in 1992 to create the CRDF to provide grants for joint scientific research between scientists from the countries of the former Soviet Union and the United States. The effort is to fund non-military research and development projects, to provide employment and advancement of science with scientists that otherwise might be forced to seek employment with rogue nations using their knowledge and experience with weapons of mass destruction and other military research in order to support their families. In 1995 the CRDF was formally established by the Director of the National Science Foundation. Since that time the organization has put former Soviet scientists to work on a myriad of peaceful projects that have contributed to a better life for people around the globe.

Mr. Speaker, the current Chair of the Board of CRDF is Gloria Duffy from the San Francisco Bay Area. In the Clinton Administration, Gloria was U.S. Special Coordinator for Cooperative Threat Reduction and Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense, and there she focused on preventing the spread of nuclear, chemical, and biological weapons from the countries of the former Soviet Union.

After serving in the Department of Defense, Gloria became the President and CEO of the Commonwealth Club of San Francisco, the nation's largest, oldest and most distinguished civic forum. Under Gloria's able direction, the Commonwealth Club organizes some 400 forums each year on public policy issues which are held in person, on radio and television, and on the Internet.

One of the best examples of exactly what CRDF does and of the creative talent that goes into its work is an article by Gloria Duffy that appeared in *The Commonwealth* (September 15, 2005), the publication of the Commonwealth Club. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the article, "Teeth Whitening and Terrorism," by Gloria Duffy be placed in the RECORD, and I urge all of my colleagues to read it.

[From the Commonwealth, Sept. 15, 2005]

TEETH WHITENING AND TERRORISM

(By Gloria C. Duffy)

Peter the Great began the long and distinguished history of Russian science in 1724, creating the Russian Academy of Sciences in

St. Petersburg to ensure that Russia kept pace with the rest of Europe in contributing to the scientific discoveries of the age. During the Cold War, the Soviet Union continued to pour funds into science. But under the Soviets, much of Russia's superb scientific training and research was turned to military purposes, to create nuclear, chemical and biological weapons. The majority of scientists worked for the government.

When the Soviet Union disintegrated in 1991, the cash-strapped governments of the former Soviet states had little money to continue supporting the work of their chemists, physicists, geologists, mathematicians and biologists. So they abruptly cut the scientists' funding. This personal disaster for the scientists was also tragic for their societies, which could benefit so greatly from their contributions to medicine, industry and the quality of life.

Of particular concern to the international community: because of their work during the Cold War, hundreds of thousands of these scientists had critical knowledge of how to build weapons of mass destruction. In an era when terrorists and rogue countries are seeking nuclear, chemical and biological weapons, these legions of unemployed or underemployed scientists present a very real threat. One story from the early 1990s, perhaps apocryphal, tells of a plane load of Russian scientists stopped by authorities on the runway at Moscow's Sheremetyevo Airport, bound for Iran, or North Korea or Iraq.

Enter a Riverside, California, Congressman, George Brown, with a bright idea. An industrial physicist and chairman of the House Science Committee, in 1992 Brown wrote legislation creating the U.S. Civilian Research and Development Foundation (CRDF). Set up as a nonprofit, non-governmental organization by the U.S. National Science Foundation, CRDF would fund collaboration between the U.S. and former Soviet scientific communities, the two greatest scientific groups in the world, which had been cut off from one another during the Cold War. CRDF would help scientists in the FSU to continue their contributions to world scientific knowledge, and to create more prosperous economies in their region. The Foundation would employ former Soviet weapons scientists on civilian research projects, giving them an alternative to selling their knowledge to other countries or terrorist groups.

Congressman Brown died in 1999, but CRDF was born in 1995 and will celebrate its 10th anniversary in Washington, D.C. in October. In the past decade, the Foundation has raised and channeled \$249 million, in taxpayer dollars, private foundation and corporate funding, for joint scientific research. CRDF has run research competitions and given hundreds of grants for American-FSU research. It has provided travel grants for scientists from the 12 former Soviet states to attend conferences or visit colleagues in the United States, in many cases for the first time in their lives. CRDF has provided major scientific research equipment—spectrometers, lasers, electron microscopes—to consortia of researchers across Eurasia, who share use of the equipment.

CRDF has funded fellowships for young scientists at Russian universities and built a geodynamic research facility in Kyrgyzstan. It has refitted an oceanographic vessel, the

Professor Kaganovskiy, so teams of U.S. and Russian researchers can measure the health of the Arctic Ocean's Pollock fish population. CRDF has launched a collaborative research project on treatment of HIV/AIDS. It has funded joint research by an Ohio start-up company and a Russian institute on advanced cancer detection technology, and funded training of Russian hospital staffs in infection control to prevent the spread of tuberculosis. After 9/11, CRDF established a joint U.S.-Russian research project on defense against bioterrorism, tapping the considerable Russian knowledge growing from their longtime biological weapons program.

CRDF has done all of this with low overhead, and with matching funds from the governments in the former Soviet countries. And the Foundation has paired scientists with companies and investors to explore the commercial potential of the joint research, so that it will eventually help the economies of that region and beyond. Some CRDF research projects have produced commercially viable products, including an energy-saving cryogenic process for refrigerating produce during transport that is already in use in the United States. My personal favorite among these success stories is teeth whitening strips. Every time you see a TV ad for these, think about how the method for making these strips adhere to the teeth came from one of CRDF's U.S.-Russian research projects.

And with terrorists on the hunt for nuclear weapons, CRDF has recently broadened its geographical range to provide former weapons scientists in Iraq and Libya with productive civilian alternatives for their skills.

On October 18, Marta Brown, widow of the late congressman, will be in Washington to help CRDF mark its 10th birthday. Kudos to Congressman Brown for a great idea, and to the U.S. and foreign officials, CRDF's dedicated staff, the participating scientists, funders and investors, and the volunteers who serve on its board for building this unique institution.

HONORING COAST GUARD AIR STATION SAVANNAH FOR ITS RESPONSE TO HURRICANE KATRINA

HON. JOHN BARROW

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 17, 2005

Mr. BARROW. Mr. Speaker, the U.S. House of Representatives and the citizens of Georgia's 12th Congressional District commend the heroism of the crews of Coast Guard Air Station Savannah for their lifesaving efforts in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. Thanks to Coast Guard Air Station Savannah's immediate response in a time of need, 376 American lives were saved. Our nation will remain forever grateful to the following Coast Guardsmen for their selfless and noble actions: LCDR Mark Jones, LCDR John Hollingsworth, LT Steven Foran, LT Ryan Allen, LT Chris Howard, LT Matt Walker, LT Tim Eason, LTJG Andy Kirkpatrick, AST2 Scott Beitel, AST3 Matthew Laub, AST3 Jonathon Ardan, AMTCS

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