

June 23, 1999

TRIBUTE TO MS. CECELIA B. HENDERSON, AREA DIRECTOR, THE LINKS, INCORPORATED "THE BIG APPLE CLUSTER"

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 23, 1999

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the accomplishments of Ms. Cecelia B. Henderson of The Links, Incorporated for her contributions to African Americans, especially the youth in eastern cities and communities, preparing them to meet the challenges in professions and fields where African Americans are few in number.

The first Links club was founded in November 1946 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, with only nine members. The purpose of the organization at its inception was to foster friendship and render service to needy African-American families. The membership has grown to more than 10,500 today, with 270 chapters located in forty (40) US cities, Nassau, Bahamas, and in Frankfurt, Germany.

Today, The Links is a volunteer service organization of concerned, committed, and talented women who through service, linked in friendship, commits itself to enhancing the quality of life in the larger community. Because of the rich legacy of the organization, it has contributed over 15 million dollars to worthy causes through grants-in-aid, and through many effective initiatives within communities across the country. Through its participation in UNICEF, the organization is active abroad, in building elementary schools in South Africa, contributing to the construction of water wells elsewhere in Africa, and aiding the Caribbean Women's Health Association to improve the lives of Caribbean women and children.

Ms. Henderson has served as the Eastern Area Director of The Links for the past four years. She became a member of the Buffalo, New York, Chapter in 1974, and has held numerous leadership positions in the local chapter, and at the National Level.

In 1997, and again in 1999, under the leadership of Ms. Henderson, The Eastern Area Links presented a classroom-based educational program entitled, HeartPower to school districts in New York City and Philadelphia with a simple message, "you too can have a healthy heart, it's as easy as 1-2-3". This program fits with the overall theme which Ms. Henderson developed for the Eastern Area, "Serve up Success: Build Linkages . . . Empower the Black Family."

A retired educator with a long and commendable professional career in the Buffalo, New York, school system, Ms. Henderson has served the Links with her expertise in promoting health education.

As the community celebrates her years of leadership and service at the thirty-fifth Eastern Area Conference, I offer our congratulations to her as she is recognized for the differences that her efforts have made in cultivating the talents, and developing the abilities of the youth of today, with the potential of becoming local, national and world leaders of the twenty-first century.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE STUART EIZENSTAT DISCUSSES RELATIONS WITH THE EUROPEAN UNION

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 23, 1999

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, last week the Committee on International Relations held an excellent and timely hearing on the United States relationship with Europe and the European Union. This hearing was particularly timely as it was held on the eve of the G-7 Summit in Bonn, Germany, at which United States representatives, including our President, held critical discussions with our European allies and the European Union. This hearing was the first in a series of planned committee hearings on the transatlantic relationship and its importance to United States political, economic, and security interests.

Mr. Speaker, with total trade and investment between the United States and the European Union now in excess of \$1 trillion annually, the EU is already our largest single trading and investment partner. The EU is also the world's largest single market, and with the establishment of the new single European currency—the euro—this market will continue to be the most important market for American firms and the most important external market for the economic health of our nation.

While we tend to give greater attention to the economic and trade aspects of our relationship with the European Union, we must not ignore the growing importance of the political dimension of our relationship. The European Union is moving toward greater political involvement and it plays a key role in the coordination of member foreign policies, Mr. Speaker. The EU will play a critical role in the reconstruction of Southeastern Europe, it plays a vital role in encouraging the development of democratic political institutions, a civil society and a market economy in Central and Eastern Europe and in Russia. Furthermore, the EU has been a partner with us in encouraging political stability and economic prosperity in North Africa and the Middle East.

The principal administration witness at this important hearing of the Committee on International Relations, Mr. Speaker, was Under Secretary of State Stuart Eizenstat. He is the quintessential outstanding and extraordinary public servant in this city, who has demonstrated his commitment to the highest quality of public service in a variety of most important capacities as our ambassador to the European Union and in key sub-cabinet posts in three departments—the Department of Commerce, the Department of State, and now the President has nominated him to serve as Deputy Secretary of Treasury.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that a summary of the opening statement made by Secretary Eizenstat at our recent hearing be placed in the RECORD. This excellent statement reflects the best current American thinking about the issues of concern regarding the United States and our relationship with Europe and the European Union.

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STATEMENT OF UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE STUART EIZENSTAT TO THE COMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS, JUNE 15, 1999

Mr. Chairman, I very much appreciate the statements that have been made by the members of the Committee. It is an honor to be here with my good friend David Aaron, the Undersecretary for Trade at the Department of Commerce.

With the European Union, we share a commitment to the promotion of security, prosperity and democracy—not only in the Euro-Atlantic area but beyond it as well. It is no hyperbole to suggest that the relationship between the U.S. and the European Union may be the most important, influential and prosperous bilateral relationship of modern times. Two-way trade and investment flows are now some \$1 trillion annually, supporting more than 6 million jobs on both sides of the Atlantic. One in 12 industrial jobs in the United States is in a European owned factory, and European countries are the biggest foreign investors in 41 of our 50 U.S. states.

We have launched the Trans-Atlantic Economic Partnership, covering 10 broad areas to reduce existing trade barriers, improve regulatory cooperation, and establish a bilateral dialogue on multilateral trade issues in the WTO. We've agreed with the EU that the WTO should begin a new broad-based round of trade negotiations, following a structure that will yield results expeditiously in agriculture services and other areas. We've also agreed to seek permanent commitments by WTO members not to impose duties on electronic commerce transactions, an area where Secretary Aaron has had a particular impact.

REBUILDING SOUTHEASTERN EUROPE

There is no more vivid example of our common values and goals than the work we are doing with the EU right now in the post-conflict reconstruction of Southeastern Europe. As the confrontation in Kosovo comes to an end, together we have a big job before us. Our joint aim is to build a solid foundation for a new era of peace and stability, helping a region that has been one of the continent's most violent, become instead part of the European mainstream.

We forged a new stability pact for the region. And we believe that just as we have born the lion's share of the military expenditures, it is only right that the European Union bear the lion's share of the reconstruction. And this is something that they themselves have indicated they wish to do.

ENLARGEMENT OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

The 15 member EU is now about to undertake its largest enlargement ever. It will be one of the most important challenges facing Europe in the 21st Century. I would say to my dear friend, Congressman Lantos, that when he talks about great enterprises, this expansion will be a historic opportunity to further the peaceful integration of the continent, if it is done right.

The EU plans to spend, on its new members, between 2000 and 2006, the equivalent in 1999 dollars of what we spent on Western Europe through the Marshall plan. It will encourage cooperation, reinforce democracy, and reduce nationalistic and ethnic tensions. And if in the end it is successful, the European Union will be the largest single market in the world, with over 500 million citizens in an economy significantly larger than our own.

Thirteen countries have applied for EU membership so far. And the European Commission is in the middle of negotiations,