

impoverished states, thus further reducing their chance of economic recovery and development.

Dire as the situation in the Horn of Africa is, and as much as the casualties are lamentable, it is a valid question to ask: Why should we—the United States—care about yet another debilitating war in a remote part of Africa? Fortunately, the war has so far had little impact on the civilian population, there were no massacres, and there is no famine. Hence, there is no humanitarian catastrophe to attract our attention. Hence, I repeat, why should we care?

The reason we should pay close attention to the mounting crisis and escalating war is the vital strategic importance of the Horn of Africa to the United States and its close allies. The geo-strategic position of Ethiopia is central to several mega-dynamics stretching all the way from the Middle East to East Africa. Thus, the impact of instability and war reverberates directly to the heart of such areas commonly accepted as vital interests of the United States as Israel or the oil producing states of the Persian Gulf. Here are several major strategic factors in the region, demonstrating its great importance to the security interests of the United States:

1. The security of the Red Sea/Suez Canal Sea Lane of Communication (SLOC), which vitally affects East-West trade (not just the oil trade) between Europe and Asia, including particularly Japan and Australia. Within this context, the ability of Israel and Jordan to maintain adequate maritime access to the Red Sea (and therefore world trade) is significant.

2. The containment of the spread of Islamist radicalism and terrorism—a process currently sponsored by Sudan's National Islamic Front (NIF) Government with the assistance of Iran. The hub of international terrorism in Sudan supports subversion throughout the Arab world and East Africa. A personal patron of Osama bin Laden, Hassan al-Turabi, Sudan's spiritual leader, was instrumental in inspiring and sponsoring the bombing of the U.S. Embassies in Kenya and Tanzania. Having sponsored the eviction of the United States from Somalia, Khartoum is now trying to capitalize on the crisis in the Horn of Africa in order to evict the United States from the rest of this strategically critical area. Toward this end, the Islamists support several Islamist separatist movements in both Eritrea and Ethiopia, most notably the support for the radical separatist Oromo forces designed to break up Ethiopia still further.

3. The management of the Nile waters is critical to the stability, prosperity and growth of Sudan and Egypt, and therefore the stability of the entire Middle East. Egypt is completely dependent on the Nile water for its very existence and Cairo will therefore do anything to ensure the Nile's uninterrupted flow—including joining the radicals of the Muslim world, turning on the United States, Saudi Arabia, and Israel, etc. Sudan is also the driving force behind and key sponsor of the destabilization of Egypt. Gaining a foothold in Ethiopia will provide Khartoum with the possibility to manipulate the Nile's flow without direct implications.

Thus, stability in the Horn of Africa, and especially the existence of a unified and pro-Western Ethiopia, is of crucial importance to the national security of the United States. We

must care and worry about the escalation of the Ethiopia-Eritrea war and the Sudan-sponsored Islamist forces exploiting it. This position is shared by the Ethiopia Crown Council. In my previous comments, I urged that we help reinforce the position of Prince Ermias SahleSelassie, the President of the Crown Council of Ethiopia, who is attempting to restore a policy of unity and moderation on Ethiopia and the region. Recently, Prince Ermias has written an excellent analysis of the crisis for the *Defense & Foreign Affairs: Strategic Policy*, the journal of the respected International Strategic Studies Association. In this overview, he urges that we see the Eritrea-Ethiopia conflict in the context of the broader regional strategic situation, to ensure that radicalization of the region. Prince Ermias stresses the dire ramifications of the deteriorating situation in Ethiopia:

"What we see now [in Ethiopia] is far less democracy and opportunity and prosperity than was being created under the Constitutional Monarchy of Haile Selassie. What we are witnessing today is a society led by people who arrived on the scene by accident; who are mired in divisive, petty squabbling. The result is that the region is divided and at risk. And the risk is one shared by the entire world: a further breakdown in the region could lead to the collapse of the pivotal powers, and a total disruption of the trade routes and the Middle Eastern oil trade. But worse than this, by not seeing the Ethiopia-Eritrea dispute in the broader context and acting accordingly, the world may be condemning the peoples of the region, including those of Egypt and North Africa, Arabia and the Northern Tier, to many more years of despair."

I share the view and the anguish. I add that the strategic posture of the United States is adversely affected by the reverberations from, and impact of, the continued war in the Horn of Africa. This is why we should not only pay attention to events there, but also act to bring an end to the war. However, any negotiated settlement that would leave the regional strategic posture unchanged would only be a short term and temporary solution. Ultimately, it is imperative that long-term solutions are attained—nation building and economic revitalization under condition conducive for flow of private funds, not just hand outs of humanitarian assistance.

What makes the situation in the Horn of Africa so unique is that there is no need for a U.S. military intervention in order to establish such stability. There are indigenous forces in Ethiopia that, if properly supported, can help their own country and the entire region. I'm talking about the Ethiopian Crown Council. Constitutional monarchy, as was the case in the days of Emperor Haile Selassie, provides the best opportunity for Ethiopia. Mr. Speaker, it is clear that in Prince Ermias we have someone who understands, and can help stabilize the entire Horn of Africa. The situation is now becoming critical, and we must find ways to support him in the process of reunifying Ethiopia, which cannot be allowed to be dismembered, and in helping to bring about regional reconciliation—thus protecting and furthering national security interests of the United States and its close allies.

AFRICAN AMERICANS WHO HAVE MADE A VITAL ROLE IN SHAPING OUR NATION

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 24, 1999

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the many African Americans who, through personal sacrifice and unyielding perseverance, have had a vital role in shaping our nation. African Americans have made countless contributions throughout the history of the United States in the arts, sciences, literature, politics and in the military. They have made these achievements while working under extremely adverse conditions. In Virginia, we have a special appreciation for Black History Month and for the contributions of African-Americans to our state and nation.

Dr. Carter G. Woodson, considered the father of black history, was born in 1875 in Buckingham County, Virginia. Dr. Woodson originally conceived Negro History Week in 1926 as a celebration of African American achievement. This week of African American recognition later became Black History Month. Dr. Woodson was the youngest of nine children to former slaves. He was largely self taught due to the long hours required of him on his family's farm. Throughout his young adulthood, Dr. Woodson worked to support himself while studying. His hard work and discipline culminated in his becoming only the second African-American to earn his doctorate at Harvard. In 1915, Dr. Woodson established the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History to highlight African American contributions to American history and culture. Beginning in 1916, Dr. Woodson began publishing books and information on the African American experience in America. He held teaching positions at both Howard University and Virginia State College. At the end of his life in 1950, Dr. Woodson was working on an *Encyclopedia Africana*. Dr. Woodson is just one of many remarkable African Americans from Virginia.

Other black Virginians have been similarly distinguished. Tennis great Arthur Ashe learned to play tennis on segregated courts in Richmond and went on to become, not only a legend in the sport but also an international human rights leader. Mary Elizabeth Bowser spied for the Union army during the Civil War while a servant in the Confederate White House in Richmond. Henry "Box" Brown shipped himself to freedom in 1849 and then went on to become an outspoken advocate for the abolition of slavery. Virginia has contemporary African American heroes as well. Jazz legend Ella Fitzgerald was born in 1918 in Newport News Virginia. Samuel Lee Garvey, Jr. of Richmond became the first African American Navy Admiral in 1962. Samuel Dewitt Proctor, from Norfolk, who passed away in 1997, was a distinguished educator, preacher and speaker. Booker T. Washington was born in 1856 in Franklin County and became the founder of Tuskegee University in Alabama. And I am proud to say that Virginia was the first state in American history to elect an African American as Governor. With the

election of Doug Wilder in 1989, our state made great strides toward healing the painful past for all Virginians.

Black History month is a wonderful opportunity to reflect on the many contributions African Americans have made to the United States. Looking back over the history of Virginia and realizing the great things that have been accomplished often under harrowing conditions, I am hopeful for the future. Virginians and Americans can do much more for the greatness of our state and country if we take time to find out about one another and then more forward with respect to achieve greatness together. The Association for the Study of Afro-American Life and History has chosen Black History Month 1999 to be time to reflect on the theme "The Legacy of African American Leadership, for the Present and Future." Virginia has a rich history of Black leadership that I am positive will portend a future of continued excellence.

TRIBUTE TO KING HUSSEIN

HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 24, 1999

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor King Hussein ibn Talal al Hashem, a courageous leader and close U.S. ally who lent his stature as the Middle East's longest-serving leader to the service of peace. A wondrous achievement for any man, but even greater because it was accomplished after decades of struggle and at great risk to his standing among his neighbors and his own people. His death from cancer lost to Jordan a beloved king who brought stability in the face of great obstacles and lost to the world a man who in his final years worked tirelessly to leave behind a legacy of peace in his region.

When King Hussein was crowned in 1953, the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan was a collection of Bedouin tribes—today it stands as a model of stability in the region with democratic freedoms unknown to most of the Arab world. His 46 year reign was an astonishing feat of survival. King Hussein dodged at least five assassination attempts, numerous coups, the loss of a significant portion of his land, and, at critical points during his reign, miscalculations that sparked the ire of his Arab neighbors and the Western world. Yet he emerged in his later years as a wise voice for moderation in the region, using his wealth of experience and status as elder statesman to prod Israel and the Palestinians towards the ultimate goal of peace: a process which he had seen as necessary for the survival of his country and the region as a whole.

King Hussein had come to realize that his country's survival was inextricably linked to the fate of the State of Israel. His years of secret talks with Israeli leaders facilitated what would eventually become the first "warm" peace between Israel and an Arab country. I had the opportunity to participate in the White House signing of the 1994 peace agreement between Jordan and Israel, and was struck by King Hussein's courage in signing the agreement in

the face of opposition by his Arab allies. The warmth of the handshake between the King and Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin illustrated the genuine friendship that had grown between these two great leaders, and launched a relationship that should serve as a model for relations between Israel and her other Arab neighbors.

Since 1994, King Hussein spent enormous amounts of energy to broaden the peace by bringing a settlement to the Israel-Palestinian peace process. During the Hebron negotiations in 1997 and again at Wye Plantation in 1998, the King's presence made the difference between success and failure. While undergoing cancer treatment last fall, the King put his health at risk by traveling from the Mayo Clinic to the Wye Plantation at the request of President Clinton, who knew that only the King could inject that strong dose of reality necessary to remind the negotiators of their purpose. Cajoling, and sometimes scolding, the participants, he urged them to look beyond their petty differences and accept the compromises that would bring a brighter future to the region.

King Hussein will be remembered throughout the world as a man of honor, a man of wisdom, and a man of peace. I would like to express my sincere condolences to the family of King Hussein and the people of Jordan—your loss will be felt worldwide. I would also like to reaffirm our commitment to close relations between the U.S. and Jordan, and send my best wishes to King Abdullah, who has the strong support of Congress and the American people as he embarks on the leadership of his country and builds on the legacy of his father.

THE REINTRODUCTION OF THE NATIONAL URBAN WATERSHED MODEL RESTORATION ACT

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 24, 1999

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today, I reintroduce the National Urban Watershed Model Restoration Act, a bill to establish a new approach to restoring urban waters. This pilot program, to be administered by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), will serve as a national model for the restoration of urban watersheds and community environments. The Anacostia River has been chosen as the pilot river because it is an especially polluted urban river located in the nation's capital that has drawn national attention and thus can lead the way for community-involved cleanup approaches that can be modeled and taken up nationally.

To achieve more focused and rapid action, the new program will integrate the various regulatory and non-regulatory programs of the EPA with other federal, state, and local programs to restore and protect the Anacostia River and promote community risk reduction. EPA is to coordinate its efforts with other federal partners, particularly the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. In addition to addressing a major local environmental concern, this model program will provide a framework for urban

communities around the nation to work towards sustainable community redevelopment and to meet national environmental goals.

Under the new program, EPA shall allocate a total of \$750,000 per year over the next 4 fiscal years to implement the provisions of the Model Program. EPA may authorize no less than \$400,000 annually in the form of grants, which are to be matched on a 75–25 basis with other federal funds and state, local, and private contributions.

The Anacostia River has been my top environmental priority since coming to Congress in 1991. In the 104th Congress, I worked through the Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment to authorize \$12 million of construction projects to help clean up and restore wetlands along the Anacostia watershed. I am pleased that the Administration has proposed over \$4 million in the Army Corps of Engineers' FY 2000 budget for Anacostia projects that springs from the original \$12 million authorization.

I am committed to whatever time and effort it takes to restore the river that runs through the neighborhoods of the nation's capital. The bill that I introduce today marks a renewed effort, as well as an innovative approach, to advancing this top environmental priority.

IN COMMEMORATION OF FEBRUARY 24

HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 24, 1999

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, on February 24th the people of Cuba commemorate a glorious and tragic date in the history of their country. The 1895 war of independence began exactly 104 years ago; the Cry of Baire constitutes one of the most heroic acts of the Cuban people. Intimately connected with this date is the heroism of Marti, Gomez and Maceo and the thousands of freedom fighters known as mambises who shall forever ennoble the Cuban nationality.

Tragically, February 24th will also be forever connected with the murders which took place on that date in 1996. The Cuban tyrant, ultimately insulted by the courage demonstrated by the Brothers to the Rescue when they dropped pamphlets and other pieces of paper over Havana with pro-democracy slogans and copies of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights a few months back, ordered the murder of all the men and women who were going to fly on February 24th in civilian planes carrying out humanitarian missions for Brothers to the Rescue.

The Cuban tyrant prepared his murders well. An agent of his by the name of Roque, who had occasionally flown for the Brothers to the Rescue organization, was ordered to return the day before to Cuba. Roque was going to publicly declare after the murders of February 24th that he was a survivor from the mission and that the humanitarian group's planes were taking arms to "Concilio Cubano", a coalition of dissident organizations inside Cuba which had announced its intention to host a public meeting in Havana on February 24th and whose membership was brutally repressed by the dictatorship. Roque