November 17, 1999

In this capacity, he provides policy making and strategic advice to the President. Although Mr. Maldon is indirectly involved with a myriad of legislative issues, he is directly responsible for those issues in both the House and Senate involving Trade, Defense, International Affairs, Intelligence and Veterans Affairs.

In March 1993, Mr. Maldon was appointed as a Special Assistant to the President for Legislative Affairs. He subsequently served as the first African-American to be appointed as Deputy Assistant to the President and Director of the White House Military Office. In this capacity he managed and directed a large staff of over 1,900 personnel—providing operational, logistical, and state-of-the-art communications support to the President.

Prior to joining the Administration, Mr. Maldon enjoyed an outstanding military career. He entered active duty service as a commissioned officer in the United States Army in August of 1972. His assignments included tours in Europe, Korea, and various posts throughout the United States. Some of his highly visible positions included assignments as the Executive Officer, Armed Forces Staff College; and as Admissions and Public Liaison Officer at the United States Military Academy, West Point, NY. His career progressed through increasingly responsible positions as a Field Artillery and Adjutant General Corps Officer. He completed his military career as a Colonel with an assignment to the United States House of Representatives as the Deputy Director for Army Legislative Affairs in February 1993.

Mr. Maldon holds a Master of Arts Degree from the University of Oklahoma in Human Relations and a Bachelor of Arts Degree from Florida A&M University. He also graduated from various military schools and colleges, including the Command and General Staff College, the Armed Forces Staff College, and the Army’s Organizational Effectiveness Management Consultant School in Monterey, CA. He is the recipient of numerous military decorations including the Legion of Merit, the Defense Meritorious Service Medal (with two oak leaf clusters), the Army Commendation Medal, the United States Army Staff Badge. In addition, Mr. Maldon received the United States Congressional Award for Leadership and Patriotism, and he is listed in Who’s Who in America.

He has been blessed with a loving and caring family including his wife Carolyn and their daughter Kiamesha Racha’el. The family resides in Fairfax Station, VA.

As Assistant Secretary for Force and Management Policy, Mr. Maldon will be responsible for policies, plans and programs for military and civilian personnel management, including recruitment, education, career development, equal opportunity, compensation, recognition, discipline, and separation of all Department of Defense personnel, both military and civilian.

Mr. Speaker, Al Maldon’s dedication to public service, both as a civilian and as a member of the United States Army serves as a model to us all. His willingness to join me in wishing him the very best in his new assignment and his continued service to the citizens of the United States. I am proud to count him as a friend.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS
CONGRATULATING THE PEOPLE OF BONITA SPRINGS, FLORIDA
HON. PORTER J. GOSS
OF FLORIDA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, November 16, 1999

Mr. GOSS. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to recognize the creation of the ninth city in the Fourteenth District of Florida, the City of Bonita Springs. After many months of debate and discussion, the people of Bonita Springs cast their ballots in favor of incorporation as the fifth city in Lee County, FL on November 2, 1999.

As a new Millennium begins, so the citizens of Bonita Springs will embark on a new challenge, the challenge of creating a new city from residents’ ideas of what their community ought to be. It comes as no surprise that there are those willing to do the hard work involved with creating a new city. I am sure they will find the rewards great and surprising, as I discovered in my experience when the City of Sanibel was born 25 years ago.

Now that the incorporation debate is over, I know the people of Bonita Springs will come together, roll up their sleeves and begin the business of fashioning a city that they can be proud of. Beginnings are marvelous, because the imagination is the only limitation. Of course, not everything can be accomplished immediately, but the ideas that come forth now can certainly become part of long-range goals.

Again, my congratulations to the people of Bonita Springs. I stand ready to help them make their city the best it can be.

PRESIDENT ALIEV RECOMMENTS AZERBAIJAN TO RELIGIOUS FREEDOM
HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH
OF NEW JERSEY
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, November 16, 1999

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to bring to the attention of my colleagues recent positive developments on religious freedom in Azerbaijan. Members of the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe, which I chair, raised last week our concern over the raids of the Baptist and Lutheran churches in Baku, the threatened deportation of foreigners associated with these churches, and the firing of a number of Jehovah’s Witnesses.

In a letter to President Haidar Aliev on November 3, 1999, expressing Azerbaijan’s OSCE commitments to religious liberty, we raised the recent incidents that violate religious liberty and asked Azerbaijan to register religious groups that have not been able to gain legal status.

On Monday, November 8, in a meeting with U.S. Ambassador Stanley Escudero, President Aliev publicly reaffirmed Azerbaijan’s commitment to religious freedom, pledged to redress recent problems faced by minority religious groups, and gave assurances there would be no further religious liberty violations in Azer-