this process to divert U.S. technology to China. The Task Force Chairman raised this concern, and warned he might not attend the Final Appeal's decision on the right of Hong Kong's market as free as possible. The PLA troops have kept to their barracks, and Beijing has repeatedly displayed a disinclination to involve itself in Hong Kong's internal affairs. Although sharp differences have arisen within Hong Kong, particularly between the Government and opposition legislators to data informed observers see no evidence of any intent by Beijing to violate the Basic Law and the 'one country, two systems' concept.

This is not to say that there is no cause for further concern. As we have noted in this report, the current crisis over the Court of Final Appeal's decision on the right of abode has the potential to undermine confidence in Hong Kong's future judicial autonomy and the rule of law. Cautions concerning the long range implications of any actions aimed at addressing the practical implications of the ruling is clearly appropriate. In this regard, a strong public consensus on Hong Kong's future political development. Trade related issues, including IPR piracy and money laundering, also deserve attention. Although OPIC's excellent export control system is intact, but attention to the potential loophole afforded by cross-border PLA vehicle movements is also needed. The recent attention to China's practice of monitoring developments in these and other areas.

CONCLUSION—STILL SO FAR, SO GOOD, WITH SOME NEW CONCERNS

In the months prior to Hong Kong's reversion to Chinese sovereignty in July 1997, many voiced concern that the People's Liberation Army garrison would rapidly move to undermine the relatively open political system and the free market economy of Hong Kong, which had enjoyed autonomy for 150 years and was being handed over to Beijing following Macau's reversion, with potentially harmful consequences to the autonomy of the Government of Macau.

More than twenty months after the reversion, these fears have proven to be unfounded, up to this point. Hong Kong residents have retained the basic freedoms that they enjoyed under British rule. Although buffeted by the Asian Financial Crisis, the business community and the Government, appear united in their desire to keep Hong Kong's market as free as possible. The PLA troops have kept to their barracks, and Beijing has repeatedly displayed a disinclination to involve itself in Hong Kong's internal affairs. Although sharp differences have arisen within Hong Kong, particularly between the Government and opposition legislators to date informed observers see no evidence of any intent by Beijing to violate the Basic Law and the 'one country, two systems' concept.

Finally, problems remain with the overall climate of law and order. Gangland killings and drive-by shootings continue to negatively affect Macau's image and its tourism industry. Responsibility for the high levels of criminal activity have at times been a point of contention between China and Portugal. A failure to bring about improvements in this area could tempt more overt action by Beijing following Macau's reversion, with potentially harmful consequences to the autonomy of the Government of Macau.

Mr. MANZULLO. Mr. Speaker, I was pleased to introduce on May 27th, along with the Committee on Small Business, the Small Business Export Act of 1999. This legislation would reauthorize most commercial export promotion programs of the U.S. government, including the Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC), the Trade and Development Agency (TDA), and the export promotion functions of the International Trade Administration (ITA) at the Department of Commerce.

In the 106th Congress, OPIC for four years and does not raise OPIC's liability ceiling. For 27 years, OPIC has been the U.S. government agency providing political risk insurance and financing for projects that help America compete abroad and promote stability and development in strategic countries and economies around the world.

OPIC's political risk insurance covers three main areas where the government has a proper role to influence—expropriation (loss of an investment due to nationalization or confiscation by a foreign government), currency inconvertibility (inability to remit profits from local currency to U.S. dollars); and political violence (loss of assets or income due to war, revolution or politically-motivated civil strife, terrorism or sabotage). Since 1971, OPIC supported projects have generated $58 billion in U.S. exports and created more than 237,000 American jobs. Over the last five years, OPIC supported projects will buy about $1 billion worth of goods and services from Illinois suppliers, half of which are small firms, which will create over 3,100 well-paying jobs like Colic Inc. of Cary; Oak Industries of Crystal Lake; ESL Limited, the Nylint Corporation, the Barber-Coleman Company, and the Clinton Electronics Corporation of Rockford have all used and benefited from OPIC services in the past. And, unlike most government programs, OPIC operates totally on a user-fee self-sustaining basis at no cost to the taxpayer. OPIC is estimated to bring in $204 million in revenue to the U.S. Treasury next year.

In response to Congressional input, OPIC has undertaken a series of initiatives since its last reauthorization. These include new initiatives in Africa, Central America, the Caribbean, and the Caspian Basin. In addition, OPIC has stepped up efforts to help more small businesses enter the global economy. As Chairman of the Small Business Export Subcommittee, I held a hearing last month examining the new small business outreach efforts by OPIC. OPIC is particularly important for small business exporters because unlike

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

Monday, June 7, 1999

Mr. MANZULLO. Mr. Speaker, I was pleased to introduce on May 27th, along with Representatives Bob Menendez, Ben Gilman, Sam Gejdenson, and 44 other Republican and Democrat Members of Congress the Export Enhancement Act of 1999. We are all concerned about the recent anemic export performance of the United States and the ballooning U.S. trade deficit. While this legislation is not a cure-all for this problem, it provides one tool in the effort to promote U.S. exports abroad.

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large companies, small business exporters cannot pack up their bags and relocate operations overseas to take advantage of foreign equivalents to OPIC. There are 36 nations that have export credit insurance programs like OPIC. Just like OPIC, most of these nations have local content requirements. If forced to, larger U.S. multinational corporations can pick and choose from one of these other foreign export credit insurance programs. But the work and the jobs, then, are transferred overseas. Small business exporters do not have this luxury. OPIC is needed to maintain the competitive edge of these small business exporters in the United States.

Mr. Speaker, let me give you one concrete example from the hearing last month. Jane Dauffenbach, President of Aquarius Systems, located in North Prairie, Wisconsin, testified how foreign governments constantly try to undermine her small company’s export prospects, even to the point of competing against free donations of similar equipment. Aquarius Systems manufactures aquatic weed harvesters. In Asia, Aquarius Systems lost a large equipment sale when the Canadian government gave a “free” aquatic weed harvester to the monarch of the country. In Kenya, Ms. Dauffenbach also testified about how the Japanese and the Israeli governments almost snatched another huge export sale from her company to clear water hyacinths clogging Lake Victoria. It was only because she had a World Bank contract, backed by OPIC political risk insurance, that she was able to win and complete the sale. She said, “simply put, Aquarius Systems is not competing with foreign companies. We are competing with foreign governments. . . . It is imperative that the financing and insurance programs from OPIC exist so that we have the necessary tools available to accomplish our goals.”

Second, the legislation reaffirms the importance of Trade Development Agency (TDA). This small 43 person agency, which develops feasibility studies designing in American specifications so that U.S. exporters can win major market compliance so that U.S. exporters can win major

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN
OF FLORIDA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, June 7, 1999

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I wish to take this opportunity to commend the Black Cuban Foundation for its decade of service to the Afro-Cuban community in exile. Over the past ten years, it has pursued a goal of improving relations between Afro-Cubans and our varied communities.

The Black Cuban Foundation was founded on July 30th, 1989 and promptly began to promote its important and unique role in Cuban and American culture through educational workshops, cultural events, and works of charity. Their success has been recognized by various groups, including the United Negro College Fund, Florida Memorial University, the Cuban Municipalities in Exile, the Human Rights Commission, and the City of Miami.

Currently the Black Cuban Foundation is working harder than ever to highlight Afro-Cuban contributions within our community, including fostering a sense of belonging as new American citizens. This group has also allied itself with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights of the United Nations.

In recognition of its lofty goals, I would like to applaud the fervent work of Lucia Rojas, president; Oscar Martinez, vice president; and Ladiess Moraleza, treasurer and secretary. The work of Felipe Gonzalez, Juan A. Woods, and Regla Fernandez should receive equal praise in the Black Cuban Foundation.

HONORING RETIRING FENTON HIGH SCHOOL PRINCIPAL DR. KEN WENSEL

HON. DEBBIE STABENOW
OF MICHIGAN
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, June 7, 1999

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. Speaker, this week Principal Ken Wensel will retire after a 30-year career at Fenton High School. During those years, Dr. Wensel touched the lives of countless young people—encouraging, advising, inspiring and serving as a role model.

I would like to thank Dr. Wensel personally for his commitment to young people and education. Today I join Fenton Area Public Schools in declaring June 12, 1999 Ken Wensel Day. In addition, I would like to read the following resolution into the Congressional Record on behalf of the Fenton Area Public Schools:

Whereas Dr. Wensel served the Fenton Area Public Schools with distinction and honor for 30 years and;

Whereas Ken Wensel has served in the positions of community education director, athletic director, assistant principal and, for 12 years as principal of Fenton High School and;

Whereas Ken Wensel has been an unswerving advocate for young men and women throughout this tenure as an administrator and;