

first Hispanic Councilman for the City of Cleveland.

TAIWAN TO AID KOSOVAR
REFUGEES

HON. DANA ROHRBACHER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 10, 1999

Mr. ROHRBACHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commend President Lee Teng-hui of Taiwan, who has announced Taiwan's decision to provide \$300 million in aid for Kosovar refugees and the reconstruction of war-torn areas of Kosovo. The aid includes emergency food and shelter for Kosovar evacuees in Macedonia, as well as short-term occupational training in Taiwan to help refugees speed the reconstruction of war-ravaged areas.

President Lee and the government and people of Taiwan are to be congratulated for voluntarily participating in the international relief effort for the people of Kosovo. Their actions are in stark contrast to People's Republic of China's hostile attitude toward the United States and NATO and their political obstruction to maintaining peace in the fragile democratic nation of Macedonia. This generous humanitarian action by Taiwan, a nation of 21 million freedom loving people, who live in the threatening shadow of tyranny imposed on mainland China, emphasizes the reason that the United States must remain a loyal friend and unwaveringly support the defense of freedom for the Taiwanese people.

I am enclosing for the record a copy of President Lee's June 7, 1999 presidential statement regarding assistance to Kosovar refugees.

PRESIDENTIAL STATEMENT REGARDING
ASSISTANCE TO KOSOVAR REFUGEES

The huge numbers of Kosovar casualties and refugees from the Kosovo area resulting from the NATO-Yugoslavia conflict in the Balkans have captured close world-wide attention. From the very outset, the government of the ROC has been deeply concerned and we are carefully monitoring the situation's development.

We in the Republic of China were pleased to learn last week that Yugoslavia President Slobodan Milosevic has accepted the peace plan for the Kosovo crisis proposed by the Group of Eight countries, for which specific peace agreements are being worked out.

The Republic of China wholeheartedly looks forward to the dawning of peace on the Balkans. For more than two months, we have been concerned about the plight of the hundreds of thousands of Kosovar refugees who were forced to flee to other countries, particularly from the vantage point of our emphasis on protecting human rights. We thereby organized a Republic of China aid mission to Kosovo. Carrying essential relief items, the mission made a special trip to the refugee camps in Macedonia to lend a helping hand.

Today, as we anticipate a critical moment of forth-coming peace, I hereby make the following statement to the international community on behalf of all the nationals of the Republic of China:

As a member of the world community committee to protecting and promoting human

rights, the Republic of China would like to develop further the spirit of humanitarian concern for the Kosovar refugees living in exile as well as for the war-torn areas in dire need of reconstruction. We will provide a grant aid equivalent to about US \$300 million. The aid will consist of the following:

1. Emergency support for food, shelters, medical care, and education, etc., for the Kosovar refugees, living in exile in neighboring countries.

2. Short-term accommodations for some of the refugees in Taiwan, with opportunities of job training in order for them to be better equipped for the restoration of their homeland upon their return.

3. Furthermore, support the rehabilitation of the Kosovo area in coordination with international long-term recovery programs when the peace plan is implemented.

We earnestly hope that the above-mentioned aid will contribute to the promotion of the peace plan for Kosovo. I wish all the refugees an early return to their safe and peaceful Kosovo homes.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION
ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2000

SPEECH OF

HON. MAXINE WATERS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 9, 1999

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1401) to authorize appropriations for fiscal years 2000 and 2001 for military activities of the Department of Defense, to prescribe military personnel strengths for fiscal years 2000 and 2001, and for other purposes:

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Chairman, I rise to oppose this unjust and unfair rule. The Majority Leadership is still refusing to allow several Democratic amendments to be considered by this House. I am especially opposed to this rule because my amendments to extend Section 2323 of Title X of the U.S. Code were not ruled in order.

Section 2323 established a five percent contract goal for small disadvantaged businesses and certain institutions of higher education, including Historically Black Colleges and Universities and Hispanic-serving institutions. Achieving this modest goal is the objective of the Department of Defense, the Coast Guard and NASA. This important law is scheduled to expire in the year 2000.

I proposed two amendments to extend Section 2323 beyond the year 2000 and improve the implementation of this important provision of law. My colleague, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, also proposed two amendments to extend and modify Section 2323. So there were four different proposals regarding contracting for small disadvantaged businesses and minority institutions and none of them were ruled in order by the Republican leadership.

Recent trends have provided compelling evidence for the continuing need for affirmative action goals in Federal contracting. Following the Adarand v. Pena decision by the Supreme Court, the Federal Government undertook a review of affirmative action programs, and subsequently, 17 of these programs were altered or eliminated.

These changes have led to a significant drop in the number of Federal contracts awarded to minorities and women. For example, in 1995, the Department of Energy, which contracts out 80 percent of its purchases of goods and services, awarded \$215.8 million in contracts to women and minority-owned businesses. In 1997, the amount dropped to \$66.1 million. It would be extremely unfortunate if a similar decrease in Federal contracting with minority-owned businesses were to occur at the Department of Defense, the Coast Guard and NASA.

Section 2323 is a modest goal to encourage contracts with minority-owned businesses and other small businesses. As a result of this provision, many businesses owned by socially and economically disadvantaged individuals have been able to compete for, have been awarded and have executed Defense, NASA and Coast Guard contracts. Section 2323 has allowed small disadvantaged businesses and minority institutions of higher education to make a positive contribution to the national security of the United States.

I urge my colleagues to oppose this unjust rule and support a fair rule that will allow the Members of this House to consider the extension of Section 2323.

A TRIBUTE TO THE LATE MICKEY
MENDOZA

HON. STEVEN R. ROTHMAN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 10, 1999

Mr. ROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the late Mickey Mendoza of Saddle Brook, New Jersey, a young man whose life was ended in a tragic incident in Ecuador on April 11, 1999. Regrettably, to this day, no full explanation has been offered by Ecuadorian officials to describe the circumstances surrounding Mickey's death. All that we know for sure is that a bullet from a gun belonging to a police officer in Guayquil, Ecuador senselessly ended the life of a promising fourteen-year-old American citizen.

I met with Mickey's parents, Galo and Doris and their three children shortly after this death and I know the pain they are enduring. Today I have come to the floor of the U.S. House of Representatives to say that I fully share the Mendoza family's desire to get to the bottom of how Mickey died. They are owed this answer and I intend to continue my work with U.S. officials in Ecuador to ensure that they get a full accounting of what led to Mickey's death.

Mickey Mendoza was, in almost all respects, living the American dream. He was a bright and energetic student at Saddle Brook Middle School. He was active in sports, taking part in his school's wrestling team and playing soccer in a recreational league. In addition, after school, Mickey was attending confirmation classes at Mount Virgin Roman Catholic Church in Garfield, New Jersey. His creativity, his energy, his thoughtfulness, and all this has been taken from us.

Father Paul Bochicchia, pastor of Mickey's church, after learning of his death, recounted