

From the American point of view, the first line of defense in preventing conflict is a vigilant, active, well-connected and supported United States Embassy. It also requires in Washington a back-up chain of command which actually reads the reports from the field and is prepared to act on them in a timely manner. This does not mean dispatching the 82nd airborne division every time the fire bell rings. It does mean rapid and effective coordination with allies and regional powers and organizations, not to mention forceful, private representations to potential malefactors. It is a lot easier to stop a conflict before it is unleashed, than to try to halt one, once blood flows and popular passions rise.

In recent years pan Africa and sub regional African organizations have shown themselves willing to fill part of the vacuum left by former colonial powers' increasing reluctance to engage directly in the affairs of their former subject peoples. Greater international support for the peacekeeping operations, including regional and sub-regional organizations therefore is needed. Similarly when America deploys its prestigious, heavy hitters in diplomatic peace making missions, such efforts need to be supported, first of all, by our own government. Undoubtedly, the United Nations can play a large role in the future in this context if adequately led and supported.

4. Conflicting commercial ambitions by companies and individuals in various African countries have sometimes produced foreign diplomatic support for individual leaders or potential leaders who are viewed as friends. ELF Petroleum's objectives and the multiple rival interests in the diamond industry are some of the many examples of this.

Even where such interests are not directly involved, paranoia about the potential of such sponsorship is helping to prevent advanced countries from working together effectively to support development in Africa. Covert support for this or that potential leader is assumed. The recent election in the Ivory Coast was a case in point, where riots were mobilized by one group to protest alleged French attempts to interfere in the election process.

Yet it is absolutely clear that advanced countries could accomplish much more in Africa by working together than by allowing divisions over conflicting commercial agendas to poison cooperation.

There are a number of highly able African leaders who care about the interests of their peoples, but who sometimes do not have the in depth, local talent needed to craft development strategies that could command wide support.

There is an urgent need for such strategies in sub-Saharan Africa. The best of African talent needs to be engaged with that from cooperating multilateral organizations and individual countries to produce as realistic and comprehensive market based development plan for each country in sub-Saharan Africa.

At its peak, the mineral riches of one province in Congo provided 25% of the GNP of that country. Once peace comes, a high priority should be given to a plan to restore the power and transportation infrastructure to allow these minerals to play their earlier role in the local and global economy.

By the same token, unwise policies, such as the current efforts of President Mugabe to demagogue the issues involved in the commercial farming sector of his country, need to be more strongly discouraged by those in a position to deploy carrots and sticks. Ev-

erywhere in Africa there is a need for more intensive commercial farming, which has more than proven its potential in the latter part of the 20th century. The solid results achieved by efficient commercial farmers both in feeding local people and in providing desperately needed jobs and foreign exchange through exports is something that should not be ignored.

5. Delivery of health services is another area where more cost effective distribution systems are needed in some countries. A recent World Bank report suggested that of each \$100 appropriated for medicines by national budgets in Africa, only \$12 worth of such medicines reach patients. The rest of the money is lost through a combination of spoilage, corruption, and other apparent consequences of gross mismanagement.

The cost of commercially available treatment of HIV positive individuals or those with AIDS is about \$15,000/person. This is the approximate cost of educating 100 primary school students for an entire year. Offers by the United States to provide loans to impoverished African countries to allow them to purchase greater quantities of commercially available drugs to prolong the useful lives of the HIV positive will not find many willing takers among governments with unlimited pressing needs and limited resources.

Prevention is obviously the most important first line of defense against this scourge. Senegal does an effective job in this regard, and its HIV positive population is merely 1.8% by comparison with other countries with rates in excess of 20% and growing. Uganda is also now successfully lowering the infected number of their citizens through effective anti-AIDS information campaigns. But the Senegal and Uganda information programs should be put on the road and marketed in all the African countries.

Brazil has successfully begun to attack its own HIV problem with generic drugs produced at a fraction of the \$15,000 commercial rate. It did so by simply expropriating the technology and subsidizing the production and dissemination of the drugs.

Clearly, it is in the interest of all that current market-based incentives for research and development of anti-AIDS drugs should continue and intensify. Companies which are successful should be rewarded for their success. The franchises for distribution of HIV/AIDS medicines in Africa should be purchased by donor governments and multilateral health agencies.

Even if not all the millions now infected can be treated with anti-AIDS medicines due to cost factors and distribution complexities, at least the scarcest talent in the country, educated at vast cost, can be treated and their productive lives greatly extended.

6. Better education programs are clearly part of the answer to Africa's multiple problems. But today, less than 2% more women are being educated than was the case during the colonial period. Educational costs are unnecessarily high in some places because of unionized work forces that extract high salaries and benefits. In some places, governments cannot afford to field the number of highly paid teachers who are needed to address the requirements of Africa's children.

American children were educated in the 19th century with very simple structures and facilities. This is an area where friends of Africa in the developed world could perhaps usefully contribute more in talent, funds, and advice. Schools are also

7. Leadership. During the Cold War, the United States mounted an extensive effort to identify and support able, young people from

many parts of the world. Large numbers were brought to the United States as visitors and hundreds of thousands were educated here. The AIDS scourge is decapitating large numbers of people, including the educated elites in Africa, and a massive effort to replace these vitally needed trained technical and leadership groups is urgently needed. This will have to be a shared task among many countries that are friends of Africa.

CONCLUSION

This presentation is by no means an attempt at a comprehensive look at Africa's current problems. Those interested in digging deeper into the details should begin by reading some of the useful publications that the World Bank has recently sponsored and examine the writings of other experts on Africa.

Rather this speech is an effort to point out some of the things that I saw myself on a recent tour of part of the continent and some of the conclusions that I reached.

It is intended as an appeal to parts of the policy community who normally have responsibilities far beyond this one isolated region. We all need to look again at what is happening in sub-Saharan Africa and reconsider our overall priorities.

There is plenty of evidence that when the broader policy community focuses its attention on a problem of this kind that it can greatly strengthen the local leadership classes that ultimately bear responsibility for implementing solutions.

In years past, non-profit organizations, scholars, journalists, retired diplomats, and politicians, as well as individuals working within governmental and multilateral organizations have made major contributions in Africa. River blindness, for example, has been almost eliminated from many parts of Africa. New strains of crops have turned some famine prone areas into food-exporting regions. Reconciliation efforts far from the eyes of the public have brought old enemies together. But when governments put their shoulders to the wheel with imagination, resources, and leadership, they can accomplish things that are far beyond what individuals can do.

There is both a need and an opportunity for collective international action in Africa today. The recent debt relief effort needs to be supplemented by programs that deal with other aspects of the continent's urgent needs.

Sometimes even a relatively modest effort in an area which is under-served can yield a disproportionately positive impact on the lives of a great many human beings. The opportunities now in Africa are great for this kind of commitment. I hope that some of you will take up the challenge. Leadership, imagination, and resources are urgently needed in this part of the world.

HONORING JAMES B. ORRELL

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 15, 2000

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, today I recognize James B. Orrell. James Orrell has provided invaluable support and leadership to Marin County school districts and the Marin County Office of Education for 35 years. During his many years of service he has demonstrated leadership in public education and

dedication to students, parents, teachers and community members.

James had worked in the Office of Education as Assistant to the Marin County Superintendent of Schools, Assistant Superintendent of Student Services, Director of Employer/Employer Relations, Special Education Project Manager, liaison to the Marin County School Boards Association and the Joint Legislative Action Committee, and Administrative Assistant. He has also been a Teacher and Principal at San Quentin and Interim Superintendent of the Reed School District as well as representing Marin for 30 years on the California School Masters Board to promote excellence in education by recognizing outstanding teachers and administrators.

During his long career in public education, Mr. Orrell worked tirelessly to provide high-quality education programs, and services for all students. It is my pleasure to honor James Orrell. I am proud to represent such a dedicated educator.

TRIBUTE TO ANTONIO MEUCCI

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 15, 2000

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, Alexander Graham Bell is the man most commonly given full credit for the invention of the telephone. The courts awarded him one of the most valuable patents in American history, a patent that made him a millionaire and became the foundation for one of America's largest corporations. Certainly, the telephone has become a tool of modern communications so fundamental that many of today's business and social activities would be inconceivable in its absence. However, Bell's claim that he solely engineered the telephone was hotly disputed by a number of other inventors, one of which I wish to speak of here today. My motive is not to disparage or discredit the legend of Mr. Bell's findings, but rather to tell the story of Antonio Meucci, an Italian immigrant little known for his far-reaching contributions to our society.

Antonio Meucci was born in San Frediano, near Florence, in April 1808. He studied design and mechanical engineering at Florence's Academy of Fine Arts and then worked in the Teatro della Pergola and various other theaters as a stage technician until 1835. From there he accepted a job as a scenic designer and stage technician at the Teatro Tacon in Havana, Cuba.

Fascinated by technical research of any kind, Meucci read every scientific missive he could acquire. He spent a great deal of his spare time in Havana on research and he soon gained notoriety for his creative and productive mind. His purported inventions included a new method of galvanizing metal, which was applied to military equipment for the Cuban government. He continued his work in the theater, but science had become his indomitable passion.

One day, in his home, Meucci heard an exclamation of a friend, who was in another room of the house, over a piece of copper

wire running between them. He realized immediately that he had something that was more important than any discovery he had ever made. With that realization also came the understanding that to succeed as an inventor, he would need an environment that truly fostered his inquisitive mind and vibrant spirit. He would come to America, to explore this new communication possibility.

He left Cuba for New York in 1850, settling in the Clifton section of Staten Island, a few miles from New York City. Though poor finances and limited English plagued Meucci, he worked tirelessly in his endeavor to bring long distance communication to a practical stage.

In 1855, when his wife became partially paralyzed, Meucci set up a telephone system which joined several rooms of his house with his workshop in another building nearby. This was the first such installation anywhere. In 1860, when the instrument had become practical, Meucci organized a demonstration to attract financial backing in which a singer's voice was clearly heard by spectators a considerable distance away. A description of the apparatus was soon published in one of New York's Italian newspapers and the report with a model of the invention were taken to Italy with the goal of arranging production there. Unfortunately, the promises of financial support, which were so forthcoming after the original demonstration, never materialized.

Antonio Meucci refused to let this set back destroy his vision. Though the years that followed brought increasing poverty, he continued to produce new designs and specifications. Unable to raise the sum for a definitive patent, Meucci filed a caveat, or notice of intent, that was a preliminary description of his invention with the U.S. Patent Office. His telegrafo was registered on December 28, 1871 with the requirement that he file for converting it into a patent in 1874. Fate would deal Meucci a cruel blow, however, as he fell victim to a near fatal boat explosion. While he lay in hospital, destitute and ill, Meucci allowed the provisional patent to lapse.

Two years after the expiration of Meucci's caveat, Bell took out a patent for his voice transmitting electrical device, which he called the telephone. It is possible that sometimes several inventors have the same idea at the same time. In this case, however, what has mattered is not who had the idea for the telephone first, but who first turned the idea into a viable commercial enterprise. As we all know, it was Bell who succeeded in that respect.

For too long Antonio Meucci has been only a footnote in our history books. At many local libraries, a search for Meucci in the card catalogue yields nothing. His legacy deserves more. Remember that a federal court in the 1880's found that Meucci's ideas were significant to the invention of the telephone and the Secretary of State at the time issued a public statement that "there exists sufficient proof to give priority to Meucci in the invention of the telephone."

Mr. Speaker, many people from many different nations have contributed to the greatness of America. Antonio Meucci was indeed one such person. He is an example of someone who worked for the benefit of all. It is fitting that his efforts are recognized here today.

IN HONOR OF TOM SHORT

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 15, 2000

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, President Thomas Short of IATSE, the International Alliance of Theatrical and Stage Employees, ranks as one of the City of Cleveland's favorite sons. Cleveland is proud of his strong, disciplined, patient leadership which has earned him the gratitude of the rank and file of the IATSE, the appreciation of all international labor leaders, and the respect of those who sit across the table from his I/A team.

As a member of the labor committee of the United States Congress and as a member belonging to IATSE Local 660 (when you are in politics it is always good to have another trade) I know first hand the powerful and positive impact Tom Short has had in protecting and advancing the economical, social, and political rights of working men and women. President Short achieves success for his members through making the use of principle, a practical and pragmatic goal.

As a veteran of both labor and politics, I am aware of the challenges which confront my brothers and sisters in the entertainment world. Surely this, the most dynamic of all industries, with so many exceptional individuals blessed with depth of talent and breadth of vision—surely you can call upon the limitless reservation of spiritual and creative energies always available to you, to design an environment of benevolence and co-operation where all are winners in the collective bargaining process.

Over thirty years ago, when I began my career in public service, I worked closely with Tom Short's father, Adrian, who led Cleveland's stage hand union. Adrian Short introduced me back then to his sons, Dale, a labor leader in his own right, and Tom, our honoree.

How very proud your father would be of this well deserved moment of grace, Tom, for you embody every dream he had—in your quest to elevate the dignity of all working people.

THANKS TO THOSE WHO HELP
KEEP THE CAPITOL FUNC-
TIONING II

HON. JOHN EDWARD PORTER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 15, 2000

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, earlier this year, on October 24, I rose to thank all of the people that make this great institution work. I wish I could have mentioned all of our extended support staff by name. Peggy Sampson has been with the Republican staff almost as long as I've been in Congress. She does a fantastic job playing Mother Superior to all our pages, watching over them, helping to educate them, and generally herding them. This has become an infinitely more complex job when Republicans became the House majority, with the right to name so many more pages on our side. But Peggy not only does her job and