

the State of California. I believe that school districts across the country should follow Dr. Fisher's example and take the opportunity to learn from his successful and innovative ways.

PRESIDENT MUST PRESS
VAJPAYEE ON HUMAN RIGHTS
AND SELF-DETERMINATION

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 6, 2000

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, next week Indian Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee is coming to visit the United States. He will meet with several American leaders, including President Clinton and perhaps both major-party Presidential candidates. When he meets with these leaders, they must bring up the issue of human rights and self-determination.

India claims to be a democracy, but in truth there is no democracy in India. It is a militant Hindu fundamentalist state. Christians, Sikhs, Muslims, Dalits, and other minorities suffer severe oppression and atrocities at the hands of Hindu fundamentalists.

Just last month, a priest in Gujarat was kidnapped, tortured, and paraded through town naked by militant Hindu nationalists. The Indian government has refused to register a complaint against the kidnappers. This is the latest act in a campaign of terror against Christians that has been going on since Christmas 1998. This campaign has seen the murders of priests, rape of nuns, Hindu militants burning a missionary and his two sons to death in their van, the destruction of schools and prayer halls, and other anti-Christian atrocities. Most of these activities have been carried out by allies of the government or people affiliated with organizations under the umbrella of the RSS, the parent organization of the ruling BJP, which was founded in support of Fascism.

Recently, Bal Thackeray, the leader of Shiv Sena, a coalition partner of the ruling BJP, threatened to engulf the country in violence if he is held responsible for his part in hundreds of murders in 1992. In India, democracy apparently requires making coalitions with killers.

The Christians are not the only minority that is being oppressed. When President Clinton visited India in March, 35 Sikhs were massacred in the village of Chithi Singhpora in Kashmir. The Indian government killed five Muslims, claiming that they were the individuals responsible for the killings. Later they were forced to admit that these Muslims were innocent. Now the Indian government has arrested two more people on the claim that they are responsible for the massacre. Yet two independent investigations have clearly established that the Indian government itself was responsible for the massacre. How can a democratic nation justify these actions?

The Sikhs have declared their independence from India, forming the new country of Khalistan in 1987. The people of Kashmir were promised a plebiscite on their future in 1948, and India promised the United Nations that this referendum would be held as well. The people of predominantly Christian Nagalim seek their independence. There are several other freedom movements within India's borders. It seems to this Member that the

best, fairest, and most democratic way to settle these issues is to conduct a free and fair plebiscite on the question of independence in these minority nations.

In addition to our legitimate nuclear-proliferation concerns, it is important that as the world's only superpower, our leaders press the government of India to live up to the democratic standards they proclaim by allowing all people within their borders to enjoy basic human rights and self-determination. If they do not do so, we should cut off U.S. aid to India and put this Congress on record with a resolution in support of human rights, self-determination, and nuclear nonproliferation for all the people of South Asia.

HONORING CINDY K. BOWEN

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 6, 2000

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment to honor the service of the Honorable Cindy K. Bowen, of Montrose County, Colorado. Ms. Bowen is retiring after over a decade of service as County Commissioner. Before serving as Commissioner, Ms. Bowen was a Senior Auditor for Dalby, Wendland and Company, CPA's, where she served as Montrose County's Auditor from 1978-1987.

For years, Cindy has done great service to western Colorado as a Commissioner and, because of her distinguished tenure, has received a number of awards. Among them are CCI Outstanding Freshman Commissioner of the year in 1989, and CCI Outstanding Commissioner of the year in 1994. Ms. Bowen's service to Montrose County has helped to make it a better place for all its citizens. Her outstanding commitment to public service is greatly appreciated and will be missed.

It is with this, Mr. Speaker, that I congratulate Cindy on her upstanding service as a County Commissioner and wish her all the best in all her future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO MRS. HELEN ELLIS
JOHNSTON OF HUNTSVILLE, AL

HON. ROBERT E. (BUD) CRAMER, JR.

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 6, 2000

Mr. CRAMER. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to pay tribute to a resident of my district and a dear friend, Mrs. Helen Ellis Johnston. Mrs. Johnston's accomplishments and service to her community would fill many a page. She is greatly loved and respected throughout the community and will be honored by the local chapter of the Arthritis Foundation with their annual Humanitarian award.

A native Kentuckian, Mrs. Johnston is married to Mr. William Hooper Johnston. She has three daughters: Mrs. Patricia Vidler, Ms. Christy Catts, and Mrs. Cathy Nickelson. Mrs. Johnston moved to Alabama in 1952. Shortly thereafter she began the years of nonprofit and volunteer service that have been the lifeblood of so many organizations.

After arriving in Huntsville, Mrs. Johnston soon found her niche in working to improve this community's public health safety. She served for 12 years as Executive Director for the North District of the Alabama Lung Association of Alabama. In this position, she took a proactive approach to public health awareness helping to write and implement the first Alabama Health Curriculum Guide for schools across the State. Receiving a grant from the EPA, she conducted the first workshop in North Alabama to create citizen awareness on the need for adoption of the Clean Air Amendment and later served on Alabama's Environmental Quality Control Board.

Among her numerous community service ventures, she shared her talents and gifts with the Symphony Guild originating and chairing both the first Symphony Ball in 1964 and the first Silver Tea in 1967 for the Youth Symphony. Mrs. Johnston inaugurated several of our community's premier charity social functions including the Von Braun Center's Beaux Arts Ball, the Library's "Vive Le Livre" and Huntsville Hospital Foundation's Celebrity Golf Classic.

I believe this is a fitting tribute for one who has dedicated many years to serving the nation and the citizens of North Alabama. I send my congratulations to Mrs. Johnston and her family as she accepts the well-deserved Humanitarian Award from the Arthritis Foundation of North Alabama. On behalf of the people of Alabama's 5th Congressional District, I join them in celebrating the extraordinary accomplishments of a wonderful lady, Mrs. Helen Ellis Johnston.

IN HONOR OF ST. AUGUSTINE
ACADEMY'S SEVENTY-FIFTH AN-
NIVERSARY

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 6, 2000

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the seventy-fifth anniversary of St. Augustine Academy, an institute devoted to excellence in education. The Academy is a private, non-profit all-girls high school that presents its students with a challenging array of options. The students of St. Augustine are on a business, college preparatory or general academic track. Throughout the past seventy-five years, this curriculum, by educating thousands of young women, has provided an educational program that is personal, academically stimulating and responsible to society's needs.

The school was founded in 1925 by the Sisters of Charity of Saint Augustine. While the Academy is a Christ-centered and family oriented community that reflects a Catholic tradition, students of all races and creeds are accepted and welcomed by the Academy. In this atmosphere, a strong emphasis is placed on responsibility, expectations, and initiative. St. Augustine has stressed the importance of individual attention in education, for the personal concern shown these young ladies is exceptional. The advanced faculty fosters graduating classes of "lifelong learners" who will be fully prepared for their next path in life.

In addition to St. Augustine's reputation for academics, the institution is also known for its

service. Educating women in an atmosphere of "In Omnibus Caritas" (In All Things Charity) each student is challenged to grow both mentally and spiritually through the virtue of service. Students of all faiths are encouraged to find their unique gifts and use them to help the community they live in. In doing so, St. Augustine's has been aiding the communities of Greater Cleveland for seventy-five years, and the students, staff, and administrators deserve to be thanked.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and our colleagues to join me in thanking the Saint Augustine Academy. The school has produced girls who are ready to fulfill their responsibilities to their family, community, and the global society. Celebrate with me these contributions the Academy has been providing as the Academy itself celebrates its seventy-fifth anniversary.

EGYPT'S EFFORTS ON BEHALF OF
THE CAMP DAVID MIDDLE EAST
NEGOTIATIONS

HON. NICK J. RAHALL II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 6, 2000

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, I submit into the RECORD a letter from His Excellency Nabil Fahmy, Ambassador to the United States, representing the Arab Republic of Egypt.

Mr. Speaker, when the Camp David Summit ended without an agreement between the leaders of Israel and Palestine, a vigorous campaign was activated to paint an arbitrary picture of what supposedly went wrong—to the effect that Mr. Arafat was intransigent, had rejected all proposals put before him, and was supported in this intransigence by Egypt and Saudi Arabia.

I firmly believe that Egypt's response to those arbitrary and much publicized charges will go far to put a better light upon what, in truth, occurred. I submit for the RECORD the August 17, 2000 letter I have received from Ambassador Nabil Fahmy on this subject, and commend it to my colleagues for their close consideration.

EMBASSY OF THE
ARAB REPUBLIC OF EGYPT,
Washington, DC, August 17, 2000.

Hon. NICK RAHALL,
*Rayburn House Office Building,
Washington, DC.*

DEAR CONGRESSMAN RAHALL: To follow upon the latest summit negotiations at Camp David, I would like to share with you some of my thoughts.

As soon as the Camp David summit ended without an agreement, a vigorous campaign painted a subjective picture of what went wrong in the 14 days of closed negotiations. In short, the story was that Arafat had been intransigent, had rejected all proposals, and was encouraged by Egypt and Saudi Arabia.

These accounts overlook how far the Palestinian position had moved over the last few years. By accepting the 1967 borders, Palestinians had already compromised on about 80% of what many in the region believe to be the land of historic Palestine. Also, at Camp David it was reported that they further agreed to an exchange of land leaving some settlements under Israeli sovereignty. They have accepted intrusive security measures to satisfy Israeli concerns. No one underscored that Arafat compromised on many issues. While many issues remain outstanding,

progress has been witnessed in numerous areas. The issue of sovereignty of East Jerusalem, particularly El Aqsa Mosque, was among the outstanding issues. It is especially sensitive to Palestinians. We have to recognize that the Palestinians were flexible, however, they also have legitimate concerns that are dear to them.

The issue of Jerusalem remains outstanding, not only for the Palestinians. To this day, the international community has not recognized the Israeli occupation of Jerusalem. Numerous United Nations Security Council resolutions considered that all legislative and administrative measures taken by Israel, to change the legal status of Jerusalem, are invalid and cannot change Jerusalem's status. They urgently called upon Israel to rescind all such measures, and to desist from further actions changing the status of Jerusalem. Almost every country in the world, including the United States, respected those resolutions and have not established diplomatic Missions to Israel in the Holy City.

On the eve of the Madrid Peace Conference (1991), the basis of the current negotiations, the United States reassured the Palestinians that "The U.S. is opposed to Israeli annexation of East Jerusalem and extension of Israeli law on it and the extension of Jerusalem's municipal boundaries." This remains the pronounced U.S. official position today.

We must not forget that the negotiations at the Egyptian-Israeli Camp David summit were also about to collapse on how to deal with the issue of Jerusalem. Each side stated its position in a letter to President Carter who would provide, for the record, an affirmation of the United States stance on Jerusalem. In his letter, dated September 22, 1978, President Carter asserted: "The position of the United States on Jerusalem remains as stated by Ambassador Goldberg in the United Nations General Assembly on July 14, 1967, and subsequently by Ambassador Yost in the United Nations Security Council on July 1, 1969." The two statements unequivocally declared that:

"The United States considers that the part of Jerusalem that came under the control of Israel in the June (1967) War, like other areas occupied by Israel, is occupied territory . . .

The actions of Israel in the occupied portion of Jerusalem . . . give rise to understandable concerns that the eventual disposition of East Jerusalem may be prejudiced and the rights and activities of the population are already being affected and altered. (The United States) government regrets and deplores this pattern of activity, and it has so informed the government of Israel on numerous occasions since June 1967.

(The United States) has consistently refused to recognize these measures as having anything but a provisional character and do not accept them as affecting the ultimate status of Jerusalem."

Forcing a compromise on the Palestinians would ultimately mean the postponement of the end of the conflict and would plant the seeds for a bloodier confrontation between future generations. We have learned, the hard way, that military superiority and "qualitative edges" have never prevented wars nor provided security, and will never do. We have no alternative but to reach a comprehensive Palestinian-Israeli peace accord, including Jerusalem, and to reach it now, to bring to a final close the Palestinian-Israeli conflict.

In a NY Times Op-Ed article on August 6, 2000, President Carter wrote: "Accolades for one side and condemnation of the other is always a political temptation after an unsuccessful effort, but this makes it very difficult to orchestrate future negotiation sessions where mutual confidence in the medi-

ator is required. Such statements made since Camp David discussions have aroused concern in the Arab community, and the possible movement of the American Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem would create an even greater impediment to further progress."

Let us look for solutions rather than waste our time and energy trying to find excuses.

As for Egypt's role, when asked on Israeli television about this issue, President Clinton answered "I think that the truth is that because this had never been discussed before between the two parties—and because when we went into the negotiations, they were usually secret or sacrosanct—that I'm not sure, number one, that they thought they knew enough to know what to ask for".

President Clinton also spoke about Egypt's role in the peace process in an interview with Al-Hayat Newspaper published Friday the 11th of August. He said: "The fact is that all that has happened since the original Camp David in September '78, including Madrid and Oslo, is an indication of the courageous and visionary policy of Egypt. Egypt was a pioneer for peace and continues to be a key partner for the United States. We agree on the fundamentals of the peace process and we will not be able to reach an Israeli-Palestinian agreement on these core issues without close consultations with Egypt. We are engaged in such a process today."

What more can be said to dispel rumors that Egypt and other Arab countries were not helpful to the negotiations in Camp David. Egypt has been a key player in brokering almost all Palestinian-Israeli agreements, and has taken an active role in the pursuit of a just, lasting and comprehensive peace settlement. When faced with a crisis or a stalemate in any Arab-Israeli negotiations, the parties and the United States always turn to Egypt for fair and objective advice. One recent example was the Sharm el Sheikh Summit in September 1999.

It is noteworthy that Prime Minister Barak sent an envoy to Cairo even before leaving the U.S. and then proceeded himself to Cairo to meet President Mubarak after his return to the region, as did President Arafat. In the meantime, contacts between Egyptian and American officials continued in search of ways to overcome this impasse; Ambassador Walker, the Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs went to Cairo where he met with President Mubarak and conferred with Foreign Minister Moussa to coordinate both countries' efforts. President Clinton has recently corresponded with President Mubarak and Secretary Albright has since then called Foreign Minister Moussa. As always, we are now examining avenues of working with Palestinians and Israelis to give a creative boost to the negotiating process.

It is a difficult task before us, let us focus our efforts on finding a truly historic compromise to finally bring peace between Palestinians and Israelis. I look forward to working with you toward this objective.

Sincerely,

NABIL FAHMY,
Ambassador.

HONORING DONNIE SPARKS

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 6, 2000

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate Donnie Sparks, of Canon City,