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UNCLASSIFIED
(Classification)

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT
TRANSMITTAL FORM

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1140
C0071
PY! RM030
H203
84 JAN 25 1984
8401541 P10: 41

S/S _____

Date January 25, 1984
SITUATION ROOM

For: Mr. Robert C. McFarlane
National Security Council
The White House

Reference:

To: Robert C. McFarlane From: M. Sonnenfeldt

Date: 12/5/83 Subject: Open Letter/Banning of
Baha'i Religious Institutions in Iran

WH Referral Dated: 1/17/84 NSC ID# 8400388
(if any)

_____ The attached item was sent directly to the
Department of State.

Action Taken:

- _____ A draft reply is attached.
- _____ A draft reply will be forwarded.
- _____ A translation is attached.
- _____ An information copy of a direct reply is attached.
- x We believe no response is necessary for the reason
cited below.
- _____ The Department of State has no objection to the
proposed travel.
- _____ Other.

NSC # 8400388

Remarks:

See attached.

Charles Hill
Charles Hill
Executive Secretary

UNCLASSIFIED
(Classification)

8401541

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

ID 8400388

REFERRAL

DATE: 17 JAN 84

MEMORANDUM FOR: STATE SECRETARIAT

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION:

TO: MCFARLANE

SOURCE SONNENFELDT, M

DATE: 05 DEC 83

KEYWORDS: IRAN

SUBJ: OPEN LTR / BANNING OF BAHA'I RELIGIOUS INSTITUTIONS IN IRAN

REQUIRED ACTION: DRAFT REPLY FOR WH SIG

DUE DATE: 23 JAN 84

COMMENTS


FOR ROBERT M. KIMMITT

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

*Received in 5/5-I
1/17 at 2:48 pm (2/7)*

NSC/S PROFILE

UNCLASSIFIED

ID 8400388

RECEIVED 14 JAN 84 13

TO MCFARLANE

FROM SONNENFELDT, M

DOCDATE 05 DEC 83

KEYWORDS IRAN

SUBJECT. OPEN LTR / BANNING OF BAHA'I RELIGIOUS INSTITUTIONS IN IRAN

ACTION. PREPARE REPLY FOR MCFARLANE DUE: 23 JAN 84 STATUS S FILES

FOR ACTION

FOR CONCURRENCE

FOR INFO

KEMP

DUR

COMMENTS *** TO STATE DEPT FOR DRAFT REPLY FOR WH SIG YES ON ***

REF#

LOG

NSCIFID

(HW)

ACTION OFFICER (S)	ASSIGNED	ACTION REQUIRED	DUE	COPIES TO
State	1) 1/17	Draft Reply for WH Sig	1/23	
	- 1/25	Lead S/S 840 1541		gk
	C 1/26	S/S Recm to Reply		

DISPATCH 46. 1/17

W/ATTCH FILE deff (C)

REMARKS

Reference: NSC ID 8400388

The Department does not believe a reply to the Sonnenfeldt correspondence is necessary. We work very closely with the Baha'i community in the United States to keep abreast of developments in Iran and to take whatever action is deemed appropriate.

The referenced letter is informational only, and does not ask that the United States Government take any specific action.

This same correspondence has been widely distributed throughout the United States Government, including to the Secretary of State. No reply to any of this correspondence has been prepared by the Department's NEA Bureau since it would only result in a reiteration of what the Baha'is already know. In any case, we have repeatedly assured them of USG interest and support, most recently on January 13, 1984 in the course of a Baha'i courtesy call on NEA Assistant Secretary Richard W. Murphy.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Rec'd Jan 12, 1984

~~Brian,~~

NB/LS

Attached is to be tasked
to Geoff Kemp for action.
He is to prepare response
for Mr. McFarlane's signature
-- to be given maximum
7 day suspense and it is to
be met (if necessary, do this
through Bill Martin's office).

Thanks,

Wilma

Advance copy please for
Wilma

388

Marjorie H. Sonnenfeldt
Director, International
Government Affairs

December 5, 1983

DEC 8 1983

Mr. Robert C. McFarlane
Deputy Assistant to the President
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Bud:

I recall your interest in the Baha'is when we discussed the persecution several months ago.

There have been a number of important and disturbing developments affecting the Baha'is in Iran since the August 29 Iranian government edict banning all Baha'i teaching and organized religious activities as "criminal" acts.

The enclosed Open Letter to the government of Iran is a remarkable document written by the elected leaders of the Iranian Baha'is in response to the August 29 edict. It demonstrates both the Baha'is' compliance with Iranian civil law -- and their bold response to the latest (and possibly most serious) pressure on the Baha'i community.

In this Open Letter, the elected Baha'i leaders cite the faith's belief in obedience to civil law and, as their last official act, announce the immediate dissolution of all Baha'i organizations. At the same time, they boldly challenge the regime (pp. 7-8) to "end the persecution, arrests, torture and imprisonment of Baha'is for imaginary crimes and on baseless pretexts," and to restore all rights denied to Baha'is on account of their religious faith.

This courageous challenge is all the more remarkable in view of the fact that the authors were elected to the National Spiritual Assembly only after their predecessors on the Assembly were executed in 1981... and their predecessors had disappeared without a trace in 1980.

Unfortunately, there have been at least 140 arrests and additional officially-sponsored atrocities since the September 3 dissolution of Baha'i organizations. Most of those arrested were members of the recently-disbanded assemblies. More than 450 Iranian Baha'is are now in prison because of their religious beliefs. Additional details are set forth in the enclosed Mailgram.

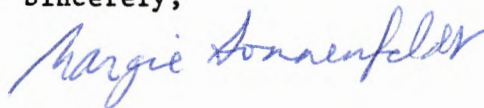
On the positive side, the American Baha'i community appreciates the growing interest and support of both the Congress and executive branch officials in their concern for the fate of Baha'is in Iran.

More than 40 Senators have joined Senator John Heinz as co-sponsors of S. Con. Res. 86, which condemns the Iranian government's actions and urges the President to join with other governments in efforts to relieve the plight of the Iranian Baha'is. An identical resolution, H. Con. Res. 226, was introduced in the House by Representatives Porter, Lantos, Yatron and Leach, with more than 60 initial co-sponsors. Several members of Congress also participated in a special discussion of the Baha'i case. Copies of their statements are enclosed, together with the text of the new Baha'i resolution, which is expected to be adopted next year.

The Baha'is are also pleased to note the strong statement delivered by the U.S. delegate in the UN Third Committee's November 23 debate on Religious Intolerance. Excerpts from that statement are also enclosed. It would be most helpful if other governments would take a stronger lead in condemning Iranian actions.

On December 10, we will observe the 35th anniversary of the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. We thank you for your interest, and welcome any suggestions you may offer for further efforts to deal with this tragic persecution based solely upon religious beliefs.

Sincerely,

MHS/mly
Enclosures

THE
BANNING OF
BAHÁ'Í
RELIGIOUS INSTITUTIONS
IN IRAN

AN OPEN LETTER

NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY
OF THE
BAHA'IS OF IRAN

Baha'i National Center
1233 Central Street
Evanston, IL 60201
(312) 869-9039

BAHA'I OFFICE of Public Affairs

The following is a translation of the text of the interview given by the Iranian Prosecutor General and published in Kayhan on August 29, 1983, under the headline, "Banning of Baha'i Activities":

The reporter said, "From time to time international news agencies have been creating a stir about the execution of the Baha'is in Iran in their campaigns against the Islamic Republic of Iran. The question is whether the Attorney General has decided to show a reaction about this."

The Attorney General replied as follows: "We do not want to show any (reaction) and will not show it. What we can do, and are actually doing, is to explain to the people who really misunderstand and are really unaware of why some of these (Baha'is) are being executed. News media of imperialism accuse us that these people are being killed because they are Baha'is. We would like to explain this, and we have already sent these explanations to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in order that they may also announce officially that today there are plenty of Baha'is in Iran. We never kill them or imprison them because of their being Baha'is. However, some of them are spies. We have plenty of documents from the Baha'i administration that they send news to the foreigners and spy on behalf of others.

"They agitate, sabotage, and do other such kind of activities. They sometimes collect contributions in Iran and send them to other countries. More recently, all of you have witnessed that a number of automobile parts were found in a few storage buildings and they (the owners) have said their administration had instructed them to hoard these parts.

"All of these problems have caused us to announce on this day that all the collective and administrative activities of Baha'ism in Iran are banned, even though this has always been so. This is being announced on behalf of the Islamic Republic of Iran. The Constitution of the country has also not recognized them.

"I must say in this connection that some of those (Baha'is) who have been arrested have stated that their activities have never been officially banned; hence, these activities (were carried out by them). Therefore, because of such sabotage activities and illegalities which prevail in the Baha'i administration, such administration, according to the opinion of the office of the Attorney General of the Islamic Republic, is hostile (Muharib) and plotting. Any form of activities carried out on behalf of the administration, therefore, is forbidden.

"Now, if a Baha'i himself performs his religious acts in accordance with his own beliefs, such a man will not be bothered by us, provided he does not invite others to the Baha'i faith, does not teach, does not form assemblies, does not give news to others, and has nothing to do with the administration. Not only do we not execute such people, we do not even imprison them, and they can work within the society. If, however, they decide to work within the administration, this is a criminal act and is forbidden, the reason being that such administration is considered to be hostile and a conspiracy. Such people are considered as conspirators."

The following is an analysis of the impact on the Iranian Baha'is of the Iranian Prosecutor General's August 29 edict banning all organized Baha'i religious activities.

IRAN BANS ALL BAHAI ACTIVITIES: AN ACT OF GENOCIDE

On August 29, Iran's prosecutor General banned as "criminal" acts all Baha'i teaching and organized religious activities — including election of local and national leaders, meeting in assemblies, and "giving information to others."

Like the Nuremberg laws, the new edict establishes the "legal" grounds for mass arrests and genocide. It is considered even more serious than the executions, terror, confiscation of properties, denial of jobs and pensions, expulsion of Baha'i children from public schools, and other pressures brought by the Khomeini regime against the Iranian Baha'i community.

In response to the new decree, the elected leaders of the Baha'i National Spiritual Assembly of Iran, citing the Baha'i tenet of obedience to the civil law of the land, have dissolved all Baha'i institutions in Iran. There are some 350,000 Baha'is in Iran, the largest religious minority in that country, but the Baha'i faith is not recognized as a religion under the constitution of the Islamic Revolutionary regime.

Since the Baha'is have no clergy, but elect their local and national leaders and conduct their programs through committees of volunteers, the recent proclamation instantly brands as criminals — solely on account of their religious beliefs —

- 3600 elected leaders currently serving on the 400 local assemblies and the National Spiritual Assembly of Iran;
- 20,000-30,000 members of local committees responsible for schools, charities and other religious activities;
- perhaps 200,000 or more adult Baha'is who participated in electing their leaders.

This is the only case in the world today in which people are being persecuted and killed solely on account of their religious beliefs, and not because of their political opposition to the regime in power.

Dr. Firuz Kazemzadeh and other leaders of the 100,000-member American Baha'i community are convinced that it is essential to keep the spotlight on Iran to forestall even more serious repression. There is evidence that the Iranian government is sensitive to criticism from the outside world, and that public discussion of the issue has had some impact upon its actions.

For additional information: Dr. Firuz Kazemzadeh (312) 869-9039
In Washington D.C.: Marjorie H. Sonnenfeldt 638-2800

November 15, 1983

On August 29, 1983 the Revolutionary Prosecutor General of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Siyyid Husayn Músaví Tabrízí, declared in a press interview that Bahá'í religious organizations were illegal and participation in them was a criminal act. The decree outlawed the National Spiritual Assembly, governing body of the Iranian Bahá'í community, and 400 local spiritual assemblies, as well as their committees and subsidiary institutions. In conformity with the teachings of their faith the Bahá'ís of Iran disbanded all their organizations.

The dissolution of organizations that the Bahá'ís call administrative institutions means much more than those who are unfamiliar with the role spiritual assemblies play in a community that has no clergy may imagine. The spiritual assemblies collectively perform the work of priest, teacher, advisor, trustee of funds, and keeper of records. They admit to membership, witness marriages, supervise the religious education of children, settle disputes among individuals, grant religious divorce, encourage good deeds and censure bad behavior. Thus spiritual assemblies are central to the life of the Bahá'í community.

The document presented here is a letter written by the National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of Iran in response to the statement of the Prosecutor General outlawing Bahá'í administrative institutions. One will realize the degree of courage it took the members of the National Spiritual Assembly thus to address the Islamic Government when one recalls that seventeen of their predecessors on the National Assembly had been either abducted or executed by the same regime.

The letter, delivered to some 2,000 government officials and prominent personages in Iran, eloquently testifies to the heroism of its authors and the peaceful nature of the community they led. It exemplifies also the confidence and pride of those who firmly believe that the One unknowable God has decreed the ultimate triumph of truth and justice.

National Spiritual Assembly of
the Bahá'ís of the United States
November 1, 1983

THE BANNING OF BAHÁ'Í RELIGIOUS INSTITUTIONS AN OPEN LETTER

(Translated from Persian)

12 Shahrivar 1362
[September 3, 1983]

Recently the esteemed Prosecutor General of the Islamic Revolution of the Country, in an interview that was published in the newspapers, declared that the continued functioning of the Bahá'í religious and spiritual administration is banned and that membership in it is considered to be a crime. This declaration has been made after certain unjustified accusations have been levelled against the Bahá'í community of Iran and after a number of its members—ostensibly for imaginary and fabricated crimes but in reality merely for the sake of their beliefs—have been either executed, or arrested and imprisoned. The majority of those who have been imprisoned have not yet been brought to trial.

The Bahá'í community finds the conduct of the authorities and the judges bewildering and lamentable—as indeed would any fair-minded observer who is unblinded by malice. The authorities are the refuge of the people; the judges in pursuit of their work of examining and ascertaining the truth and facts in legal cases devote years of their lives to studying the law and, when uncertain of a legal point, spend hours poring over copious tomes in order to cross a t and dot an i. Yet these very people consider themselves to be justified in brazenly bringing false accusations against a band of innocent people, without fear of the Day of Judgment, without even believing the calumnies they utter against their victims, and having exerted not the slightest effort to investigate to any degree the validity of the charges they are making. “Methinks they are not believers in the Day of Judgment.” [Háfiz, a 14th century Persian poet]

The honorable Prosecutor has again introduced the baseless and fictitious story that Bahá'ís engage in espionage, but without producing so much as one document in support of the accusation, without presenting proof in any form, and without any explanation as to what is the mission in this country of this extraordinary number of “spies”: what sort of information they obtain and from what sources? Whither do they relay it, and for what purpose? What kind of “spy” is an eighty-five year old man from Yazd who has never set foot outside his village? Why do these alleged “spies” not hide themselves, conceal their religious beliefs and exert every effort to penetrate, by every stratagem, the Government's

information centers and offices? Why has no Bahá'í "spy" been arrested anywhere else in the world? How could students, housewives, innocent young girls, and old men and women, such as those blameless Bahá'ís who have recently been delivered to the gallows in Iran, or who have become targets for the darts of prejudice and enmity, be "spies"? How could the Bahá'í farmers of the villages of Afús, Chígán, the Fort of Malak (near Isfahán), and those of the village of Núk in Bírjand, be "spies"? What secret intelligence documents have been found in their possession? What espionage equipment has come to hand? What "spying" activities were engaged in by the primary school children who have been expelled from their schools?

And how strange! The honorable Prosecutor perhaps does not know, or does not care to know, that spying is an element of politics, while noninterference in politics is an established principle of the Bahá'í Faith. On the contrary, Bahá'ís love their country and never permit themselves to be traitors. 'Abdu'l-Bahá, the successor of the Founder of the Bahá'í Cause, says: "Any abasement is bearable except betraying one's own country, and any sin is forgivable other than dishonoring the government and inflicting harm upon the nation."

All the other accusations made against the Bahá'ís by the honorable Prosecutor of the Revolution are similarly groundless. He brands the Bahá'í community with accusations of subversion and corruption. For example, on the basis of a manifestly forged interview, the falsity of which has been dealt with in a detailed statement, he accuses the Bahá'í community of hoarding, an act which its members would consider highly reprehensible. The Prosecutor alleges that the Bahá'í administration sanctioned the insensible act of hoarding, yet he subtly overlooks the fact that with the proceeds that might be realized from the sale of unusable automobile spare parts whose total value is some 70 million túmáns—the value of the stock of any medium-size store for spare parts—it would be impossible to overthrow a powerful government whose daily expenditures amount to hundreds of millions of túmáns. If the Prosecutor chooses to label the Bahá'í administration as a network of espionage, let him at least consider it intelligent enough not to plan the overthrow of such a strong regime by hoarding a few spare parts! Yes, such allegations of corruption and subversion are similar to those hurled against us at the time of the Episcopalian case in Isfahán when this oppressed community was accused of collaboration with foreign agents, as a result of which seven innocent Bahá'ís of Yazd were executed. Following this the falsity of the charges was made known and the Prosecutor announced the episode to be the outcome of a forgery.

Bahá'ís are accused of collecting contributions and transferring sums of money to foreign countries. How strange! If Muslims, in accordance with their sacred and respected spiritual beliefs, send millions of túmáns to Kārbalá, Najaf and Jerusalem, or to other Muslim holy places outside Iran, to be spent on the maintenance and upkeep of the Islamic sacred shrines, it is considered very

praiseworthy; but if a Bahá'í—even during the time in which the transfer of foreign currency was allowed—sends a negligible amount for his international community to be used for the repair and maintenance of the holy places of his faith, it is considered that he has committed an unforgivable sin and it is counted as proof that he has done so in order to strengthen other countries.

Accusations of this nature are many but all are easy to investigate. If just and impartial people and God-fearing judges will only do so, the falsity of these spurious accusations will be revealed in case after case. The Bahá'í community emphatically requests that such accusations be investigated openly in the presence of juries composed of judges and international observers so that, once and for all, the accusations may be discredited and their repetition prevented.

The basic principles and beliefs of the Bahá'ís have been repeatedly proclaimed and set forth in writing during the past five years. Apparently these communications, either by deliberate design or by mischance, have not received any attention, otherwise accusations such as those described above would not have been repeated by one of the highest and most responsible authorities. This in itself is a proof that the numerous communications referred to were not accorded the attention of the leaders; therefore, we mention them again.

The Bahá'í Faith confesses the unity of God and the justice of the divine Essence. It recognizes that Almighty God is an exalted, unknowable and concealed entity, sanctified from ascent and descent, from egress and regress, and from assuming a physical body. The Bahá'í Faith which professes the existence of the invisible God, the One, the Single, the Eternal, the Peerless, bows before the loftiness of His Threshold, believes in all divine Manifestations, considers all the Prophets from Adam to the Seal of the Prophets as true divine Messengers Who are the Manifestations of Truth in the world of creation, accepts Their Books as having come from God, believes in the continuation of the divine outpourings, emphatically believes in reward and punishment and, uniquely among existing revealed religions outside Islám, accepts the Prophet Muḥammad as a true Prophet and the Qur'án as the Word of God.

The Bahá'í Faith embodies independent principles and laws. It has its own Holy Book. It prescribes pilgrimage and worship. A Bahá'í performs obligatory prayers and observes a fast. He gives, according to his beliefs, tithes and contributions. He is required to be of upright conduct, to manifest a praiseworthy character, to love all mankind, to be of service to the world of humanity and to sacrifice his own interests for the good and well-being of his kind. He is forbidden to commit unbecoming deeds. 'Abdu'l-Bahá says: "A Bahá'í is known by the attributes manifested by him, not by his name: he is recognized by his character, not by his person."

Shoghi Rabbani, the Guardian of the Bahá'í Cause, says: "... a person who is not adorned with the ornaments of virtue, sanctity, and morality, is not a true Bahá'í, even though he may call himself one and be known as such."

He also says: "The friends of God . . . are required to be virtuous, well-wishers, forbearing, sanctified, detached from all except God and free from worldly concerns. They are called upon to manifest divine attributes and characteristics."

The teachings and laws of the Bahá'í religion testify to this truth. Fortunately, the books and writings which have been plundered in abundance from the homes of Bahá'ís and are available to the authorities, bear witness to the truth of these assertions. Bahá'ís, in keeping with their spiritual beliefs, stay clear of politics; they do not support or reject any party, group or nation; they do not champion or attack any ideology or any specific political philosophy; they shrink from and abhor political agitation. The Guardian of the Bahá'í Cause says, "The followers of Bahá'u'lláh under whatever state or government they may reside should conduct themselves with truthfulness, fidelity, trustworthiness and absolute virtue. . . . They neither thirst for fame nor clamor for leadership. They neither indulge in flattery, nor practice hypocrisy, nor are they impelled by selfish ambition or the desire to accumulate wealth. They are not anxious to attain high ranks and positions, nor are they the bond-slaves of titles and honors. They abhor every form of ostentation and are far removed from the use of such methods as would entail violence or coercion. They have detached themselves from all else save God and have fixed their hearts upon the unfailing promises of their Lord. . . . They have become forgetful of their own selves and have dedicated themselves to that which will serve the interests of humanity. . . . They unhesitatingly refuse such functions and posts as are political in nature, but wholeheartedly accept those that are purely administrative in character. For the cardinal aim of the people of Bahá is to promote the interests of the whole nation. . . ."

"Such is the way of the followers of Bahá, such is the attitude of the spiritually-minded, and whatsoever else is but manifest error."

Also, Bahá'ís, in accordance with their exalted teachings, are duty bound to be obedient to their government. Elucidating this subject, Shoghi Rabbani says: "The people of Bahá are required to obey their respective governments, and to demonstrate their truthfulness and good will towards the authorities. . . . Bahá'ís, in every land and without any exception, should . . . be obedient and bow to the clear instructions and the declared decrees issued by the authorities. They must faithfully carry out such directives."

Bahá'í organizations have no aim except the good of all nations and do not take any steps that are against the public good. Contrary to the conception it may create in the mind because of the similarity in name, it does not resemble the current organizations of political parties; it does not interfere in political affairs; and it is the safeguard against the involvement of Bahá'ís in subversive political activities. Its high ideals are "to improve the characters of men; to extend the scope of knowledge; to abolish ignorance and prejudice; to strengthen the

foundations of true religion in all hearts; to encourage self-reliance, and discourage false imitation; . . . to uphold truthfulness, audacity, frankness, and courage; to promote craftsmanship and agriculture; . . . to educate, on a compulsory basis, children of both sexes; to insist on integrity in business transactions; to lay stress on the observance of honesty and piety; . . . to acquire mastery and skill in the modern sciences and arts; to promote the interests of the public; . . . to obey outwardly and inwardly and with true loyalty the regulations enacted by state and government; . . . to honor, to extol and to follow the example of those who have distinguished themselves in science and learning. . . ." And again, ". . . to help the needy from every creed or sect, and to collaborate with the people of the country in all welfare services."

In brief, whatever the clergy in other religions undertake individually and by virtue of their appointment to their positions, the Bahá'í administration performs collectively and through an elective process.

The statements made by the esteemed Prosecutor of the Revolution do not seem to have legal basis, because in order to circumscribe individuals and deprive them of the rights which have not been denied them by the Constitution, it is necessary to enact special legislation, provided that legislation is not contradictory to the Constitution. It was hoped that the past recent years would have witnessed, on the one hand, the administration of divine justice—a principle promoted by the true religion of Islám and prescribed by all monotheistic religions—and, on the other, and coupled with an impartial investigation of the truths of the Bahá'í Faith, the abolition or at least mitigation of discrimination, restrictions and pressures suffered by Bahá'ís over the past 135 years. Alas, on the contrary, because of long-standing misunderstandings and prejudices, the difficulties increased immensely and the portals of calamity were thrown wide open in the faces of the long-suffering and sorely oppressed Bahá'ís of Iran who were, to an even greater degree, deprived of their birthrights through the systematic machinations of Government officials who are supposed to be the refuge of the public, and of some impostors in the garb of divines, who engaged in official or unofficial spreading of mischievous and harmful accusations and calumnies, and issued, in the name of religious and judicial authorities, unlawful decrees and verdicts.

Many are the pure and innocent lives that have been snuffed out; many the distinguished heads that have adorned the hangman's noose; and many the precious breasts that became the targets of firing squads. Vast amounts of money and great quantities of personal property have been plundered or confiscated. Many technical experts and learned people have been tortured and condemned to long-term imprisonment and are still languishing in dark dungeons, deprived of the opportunity of placing their expertise at the service of the Government and the nation. Numerous are the self-sacrificing employees of the Government who spent their lives in faithful service but who were dismissed from work and afflicted

with poverty and need because of hatred and prejudice. Even the owners of private firms and institutions were prevented from engaging Bahá'ís. Many privately-owned Bahá'í establishments have been confiscated. Many tradesmen have been denied the right to continue working by cancellation of their business licenses. Bahá'í youth have been denied access to education in many schools and in all universities and institutions of higher education. Bahá'í university students abroad are deprived of receiving money for their education, and others who wish to pursue their studies outside Iran have been denied exit permits. Bahá'ís, including the very sick whose only hope for cure was to receive medical treatment in specialized medical centers in foreign lands, have been prevented from leaving the country. Bahá'í cemeteries have been confiscated and bodies rudely disinterred. Numerous have been the days when a body has remained unburied while the bereaved family pleaded to have a permit issued and a burial place assigned so that the body might be decently buried. As of today, thousands of Bahá'ís have been divested of their homes and forced to live as exiles. Many have been driven from their villages and dwelling places and are living as wanderers and stranded refugees in other parts of Iran with no other haven and refuge but the Court of the All-Merciful God and the loving-kindness of their friends and relatives.

It is a pity that the mass media, newspapers and magazines, either do not want or are not allowed to publish any news about the Bahá'í community of Iran or to elaborate upon what is happening. If they were free to do so and were unbiased in reporting the daily news, volumes would have been compiled describing the inhumane cruelty to and oppression of the innocent. For example, if they were allowed to do so, they would have written that in Shíráz seven courageous men and ten valiant women—seven of whom were girls in the prime of their lives—audaciously rejected the suggestion of the religious judge that they recant their faith or, at least, dissemble their belief, and preferred death to the concealment of their faith. The women, after hours of waiting with dried lips, shrouded themselves in their chádurs, kissed the noose of their gallows, and with intense love offered up their souls for the One Who proferreth life. The observers of this cruel scene might well ask forgiveness for the murderers at Karbalá, since they, despite their countless atrocities, did not put women to the sword nor harass the sick and infirm. Alas, tongues are prevented from making utterance and pens are broken and the hidden cause of these brutalities is not made manifest to teach the world a lesson. The Prosecutor alleges that they were spies. Gracious God! Where in history can one point to a spy who readily surrendered his life in order to prove the truth of his belief?

Unfortunately it is beyond the scope of this letter to recount the atrocities inflicted upon the guiltless Bahá'ís of Iran or to answer, one by one, the accusations levelled against them. But let us ask all just and fair-minded people only one question: If, according to the much-publicized statements of the

Prosecutor, Bahá'ís are not arrested and executed because of their belief, and are not even imprisoned on that account, how is it that, when a group of them is arrested and each is charged with the same "crime" of "spying", if one of them recants his belief, he is immediately freed, a photograph of him and a description of his defection are victoriously featured in the newspapers, and respect and glory are heaped upon him? What kind of spying, subversion, illegal accumulation of goods, aggression or conspiracy or other "crime" can it be that is capable of being blotted out upon the recantation of one's beliefs? Is this not a clear proof of the absurdity of the accusations?

In spite of all this, the Bahá'í community of Iran, whose principles have been described earlier in this statement, announces the suspension of the Bahá'í organizations throughout Iran, in order to establish its good intentions and in conformity with its basic tenets concerning complete obedience to the instructions of the Government. Henceforth, until the time when, God willing, the misunderstandings are eliminated and the realities are at last made manifest to the authorities, the National Assembly and all local spiritual assemblies and their committees are disbanded, and no one may any longer be designated a member of the Bahá'í Administration.

The Bahá'í community of Iran hopes that this step will be considered a sign of its complete obedience to the Government in power. It further hopes that the authorities—including the esteemed Prosecutor of the Islamic Revolution who says that there is no opposition to and no enmity towards individual Bahá'ís, who has acknowledged the existence of a large Bahá'í community and has, in his interview, guaranteed its members the right to live and be free in their acts of worship—will reciprocate by proving their good intentions and the truth of their assurances by issuing orders that pledge, henceforth:

1. To bring to an end the persecutions, arrests, torture and imprisonment of Bahá'ís for imaginary crimes and on baseless pretexts, because God knows—and so do the authorities—that the only "crime" of which these innocent ones are guilty is that of their beliefs, and not the unsubstantiated accusations brought against them;
2. To guarantee the safety of their lives, their personal property and belongings, and their honor;
3. To accord them freedom to choose their residence and occupation and the right of association based on the provisions of the Constitution of the Islamic Republic;
4. To restore all the rights which have been taken away from them in accordance with the groundless assertions of the Prosecutor of the Country;
5. To restore to Bahá'í employees the rights denied them by returning them to their jobs and by paying them their due wages;
6. To release from prison all innocent prisoners;

7. To lift the restrictions imposed on the properties of those Bahá'ís who, in their own country, have been deprived of their belongings;

8. To permit Bahá'í students who wish to continue their studies abroad to benefit from the same facilities that are provided to others;

9. To permit those Bahá'í youth who have been prevented from continuing their studies in the country to resume their education;

10. To permit those Bahá'í students stranded abroad who have been deprived of foreign exchange facilities to receive their allowances as other Iranian students do;

11. To restore Bahá'í cemeteries and to permit Bahá'ís to bury their dead in accordance with Bahá'í burial ceremonies;

12. To guarantee the freedom of Bahá'ís to perform their religious rites; to conduct funerals and burials including the recitation of the Prayer for the Dead; to solemnize Bahá'í marriages and divorces, and to carry out all acts of worship and laws and ordinances affecting personal status; because although Bahá'ís are entirely obedient and subordinate to the Government in the administration of the affairs which are in the jurisdiction of Bahá'í organizations, in matters of conscience and belief, and in accordance with their spiritual principles, they prefer martyrdom to recantation or the abandoning of the divine ordinances prescribed by their faith;

13. To desist henceforth from arresting and imprisoning anyone because of his previous membership in Bahá'í organizations.

Finally, although the order issued by the Prosecutor of the Islamic Revolution was unjust and unfair, we have accepted it. We beseech God to remove the dross of prejudice from the hearts of the authorities so that aided and enlightened by His confirmations they will be inspired to recognize the true nature of the affairs of the Bahá'í community and come to the unalterable conviction that the infliction of atrocities and cruelties upon a pious band of wronged ones, and the shedding of their pure blood, will stain the good name and injure the prestige of any nation or government, for what will, in truth, endure are the records of good deeds, and of acts of justice and fairness, and the names of the doers of good. These will history preserve in its bosom for posterity.

Respectfully,

(signed) National Spiritual Assembly of
the Bahá'ís of Iran

11

BAHAI NATIONAL CENTER
WILMETTE IL 60091
18AM

Western Union Mailgram



November 19, 1983

FOLLOWING DISBANDONMENT BAHAI ORGANIZATIONS, IRANIAN AUTHORITIES HAVE INTENSIFIED PRESSURE AGAINST BAHAI COMMUNITY. AT LEAST 140 HAVE BEEN ARRESTED, FIFTY OF THEM IN CASPIAN SEA AREA, ON OCTOBER 30. TOTAL BAHAI PRISONERS NOW IN IRANIAN JAILS 450. AUGUST 31 MUHAMMAD ESHRAGI, 81 YEARS OLD, DIED IN PRISON TEHRAN. SEPTEMBER 19, AKBAR HAQIGI, FARMER, WAS LYNCHED BY MOB INSTIGATED BY MULLAHS IN TOWN OF KHOY. PARTICULARLY GRUESOME RECENTLY VERIFIED NEWS EXECUTION MRS. IRAN RAHIMPUR AFTER SHE GAVE BIRTH TO CHILD. BABY WAS TAKEN AWAY BY MUSLIMS. HIS FATE UNKNOWN.

MANY BAHAI PRISONERS TORTURED TO FORCE RECANTATION FAITH.

FURTHER PROOF EVIL INTENTIONS OF AUTHORITIES IS RECENT OFFICIAL ADVERTISEMENT IRANIAN NEWSPAPERS ANNOUNCING SALE TOMBSTONES AT TEHRAN BAHAI CEMETERY. ALL GRAVE MARKERS BEING ELIMINATED SO AS TO LEAVE NO TRACE.

LATEST HORRORS SUGGEST GENOCIDAL TENDENCY IRANIAN AUTHORITIES TOWARD ALL BAHAI'S. AMERICAN BAHAI COMMUNITY EXPRESSES INDIGNATION AND INVITES ALL TO PROTEST GROWING TERROR AGAINST BAHAI'S IN IRAN.

NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY OF
THE BAHAI'S OF THE UNITED STATES

16:50 EST

MGMCOMP

98TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. CON. RES. 86

Expressing the sense of the Congress regarding the persecution of members of the Baha'i religion in Iran by the Government of Iran.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

NOVEMBER 15 (legislative day, NOVEMBER 14), 1983

Mr. HEINZ (for himself, Mr. SPECTER, Mr. D'AMATO, Mr. HOLLINGS, Mr. EXON, Mr. SARBANES, Mr. PRESSLER, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. MITCHELL, Mr. MELCHER, Mr. DOLE, Mr. PROXMIRE, Mr. SASSER, Mr. BINGAMAN, Mr. MCCLURE, Mr. DANFORTH, Mr. GORTON, Mr. HUDDLESTON, Mr. BUMPERS, Mr. BURDICK, Mr. QUAYLE, Mr. HATFIELD, Mr. ZORINSKY, Mr. STEVENS, Mr. MOYNIHAN, Mr. PERCY, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. GLENN, Mr. BOSCHWITZ, Mr. CRANSTON, Mr. SYMMS, and Mr. THURMOND) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the Congress regarding the persecution of members of the Baha'i religion in Iran by the Government of Iran.

Whereas more than one hundred and fifty members of the Baha'i faith have been brutally executed by Iranian authorities since the 1979 Islamic revolution;

Whereas many Baha'is in Iran have disappeared and others have been tortured, persecuted, and deprived of their fundamental rights to personal property and employment;

Whereas an edict issued by Iran's Revolutionary Prosecutor General on August 29, 1983 has far-reaching implications that threaten the lives of three hundred thousand Baha'is residing in Iran and places the future practice of Baha'ism in jeopardy by dismantling the administrative structure of the Baha'i religion; and

Whereas these actions for the first time establish an expressed national policy which lays the legal foundation for executions, arrests, the confiscation of property, denial of jobs and pensions, expulsion of Baha'i children from schools, and other pressures which may be brought to bear by Iranian authorities on the Baha'is in Iran: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives*
2 *concurring), That the Congress—*

3 (1) holds the Government of Iran responsible for
4 upholding the rights of all its nationals, including the
5 Baha'is;

6 (2) condemns the recent decision taken by the
7 Government of Iran to destroy the Baha'i faith by la-
8 beling as "criminal acts" all Baha'i teaching and orga-
9 nized religious activities, including the attempts by
10 Baha'is to elect their own local and national leaders, to
11 meet in assemblies, to communicate among themselves,
12 and to work for volunteer committees; and

13 (3) calls upon the President—

14 (A) to work with appropriate foreign govern-
15 ments and the allies of the United States in form-

1 ing an appeal to the Government of Iran concern-
2 ing the Baha'is;

3 (B) to cooperate fully with the United Na-
4 tions in its efforts on behalf of the Baha'is and to
5 lead such efforts whenever it is possible and ap-
6 propriate to do so; and

7 (C) to provide, and urge others to provide,
8 for humanitarian assistance for those Baha'is who
9 flee Iran.

10 SEC. 2. The Secretary of the Senate shall transmit a
11 copy of this concurrent resolution to the President.

○

large high school. It is a growing county.

I want to share Mr. SARBANES' appreciation and thankfulness that the Reverend Dr. Morrison has come here today to deliver the sermon for us. We thank him and we hope he will return some day.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, does the Senator from Pennsylvania need any additional time?

Mr. HEINZ. The Senator from Pennsylvania has a special order.

Mr. BYRD. I understand. Does he need any additional time?

Mr. HEINZ. I thank my friend from West Virginia, Mr. President, I do not.

Mr. BYRD. I yield back my time.

RECOGNITION OF SENATOR HEINZ

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. DANFORTH). Under the previous order, the Senator from Pennsylvania is recognized for 15 minutes.

THE BAHAI'S MUST SURVIVE

Mr. HEINZ. Mr. President, this morning, I am introducing, together with 32 cosponsors, a concurrent resolution on behalf of the Baha'is of Iran. It is my hope that, before the end of today, many of my colleagues will join me in cosponsoring this resolution.

My purpose is also to bring to my colleagues attention and that of others who review the proceedings of this body the actions taken by the ruthless Iranian authorities against this innocent and peace-loving people.

On August 29 of this year, the revolutionary prosecutor general of Iran, during an interview with one of Iran's leading newspapers, declared that Baha'i religious institutions were now illegal and membership in them was a criminal act. This edict formally and officially outlaws the Baha'i National Assembly in Iran, its 400 local assemblies, and all other governing bodies of the Baha'i community. In one swift moment, with the utterance of a few words, the prosecutor turned thousands of men and women into criminals, open to persecution and punishment at the whim of the Government.

Mr. President, the plight of the Baha'is has been considered by both Houses of Congress on a number of occasions and, indeed, both bodies have expressed their outrage over the wanton acts of repression perpetuated by Iranian authorities. Just over 1½ years ago, Congress passed a joint resolution, which I introduced, condemning the persecution and execution of innocent Baha'is and, last May, President Reagan issued a plea to the Ayatollah Khomeini that the lives of a group of Baha'is arrested and imprisoned in the city of Shiraz be spared. Iran's answer to this plea, and its answer to many inquiries and state-

ments by American and foreign leaders, was the execution of men, women, and children.

With the issuance of this new decree contained in the statement made by the prosecutor general, we witness another answer, one that is perhaps the most distressing to date. In a pronouncement reminiscent of the Nuremberg laws that the Nazis issued to stifle the Jews in Germany during the early 1930's, the Iranians have moved to establish the legal grounds for mass arrests and executions. They have brought the survival of the Baha'i faith and its followers in Iran into question, and if the history of the treatment of the Baha'is under the present regime teaches anything, the future of more than 300,000 may well be in jeopardy. Let me take just a moment to explain this in greater detail.

The Baha'is, unlike many religions, have no clergy. Instead, they rely upon elected local and national leaders to conduct their programs through committees of volunteers. The recent edict implicates all those who have taken part in the activity of electing officials and all who have participated in functions coordinated through and run by Baha'i assemblies. In graphic terms, the recent proclamation instantly brands as criminals the 3,600 elected leaders currently serving on the 400 local assemblies and the National Spiritual Assembly of Iran; 30,000-30,000 members of local committees responsible for schools, charities, and other religious activities; and, most likely, more than 200,000 adult Baha'is who participated in electing their leaders.

It is particularly sad, and quite ironic, that the Baha'is have been singled out by the Iranian authorities for such mistreatment and, I might add, treatment bordering on genocide, for it is a basic tenet of the Baha'i faith that they remain unattached to any specific political philosophy. In fact, it is noninterference in politics and an unparalleled obedience to Government that guides their faith. Solely because of their refusal to recant their faith in favor of Islam have they had to endure constant and unceasing hardship. The Baha'is of Iran represent the only case in the world today in which people are being persecuted and killed based only on their religious beliefs, and not because of their opposition to the regime in power.

Mr. President, I would also like to bring to my colleagues' attention a letter that I shall immediately be releasing, that was written by the Baha'i National Spiritual Assembly in Iran in response to the statement of the prosecutor general. It is a moving and very compelling response to the false charges, ridicule, and lies that the Iranian Government has thrown at moral and law-abiding people. It is the only form of opposition I know of that the Baha'is have ever shown to this present Iranian regime. At this point,

I ask unanimous consent that the text of this letter be printed in the RECORD at the conclusion of my remarks so that all may read and understand the deep loyalties and love of Government that the Baha'is have demonstrated; so that all may view first hand the Baha'i answers to the trumped up charges put forward by the Iranian Government.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. EASTEN). Without objection, it is so ordered. (See exhibit 1.)

Mr. HEINZ. Mr. President, with obedience to law being a vital article of Baha'i belief, the National Assembly has announced the suspension of all Baha'i organizations throughout Iran, thus signaling another victory for the oppressive Iranian regime. It is in this light that we must review this legislation and our approach to dealing with the unfolding atrocities in Iran. It is because the light at the end of the tunnel for the Baha'is is little more than a flicker that we must maintain our interest, our opposition, and our hope.

The changes of the Iranian authorities reacting favorably to our words are slim, and while we have seen their response to our appeals in the form of further murders and jailings, I believe we must not yield. The Baha'is in the United States who remain in close contact with their brethren in Iran assure me that our words do help. The one fear they have is that we will forget the plight of their families and friends in Iran, that no pressure will be brought to bear on those who would commit such crimes against humanity.

Mr. President, I have stood before the Senate on previous occasions to address this matter, and I speak again on this occasion with an even greater sense of urgency, a deeper sense of outrage, and a similar sense of responsibility. This country was built on the ideal of freedom for all, and we have gone to great lengths to stress this ideology abroad. It is important that we not be silent as this inhumanity to man persists. We cannot avert our eyes from the suffering of the Baha'is, and we must not divert our attention from the party guilty of perpetrating this pain. As people of good conscience, we cannot ignore terror and murder. By constantly bringing the Baha'i cause to the attention of the world perhaps—and I say perhaps—we can in some positive way influence the future course of events in Iran.

So, Mr. President, I urge all of my colleagues to support this resolution. I urge them to cosponsor it. I urge them to do so at the earliest possible opportunity—hopefully today.

Mr. President, in a moment I will send my resolution to the desk, but I want to read what the resolution says in sum: That we hold the Government of Iran responsible for upholding the rights of all its nationals including the Baha'is; that we condemn the recent decision taken by the Government of

*Some
Lobbying
during
debate*

Iran to destroy the Baha'i faith by labeling as criminal acts all Baha'i teaching and organized religious activities, and that we call upon the President of the United States to work with appropriate foreign governments and the allies of the United States in forming an appeal to the Government of Iran concerning the Baha'is; that he cooperate fully with the United Nations in all efforts on behalf of the Baha'is, and to provide and urge others to provide humanitarian assistance for those Baha'is who flee Iran.

Mr. President, again let me plead with my colleagues to look at this concurrent resolution and cosponsor it.

I ask unanimous consent that the text of the resolution be printed at this point in the Record.

There being no objection, the concurrent resolution was ordered to be printed in the Record, as follows:

S. CON. RES. 86

Whereas more than 150 members of the Baha'i faith have been brutally executed by Iranian authorities since the 1979 Islamic revolution;

Whereas many Baha'is in Iran have disappeared and others have been tortured, persecuted, and deprived of their fundamental rights to personal property and employment;

Whereas an edict issued by Iran's Revolutionary Prosecutor General on August 29, 1983 has far-reaching implications that threaten the lives of 300,000 Baha'is residing in Iran and places the future practice of Baha'ism in jeopardy by dismantling the administrative structure of the Baha'i religion; and

Whereas these actions for the first time establish an expressed national policy which lays the level foundation for executions, arrests, the confiscation of property, denial of jobs and pensions, expulsion of Baha'i children from schools, and other pressures which may be brought to bear by Iranian authorities on the Baha'is in Iran: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives Concurring), That the Congress—

(1) holds the Government of Iran responsible for upholding the rights of all its nationals, including the Baha'is;

(2) condemns the recent decision taken by the Government of Iran to destroy the Baha'i faith by labeling as "criminal acts" all Baha'i teaching and organized religious activities, including the attempts by Baha'is to elect their own local and national leaders, to meet in assemblies, to communicate among themselves, and to work for volunteer committees; and

(3) calls upon the President—

(A) to work with appropriate foreign governments and the allies of the United States in forming an appeal to the Government of Iran concerning the Baha'is;

(B) to cooperate fully with the United Nations in its efforts on behalf of the Baha'is and to lead such effort whenever it is possible and appropriate to do so; and

(C) to provide, and urge others to provide, for humanitarian assistance for those Baha'is who flee Iran.

Sec. 2. The Secretary of the Senate shall transmit a copy of this concurrent resolution to the President.

EXHIBIT I
THE BANNING OF BAHAI RELIGIOUS
INSTITUTIONS IN IRAN—AN OPEN LETTER

(Translated from Persian)

12 Shahrivar 1363

[September 3, 1983]

(By the National Spiritual Assembly of the Baha'is of Iran of Iran)

Recently the esteemed Prosecutor General of the Islamic Revolution of the Country, in an interview that was published in the newspapers, declared that the continued functioning of the Baha'i religious and spiritual administration is banned and that membership in it is considered to be a crime. This declaration has been made after certain unjustified accusations have been leveled against the Baha'i community of Iran and after a number of its members—ostensibly for imaginary and fabricated crimes but in reality merely for the sake of their beliefs—have been either executed, or arrested and imprisoned. The majority of those who have been imprisoned have not yet been brought to trial.

The Baha'i community finds the conduct of the authorities and the judges bewildering and lamentable—as indeed would any fair-minded observer who is unblinded by malice. The authorities are the refuge of the people; the judges in pursuit of their work of examining and ascertaining the truth and facts in legal cases devoted years of their lives to studying the law and, when uncertain of a legal point, spend hours poring over copious tomes in order to cross a t and dot an i. Yet these very people consider themselves to be justified in brazenly bringing false accusations against a band of innocent people, without fear of the Day of Judgment, without even believing the calumnies they utter against their victims, and have exerted not the slightest effort to investigate to any degree the validity of the charges they are making. "Methinks they are not believers in the Day of Judgment." [Hafiz, a 14th century Persian poet]

The honorable Prosecutor has again introduced the baseless and fictitious story that Baha'is engage in espionage, but without producing so much as one document in support of the accusation, without presenting proof in any form, and without any explanation as to what is the mission in this country of this extraordinary number of "spies": what sort of information they obtain and from what sources? Whither do they relay it, and for what purpose? What kind of "spy" is an eighty-five year old man from Yazd who has never set foot outside his village? Why do these alleged "spies" not hide themselves, conceal their religious beliefs and exert every effort to penetrate, by every stratagem, the Government's information centers and offices? Why has no Baha'i "spy" been arrested anywhere else in the world? How could students, housewives, innocent young girls, and old men and women, such as those blameless Baha'is who have recently been delivered to the gallows in Iran, or who have become targets for the darts of prejudice and enmity, be "spies"? How could the Baha'i farmers of the villages of Afus, Chigan, the Fort of Malak (near Isfahan), and those of the village of Nuk in Bilyand, be "spies"? What secret intelligence documents have been found in their possession? What espionage equipment has come to hand? What "spying" activities were engaged in by the primary school children who have been expelled from their schools?

And how strange! The honorable Prosecutor perhaps does not know, or does not care to know, that spying is an element of politics, while noninterference in politics is an

established principle of the Baha'i Faith. On the contrary, Baha'is love their country and never permit themselves to be traitors. 'Abdu'l-Baha, the successor of the Founder of the Baha'i Cause, says: "Any abasement is bearable except betraying one's own country, and any sin is forgivable other than dishonoring the government and inflicting harm upon the nation."

All the other accusations made against the Baha'i by the honorable Prosecutor of the Revolution are similarly groundless. He brands the Baha'i community with accusations of subversion and corruption. For example, on the basis of a manifestly forged interview, the falsity of which has been dealt with in a detailed statement, he accuses the Baha'i community of hoarding, an act which its members would consider highly reprehensible. The Prosecutor alleges that the Baha'i administration sanctioned the insensible act of hoarding, yet he subtly overlooks the fact that with the proceeds that might be realized from the sale of unusable automobile spare parts whose total value is some 70 million tumans—the value of the stock of any medium-size store for spare parts—it would be impossible to overthrow a powerful government whose daily expenditures amount to hundreds of millions of tumans. If the Prosecutor chooses to label the Baha'i administration as a network of espionage, let him at least consider it intelligent enough not to plan the overthrow of such a strong regime by hoarding a few spare parts! Yes, such allegations of corruption and subversion are similar to those hurled against us at the time of the Episcopalian case in Isfahan when this oppressed community was accused of collaboration with foreign agents, as a result of which seven innocent Baha'is of Yazd were executed. Following this the falsity of the charges was made known and the Prosecutor announced the episode to be the outcome of a forgery.

Baha'is are accused of collecting contributions and transferring sums of money to foreign countries. How strange! If Muslims, in accordance with their sacred and respected spiritual beliefs, send millions of tumans to Karbala, Najaf and Jerusalem, or to other Muslim holy places outside Iran, to be spent on the maintenance and upkeep of the Islamic sacred shrines, it is considered very praiseworthy; but if a Baha'i—even during the time in which the transfer of foreign currency was allowed—sends a negligible amount for his international community to be used for the repair and maintenance of the holy places of his faith, it is considered that he has committed an unforgivable sin and it is counted as proof that he has done so in order to strengthen other countries.

Accusations of this nature are many but all are easy to investigate. If just and impartial people and God-fearing judges will only do so, the falsity of these spurious accusations will be revealed in case after case. The Baha'i community emphatically requests that such accusations be investigated openly in the presence of juries composed of judges and international observers so that, once and for all, the accusations may be discredited and their repetition prevented.

The basic principles and beliefs of the Baha'is have been repeatedly proclaimed and set forth in writing during the past five years. Apparently these communications, either by deliberate design or by mischance, have not received any attention, otherwise accusations such as those described above would not have been repeated by one of the highest and most responsible authorities. This in itself is a proof that the numerous communications referred to were not ac-

arded the attention of the leaders; therefore, we mention them again.

The Baha' Faith confesses the unity of God and the justice of the divine Essence. It recognizes that Almighty God is an exalted, unknowable and concealed entity, sanctified from ascent and descent, from egress and regress, and from assuming a physical body. The Baha' Faith which professes the existence of the invisible God, the One, the Single, the Eternal, the Peerless, bows before the loftiness of His Threshold, believes in all divine Manifestations, considers all the Prophets from Adam to the Seal of the Prophets as true divine Messengers Who are the Manifestations of Truth in the world of creation, accepts Their Books as having come from God, believes in the continuation of the divine outpourings, emphatically believes in reward and punishment and, uniquely among existing revealed religions outside Islam, accepts the Prophet Muhammad as a true Prophet and the Qur'an as the Word of God.

The Baha' Faith embodies independent principles and laws. It has its own Holy Book. It prescribes pilgrimage and worship. A Baha' performs obligatory prayers and observes a fast. He gives, according to his beliefs, tithes and contributions. He is required to be of upright conduct, to manifest a praiseworthy character, to love all mankind, to be of service to the world of humanity and to sacrifice his own interests for the good and well-being of his kind. He is forbidden to commit unbecoming deeds. 'Abdu'l-Baha' says: "A Baha' is known by the attributes manifested by him, not by his name; he is recognized by his character, not by his person."

Shoghi Rabbani, the Guardian of the Baha' Cause, says: "... a person who is not adorned with the ornaments of virtue, sanctity, and morality, is not a true Baha', even though he may call himself one and be known as such."

He also says: "The friends of God ... are required to be virtuous well-wishers, forbearing, sanctified, detached from all except God and free from worldly concerns. They are called upon to manifest divine attributes and characteristics."

The teaching and laws of the Baha' religion testify to this truth. Fortunately, the books and writings which have been plundered in abundance from the homes of Baha'is and are available to the authorities, bear witness to the truth of these assertions. Baha'is in keeping with their spiritual beliefs, stay clear of politics; they do not support or reject any party, group or nation; they do not champion or attack any ideology or any specific political philosophy; they shrink from and abhor political agitation. The Guardian of the Baha' Cause says, "The followers of Baha'u'llah under whatever state or government they may reside should conduct themselves with truthfulness, fidelity, trustworthiness and absolute virtue. ... They neither thirst for fame nor clamor for leadership. They neither indulge in flattery, nor practice hypocrisy, nor are they impelled by selfish ambition or the desire to accumulate wealth. They are not anxious to attain high ranks and positions, nor are they the bond-slaves of titles and honors. They abhor every form of ostentation and are far removed from the use of such methods as would entail violence or coercion. They have detached themselves from all else save God and have fixed their hearts upon the unfailing promises of their Lord. ... They have become forgetful of their own selves and have dedicated themselves to that which will serve the interests of humanity. ... They unhesitatingly refuse such functions and posts as are politi-

cal in nature, but wholeheartedly accept those that are purely administrative in character. For the cardinal aim of the people of Baha is to promote the interests of the whole nation. ...

"Such is the way of the followers of Baha, such is the attitude of the spiritually-minded, and whatsoever else is but manifest error."

Also Baha'is, in accordance with their exalted teachings, are duty bound to be obedient to their government. Elucidating this subject, Shoghi Rabbani says: "The people of Baha are required to obey their respective governments, and to demonstrate their truthfulness and good will towards the authorities. ... Baha'is, in every land and without any exception, should ... be obedient and bow to the clear instructions and the declared decrees issued by the authorities. They must faithfully carry out such directives."

Baha' organizations have no aim except the good of all nations and do not take any steps that are against the public good. Contrary to the conception it may create in the mind because of the similarity in name, it does not resemble the current organizations of political parties; it does not interfere in political affairs; and it is the safeguard against the involvement of Baha'is in subversive political activities. Its high ideals are "to improve the characters of men; to extend the scope of knowledge; to abolish ignorance and prejudice; to strengthen the foundations of true religion in all hearts; to encourage self-reliance, and discourage false imitation; ... to uphold truthfulness, audacity, frankness, and courage; to promote craftsmanship and agriculture; ... to educate, on a compulsory basis, children of both sexes; to insist on integrity in business transactions; to lay stress on the observance of honest and piety; ... to acquire mastery and skill in the modern sciences and art; to promote the interests of the public; ... to obey outwardly and inwardly and with true loyalty the regulations enacted by state and government; ... to honor, to extol and to follow the example of those who have distinguished themselves in science and learning. ... and again, "... to help the needy from every creed or sect, and to collaborate with the people of the country in all welfare services."

In brief, whatever the clergy in other religions undertake individually and by virtue of their appointment to their positions, the Baha' administration performs collectively and through an elective process.

The statements made by the esteemed Prosecutor of the Revolution do not seem to have legal basis, because in order to circumscribe individuals and deprive them of the rights which have not been denied them by the Constitution, it is necessary to enact special legislation, provided that legislation is not contradictory to the Constitution. It was hoped that the past recent years would have witnessed, on the one hand, the administration of divine justice—a principle promoted by the true religion of Islam and prescribed by all monotheistic religions—and, on the other, and coupled with an impartial investigation of the truths of the Baha' Faith, the abolition or at least mitigation of discrimination, restrictions and pressures suffered by Baha'is over the past 135 years. Alas, on the contrary, because of long-standing misunderstandings and prejudices, the difficulties increased immensely and the portals of calamity were thrown wide open in the faces of the long-suffering and sorely oppressed Baha'is of Iran who were, to an even greater degree, deprived of their birthrights through the systematic machinations of Government officials who are supposed to be the refuge of the public, and of some

impostors in the garb of divines, who engaged in official or unofficial spreading of mischievous and harmful accusations and calumnies, and issued, in the name of religious and judicial authorities, unlawful decrees and verdicts.

Many are the pure and innocent lives that have been snuffed out; many the distinguished heads that have adorned the hangman's noose; and many the precious breasts that became the targets of firing squads. Vast amounts of money and great quantities of personal property have been plundered or confiscated. Many technical experts and learned people have been tortured and condemned to long-term imprisonment and are still languishing in dark dungeons, deprived of the opportunity of placing their expertise at the service of the Government and the nation. Numerous are the self-sacrificing employees of the Government who spent their lives in faithful service but who were dismissed from work and afflicted with poverty and need because of hatred and prejudice. Even the owners of private firms and institutions were prevented from engaging Baha'is. Many privately-owned Baha' establishments have been confiscated. Many tradesmen have been denied the right to continue working by cancellation of their business licenses. Baha'i youth have been denied access to education in many schools and in all universities and institutions of higher education. Baha'i university students abroad are deprived of receiving money for their education, and others who wish to pursue their studies outside Iran have been denied exit permits. Baha'is, including the very sick whose only hope for cure was to receive medical treatment in specialized medical centers in foreign lands, have been prevented from leaving the country. Baha'i cemeteries have been confiscated and bodies rudely disinterred. Numerous have been the days when a body has remained unburied while the bereaved family pleaded to have a permit issued and a burial place assigned so that the body might be decently buried. As of today, thousands of Baha'is have been divested of their homes and forced to live as exiles. Many have been driven from their villages and dwelling places and are living as wanderers and stranded refugees in other parts of Iran with no other haven and refuge but the Court of the All-Merciful God and the loving-kindness of their friends and relatives.

It is a pity that the mass media, newspapers and magazines, either do not want or are not allowed to publish any news about the Baha' community of Iran or to elaborate upon what is happening. If they were free to do so and were unbiased in reporting daily news, volumes would have been compiled describing the inhumane cruelty to and oppression of the innocent. For example, if they were allowed to do so, they would have written that in Shiraz seven courageous men and ten valiant women—seven of whom were girls in the prime of their lives—audaciously rejected the suggestion of the religious judge that they recant their faith or, at least, dissemble their belief, and preferred death to the concealment of their faith. The women, after hours of waiting with dried lips, shrouded themselves in their chadurs, kissed the noose of their gallows, and with intense love offered up their souls for the One Who proferreth life. The observers of this cruel scene might well ask forgiveness for the murderers at Karbala, since they, despite their countless atrocities, did not put women to the sword nor harass the sick and infirm. Alas, tongues are prevented from making utterance and pens are broken and the hidden cause of these brutalities is not made mani-

test to teach the world a lesson. The Prosecutor alleges that they were spies. Gracious God! Where in history can one point to a spy who readily surrendered his life in order to prove the truth of his belief?

Unfortunately it is beyond the scope of this letter to recount the atrocities inflicted upon the guiltless Baha'is of Iran or to answer, one by one, the accusations levelled against them. But let us ask all just and fair-minded people only one question: If, according to the much-publicized statements of the Prosecutor, Baha'is are not arrested and executed because of their belief, and are not even imprisoned on that account, how is it that, when a group of them is arrested and each is charged with the same "crime" of "spying", if one of them recants his belief, he is immediately freed, a photograph of him and a description of his defection are victoriously featured in the newspapers, and respect and glory are heaped upon him? What kind of spying, subversion, illegal accumulation of goods, aggression or conspiracy or other "crime" can it be that is capable of being blotted out upon the recantation of one's beliefs? Is this not a clear proof of the absurdity of the accusations?

In spite of all this, the Baha'i community of Iran, whose principles have been described earlier in this statement, announces the suspension of the Baha'i organizations throughout Iran, in order to establish its good intentions and in conformity with its basic tenets concerning complete obedience to the instructions of the Government. Henceforth, until the time when, God willing, the misunderstandings are eliminated and the realities are at last made manifest to the authorities, the National Assembly and all local spiritual assemblies and their committees and disbanded, and no one may any longer be designated a member of the Baha'i Administration.

The Baha'i community of Iran hopes that this step will be considered a sign of its complete obedience to the Government in power. It further hopes that the authorities—including the esteemed Prosecutor of the Islamic Revolution who says that there is no opposition to and no enmity towards individual Baha'is, who has acknowledged the existence of a large Baha'i community and has, in his interview, guaranteed its members the right to live and be free in their acts of worship—will reciprocate by proving their good intentions and the truth of their assurances by issuing orders that pledge, henceforth:

1. To bring to an end the persecutions, arrests, torture and imprisonment of Baha'is for imaginary crimes and on baseless pretexts, because God knows—and so do the authorities—that the only "crime" of which these innocent ones are guilty is that of their beliefs, and not the unsubstantiated accusations brought against them;

2. To guarantee the safety of their lives, their personal property and belongings, and their honor;

3. To accord them freedom to choose their residence and occupation and the right of association based on the provisions of the Constitution of the Islamic Republic;

4. To restore all the rights which have been taken away from them in accordance with the groundless assertions of the Prosecutor of the Country;

5. To restore to Baha'i employees the rights denied them by returning them to their jobs and by paying them their due wages;

6. To release from prison all innocent prisoners;

7. To lift the restriction imposed on the properties of those Baha'is who, in their own country, have been deprived of their belongings;

8. To permit Baha'i students who wish to continue their studies abroad to benefit from the same facilities that are provided to others;

9. To permit those Baha'i youth who have been prevented from continuing their studies in the country to resume their education;

10. To permit those Baha'i students stranded abroad who have been deprived of foreign exchange facilities to receive their allowances as other Iranian students do;

11. To restore Baha'i cemeteries and to permit Baha'is to bury their dead in accordance with Baha'i burial ceremonies;

12. To guarantee the freedom of Baha'is to perform their religious rites; to conduct funerals and burials including the recitation of the Prayer for the Dead; to solemnize Baha'i marriages and divorces, and to carry out all acts of worship and laws and ordinances affecting personal status; because although Baha'is are entirely obedient and subordinate to the government in the administration of the affairs which are in the jurisdiction of Baha'i organizations, in matters of conscience and belief, and in accordance with their spiritual principles, they prefer martyrdom to recantation or the abandoning of the divine ordinances prescribed by their faith;

13. To desist henceforth from arresting and imprisoning anyone because of his previous membership in Baha'i organizations.

Finally, although the order issued by the Prosecutor of the Islamic Revolution was unjust and unfair, we have accepted it. We beseech God to remove the dross of prejudice from the hearts of the authorities so that aided and enlightened by His confirmation they will be inspired to recognize the true nature of the affairs of the Baha'i community and come to the unalterable conviction that the infliction of atrocities and cruelties upon a pious band of wronged ones, and the shedding of their pure blood, will stain the good name and injure the prestige of any nation or government, for what will, in truth, endure are the records of good deeds, and of acts of justice and fairness, and the names of the doers of good. These will history preserve in its bosom for posterity.

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, I support the resolution offered by my distinguished colleague from Pennsylvania, Senator HEINZ, on behalf of the oppressed Baha'i religious minority in Iran. I condemn in the strongest terms the persecution of the 350,000 Baha'is by the Khomeini regime, and I commend Senator HEINZ for taking action in this increasingly desperate situation.

Mr. President, of all the real and imagined enemies of the present Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Baha'is are possibly the least threatening. The Baha'i faith is a pacifist sect of Islam which, since its founding in 1863, preaches the equality of all religions honoring the same God, the unity of mankind, the equality of men and women of all races, and universal peace and education. It is unconscionable that these people, who represent the epitome of tolerance, should be relentlessly persecuted, and have many of their brethren tortured or killed for their utopian views.

Ever since the Khomeini Government came to power in 1979, there has been a systematic pattern of discrimination against the apolitical and

peace-loving Baha'is. Baha'is have lost their jobs, their savings have been confiscated, and some 15,000 have been forced to leave Iran. For those who remained, their fate has been marked by arbitrary imprisonment and the execution of approximately 150 Baha'is. In May, despite the personal pleas of President Reagan, the Iranian Government hanged 22 Baha'i men, women, and children on trumped up charges of spying.

Lately, the Khomeini government has enacted a series of restrictions on Baha'i practices that are similar in scope to the infamous Nuremberg laws of Hitler's Germany. The teaching of Baha'i beliefs, organized religious activities and the very practicing of the faith have all been outlawed.

The only reason I can detect, Mr. President, for the harassment, executions, and organized discrimination of Iran's Baha'i population points in the direction of one goal—genocide. Whether by selected executions, incitement of mob violence, or the slow but steady denial of basic human rights to practicing Baha'is, it seems that the Ayatollah Khomeini is intent on wiping out any traces of religious expression other than his own twisted interpretation of Islamic precepts. I can only express my admiration for the humanitarian ideals and tenacious piety of the Baha'i faithful in the face of constant charges of heresy and daily degradation by Iranian authorities.

I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

RECOGNITION OF SENATOR PROXMIRE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. PROXMIRE) is recognized for not to exceed 15 minutes.

COULD TERRORISTS NUKE THE CAPITOL?

Mr. PROXMIRE. Mr. President, several days ago a bomb exploded in the Capitol and provoked the congressional leadership to pursue more intensely security measures to safeguard this heart of our national Government. Can we prevent bombs from exploding in the future? No way. In the last few years bombs have been exploded in this Building several times. In most cases the bombers have not been apprehended. Property damage has been limited. Casualties have been few. The incidents have been quickly forgotten. Last Saturday night John McLaughlin, technically the moderator but actually the agitator of the McLaughlin group, on Channel 4 television in Washington, predicted that this decade of the eighties would be known as the decade of terrorism. He predicted that by 1986 terrorists would explode a nuclear device. McLaughlin did not predict the nuclear device

By Mr. PATTERSON:
H.J. Res. 428. Joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States to provide that, except in cases of war or other national emergency as determined by the Congress, expenditures of the United States in each fiscal year shall not exceed revenues of the United States for that fiscal year, to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. REGULA (for himself, Mr. FAZIO, Mr. UDALL, Mr. WEAVER, Mr. HAWKINS, Mr. PATTERSON, Mr. FRANK, Mr. MORRISON of Connecticut, Mr. LELAND, Mr. BROWN of California, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. HOYER, Mr. SPRATT, Mrs. SCHNEIDER, Mr. VENTO, Mr. MITCHELL, Mr. FASCELL, Mr. WON PAT, Mr. MINETA, Mr. SIMON, Mr. LEVIN of Michigan, Mr. FRENZEL, Mr. WEISS, Mr. BERMAN, Mr. JEFFORDS, Mr. OWENS, Mr. FRITCHARD, and Mr. LaFALCE):

H.J. Res. 429. Joint resolution requesting the President to negotiate the creation of a United States-People's Republic of China Student Exchange for Understanding program; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. PASHAYAN:

H.J. Res. 430. Joint resolution suggesting an amendment to the Constitution requiring that the equal protection clause of the fourteenth amendment shall apply fully to sex discrimination; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. REID (for himself and Mr. McCOLLUM):

H.J. Res. 431. Joint resolution to direct the President to return to Cuba all Cuban nationals from the 1980 Mariel boatlift who are currently incarcerated in the United States; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. WAXMAN:

gation to the United Nations to introduce a resolution in the General Assembly calling for the immediate withdrawal of all Syrian and Syrian-controlled forces from Lebanon; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. PORTER (for himself, Mr. YATRON, Mr. LANTOS, Mr. LEACH of Iowa, Mr. BARNES, Mr. BATEMAN, Mr. BEILSEN, Mr. BERMAN, Mr. BOUCHER, Mr. BROWN of California, Mr. CORCORAN, Mr. CLARKE, Mr. DANIEL B. CRANE, Mr. DAUB, Mr. DEL-LUMS, Mr. DEWINE, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. EDGAR, Mr. FAUNTROY, Mr. FAZIO, Mr. FEIGHAN, Mr. FISH, Mr. FRANK, Mr. FROST, Mr. GLEDENSON, Mr. GILMAN, Mr. GOODLING, Mr. GREEN, Mr. HAWKINS, Mr. HOWARD, Mr. HUGHES, Mr. HYDE, Mr. JEFFORDS, Mrs. JOHNSON, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. KASICH, Mr. KILDEE, Mr. LAGOMARSINO, Mr. LEHMAN of Florida, Mr. LENT, Mr. LEVIN of Michigan, Mr. McGRATH, Mr. MATSUI, Mr. McNULTY, Mr. MITCHELL, Mr. MORRISON of Connecticut, Mr. OBERSTAR, Mr. OLIN, Mr. OTTINGER, Mr. PATTERSON, Mr. RICHARDSON, Mr. RODINO, Mrs. SCHNEIDER, Mrs. SCHROEDER, Mr. SILJANDER, Mr. SIMON, Mr. SMITH of Florida, Ms. SNOWE, Mr. SOLOMON, Mr. STARK, Mr. TAUBE, Mr. TRAXLER, Mr. VANDERGRIFT, Mr. WAXMAN, Mr. WEAVER, Mr. WEISS, and Mr. WOLF:

H. Con. Res. 226. Concurrent resolution expressing the sense of the Congress regarding the persecution of members of the Baha'i religion in Iran by the Government of Iran; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. SWIFT (for himself, Mr. THOMAS of California, Mr. ANNUNZIO, Mr. BAHAM, Mr. BATES, Mr. COELHO, Mr.

300. Also, memorial of the House of Representatives of the State of Pennsylvania, relative to proposed sale of a United States Steel plant; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

301. Also, memorial of the House of Representatives of the State of Pennsylvania, relative to mortgage revenue bonds; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

302. Also, memorial of the General Assembly of the State of Pennsylvania, relative to Pennsylvania Garden Week; to the Committee on Post Office and Civil Service.

PRIVATE BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 1 of rule XXII, private bills and resolutions were introduced and severally referred as follows:

By Mr. DONNELLY:

H.R. 4433. A bill for the relief of the survivors of John Arthur Walsh, Jr.; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. KAZEN:

H.R. 4434. A bill for the relief of Arturo Ruiz-Delgado and Martina Anaya de Ruiz; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. REID:

H.R. 4435. A bill to allow Frank T. Carr retired pay and veterans' benefits as if he had retired from the U.S. Army; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. YOUNG of Alaska:

H.R. 4436. A bill to clear impediments to the licensing of the vessel *Wingaway* for employment in the coastwise trade; to the Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries.

H. Con. Res. 226, introduced with 59 co-sponsors, is identical to S. Con. Res. 86, introduced by Senator Heinz with more than 30 co-sponsors. Additional Members of Congress are expected to join as co-sponsors before the resolutions are brought to a vote in 1984.

Additional co-sponsors, as of November 28: Mr. Addabbo, Mr. Bedell, Mr. Corrada, Mr. Gekas, Mr. McHugh, Mr. Mrazek, Mr. Ritter, Mr. Solarz, Mr. Vento.

the full political and economic unity of the Republic of Cyprus; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. D'AMOURS:

H. Con. Res. 223. Concurrent resolution to express the sense of the Congress that the United States should not recognize the illegitimate Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus and should call for an immediate U.N. Security Council meeting to press for immediate action to remove the Turkish occupation forces from Northern Cyprus; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. GILMAN (for himself and Mr. QUARENI):

H. Con. Res. 224. Concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress that U.S. medical schools should accommodate the American medical students evacuated from Grenada; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mr. LANTOS (for himself, Mr. BROOMFIELD, and Mr. LOTT):

H. Con. Res. 225. Concurrent resolution expressing the sense of the Congress that the President should instruct the U.S. dele-

By Mr. JACOBS (for himself, Mr. STENHOLM, Mr. OTTINGER, Mr. FLIPPO, Mr. LEATH of Texas, Mr. CORRADA, Mr. COELHO, and Mr. WORTLEY).

H. Res. 377. Resolution to enclose the galleries of the House of Representatives with a transparent and substantial material; to the Committee on House Administration.

MEMORIALS

Under clause 4 of rule XXII, memorials were presented and referred as follows:

298. By the SPEAKER: Memorial of the House of Representatives of the State of Pennsylvania, relative to committee assignments of Pennsylvania's Senators and Members of the House of Representatives; to the Committee on Agriculture.

299. Also, memorial of the House of Representatives of the State of Pennsylvania, relative to the Korean airliner tragedy; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

300. Also, memorial of the House of Representatives of the State of Pennsylvania, relative to proposed sale of a United States Steel plant; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

301. Also, memorial of the House of Representatives of the State of Pennsylvania, relative to mortgage revenue bonds; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

302. Also, memorial of the General Assembly of the State of Pennsylvania, relative to Pennsylvania Garden Week; to the Committee on Post Office and Civil Service.

303. Also, memorial of the House of Representatives of the State of Pennsylvania, relative to mortgage revenue bonds; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

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307. Also, memorial of the House of Representatives of the State of Pennsylvania, relative to mortgage revenue bonds; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

Chairman, I support all the major initiatives, past and present, to insure equality under law for women.

To illustrate and underscore this point, I point out to my colleagues that I strongly support the following:

First. Equal Pay Act—prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex in the payment of wages for equal work performed.

Second. Title VII—prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex with regard to hiring, job classification, promotion, compensation, fringe benefits, and discharge.

Third. Title IX—prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex in education programs that receive Federal support.

Fourth. Revenue Acts—provides for the deduction of child care expenses, allows IRA's for nonworking spouses, and eliminates estate tax for widows.

Fifth. Manpower Act—prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex in regard to Federal jobs programs.

Sixth. Housing and Community Development Act—prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex in housing and mortgage lending.

Seventh. Title VIII—prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex in rentals and home selling.

Eighth. Equal Credit Opportunity Act—prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex in any aspect of credit transactions.

Ninth. Pregnancy Disability Act—requires employers to include coverage of maternal benefits within the scope of health insurance programs.

Tenth. Executive Order 11246 (as amended)—prohibits discrimination in employment on the basis of sex on the part of governmental contractors.

Mr. Chairman—pending legislation that I have cosponsored and support which would aid women includes:

First. H.R. 2090; Economic Equity Act—an omnibus bill aimed at eliminating sex discrimination in such areas as tax and retirement matters, dependent care, insurance and child support and enforcement. I am proud to be a cosponsor of this legislation.

Second. House Resolution 109—a resolution expressing the sense of the House on the need to maintain guidelines which ensure equal rights with regard to educational opportunity. I am a cosponsor.

Third. H.R. 1527; Federal Equity Act—a bill to amend the laws of the United States to eliminate gender-based distinctions throughout the United States Code. I have cosponsored this legislation.

Fourth. H.R. 4280, revision of H.R. 2100, women's pension equity—a measure that seeks to remove inequitable restrictions on women currently sanctioned by Employee Retirement Income Security Act (ERISA). Would improve credit for maternity leave; expand IRA contribution; insure survivors pensions if spouse dies before annuity starts. I have cosigned letters to six committee leaders urging favorable

and expeditious consideration of this legislation.

Fifth. H.R. 4325. Child Support Enforcement Amendments of 1983. A bill that insures that children will be able to receive financial support from delinquent parents. Encourages interstate enforcement, and requirement of spousal support as well. I have cosponsored another bill, H.R. 3354 which would go even further than the new bill, to protect the rights of spouses and their children. However, H.R. 4325 was reported from committee and is presumably the bill that we will consider on the floor. This legislation also has my support.

Mr. Chairman, the ERA must be amended. I urge my colleagues to defeat the motion to suspend the rules and support an open rule—the fairness rule—so that this House will be able, at some not too distant future date, to properly address and debate the ERA and consider several rational, substantive amendments to it.

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Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. I yield to the gentleman from California.

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, I would like to commend the gentleman for his statement and note to him that I was one of those individuals and I think there are many of us in the House who support ERA and would have voted for it had it come up in a fair manner and had it come up in a disposition in which it would be possible to put in some of the key amendments that the gentleman talked about.

I commend him for his understanding of the issue and I think that ultimately we will have a chance to shape the ERA in a manner in which it can be passed and become the law of the land.

Mr. WALKER. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. I yield to the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

Mr. WALKER. Mr. Speaker, I did want to point out to the gentleman that just a few minutes ago I tried, through unanimous-consent requests, to make it in order for the House to consider that rule filed by the gentleman from New York (Mr. FISH) tomorrow or any day thereafter so that those of us who do favor the equal rights amendment would have an opportunity to have it considered very soon under a rule that would allow the offering of amendments.

And I am disappointed to say that a very unusual procedure was used in which the Chair objected to that unanimous-consent request. That is the first time I have ever seen it in the time that I have been in the House of Representatives.

So that I think, we see that we even have the Chair now blocking efforts to address some of the amendments, amendments which the Speaker of the House in his remarks on the floor

today admitted that probably two of those amendments would pass and that that is the reason why we were not given an opportunity for democracy to work.

It is a very, very unusual procedure. I thank the gentleman for his contribution in allowing the people of the country to understand just exactly what is going on here in the House.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. I thank the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

And I would like to remind my colleagues that there were several attempts made by the gentleman from California (Mr. LONGREN) and I believe the gentleman from Pennsylvania through unanimous-consent requests to allow for an open rule, to allow amendments to be considered on the floor regarding ERA, and each and every time those requests were objected to.

And I know that the gentleman from Pennsylvania and my friend from California are supporters, as am I, of the equal rights amendments. We were precluded that opportunity to amend it in a way that will insure, in my opinion, its passage and ratification when it gets out to the several States.

So again I thank the gentleman for his contribution.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. FRENZEL) is recognized for 30 minutes.

Mr. FRENZEL addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. BEREUTER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BEREUTER addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

THE FLIGHT OF THE BAHAI'S IN IRAN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. PORTER) is recognized for 60 minutes.

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, in calling for this special order today I am joined by several of my colleagues. I would like to express my appreciation to Mr. YATRON, Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Human Rights and International Organizations, Mr. LEACH, ranking minority member of that subcommittee, and Mr. LANTOS, my cochairman of the Congressional Human Rights Caucus for their hard work in calling attention to the plight of the Baha'is in Iran.

The Baha'i faith was founded in Persia—now Iran—over 100 years ago. Its followers practice a faith driven to

bring about the unity of mankind, world peace, and world order. The Baha'i faith teaches the essential beliefs of all organized religions which include social equality, pacifism, and tolerance.

It is a crime against all humanity that the Baha'is, a people who practice their belief of nonviolence and unity among mankind, are victims of the wrath of the Ayatollah Khomeini and his murderous regime. During the past 3 years over 150 leaders of the Baha'i faith have been executed. Countless others have been subject to other kinds of persecution including arrest for imaginary crimes, confiscation of their personal property, and expropriation of Baha'i-owned corporations' property. Baha'is have been fired from their jobs and their holy shrine has been destroyed by an angry mob organized by the ayatollahs.

The leaders of the Iranian Government deny that their treatment of the Baha'is is based on religious differences. However, it is clear to impartial observers that this persecution is based on the fact that the Baha'i faith is seen as a challenge to the Shiite belief that Islam is the final religion and that Muhammed was the last prophet to appear on earth.

In an attempt to remove the Baha'i from Iran, the Prosecutor General of Iran recently decreed a comprehensive ban on all Baha'i teaching and organized religious activities—including election of local and national leaders, and "giving information to others"—which threatens the very survival of the Iranian Baha'i community.

Like the Nuremberg laws, the new edict announced by the Prosecutor General on August 29 establishes the so-called legal grounds for mass arrests and genocide. It is the single most serious development in the continuous persecution of the Baha'i.

In response to the new decree, the elected leaders of the Baha'i National Spiritual Assembly of Iran, citing the Baha'i tenet of obedience to the civil law of the land, have dissolved all Baha'i institutions in Iran.

This edict, combined with the past history of persecution, are absolutely appalling. The persecution of the Baha'i in Iran is presently the only case in the world in which people are being persecuted and killed solely on account of their religious beliefs and not because of their political opposition to the regime in power.

The United States and the Congress have consistently played a leading role in fighting for fundamental freedoms of oppressed people around the world. We must continue to call attention to the situation of the Baha'i in Iran and do all that we can to halt the persecution.

In an attempt to call attention to this horrible situation, I am introducing a resolution, with 59 cosponsors, which states that the Congress holds the Government of Iran responsible for upholding the rights of all its citi-

zens, condemns the August 29 edict, and calls upon the President of the United States to work with other governments to form an appeal to the Government of Iran, to cooperate with the United Nations in its efforts on behalf of the Baha'is and to lead these efforts when appropriate, and also to provide humanitarian assistance for Baha'is who are able to flee Iran.

At this point, I would like to insert in the record an open letter written by the leaders of the National Spiritual Assembly in Iran to government officials in Iran. This letter was written and distributed at great personal risk, since 17 of the predecessor leaders have either been hanged or disappeared. In this letter they discuss some of the charges leveled against Baha'is by the Khomeini regime, their commitment to following the law of the land by disbanding all official structures, and finally call upon the Prosecutor General to demonstrate that the Iranian Government does not persecute Baha'is for their religious beliefs. The Baha'is outline 13 specific measures in their letter that they ask the Iranian Government to adopt to protect their religious beliefs and practices.

I urge my colleagues to read this meaningful letter and ask them to raise their voices in opposition to the program instituted by the Khomeini regime evidently aimed at destroying the Baha'i religion in Iran. We can only hope that these misguided religious fanatics will finally hear the protests of outrage unleashed by the world community and cease their unforgivable persecution of the Baha'is.

THE BANNING OF BAHAI RELIGIOUS INSTITUTIONS; AN OPEN LETTER

(Translated from Persian—September 3, 1983)

Recently the esteemed Prosecutor General of the Islamic Revolution of the Country, in an interview that was published in the newspapers, declared that the continued functioning of the Baha'i religious and spiritual administration is banned and that membership in it is considered to be a crime. This declaration has been made after certain unjustified accusations have been leveled against the Baha'i community of Iran and after a number of its members—ostensibly for imaginary and fabricated crimes but in reality merely for the sake of their beliefs—have been either executed, or arrested and imprisoned. The majority of those who have been imprisoned have not yet been brought to trial.

The Baha'i community finds the conduct of the authorities and the judges bewildering and lamentable—as indeed would any fair-minded observer who is unblinded by malice. The authorities are the refuge of the people; the judges in pursuit of their work of examining and ascertaining the truth and facts in legal cases devote years of their lives to studying the law and, when uncertain of a legal point, spend hours poring over copious tomes in order to cross a "t" and dot an "i". Yet these very people consider themselves to be justified in brazenly bringing false accusations against a band of innocent people, without fear of the Day of Judgment, without even believing the calumnies they utter against their victims, and having exerted not the slightest

effort to investigate to any degree the validity of the charges they are making. "Me thinks they are not believers in the Day of Judgment." (Hafiz, a 14th century Persian poet.)

The honorable Prosecutor has again introduced the baseless and fictitious story that Baha'is engage in espionage, but without producing so much as one document in support of the accusation, without presenting proof in any form, and without any explanation as to what is the mission in this country of this extraordinary number of "spies": what sort of information they obtain and from what sources? Whither do they relay it, and for what purpose? What kind of "spy" is an eighty-five year old man from Yazd who has never set foot outside his village? Why do these alleged "spies" not hide themselves, conceal their religious beliefs and exert every effort to penetrate, by every stratagem, the Government's information centers and offices? Why has no Baha'i "spy" been arrested anywhere else in the world? How could students, housewives, innocent young girls, and old men and women, such as those blameless Baha'is who have recently been delivered to the gallows in Iran, or who have become targets for the darts of prejudice and enmity, be "spies"? How could the Baha'i farmers of the villages of Afus, Chigan, the Fort of Malak (near Isfahan), and those of the village of Nuk in Birjand, be "spies"? What secret intelligence documents have been found in their possession? What espionage equipment has come to hand? What "spying" activities were engaged in by the primary school children who have been expelled from their schools?

And how strange! The honorable Prosecutor perhaps does not know, or does not care to know, that spying is an element of politics, while noninterference in politics is an established principle of the Baha'i Faith. On the contrary, Baha'is love their country and never permit themselves to be traitors. 'Abdu'l-Baha, the successor of the Founder of the Baha'i Cause, says: "Any abasement is bearable except betraying one's own country, and any sin is forgivable other than dishonoring the government and inflicting harm upon the nation."

All the other accusations made against the Baha'is by the honorable Prosecutor of the Revolution are similarly groundless. He brands the Baha'i community with accusations of subversion and corruptions. For example, on the basis of a manifestly forged interview, the falsity of which has been dealt with in a detailed statement, he accuses the Baha'i community of hoarding, an act which its members would consider highly reprehensible. The Prosecutor alleges that the Baha'i administration sanctioned the insensible act of hoarding, yet he subtly overlooks the fact that with the proceeds that might be realized from the sale of unusable automobile spare parts whose total value is some 70 million tumans—the value of the stock of any medium-size store for spare parts—it would be impossible to overthrow a powerful government whose daily expenditures amount to hundreds of millions of tumans. If the Prosecutor chooses to label the Baha'i administration as a network of espionage, let him at least consider it intelligent enough not to plan the overthrow of such a strong regime by hoarding a few spare parts! Yes, such allegations of corruption and subversion are similar to those hurled against us at the time of the Episcopalian case in Isfahan when this oppressed community was accused of collaboration with foreign agents, as a result of which seven innocent Baha'is of Yazd were executed. Following this the falsity of the

charges was made known and the Prosecutor announced the episode to be the outcome of a forgery.

Baha'is are accused of collecting contributions and transferring sums of money to foreign countries. How strange! If Muslims, in accordance with their sacred and respected spiritual beliefs, send millions of tumans to Karbala, Najaf and Jerusalem, or to other Muslim holy places outside Iran, to be spent on the maintenance and upkeep of the Islamic sacred shrines, it is considered very praiseworthy; but if a Baha'i—even during the time in which the transfer of foreign currency was allowed—sends a negligible amount for his international community to be used for the repair and maintenance of the holy places of his faith, it is considered that he has committed an unforgivable sin and it is counted as proof that he has done so in order to strengthen other countries.

Accusations of this nature are many but all are easy to investigate. If just and impartial people and God-fearing judges will only do so, the falsity of these spurious accusations will be revealed in case after case. The Baha'i community emphatically requests that such accusations be investigated openly in the presence of juries composed of judges and international observers so that, once and for all, the accusations may be discredited and their repetition prevented.

The basic principles and beliefs of the Baha'is have been repeatedly proclaimed and set forth in writing during the past five years. Apparently these communications, either by deliberate design or by mischance, have not received any attention, otherwise accusations such as those described above would not have been repeated by one of the highest and most responsible authorities. This in itself is a proof that the numerous communications referred to were not accorded the attention of the leaders; therefore, we mention them again.

The Baha'i Faith confesses the unity of God and the justice of the divine Essence. It recognizes that Almighty God is an exalted, unknowable and concealed entity, sanctified from ascent and descent, from egress and regress, and from assuming a physical body. The Baha'i Faith which professes the existence of the invisible God, the One, the Single, the Eternal, the Peerless, bows before the loftiness of His Threshold, believes in all divine Manifestations, considers all the Prophets from Adam to the Seal of the Prophets as true divine Messengers Who are the Manifestations of Truth in the world of creation, accepts Their Books as having come from God, believes in the continuation of the divine outpourings, emphatically believes in reward and punishment and, uniquely among existing revealed religions outside Islam, accepts the Prophet Muhammad as a true Prophet and the Qur'an as the Word of God.

The Baha'i Faith embodies independent principles and laws. It has its own Holy Book. It prescribes pilgrimage and worship. A Baha'i performs obligatory prayers and observes a fast. He gives, according to his beliefs, tithes and contributions. He is required to be of upright conduct, to manifest a praiseworthy character, to love all mankind, to be of service to the world of humanity and to sacrifice his own interests for the good and well-being of his kind. He is forbidden to commit unbecoming deeds. 'Abdu'l-Baha says: "A Baha'i is known by the attributes manifested by him, not by his name; he is recognized by his character, not by his person."

Shoghi Rabbani, the Guardian of the Baha'i Cause, says: "... a person who is not adorned with the ornaments of virtue, sanctity, and morality, is not a true Baha'i, even

though he may call himself one and be known as such."

He also says: "The friends of God . . . are required to be virtuous, well-wishers, forbearing, sanctified, detached from all except God and free from worldly concerns. They are called upon to manifest divine attributes and characteristics."

The teachings and laws of the Baha'i religion testify to this truth. Fortunately, the books and writings which have been plundered in abundance from the homes of Baha'is and are available to the authorities, bear witness to the truth of these assertions. Baha'is, in keeping with their spiritual beliefs, stay clear of politics; they do not support or reject any party, group or nation; they do not champion or attack any ideology or any specific political philosophy; they shrink from and abhor political agitation. The Guardian of the Baha'i Cause says, "The followers of Baha'u'llah under whatever state or government they may reside should conduct themselves with truthfulness, fidelity, trustworthiness and absolute virtue. . . . They neither thirst for fame nor clamor for leadership. They neither indulge in flattery, nor practice hypocrisy, nor are they impelled by selfish ambition or the desire to accumulate wealth. They are not anxious to attain high ranks and positions, nor are they the bond-slaves of titles and honors. They abhor every form of ostentation and are far removed from the use of such methods as would entail violence or coercion. They have detached themselves from all else save God and have fixed their hearts upon the unfailing promises of their Lord. . . . They have become forgetful of their own selves and have dedicated themselves to that which will serve the interests of humanity. . . . They unhesitatingly refuse such functions and posts as are political in nature, but wholeheartedly accept those that are purely administrative in character. For the cardinal aim of the people of Baha is to promote the interests of the whole nation. . . .

"Such is the way of the followers of Baha, such is the attitude of the spiritually-minded, and whatsoever else is but manifest error."

Also, Baha'is, in accordance with their exalted teachings, are duty bound to be obedient to their government. Elucidating this subject, Shoghi Rabbani says: "The people of Baha are required to obey their respective governments, and to demonstrate their truthfulness and good will towards the authorities. . . . Baha'is, in every land and without any exception should . . . be obedient and bow to the clear instructions and the declared decrees issued by the authorities. They must faithfully carry out such directives."

Baha'i organizations have no aim except the good of all nations and do not take any steps that are against the public good. Contrary to the conception it may create in the mind because of the similarity in name, it does not resemble the current organizations of political parties; it does not interfere in political affairs; and it is the safeguard against the involvement of Baha'is in subversive political activities. Its high ideals are "to improve the characters of men; to extend the scope of knowledge; to abolish ignorance and prejudice; to strengthen the foundations of true religion in all hearts; to encourage self-reliance, and discourage false imitation; . . . to uphold truthfulness, audacity, frankness, and courage; to promote craftsmanship and agriculture; . . . to educate, on a compulsory basis, children of both sexes; to insist on integrity in business transactions; to lay stress on the observance of honesty and piety; . . . to acquire mastery and skill in the modern sciences and arts; to

promote the interests of the public; . . . to obey outwardly and inwardly and with true loyalty the regulations enacted by state and government; . . . to honor, to extol and to follow the example of those who have distinguished themselves in science and learning. . . ." And again, ". . . to help the needy from every creed or sect, and to collaborate with the people of the country in all welfare services.

In brief, whatever the clergy in other religions undertake individually and by virtue of their appointment to their positions, the Baha'i administration performs collectively and through an elective process.

The statements made by the esteemed Prosecutor of the Revolution do not seem to have legal basis, because in order to circumscribe individuals and deprive them of the rights which have not been denied them by the Constitution, it is necessary to enact special legislation, provided that legislation is not contradictory to the Constitution. It was hoped that the past recent years would have witnessed, on the one hand, the administration of divine justice—a principle promoted by the true religion of Islam and prescribed by all monotheistic religions—and, on the other, and coupled with an impartial investigation of the truths of the Baha'i Faith, the abolition or at least mitigation of discrimination, restrictions and pressures suffered by Baha'is over the past 135 years. Alas, on the contrary, because of long-standing misunderstandings and prejudices, the difficulties increased immensely and the portals of calamity were thrown wide open in the faces of the long-suffering and sorely oppressed Baha'is of Iran who were, to an even greater degree, deprived of their birthrights through the systematic machinations of Government officials who are supposed to be the refuge of the public, and of some impostors in the garb of divines, who engaged in official or unofficial spreading of mischievous and harmful accusations and calumnies, and issued, in the name of religious and judicial authorities, unlawful decrees and verdicts.

Many are the pure and innocent lives that have been snuffed out; many the distinguished heads that have adorned the hangman's noose; and many the precious breasts that became the targets of firing squads. Vast amounts of money and great quantities of personal property have been plundered or confiscated. Many technical experts and learned people have been tortured and condemned to long-term imprisonment and are still languishing in dark dungeons deprived of the opportunity of placing their expertise at the service of the Government and the nation. Numerous are the self-sacrificing employees of the Government who spent their lives in faithful service but who were dismissed from work and afflicted with poverty and need because of hatred and prejudice. Even the owners of private firms and institutions were prevented from engaging Baha'is. Many privately-owned Baha'i establishments have been confiscated. Many tradesmen have been denied the right to continue working by cancellation of their business licenses. Baha'i youth have been denied access to education in many schools and in all universities and institutions of higher education. Baha'i university students abroad are deprived of receiving money for their education, and others who wish to pursue their studies outside Iran have been denied exit permits. Baha'is, including the very sick whose only hope for cure was to receive medical treatment in specialized medical centers in foreign lands, have been prevented from leaving the country. Baha'i cemeteries have been confiscated and bodies rudely disinterred. Numerous have been the

days when a body has remained unburied while the bereaved family pleaded to have a permit issued and a burial place assigned so that the body might be decently buried. As of today, thousands of Baha'is have been divested of their homes and forced to live as exiles. Many have been driven from their villages and dwelling places and are living as wanderers and stranded refugees in other parts of Iran with no other haven and refuge but the Court of the All-Merciful God and the loving-kindness of their friends and relatives.

It is a pity that the mass media, newspapers and magazines, either do not want or are not allowed to publish any news about the Baha'i community of Iran or to elaborate upon what is happening. If they were free to do so and were unbiased in reporting the daily news, volumes would have been compiled describing the inhumane cruelty to and oppression of the innocent. For example, if they were allowed to do so, they would have written that in Shiraz seven courageous men and ten valiant women—seven of whom were girls in the prime of their lives—audaciously rejected the suggestion of the religious judge that they recant their faith, at least, dissemble their belief, and preferred death to the concealment of their faith. The women, after hours of waiting with dried lips, shrouded themselves in their chadurs, kissed the noose of their gallows, and with intense love offered up their souls for the One Who preferreth life. The observers of this cruel scene might well ask forgiveness for the murderers at Karbala, since they, despite their countless atrocities, did not put women to the sword nor harass the sick and infirm. Alas, tongues are prevented from making utterance and pens are broken and the hidden cause of these brutalities is not made manifest to teach the world a lesson. The Prosecutor alleges that they were spies. Gracious God! Where in history can one point to a spy who readily surrendered his life in order to prove the truth of his belief?

Unfortunately it is beyond the scope of this letter to recount the atrocities inflicted upon the guiltless Baha'is of Iran or to answer, one by one, the accusations levelled against them. But let us ask all just and fair-minded people only one question: If, according to the much-publicized statements of the Prosecutor, Baha'is are not arrested and executed because of their belief, and are not even imprisoned on that account, how is it that, when a group of them is arrested and each is charged with the same "crime" of "spying", if one of them recants his belief, he is immediately freed, a photograph of him and a description of his defection are victoriously featured in the newspapers, and respect and glory are heaped upon him? What kind of spying, subversion, illegal accumulation of goods, aggression or conspiracy or other "crime" can it be that is capable of being blotted out upon the recantation of one's beliefs? Is this not a clear proof of the absurdity of the accusations?

In spite of all this, the Baha'i community of Iran, whose principles have been described earlier in this statement, announces the suspension of the Baha'i organizations throughout Iran, in order to establish its good intentions and in conformity with its basic tenets concerning complete obedience to the instructions of the Government. Henceforth, until the time when, God willing, the misunderstandings are eliminated and the realities are at last made manifest to the authorities the National Assembly and all local spiritual assemblies and their committees are disbanded, and no one may any longer be designated a member of the Baha'i Administration.

The Baha'i community of Iran hopes that this step will be considered a sign of its complete obedience to the Government in power. It further hopes that the authorities—including the esteemed Prosecutor of the Islamic Revolution who says that there is no opposition to and no enmity towards individual Baha'is, who has acknowledged the existence of a large Baha'i community and has, in his interview, guaranteed its members the right to live and be free in their acts of worship—will reciprocate by proving their good intentions and the truth of their assurances by issuing orders that pledge, henceforth:

1. To bring to an end the persecutions, arrests, torture and imprisonment of Baha'is for imaginary crimes and on baseless pretexts, because God knows—and so do the authorities—that the only "crime" of which these innocent ones are guilty is that of their beliefs, and not the unsubstantiated accusations brought against them;
2. To guarantee the safety of their lives, their personal property and belongings, and their honor;
3. To accord them freedom to choose their residence and occupation and the right of association based on the provisions of the Constitution of the Islamic Republic;
4. To restore all the rights which have been taken away from them in accordance with the groundless assertions of the Prosecutor of the Country;
5. To restore to Baha'i employees the rights denied them by returning them to their jobs and by paying them their due wages;
6. To release from prison all innocent prisoners;
7. To lift the restrictions imposed on the properties of those Baha'is who, in their own country, have been deprived of their belongings;
8. To permit Baha'i students who wish to continue their studies abroad to benefit from the same facilities that are provided to others;
9. To permit those Baha'i youth who have been prevented from continuing their studies in the country to resume their education;
10. To permit those Baha'i students stranded abroad who have been deprived of foreign exchange facilities to receive their allowances as other Iranian students do;
11. To restore Baha'i cemeteries and to permit Baha'is to bury their dead in accordance with Baha'i burial ceremonies;
12. To guarantee the freedom of Baha'is to perform their religious rites; to conduct funerals and burials including the recitation of the Prayer for the Dead; to solemnize Baha'i marriages and divorces, and to carry out all acts of worship and laws and ordinances affecting personal status; because although Baha'is are entirely obedient and subordinate to the Government in the administration of the affairs which are in the jurisdiction of Baha'i organizations, in matters of conscience and belief, and in accordance with their spiritual principles, they prefer martyrdom to recantation or the abandoning of the divine ordinances prescribed by their faith;
13. To desist henceforth from arresting and imprisoning anyone because of his previous membership in Baha'i organizations.

Finally, although the order issued by the Prosecutor of the Islamic Revolution was unjust and unfair, we have accepted it. We beseech God to remove the dross of prejudice from the hearts of the authorities so that aided and enlightened by His confirmations they will be inspired to recognize the true nature of the affairs of the Baha'i community and come to the unalterable conviction that the infliction of atrocities and cru-

elties upon a pious band of wronged ones, and the shedding of their pure blood, will stain the good name and injure the prestige of any nation or government, for what will, in truth, endure are the records of good deeds, and of acts of justice and fairness, and the names of the doers of good. These will history preserve in its bosom for posterity.

Respectfully,

NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY
OF THE BAHAI'S OF IRAN.

● Mrs. JOHNSON. Mr. Speaker, it is with great concern that I rise to speak today about the Iranian Government's continued persecution of the Baha'i community. Although the Baha'is have encountered persecution from the inception of their faith, the current wave of violence aimed at annihilation, overlaidens the attempts of the past in the scale and severity of the attacks on the Baha'i community. A 1982 report from the Minority Rights Council in London, written by Roger Cooper, states:

There is clear evidence that the authorities are condoning and in some cases initiating the terror and repression against Baha'is, involving physical violence, imprisonment, economic sanction and other pressures, that have already caused widespread suffering. The government, far from denying the allegations, instead defends its actions and inactions, in a variety of other ways. In the similar circumstances of different cases and particularly the annihilation of the community's leadership, make what is happening look increasing like a coordinated plan. Even if it is not, the result is the same: a green light for fanatics to practice pogroms and harassment, which are placing immense pressure on Baha'is to recant their faith and convert to Islam.

The attempts by the Iranian Government to justify these horrible acts by claiming the Baha'is are enemies of the people, tools of whatever superpower is in disfavor at the moment, would be laughable for their transparency were it not for the tragedy they obscure.

Mr. Speaker, I hope that the dedicated attempts of individual citizens, human rights groups, and other organizations both public and private, to bring this issue to the forefront will encourage our Government to take an active role in making an appeal to the Iranian Government to cease in its efforts to destroy this religious minority, who wish nothing more than to practice their own faith. As an elected representative for a country founded on the belief that all people should be free to practice the religion of their choice, I feel an obligation to speak out against such outrageous persecution, for in the end, it is the silence of the knowledgeable that is the most condemning. ●

● Mr. FISH. Mr. Speaker, last September this Congress passed a concurrent resolution condemning the persecution of the Baha'i community in Iran. The situation has not improved. Therefore, I come before this Chamber to once again express my alarm and dismay over this continuing repression.

The Baha'is pose no threat to Ayatollah Khomeini, Government officials, or the Iranian Government. In fact, inherent to their religion is the tenet that they should in no way subvert the laws of the country in which they are living. They are a peaceful people who wish only to be left to themselves and be allowed to work toward the fundamentals of their faith: The unity of mankind, equality of race and sex, world peace, and world order. Yet, the current Islamic regime has recently begun a new wave of anti-Baha'i terror. Many innocent people have been executed, including 10 women, 3 of whom were teenage girls. In addition to torture and daily harassment, thousands have lost their jobs and their pensions, and many have left Iran, becoming homeless refugees.

Mr. Speaker, such atrocities will continue against the Baha'is in the weeks and months to come. However, their suffering can be alleviated if public opinion and this Congress expresses its indignation in the strongest terms possible. I urge my colleagues to join me in condemning the Ayatollah Khomeini and the Iranian leadership. A ruthless reign of terror must not, and cannot, be ignored.

● Mr. GEJDENSON. Mr. Speaker, it is with regret that I find it necessary today to join with my colleagues in cosponsoring legislation which firmly denounces the Iranian Government's adoption of laws that threaten the Baha'i religious community. It is unfortunate that Congress must once again address this problem, but I am pleased by our fervor in pursuing the matter.

The Baha'is make up the largest religious minority in Iran and are the only religion that is not recognized by the constitution of the Islamic revolution. Baha'is are therefore precluded from any protection under the law, including civil rights and basic human liberties. Baha'is in Iran now cannot work in government, own property, vote or travel freely. Their weddings go unrecognized, and if they live together, they can be accused of indulging in prostitution, a capital offense in Iran. Baha'i children are considered illegitimate and are barred from attending school.

On August 29, Iran's attorney general banned as criminal acts all Baha'i teaching and organized religious activities including election of local and national leaders, meeting in assemblies, and "giving information to others."

Like the Nuremberg laws, the new edict establishes "legal" grounds for mass arrests and genocide. Unfortunately, that is exactly what we have seen. In the last 3 years over 150 Baha'is, virtually all of them belonging to the leadership, have been executed on various trumped up charges. The latest executions occurred on June 16 and 18 in Shiraz, where 6 men and 10 women, including 2 teenage girls, were hanged.

The time has come for the Iranian Government to end this senseless persecution. We, as Members of Congress, must do our part to try to persuade the Khomeini regime to alter its ways. As bad as the situation in Iran is today, we have reason to believe that constant world attention is the only thing that has prevented even greater atrocities. Therefore, I once again ask your support for this timely and important resolution.

● Mr. LEACH of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join with my distinguished colleagues, Mr. PORTER, Mr. YATRON, and Mr. LANTOS, in introducing a resolution which once again calls national and international attention to the continued brutal persecution of the Baha'i religious community in Iran.

During the past year since Congress first adopted a resolution, Senate Congressional Resolution 73 condemning the Iranian persecution of the Baha'is, the executions, arrests, and imprisonments of innocent men and women have continued unabated. The hanging of several teenage Baha'i women this past summer for their courageous refusal to recant their faith added a new dimension to the horrors which have been heaped upon this peaceful religious community. Appeals for mercy from President Reagan and others in the international community have fallen on deaf ears. The death toll, which now exceeds 150, has continued to rise while others—perhaps some 200—languish in Iranian prisons. The property of other Baha'is has been confiscated, some have lost their jobs, cemeteries have been desecrated, and thousands have been forced to live as exiles, after losing their homes or being driven from their villages.

And, as if this ongoing tragedy were not already too much to bear, this campaign of persecution took a new and particularly ominous turn on August 29 when the Prosecutor General of Iran issued an edict which brands Baha'i membership as a crime and bans Baha'i religious and spiritual administration, thus effectively prohibiting such activities as religious teaching, and assemblies.

Iranian authorities, it seems safe to say, are hell-bent on destroying the Baha'i community and must be put on notice that such actions are in defiance of international law and human decency and are crimes for which they will bear full responsibility. Not only does international law explicitly protect the right to life, but provisions in the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, to which Iran is a party, specifically protect the right to freedom of religion as well as the right for religious minorities to profess and practice their religion in community with other members of their group. The actions of the Iranian Government demonstrate no respect for these or other provisions of international law.

In "An Open Letter," recently sent by the Baha'i community in Iran to some 2,000 Iranian Government officials and prominent personages, a moving account of the atrocities which these people have suffered is laid out and false accusations against the Baha'is for "spying" are effectively refuted. That letter closes with a bold challenge to the Iranian Government in which the Baha'i community announced the "suspension of the Baha'i organizations throughout Iran, in order to establish its good intentions and in conformity with its basic tenets concerning complete obedience to the instructions of the Government." With their announcement, they issue a challenge to the government to reciprocate by bringing the executions, torture, and imprisonment to an end and permitting them to once again practice their religion. The letter closes with this poignant passage:

... Although the order issued by the Prosecutor of the Islamic Revolution was unjust and unfair, we have accepted it. We beseech God to remove the dross of prejudice from the hearts of the authorities so that aided and enlightened by His confirmations they will be inspired to recognize the true nature of the affairs of the Baha'i community and come to the unalterable conviction that the infliction of atrocities and cruelties upon a pious band of wronged ones, and the shedding of their pure blood, will strain the good name and injure the prestige of any nation or government, for what will, in truth, endure are the records of good deeds, and of acts of justice and fairness, and the names of the doers of good.

Mr. Speaker, one stands in awe at the courage of these innocent people who dare to so confront their persecutors. Such faith, in the ultimate triumph of good and truth, is an inspiration to all who stand outside as witnesses to their suffering. In the civilized world of the 20th century, such shameless barbarism as that in which the Iranian Government is engaged defies comprehension. The United States and other law abiding nations of the international community must demand, in stronger terms than ever, that the shedding of innocent blood in Iran cease.

● Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, I urge every Member of the House to cosponsor the resolution introduced today which condemns the Iranian Government's continuing persecution of the Baha'is.

Immediately after the 1979 Islamic revolution in Iran, the new government began a systematic campaign of persecution against the members of the Baha'i faith. At least 150 Baha'is, including most of the religious leaders, have been murdered and hundreds more have been imprisoned. Free societies throughout the world have denounced Iran's barbarous treatment of the Baha'is, but we fear that the magnitude of the crimes against them will continue to intensify.

Unlike the other minority religious in Iran, the Baha'is have no constitutional protections. Therefore, they can

viduals. I am very pleased that this fundraiser is taking place and thank the Haglers for their energy and devotion to this project. ●

BAHA'ANS' TRAGEDY

SPEECH OF

HON. BALTASAR CORRADA

OF PUERTO RICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 15, 1983

● Mr. CORRADA. Mr. Speaker, I wish to join my colleagues in addressing a tragic issue taking place in Iran today, the persecution of those seeking to practice the Baha'i faith.

As a religious minority in a predominantly Islamic country, the Baha'is have suffered for many years from persecution and harassment. However, since the revolution that installed the Ayatollah Khomeini in power in 1979, the Baha'is have been singled out for persecution. The most recent instance took place on August 29, 1983, when the equivalent of our Attorney General issued new laws in Iran against the 300,000 Baha'is. It is now a crime for Baha'is to meet publicly to practice their faith or to attempt to teach or invite others to join in their religion.

The future of the ability of these people to practice their religion in peace is in imminent danger. As of July 1983, a total of 142 Baha'is have been executed in Iran since the start of the Islamic revolution, and countless others are still missing.

I am pleased to have joined with many of my colleagues that are members of the Congressional Human Rights Caucus in introducing a resolution condemning the continued persecution of the Baha'is by the Government of Iran.

It is incumbent upon us, as a country which holds inviolable the basic human right of freedom of religion, to let our outrage and concern be known to those who seek to trample on the rights of others. I urge the Government of Iran to desist in its harassment of its citizens, particularly the 300,000 Baha'is. ●

INDIAN POINT NUCLEAR POWER PLANT

HON. RICHARD L. OTTINGER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 16, 1983

● Mr. OTTINGER. Mr. Speaker, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission is charged with the responsibility of regulating the commercial nuclear industry in order to protect the health and safety of the American people.

It is clear that the people in the vicinity of the Indian Point nuclear powerplant do not think that NRC is discharging this responsibility.

The following letter appeared on October 26, 1983, in the North County

News. I would like to commend it to my colleagues attention because I think it reflects the peoples skepticism toward the NRC of the people in the vicinity of Indian Point.

The letter follows:

(From the North County News, Oct. 26-Nov. 1, 1983)

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

TO THE EDITOR: Congratulations to the NRC for voting unanimously to let Indian Point stay open. Even token NRC dissident Gilinsky saw the light. NRC Commissioners come from the nuclear industry, and when tired of government service, hope to return there. Commissioner Gilinsky had the smarts to discard his anti-nuclear industry image, so he could once again return to that industry.

NRC says Indian Point is an acceptable risk. After all, Three Mile Island (30 minutes from meltdown) was only the third worst nuke disaster. The top secret meltdown in Kozley, USSR, destroyed that town in 1958. In 1966, the Fermi I nuclear plant fire almost caused the evacuation of Detroit.

Next time someone tells you "nobody's been killed by nuclear power," they've forgotten McKinley, Burns and Leg. These workers were killed in a 1961 nuclear steam accident in Idaho Falls.

Congratulations to the NRC for telling us we have a workable evacuation plan. A top New York City official has a brilliant plan to evacuate the city. Even numbered license plates would cross the bridges one day, then odd numbered plates the next day. Casualties would be minimized, because the evacuation would be completed in only two weeks. Koch complains because New York City residents run through red lights. But, under the threat of nuclear holocaust, citizens will suddenly become law abiding, and exit the city orderly, according to the official scenario.

Congratulations to the NRC for accepting Con Ed's word that an earthquake in this area couldn't happen for another 3,000 years. Last week's earthquake shook upstate areas down to Dutchess county. If it had reached Indian Point, you would now be living in an upstate school gymnasium until your property is decontaminated.

It's great to know we have a government agency that so scrupulously protects our interest.

JOE DUBOY,
Cultural Workers. ●

TO REMIND THE WORLD OF THE HOLOCAUST IN ORDER TO PREVENT ITS RECURRENCE

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 16, 1983

● Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, during the past several years the children of the survivors of the holocaust have become a powerful moral force in our society. They are providing the essential continuity for their parents' commemorative work of the past 38 years.

The leader of this growing movement is Menachem Rosensaft, a New York attorney who is the founder and chairman of the International Network of Children of Jewish Holocaust Survivors, as well as chairman of the

second generation advisory committee to the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Council.

Mr. Rosensaft, who was himself born in the displaced persons camp of Bergen-Belsen in 1948, has a most impressive and unique history. A graduate of the Columbia University Law School, he was the subject of a feature article in the October 1983 Columbia Law Alumni Observer.

I would like to commend this article to the attention of my colleagues:

MENACHEM Z. ROSENSAFT 1979: "TO REMIND THE WORLD OF THE HOLOCAUST IN ORDER TO PREVENT ITS RECURRENCE"

Each year, thousands of students enter law school with high hopes that they can combine their professional lives with special personal interests such as civil rights, public service, environmental protection, or commercial enterprise. Menachem Z. Rosensaft is a striking exception: he became a lawyer precisely in order to separate his personal and his professional interests.

He is now an associate in the litigation department of Kaye, Scholer, Fierman, Hays & Handler in New York. But in 1976, Mr. Rosensaft was well on his way to becoming a professional historian. Born in the Displaced Person camp of Bergen-Belsen to parents who had survived the concentration camps, Mr. Rosensaft was adjunct lecturer in the Department of Jewish Studies at the City College of the City University of New York, specializing in the history of the Holocaust and its consequences. Equipped with a master's degree in creative writing from Johns Hopkins University (where he had been Phi Beta Kappa as an undergraduate) and a master's degree in history from Columbia, he was selecting his dissertation topic when something about his undertaking brought him up short.

"I was teaching about the Holocaust, I was writing about the Holocaust, and it was becoming clear that virtually all of my work was becoming Holocaust-oriented. I knew that my dissertation would be on a topic involving anti-Semitism in Europe—probably the Holocaust. And I was becoming increasingly uneasy about it," he recalled in a recent interview. "Uneasy, because I did not want my livelihood, my career, to be linked with the Holocaust. It was becoming something of a moral issue for me. I could not see myself being paid to talk about my grandparents' death. I could not see having my career depend on whether I gave a lecture on my brother, who was murdered by the Nazis in Auschwitz, or my parents' suffering."

At the same time, Mr. Rosensaft had found himself dealing with legal issues from an historian's perspective. "That element led me to take an increasing interest in law," he said. "In addition, law had been a genuine career possibility from the time I was in high school and college. Finally, around 1975, I decided that I did want to be a lawyer. So I switched gears." In addition, he added, "I am aware of the very dire consequences when the legal system breaks down."

To Mr. Rosensaft, law is a bulwark against abuses of the type perpetrated in Nazi Germany. "There are two aspects of law," he says. "One is procedural, dealing with how papers are filed, going through an appeals process, and so forth. There are volumes and volumes of rules. Then there is the jurisprudential basis for the legal system. In essence, this deals with the difference between right and wrong. This is very simplistic, but, in the end, this is what it comes

Sec. 6. The Congress endorses the following moderate cost new programs in rough order of priority, as set forth by the Astronomy Survey Committee, which should receive total funding of up to approximately \$750,000,000 (in constant 1980 dollars) over the next ten years:

- (1) an augmentation to the NASA Explorer program;
- (2) a far-ultraviolet spectrograph in space;
- (3) a space VLB interferometry antenna in low-Earth orbit;
- (4) the construction of optical/infrared telescopes in the two-to-five meter class;
- (5) an Advanced Solar Observatory in space;
- (6) a series of cosmic-ray experiments in space; and
- (7) an astronomical Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence (SETI).

Sec. 7. The Congress endorses the following smaller cost new programs, the first of which is of highest priority, as set forth by the Astronomy Survey Committee, which should receive total funding of up to approximately \$20,000,000 (in constant 1980 dollars) over the next ten years:

- (1) a ground-based antenna of approximately ten-meter diameter for submillimeter-wave observations;
- (2) a spatial interferometer for the mid-infrared region of the spectrum;
- (3) a program of high-precision optical astrometry; and
- (4) a temporary program to maintain scientific expertise at United States universities during the 1980s through a series of competitive awards to young astronomers.

Sec. 8. The Congress endorses the Astronomy Survey Committee's recommendation to begin study and development of programs that appear to have exceptional promise for the 1990's and beyond. Such programs could include the following:

- (1) future x-ray observatories in space;
- (2) instruments for the detection of gravitational waves from astronomical objects;
- (3) long-duration spaceflights of infrared telescopes cooled to cryogenic temperatures;
- (4) a very large telescope in space for optical, ultraviolet, and near-infrared observations;
- (5) a program of advanced interferometry in the radio, infrared, and optical spectral regions;
- (6) advanced gamma-ray experiments; and
- (7) astronomical observatories on the Moon.●

THAT OTHERS MIGHT BE FREE

HON. BEN ERDREICH

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 16, 1983

● Mr. ERDREICH. Mr. Speaker, several weeks ago I had the difficult task of extending my condolences to Mrs. Doris Collins, mother of Navy Hospital Corpsman Jimmy Ray Cain. Corpsman Cain, a 20-year-old resident of Gardendale, Ala., was among the U.S. servicemen killed in the terrorist bombing of the Marine compound in Beirut.

The loss of a young man's life is tragic, and when a hometown resident loses his or her life in the line of duty, such a tragedy is brought on a personal level for all community residents, as well as family and friends.

All told, eight young men from Alabama gave their lives to protect U.S. interests during the Beirut bombing and the invasion of Grenada.

While I know there are no words of comfort that I can offer the family and friends of these courageous young men, it is important that they know that the thoughts and prayers of the citizens of Alabama and the Nation are with them.

Following is the text of an editorial that appeared in the Birmingham News in tribute to these young men who gave their lives so "That Others Might Be Free."

THAT OTHERS MIGHT BE FREE

Words are entirely inadequate to express the sadness we feel for the ultimate sacrifice eight Alabamians made in answering our country's call to arms.

Seven of the eight were killed in the murderous bombing of Marine headquarters in Beirut. One died in the invasion of Grenada. All deserve our deepest gratitude for their willingness to put their lives on the line in this country's effort to achieve peace in the Middle East and to prevent the people of Grenada, and ultimately perhaps the people of a large part of the Caribbean, from being enslaved by a communist dictatorship.

The eight with Alabama connections, either born here or with their homes here, acted in the best traditions of the state. Alabamians have always answered the call to arms with alacrity, not because they are attracted by danger and conflict, but because they put a high value on the freedom bequeathed by our ancestors and on loyalty to the nation.

Like our sons whom we now mourn, Alabamians, have traditionally held personal courage and national honor in the highest regard. Over the two centuries of our country's existence, they have given sacrificially in every conflict the nation has faced.

While we may look philosophically upon the deaths of those who died for us in earlier conflicts, it is hard to do so in the present. Our sorrow is made tolerable only by the shining example which these dead have presented us.

So for those who have feelings akin to ours we offer again the names of the fallen that we may breathe a prayer for them and their families.

Naval Hospital Corpsman Jimmy Ray Cain, Gardendale.

Marine Lance Cpl. James Christopher Price, Attalla.

Navy Lt. John R. Hudson, native of Montgomery.

Marine Lance Cpl. Ferrandy Henderson, Wetumpka.

Marine Cpl. Leonard Walker, Dothan.

Marine Maj. William Ellis Winter, Athens.

Marine Lance Cpl. William Stelpflug, Auburn.

Army Sgt. Gary Epps, Douglas.

May they rest in peace, and may they have an honored place in the hearts of us all.●

SAVE THE BAHAI'S IN IRAN

SPEECH OF

HON. JERRY M. PATTERSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 15, 1983

● Mr. PATTERSON. Mr. Speaker, I join my colleagues today as we expose the Government of Iran in its flagrant violation of internationally recognized human rights. I want to commend the gentleman from California (Mr.

LANTOS) and my other colleagues who arranged for the special order this afternoon for again drawing our attention to this important matter.

There are between 300,000 and 400,000 members of the Baha'i faith in Iran today, making it the country's largest minority. The Baha'is have been targets of Shiite hatred ever since the Baha'i faith was founded in the mid-19th century. The current Iranian regime has lost no time in renewing persecution of the members of the Baha'i community. The Government of Iran has killed more than 150 Baha'is in the last 3 years and there is no indication that the executions will stop before all Iranian followers of Baha'i are wiped out.

Mr. Speaker, we protest this practice of government by hatred. We are angered and dismayed at the systematic oppression of these peace-loving people. It seems hard to believe in this modern world that innocent men, women, and children are still being killed solely for their religious beliefs. Yet that is what is happening.

Since the first pilgrims stepped ashore in America, our country has been a refuge for the victims of religious persecution. Today, we continue that tradition by providing homes for thousands of members of the Baha'i faith, many of them in my district in California.

But the problem will not be solved simply by harboring those forced to flee. Until the Shiite regime in Iran is swayed by public outcry the world over, they will continue to deny their countrymen the most basic of human rights. I will continue to lend my voice and efforts to the fight against religious persecution in Iran, and against the violation of human rights the world over and I again commend my colleagues for joining this battle.●

TO LOSE A SON IN LEBANON

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 16, 1983

● Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, it is all very well for politicians—safe here in this House—to debate whether more young Americans should be killed in the Lebanese quagmire for who-knows-what purpose. But recently a friend from Alabama sent me a letter to the editor from the Opelika-Auburn News that makes the talk here seem almost irrelevant.

This letter, from a retired Air Force lieutenant colonel who just lost his son in the Beirut terror bombing, makes the case for a rational American policy in Lebanon far more eloquently than I could. This man, who served his country in Vietnam and now has given a son in Lebanon, deserves our respect and our attention.



UNITED STATES MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

799 UNITED NATIONS PLAZA
NEW YORK, N. Y. 10017

PRESS RELEASE

(Excerpts of speech)

References to Baha'is

Pages 7-9

FOR RELEASE ON DELIVERY
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Press Release USUN 156-(83)
November 23, 1983

Statement by The Honorable Constantine N. Dombalis, Alternate United States Representative to the 38th Session of the United Nations General Assembly, in the Third Committee, on Religious Intolerance, November 23, 1983

Mr. Chairman, the adoption by the 36th General Assembly of the Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Intolerance and of Discrimination Based on Religion or Belief, was the culmination of twenty years of effort, discussion and negotiation. Many who participated in that process are here with us today. We should recognize and applaud their efforts, and their understanding that religious freedom is a fundamental building block for peace, just as we share their conviction that both believers and non-believers should stand equal before the law and have rights which are an inseparable part of the total fabric of international law, and universally recognized human rights and fundamental freedoms.

In setting standards of conduct for States, article Six of the Declaration enumerated nine specific protections:

1. Freedom to worship and to establish and maintain places of worship.
2. Freedom to establish religiously based charitable and humanitarian institutions such as schools and hospitals.
3. Freedom to produce, acquire and use written materials such as sacred scriptures for the practice of religious belief.
4. Freedom to publish religious materials such as bibles and copies of the Koran, and to disseminate them within society.
5. Freedom to teach a religion.
6. Freedom of religious groups to ask for and receive voluntary financial and other contributions to support their faith and practice.

Soviet Jews and their co-religionists elsewhere, in violation of Article Six, Section i of our Declaration; enforced cultural assimilation and persecution of those who seek to preserve a Jewish cultural heritage, which also is a violation of the Universal Declaration; and a campaign of the most virulent, poisonous anti-Semitic slander seen in the Soviet Union since the so-called "Doctors' Plot" during the waning days of Stalin's dictatorship.

The central feature of this aspect of Soviet policy was the creation last April of an "Anti-Zionist Committee", headed by David Dragunsky, a retired general living on a pension, and a Soviet Jew who has been used in the past to lend a kind of spurious respectability to official anti-Semitism. For example, on September 5, 1979 Pravda published a review by Dragunsky of a novel called, the Raised Curtain, the central theme of which was an international conspiracy of Romanian fascists, German Nazis and American Jews to establish the State of Israel. I trust you will not be surprised to learn that the author of this scurrilous work of literature, Yuri Kolesnikov, is also a member of the anti-Zionist committee.

By the way, no one should make the mistake of accepting the Soviet contention that while their policy may be anti-Zionist, it is not anti-Jewish. In fact, the government makes no such distinction. A quote should suffice to establish this. From Invasion Without Arms, by Vladimir Begun, published in Moscow in 1977 and re-published in 1980 in an edition of 200,000 copies:

"The Torah (that is, the Hebrew scripture) proves to be a textbook unsurpassed in bloodthirstiness, hypocrisy, treachery, perfidy and degradation -- all the base human qualities."

The most pathetic and shameful of these efforts is the work of one Lev Korneyev, in a book published in 1982 called The Class Essence of Zionism, which was given glowing reviews in both Izvestiya and Sovietskaya Kultura. In years past, Korneyev was the author of gems with titles like "Adolf Hitler -- Founder of Israel", the name he gives the first chapter of his 1978 book, Enemies of Peace and Progress. But in the Class Essence of Zionism, he manages to outdo all his previous writings by declaring it is questionable whether the Holocaust really took place at all. He thinks it really was only Jewish propaganda. There are not enough dead for Korneyev.

Mr. Chairman, I have spoken at great length and yet yet have barely scratched the surface of what is, unfortunately, a very large topic. I have not even mentioned the names of those Soviet Jews persecuted because of their religion, or for teaching Hebrew, or for celebrating Jewish festivals, or for asking to emigrate to Israel. Names such as Iosif Begun, Viktor Brailovsky, Kim Fridmann, Vladimir Slepak, and of course, Anatoly Shcharansky. But Mr. Chairman, before I conclude, there is one other case of injustice and religious persecution so appalling that it must never passed over in silence. I refer to the Baha'is in Iran.

asked that the government end the arrest, torture and imprisonment of the Baha'is, guarantee the safety of their lives and property, allow them to bury their dead in accordance with their own customs, allow Baha'i marriages to be registered, and in short treat them as other citizens of the Islamic Republic of Iran are treated.

The answer was not long in coming. On September 19, a Baha'i farmer was lynched in the northwestern town of Khoy, and in the closing days of October a massive roundup of Baha'is was begun in Tehran and other cities. More than 140 have been arrested so far. The verified total of cases of Baha'is being held in Iranian prisons now exceeds 450. It was not enough that the Baha'is of Iran were willing to end their organized communal life, and dissolve all their local and national assemblies. The campaign to destroy them utterly continues.

I wish, Mr. Chairman, I could end this speech on some positive note. I wish it were possible for us here to congratulate ourselves and to feel reassured that the evil of religious persecution is being eradicated. Alas, that is not the case. Our hopes remain unfulfilled, and therefore our work of pointing out these examples of cruelty and injustice must continue.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.

* * * * *

And Here Is One More Reason To Give Thanks

Thanksgiving week is always relatively quiet in Washington, and this year the hush has been deeper than usual. What was billed as the big excitement, ABC's "The Day After," turned out to be an inconsequential bore. The week's most vivid event was the memorial on the 20th anniversary of John F. Kennedy's death—"the last funeral," Sen. Daniel P. Moynihan said after attending the ceremony. The long years of mourning were finally over.

At our house we were planning for Thanksgiving dinner. Ann Rebecca Garment, aged almost 2, would be sitting at her first holiday table doing disgusting things to her mashed potatoes. We would keep the audience small.

But the holiday time has been somewhat less peaceful for any journalist who has recently crossed the path of one Prof. Firuz Kazemzadeh, leader of the Baha'i religious faith in the U.S. Mr. Kazemzadeh recently paid a visit to Washington to talk to public officials and the press. He is an educated and civilized man. He was born in Moscow in the Persian Embassy to a family that had been Baha'i for five generations. He told how he was taken to visit Berlin by his mother in the 1930s, saw a sign in a public place that proclaimed Jews unwelcome and felt a distinct chill, so foreign was the idea of religious intolerance to a child raised in a Baha'i home. Now he was in the nation's capital to get us to pay attention to the fact that his Baha'i coreligionists were being persecuted in Iran.

At first glance his case did not look thrilling. The American Baha'is had hired

Capital Chronicle

by Suzanne Garment

a big public-relations firm to handle their campaign, a circumstance that does not exactly make a religious sect seem like a bunch of powerless underdogs. Moreover, the Baha'i faith preaches tenets like the unity of all religions, the equality of all peoples and the harmony of religion and science. People should not be surprised, the cynical thought intruded itself, when such beliefs get them into trouble.

Besides—an even more blase reaction—intergroup war in the modern world is about as uncommon as the rain falling downward and about as exciting a story. But it turns out that even by the standards of modern barbarism this particular persecution shoots right off the scale.

There are now some 300,000 Baha'is in Iran, and since the founding of their sect in the mid-19th century they have never exactly had it very good there. In their first large-scale persecution at the hands of their Moslem neighbors some 20,000 souls were killed, and the story has rolled cheerily on from there.

Since 1979 the Khomeini regime has paid the Baha'is the solicitous attention due religious heretics. Some of the government's actions have become known through Baha'is in other countries; other parts of the story are told by official government documents themselves. In 1980 the entire Baha'i leadership was arrested and accused of political crimes ranging from plotting a coup to serving as agents of Zionism. These charges notwithstanding, the Baha'i leaders were offered freedom if they would recant their religion. They refused and were executed.

Since then the regime has proceeded systematically against the Baha'is. It has confiscated or destroyed their property, put Baha'is out of jobs and businesses and incited mobs to attack Baha'is to force religious recantation. It has murdered the generation of Baha'i leadership that followed the first execution of officials.

Much of this is the standard stuff of intolerance. But the Iranians have by nature and by calculation turned to particularly ingenious and disgusting tactics to demoralize the Baha'is.

The authorities have used physical torture, of course. They have kept the whereabouts of detainees secret from relatives. They have incarcerated children and even infants. They have burned the bodies of murdered Baha'is. Others have been held in an open field for days without food or water to force recantation.

Sorry, but there is more. One man was stoned to death, another intentionally run over and killed with a motorcycle. In one attempt at conversion, a widow had her children taken from her. Baha'i children have been expelled from school and told they can easily get back in if they switch faiths. In late developments, Iranian newspapers have now begun carrying advertisements announcing the sale of the tombstones that currently mark graves in Tehran's Baha'i cemetery. A Baha'i woman was executed just after giving birth and her infant spirited away.

In what seems an anticlimax, the Iranian government recently ordered the Baha'is to disband all their organized religious activities. In the interests of law-abidingness the Baha'is did so. It now appears that this act of obedience to civil authority has not stopped the bloodletting at all.

What kind of recourse does this leave the Baha'is? Well, there is the U.S. government, protector of religious liberties. Our president has protested. We have had a resolution introduced in Congress. The Americans have just spoken on the matter in the United Nations. Needless to say, none of this is likely to make Iran see the light of religious tolerance.

So the Baha'is are left with only the tool of publicity. This is not nothing, Prof. Kazemzadeh explained: Even the defiant mullahs, immune to the power of most international sanctions, do hear what the world says about them and are just sensitive enough to be somewhat bothered when they are called barbarians. Therefore, what we must do is simply to scream bloody murder.

Here in America we have a certain history of our own on the subject of intolerance. We have fought this demon so well that we sometimes forget its terrors altogether, and grow nostalgic for the time when people could be consoled by true religious passions. Well, this is a good week to remember those terrors, and give thanks for their absence, and remind ourselves to raise the roof whenever we catch sight of the hair of the monster's ancient head.

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL, FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 1983

REVIEW & OUTLOOK

Chicago Tribune

FOUNDED June 10, 1847

Perspective

A forum—ideas, analysis, opinion

Chicago Tribune, Wednesday, November 23, 1983

Section 1 15

Persecution of the Baha'is in Iran

"Americans simply do not understand religious persecution."

But Dr. Firuz Kazemzadeh does. He is an Iranian native, a fifth-generation Baha'i and on leave from Yale University, where he is professor of history and chairman of Middle Eastern studies, to serve on the nine-member National Spiritual Assembly of the Baha'i Faith in Wilmette.

As Americans prepare for Thanksgiving, a holiday celebrating gratefulness for the freedom of choice in religion, the Baha'is in Iran are being denied more than just their right to worship. This country was founded as a haven to practice religion according to one's wishes, notwithstanding its own early persecutions in the Salem, Mass., witch trials and persisting denominational rivalries. Yet the right to worship freely was deemed so essential it is written into the Constitution.

The Baha'is historically have had sporadic problems in Iran. But since the Islamic Revolution that brought Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini to power in 1979 an estimated 150 Baha'is have been executed, 450 have been jailed and nearly 20 have disappeared and are presumed dead. There are 300,000 in the Baha'i community, most of whom are indigenous Iranians. Last summer 17 Baha'is, including three teenage girls, were hanged despite a plea from the White House. The atrocities that are known are revolting; what is unknown is surely worse. One dispatch received just recently told of a pregnant Baha'i who was allowed to carry her child to term, then killed; the child has been abducted.

There are daily reports of the confiscation of the property, livestock, bank accounts, farms and businesses of Baha'is; the expulsion of their children from schools; torture to make them recant their beliefs; and the desecration of their shrines. Their passports have been revoked, so they cannot leave, and those followers outside the country are being refused travel anywhere but to return to Iran, despite the consequences they face.

In August, all Baha'i religious activity was banned as a "criminal act."

The Iranian government does not recognize the legitimacy of Baha'i marriages, leaving women open to arrest on invented charges of prostitution. Baha'is, among the most literate of Iran's population, have been fired from jobs and refused their government pensions. Baha'is have even been denied the right to bury their dead in accordance with the tenets of their faith.

The Iranian government has repudiated all such reports, yet it also has denied the United Nations Human Rights Commission, Amnesty International and other concerned groups entry to the country to

Leanita McClain

confirm or refute the official side of the story. In a report to the UN about the alleged atrocities, the Iranian mission implicated the Baha'is in the espionage activities of SAVAK, the Iranian secret police, on behalf of the late shah. Baha'is protest that the allegations are groundless because one of their doctrines is apoliticism.

The report concluded: "The representatives of the Islamic Republic of Iran have so often explained these undeniable facts in Human Rights forums, but despite all these sincere efforts, the propagation and repetition of malicious lies and groundless accusations about the maltreatment of the followers of other religions or doctrines have been continued by some anti-Islamic entities."

But Iran's hand-washing has not convinced the governments of the U.S., Canada, Luxembourg, Great Britain, Australia, West Germany and Fiji, all of which have protested not just the treatment of Baha'is but the secrecy by the Islamic government.

Last week in the U.S. Senate John Heinz (R., Pa.), backed by 20 cosponsors, and Rep. John Porter (R., Ill.) in the House introduced a resolution urging the President to work with other world leaders to pressure the Iranian government. This is not the first of efforts to shame the Iranians. Former U.S. Rep. Ed Derwinski was a vocal defender of the Baha'is in Congress before he moved to the State Department.

Along with the resolution Heinz released an open letter composed by the nine governing members of the National Spiritual Assembly of the Baha'is in Tehran, at threat of their lives, which was delivered to 2,000 Iranian government officials. In a grand understatement the letter said the Baha'is found the "conduct of the authorities and the judges bewildering and lamentable." It asked the restoration of their rights and dignities.

The plight of the Baha'is is made all the more ironic because ancient Iran—Persia—is the birthplace of this 140-year-old faith, which has as its chief tenet the oneness of all peoples.

The fate of the faithful adrift in Iran and at its mercy is indefinite. But a Baha'i spokesman said that if international pressure were not working the Iranian government would have slaughtered more Baha'is long ago. The best hope is that continued condemnation can convert the Islamic government and culture to recognize that diversity and oneness can co-exist.

IRAN: Now They Hang Women

By RAY SAIDEL

DESPITE THIS century's amazing and accelerating technological prowess, socially most of the world slides backward, adopting or surrendering to socio-political systems as bad as the worst in history.

Our ships probe the solar system and beyond but who can fathom the souls of the dour bureaucrats who presided at September's Soviet shoot-



down press conference, or those of the grim mullahs of the Islamic Republic of Iran who hang women and teenage girls for religious reasons. I admit prejudice; I distrust humorless people; selfrighteous commissars and clerics put my hair on end.

The Korean 007 plane atrocity brought into focus, for a time at least, the ruthless, implacable character of our Soviet enemy. Unfortunately (though amply demonstrated by a long, well publicized episode involving the seizing of our diplomats) the ruthless, implacable character of resurgent Islam still does not register. Eventually it will. And there is ample tragic reason to fear that to be burnt as fuel for this flame of enlightenment will be the Baha'is of Iran.

True to recent Western democratic tradition their predicament has to date aroused little interest. After all — they control no oil; they are not revolutionaries; they have no multi-national corporate ties. Why should the West be (now) more than "deeply concerned?" Later, we'll cry at their graves. For this there is precedent.

NO COMMUNITY under Islam could be less deserving of persecution than the essentially non-political Baha'is. Their religion (unlike Islam) is a peace-loving one. It requires the faithful to abstain from partisan politics, forbids subversive activity, endorses total loyalty and obedience to civil authority. Yet, the 300,000 Iranian Baha'is community faces imminent destruction. It has been told "Before it is too late, the Baha'is should recant Bahaiism. . . . Otherwise, the day will soon come when the Islamic nation will deal with the Baha'is in accordance with its religious obligations, as it has dealt with other hypocrites who have appeared in more dangerous garb and have religious and satanic gatherings." This statement is to be taken seriously.

Consider the actions of its originator: Hojjatol-Islam Qazai is Religious Judge and President of the Revolutionary Court of Shiraz. It was his court which recently sentenced 22 Baha'is to death; in reference to which he said: ". . . I must say that by the grace of Almighty God, the Muslim nation of Iran, which follows the policies of the Sacred Household (the Inamate) will, God willing, fulfill the prayer of Noah (mentioned in the Koran): 'And Noah said, Lord, leave not a single family of Infidels on the Earth.' " He doesn't intend to.

AMONG THOSE hanged June 18th (1983) in Shiraz: Miss Mahshid Nirumand, age 18, a college chemistry major. She served on the Baha'i youth committee, the Shiraz Baha'i teaching committee, the Baha'i campus club. And there is Miss Simin Sabiri, early 20s, a victim of persecution long be-

fore her hanging on June 18. Her family of 11 was forced twice to move from one town to another. In the fall of 1979, the Sabiri home in Marvdasht was destroyed by a fire set by a mob. The Sabiris moved to Bahman. Their home there was looted and set afire. Forced from town, the family settled in Shiraz where Miss Sabiri was arrested for her Baha'i activities (she had been active in the Baha'i education of children). In March her cousin, Rahmatullah Vafai, was also hanged in Shiraz.

Others: Miss Shirin Dalvan, early 20s; Miss Akhtar Sabet, 19-years-old; Mrs. Tahrih Siyavushi, 32-years-old, were arrested in the fall of 1982 because of their Baha'i activities (including the education of children). Mrs. Siyavushi was the wife of Jamshid, hanged two days earlier. Miss Zarrin Muqimi, early 20s, had moved with her family to Shiraz, where her father was to repair and refurbish Baha'i properties that had been partially demolished by authorities. She was a teacher of Baha'i children's classes. Roya Ishraqi, 22-years-old, was known as a devoted Baha'i youth, whose courageous attitude served as an example to other Baha'i young people. Miss Monah Mahmudnizhad, 18-years-old, was arrested in the fall of

1982 with her father Yadullah; he was one of three Baha'is hanged on March 12, 1983 in Shiraz. Miss Mahmudnizhad was beaten before being executed.

WHILE THE President of the United States has appealed to Ayatollah Khomeini and the Congress has passed a resolution condemning the persecution of Baha'is, Iran's policy has not been tempered. Only a worldwide wave of revulsion such as that resulting from the Soviet Korean plane shoot-down might prevent large scale genocide. This requires major media motivation. Unlikely. Yet here is a cause that is about as pure as you can get.

To date almost 200 Baha'is have been killed by the Islamic regime; hundreds have been imprisoned; thousands denied schooling, employment or pensions due to their religion. Representatives of the Iranian government scoff: ". . . nonsensical fabrications . . . custom-made lies." Their U.N. mission explains: "Bahaiism is not a religion, but rather, it is a political entity created and nourished by anti-Islamic and Colonial Powers." The Iranian U.N. mission (using the theocracy's special logic) states that ". . . the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran never sentences or pun-

ishes any individual on the charge of holding a particular ideology or following a particular faith . . . although the Constitution does not recognize Bahaiism as a religion . . . nevertheless, its followers have never been punished . . . merely and simply because of their beliefs." The explanation, of course, is that those "punished" were agents of Israel (and that earlier Bahai were agents of the British Empire). Amnesty International has a different opinion: ". . . they are being persecuted solely for their religious beliefs."

SINCE ITS founding in 1844, the Baha'i religion has been considered a heresy by Islam (more than 20,000 believers were put to death in the early days); now, in "revolutionary" Iran, once again the mullahs have whipped up a frenzy of anti-Bahai persecution. With no legal standing (the religion is not recognized by the government or Constitution) Baha'is and their property can be attacked by the most vicious clerical and criminal elements in Iran with near complete impunity. They need not fear retaliation. The peaceful Baha'is' religion forbids it.

† † †

Ray Sidel is a research association at The Center For International Security, Washington, D.C.

The Union Leader  **NEW HAMPSHIRE DAILY NEWSPAPER**

"There is nothing so powerful as truth" - DANIEL WEBSTER

MANCHESTER, N.H. — Tuesday, October 18, 1983

MEMORANDUM

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

December 22, 1983

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FG006-12

MEMORANDUM FOR RONALD K. PETERSON

FROM: ROBERT M. KIMMITT *Boh*

SUBJECT: State Draft HCR-167 re Persecution of Baha'is in Iran

We concur in the attached State proposed report on H.Con.Res. 167, dealing with the persecution of the Baha'is in Iran.

Attachment:
as stated
w/incoming

NSC # 8308808

MEMORANDUM

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

8808

December 20, 1983

SIGNED

MEMORANDUM FOR ROBERT M. KIMMITT

FROM: GEOFFREY KEMP 

SUBJECT: State Draft HCR-167 re Persecution of Baha'is
in Iran

Attached is a Kimmitt to Peterson memorandum for your signature.

Attachment:
as stated
w/incoming



EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20503

8800

December 1, 1983

LEGISLATIVE REFERRAL MEMORANDUM

TO: Legislative Liaison Officer-
National Security Council

SUBJECT: State proposed report on H.Con.Res. 167, dealing
with the persecution of the Baha'is in Iran.

The Office of Management and Budget requests the views of your agency on the above subject before advising on its relationship to the program of the President, in accordance with OMB Circular A-19.

A response to this request for your views is needed no later than WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 28, 1983.

Questions should be referred to Tracey Lawler (395-4710) the legislative analyst in this office or to Susan Gates (395-4580).

RONALD K. PETERSON FOR
Assistant Director for
Legislative Reference

Enclosures



DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Mr. Chairman:

In your letter of October 17, you requested the Department's comments on H.Con.Res. 167--Expressing the sense of the Congress that the President should instruct the United States Ambassador to the United Nations to introduce a resolution, promptly, that calls upon the Government of Iran to cease its persecution of the Baha'is in Iran and allow Baha'is who desire to emigrate from Iran to do so.

The Department of State has worked closely with the Baha'i community in the U.S. since the advent of the Iranian revolution in an effort to seek ways of alleviating the persecution suffered by Baha'is in Iran. The Baha'i are of the opinion, in which we concur, that world publicity serves as a brake on the Iranian regime and prevents actions that might be taken out of the glare of publicity. Any Congressional actions that serve to generate publicity are therefore wholeheartedly supported by the Department.

The Baha'is are, however, concerned that a lead role on the part of the U.S. would be counter-productive. The Baha'is in Iran are viewed by the regime as a sort of fifth column, and those who have been imprisoned or executed are often accused of being Zionist U.S. spies. Top Iranian leaders have wondered in public why the U.S. is so concerned about the Baha'i and implied we are concerned only about our "agents". For this reason, both the Baha'i and the Department are of the opinion that the U.S. can best be of assistance by offering behind the scene support for resolutions in international organizations introduced by others. This has been the practice in the United Nations Commission on Human Rights in past years, and we expect this to be the case in coming years.

The Honorable
Clement J. Zablocki,
Chairman,
Committee on Foreign Affairs,
House of Representatives.

The human rights situation in Iran, with special attention to the plight of the Baha'is, is presently under active consideration by the Commission. At its 1983 session held earlier this year, the Commission adopted a resolution in which it expressed its profound concern at the continuing grave violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms in Iran, including particularly the persecution of the Baha'is. At its next session in February-March 1984, the Commission will receive a comprehensive report from the U.N. Secretary-General on the human rights situation in Iran, which will serve as the basis for further consideration of the matter by the Commission.

For the reasons stated above, the Department cannot support those elements of a Congressional resolution that call on the President to have the Ambassador to the U.N. take a lead role in introducing condemnatory resolutions in any U.N. body. We would support those elements of H.Con.Res. 167 that call on Iran to cease its persecution of Baha'is.

The Office of Management and Budget advises that, from the standpoint of the Administration's program, there is no objection to the submission of this report.

With cordial regards,

Sincerely,

Alvin Paul Drischler
Acting Assistant Secretary
Legislative and Intergovernmental Affairs

National Security Council
The White House

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cc: VP Meese Baker Deaver Other _____

COMMENTS

Should be seen by: _____

(Date/Time)

NSC/S PROFILE

UNCLASSIFIED

ID 8308808

RECEIVED 05 DEC 83 15

TO KIMMITT

FROM PETERSON, R

DOCDATE 01 DEC 83

KEYWORDS. IRAN

LEGISLATIVE REFERRAL

SUBJECT: STATE DRAFT HCR-167 RE PERSECUTION OF BAHA'IS IN IRAN

ACTION: MEMO KIMMITT TO PETERSON DUE: 21 DEC 83 STATUS S FILES

FOR ACTION

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THE WHITE HOUSE
CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

ID# 203953

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1984 MAR 14 AM 10:08

OFFICE OF
THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

INCOMING

DATE RECEIVED: MARCH 12, 1984

NAME OF CORRESPONDENT: REAR ADMIRAL F. C. COLLINS JR.

SUBJECT OFFERS SERVICE REGARDING COMING EVENTS AND IN
IRAN

ROUTE TO: OFFICE/AGENCY (STAFF NAME)	ACTION		DISPOSITION	
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ADDITIONAL CORRESPONDENTS: MEDIA:L INDIVIDUAL CODES _____

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I-INFO COPY/NO ACT NEC * OUTGOING *
*R-DIRECT REPLY W/COPY * * *
*S-FOR-SIGNATURE * * *
*X-INTERIM REPLY * * *

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REFER QUESTIONS AND ROUTING UPDATES TO CENTRAL REFERENCE  
(ROOM 75, OEOB) EXT. 2590  
KEEP THIS WORKSHEET ATTACHED TO THE ORIGINAL INCOMING  
LETTER AT ALL TIMES AND SEND COMPLETED RECORD TO RECORDS  
MANAGEMENT.

W07265

5  
Ed Hickey



2590 Nicky Lane  
Alexandria, Virginia 22311  
7 March 1984

Honorable Ronald Reagan  
President  
United States of America  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We are now in a critical election year; as a concerned citizen, I would like to briefly share these items which I believe can be of vital importance to your reelection.

First - You have, in my opinion, done a most creditable job during your first term, of restoring creditability to the office of the President. You have been candid with the American people and restored the distrust ingendered by Mr. Nixon's lack of candor. You have not been afraid to demonstrate our interest in keeping the peace as evidenced by our involvement in Grenada, Lebanon and Central America; Mr. Carter's reluctance to involve us certainly lost the U. S. much credibility with our international friends and allies. In conducting your campaign, continue to emphasize all of the positive actions you have taken, and bear down hard on your opposition's failures in previous administrations. America needs a positive attitude about itself.

Second - Introduce Quality as an issue in your campaign. This country has seen what Quality has done for an erstwhile producer of junk like Japan. We have demonstrated our preference by buying Japanese cars, T.V.s, VCRs, and small



Honorable Ronald Reagan

Page Two

7 March 1984

appliances, while our own auto manufacturers have countered, to a large extent, by having the Japanese either build their cars and engines, as in the case of the Chrysler Corporation, or with that of G.M., who is attempting to go into coproduction with the competition. I suggest that the establishment of a Presidential Quality award, such as the Deming or the Japan Quality prize in Japan, could do much to create a National focus on Quality and stimulate U. S. Industry to achieve the standard which would merit such National recognition. I would envision screening and selecting would be accomplished by a private organization; thus relieving the executive department of that burden. I should be happy to help in drafting such a bill.

Third - As I've written to you, and to your predecessor many times, we must do something about Iran. My ten months in Iran as Chief Naval Advisor to the Commander in Chief of the Imperial Iranian Navy (April 1978 thru February 1979) has given me an understanding, a sensitivity and compassion for Iran and Iranians, which few people can appreciate. Iran, in my opinion and I dare say as a result of recent events, in your's too, is one of the most critical areas in the world as far as influence on the fragile issue of peace. Consider the tragedy of Lebanon and the Iran/Iraq war, Egypt's loss of Sádát; all of these occurred subsequent to Khomeini's deposition of the Shahanshah. As one who has followed the situation in Iran closely through my many astute and well-informed Iranian friends, (many of whom are my former Navy colleagues) I am convinced that the war with Iraq would cease if Khomeini and the inept clerical government he has established, were deposed. Iran has a multitude of leaders who, by education and experience, could establish a viable, moderate government. Most are in exile in Europe and the U.S.A. With encouragement and support from our government, I believe Khomeini could be

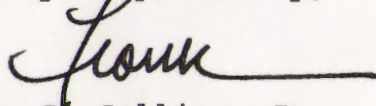
Honorable Ronald Reagan  
Page Three  
7 March 1984

overthrown by Iranians, both internal and external to Iran. Again, I offer my services and those of my Iranian friends in discussing this situation with you or your National Security Advisor.

Last September I retired from 33 plus years active duty with the Navy. I am now a full-time Corporate Vice President of the AVCO Corporation, so I am seeking neither employment nor appointment. As a concerned citizen, however, I offer my services in the issue of Quality or Iran gladly -- not that these are the only issues of importance now, but rather they are issues in which I believe I could substantively and positively contribute.

You will continue to be in my family's and my prayers for safety, health, wisdom and courage in discharging the awesome duties of your office.

Very respectfully,



F. C. Collins, Jr.  
RADM, USN (Ret)

FCC/mmr





DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20350

23 MAR 1984

Rear Admiral F. C. Collins, Jr., USN (Ret)  
2590 Nicky Lane  
Alexandria, Virginia 22311

Dear Admiral Collins:

Thank you for your letter of March 7 to President Reagan concerning industrial quality assurance, and the political situation in Iran.

As much as he would like to, the President cannot reply personally to every communication he receives. Therefore, I am answering your letter on his behalf.

President Reagan is sincerely grateful to individuals who provide him with the opportunity to hear their views on subjects important to American citizens. Letters, such as yours, provide a valuable source of feedback to the Reagan Administration. You may be assured that individual opinions are thoughtfully considered.

I have forwarded copies of your letter to the Department of State's Office of Business Practices, and also to their Bureau of Near Eastern and South Asian Affairs. They will keep your letter on file, and contact you if they desire further information or assistance.

Thank you for your support and for writing to President Reagan.

Sincerely,



Chapman B. Cox  
Assistant Secretary of the Navy  
(Manpower and Reserve Affairs)

T-000-1

(12 Mar 84)

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