

advancement of Hindutva," said Dr. Aulakh. "If swift action is not taken, it will once again show India's religious intolerance and its terrorism against the minorities under its rule," he said.

The Indian government has murdered more than 250,000 Sikhs since 1984, over 200,000 Christians in Nagaland since 1947, almost 60,000 Kashmiri Muslims since 1988, and tens of thousands of Assamese, Tamils, Manipuris, Dalits, and others. The U.S. State Department reported that the Indian government paid over 41,000 cash bounties to police officers for killing Sikhs. More than 50,000 young Sikhs have been abducted by the police, tortured, and killed, then their bodies were declared unidentified and cremated.

"These rapes are of a piece with the repression in Punjab, Khalistan, in Kashmir, and throughout the nations occupied by India," Dr. Aulakh said. "It is of a piece with the murders of Catholic priests in Bihar last year. The real aims of India's theocracy are now exposed to the world," he said. "It is clear that there is no place in Indian democracy for Sikhs, Christians, Muslims, or any other minorities," Dr. Aulakh added. "As the Sikhs who recently demonstrated at the United Nations noted, a religiously intolerant country cannot be democratic."

Dr. Aulakh called on the United States to maintain its sanctions against India. "The repression of minorities and the nuclearization of South Asia by the Indian government both support India's dreams of empire and its drive for hegemony over all South Asia," he said. He called on India to hold an internationally-supervised plebiscite in Punjab, Khalistan to let the Sikh Nation decide its future in a free and fair vote. He said that the people of Kashmir should have the plebiscite they are seeking as well. "That is the democratic way to do things," Dr. Aulakh said. "If India will not do this, how can it call itself a democracy?"

[From the Burning Punjab News, Oct. 2, 1998]

NUNS' RAPE CASE—MOOPANAR HITS OUT AT VHP

MADRAS.—Tamil Maanila Congress president G K Moopanar has demanded that those involved in the rape of four nuns in Madhya Pradesh and the Vishwa Hindu Parishad functionaries who justified the incident, be detained under the National Security Act. In a statement here, he termed as 'politically uncivilised,' the VHP describing the culprits as 'patriotic youth'. The BJP-led Government at the Centre should nip this tendency in the bud before such criminal act spread to other parts of the country, he added. Referring to the VHP's reported description of the nuns as 'betrayers of the country, Mr. Moopanar said this was unpardonable and went against the Constitution.

[From the Burning Punjab News, Sept. 29, 1998]

MINORITIES COMMISSION CONDEMNS RAPE OF NUNS

NEW DELHI.—India's National Commission for Minorities has strongly condemned the alleged rape of four nuns at Bhandaria village in Jharva district of Madhya Pradesh on September 23. "Such ghastly crimes are a disgrace for the nation and make us hang our heads in shame," said NCM chairman Tahir Mahmood in a press statement. Professor Mahmood added that the NC did receive a complaint by fax in this regard from a prominent all-India Christian organization. "Finding it to be a case of wild abuse of basic human rights and militancy against women's right to modesty, rather than violation of minority rights, I forwarded it with a request for immediate action to the National Human Rights Commission and the National

Commission for Women," Professor Mahmood said. The Madhya Pradesh Government "must move into swift action treating this case as a test for its genuine commitment to protection of humanitarian values and human rights," the NCM chairman said.

[From the Hindustan Times, Oct. 1, 1998]

VHP WANTS FOREIGN MISSIONARIES TO LEAVE

NEW DELHI.—The Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP) today demanded that foreign missionaries should not be allowed to function in the country since they were acting as insurgent groups in some areas and forcibly converting Hindus in some other parts.

Although senior VHP leader Giriraj Kishore refused to speak on it, he is understood to have raised this issue at a meeting with a Canadian High Commission official today.

But he was open in stating that the VHP would urge the missionaries to go on their own while also creating social awareness on the issue.

Interestingly, Mr. Kishore's remarks came at a Press conference called to disassociate the VHP from the views expressed by another senior VHP leader B.L. Sharma Prem on the Jhabua incident and the "one-side" projection given to it by a prominent daily which, he claimed, sought to put the entire blame for the incident on the VHP. Here, Mr. Kishore pointed out, even the delegation which called on Home Minister L. K. Advani did not blame the VHP.

Mr. Prem had justified the attack on the nuns on the ground that the missionaries represented "antinational forces" working against Hindu interests and that the incident was sparked by the anger of patriotic Hindu youth against them.

Mr. Prem, who had demanded that the Centre throw out those who sought to convert Hindus to Christianity, has reportedly been asked to seek the VHP's sanction before speaking on its behalf. Although Mr. Kishore disassociated the organization from Mr. Prem's remarks, he tried to defend his colleague by maintaining that Mr. Prem may have said what he did because of the track record of the Christian missionaries in tribal areas.

Mr. Kishore's remarks today reflected the VHP's dilemma of exploiting the Jhabua incident to put the Congress Government in Madhya Pradesh on the mat and to use it for its own campaign against the missionaries.

Although Mr. Kishore condemned the Jhabua incident and urged the Government to bring the culprits to book at the earliest, he could not restrain himself from demanding that the Christians also condemn any attack on Hindus in Christian-majority areas.

The VHP leader, who charged that a criminal issue involving Christians was being projected as a communal problem in the case of the Jhabua incident, however, virtually dubbed the insurgency problem in the North-East as a Hindu-Christian issue. He described the NSCN (National Socialist Council of Nagaland) as a "Christian and terrorist" outfit and alleged that several cases of attacks on Hindus were reported in Nagaland. To a question whether insurgency in the North-East was based on religion he maintained that members of a particular community were behind it.

While the VHP leader called for the ouster of the foreign missionaries, he defended the activities of ISKCON (International Society for Krishna Consciousness) and other organizations operating abroad. According to Mr. Kishore, these groups did not indulge in forceful conversions.

Mr. Kishore also dismissed reports about attacks on Christians in Gujarat as a "one-sided newspaper propaganda" and went on to

allege that the Muslims were also seeking to marry Gujarati girls as part of a larger design.

CONGRESSIONAL BLACK CAUCUS FOUNDATION VETERANS BRAINTRUST

HON. CORRINE BROWN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 2, 1998

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, this year during the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation proceedings, I along with my colleague on the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, Congressman SANFORD BISHOP, hosted the 10th annual Congressional Black Caucus Foundation Veterans Braintrust. For the past 10 years the Braintrust has been the premiere forum for discussion and policy debate between African-American veterans and leaders in government. It is important because so many African-Americans have served, or have family members who served honorably in the U.S. military. Consequently, what happens in terms of veterans' well-being is significantly interrelated to the African-American community as a whole. Congressman RANGEL, Ranking Democratic Member on the Committee on Ways and Means and a decorated Korean War veteran, established the Braintrust 10 years ago, and Congressman BISHOP and I are proud to continue his work and legacy on behalf of African-American veterans. Congressman RANGEL was honored during the proceedings for his work and legacy in this area. Overall, the proceedings were very well received, with a standing room only audience in attendance.

This year's Braintrust entitled "The Future of Veterans Education and Entrepreneurship," gave us a national forum to discuss ways to improve access to education and small business, two key elements essential for success and prosperity in our communities, particularly among veterans. The moderator for the Braintrust, Dr. Reginald Wilson, led a very distinguished panel of experts, government officials, military sociologist, academicians, advocates and veteran business owners including Dr. Joshua Angrist, Mr. Dennis Douglass, Mr. Steven Pappas, Dr. David Segal, Dr. Gantz, Dr. Dorothy Simpson-Taylor, Mr. Duane Jackson, Mr. Ralph Thomas III, Mr. Ramsey Alexander, Mr. Bruce Bolling, and Col. Anita McMiller, USA, Ret. These professionals were selected because of their everyday work with veterans issues and expertise in the veterans affairs and public policy arena. The Braintrust was designed to bring their work, insights, research findings, and historical background to the attention of the general public and leaders in government.

During the Braintrust, Congressman BISHOP reminded African Americans that September 18 marked yet another important day, National MIA/POW Recognition Day. He stated that a number of military bases are located within middle and southern Georgia, and that the new National POW/MIA Museum, dedicated this past spring within Andersonville National Historic Site near Americus, lies within his Congressional district. The MIA/POW issue is indeed an emotional one for him and veterans' families because for them there is never closure, just never ending grief and uncertainty.

Like many of us, Congressman BISHOP said he was committed to doing everything possible to locate each and every American missing in action and to repatriate their remains.

Our keynote speaker was Secretary of Veterans Affairs, Togo D. West, Jr., who eloquently addressed the Braintrust about this being an important opportunity to think about the issues that affect veterans in this country from the African-American perspective. He also said that the Braintrust provides an excellent forum to discuss what we all can bring to challenging issues affecting veterans, and because these issues affect veterans, they affect all of us. In addressing the "Two E's: Education and Entrepreneurship," he asked why are fewer African Americans participating in Montgomery GI Bill benefits than in previous eras? Why was this happening after decades of African Americans pursuing civil rights, better housing, a higher standard of living, and opportunities for themselves and their children, particularly when this benefit is something earned through military service?

Secretary West also stated that entrepreneurship is a key to unlocking opportunity for veterans to be able to participate in the American dream. He indicated that last year, VA addressed the question of minority entrepreneurship, and he said that VA leads all other Federal agencies, in terms of percentages, in making grants to small and disadvantaged business. Secretary West agreed that VA would undertake a new partnership with the Braintrust as a way to digest information and put it to use. Secretary West urged persistence and determination in addressing these pressing issues, saying that for like the "Field of Dreams," if we have the determination, the resources will be found. Secretary West urged participants of the Braintrust to examine all of these issues and questions, and he expressed thanks for the role the Braintrust plays in this discussion.

At the conclusion of Secretary West's speech, Mr. Wayne Smith, President and CEO of the Black Revolutionary War Patriots Foundation presented him with the first Black Revolutionary War Patriots Commemorative Coin, legislated by Congress to commemorate Black Patriotism, and the 275th anniversary of the birth of Crispus Attucks, the first African American killed during the American Revolution. Following this very moving moment, Mr. Michael Handy, Director of the New York City Major's Office of Veterans Affairs and Mr. Morocco Coleman, Assistant Director for the Office of Veterans Programs for the Georgia Department of Labor, presided over a special awards presentation to Mr. Ron Armstead, Executive Coordinator for the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation Veterans Braintrust, and Mr. Anthony Hawkins, Associate Director of the Center for Minority Veterans at the Department of Veterans Affairs. These awards were given on behalf of the entire Veterans Braintrust Executive Committee in appreciation of their outstanding leadership, commitment, and service to the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation, Congressional Black Caucus, and other Members of Congress over the past 10 years.

Other 10th anniversary awards were presented to 30 exemplary veterans for their national and equally important community service: Dr. Doris "Lucki" Allen, Dr. Irving Allen, M.D.; Mr. Ramsey Alexander, Jr.; Mr. Kent Amos; Mr. Charles Ballard; Mr. Lafayette

Barnes; Dr. Anne Bell, M.D.; Mr. Bruce Bolling; Col. Mary Boyd; Dr. Howard Brabson; Ms. Thelma Branch, USNA; Ms. Sheila Chamberlain; Brig. Gen. Robert Cocroft, USAR; Ms. Nora Dunn, RN; Mr. Calvin Gross; Mr. Roger "Kevvy" Harris; Mr. Duane Jackson; Ms. Dorothy Johnson; Mr. John Johnson; Mrs. Norma King-Joiner; Mr. Alvin Jones; Mr. William Leftwich, III; Mr. Leonard Long; Dr. Shirley Marks, M.D., M.P.H.; Col. Anita McMiller, USA, Ret.; Mr. Michael Neely; Col. Felix "Pete" Peterson, Jr., USA, Ret.; Mr. Harold Raymond; Ms. Lizette Rhones; Mr. Michael Robbins; Lt. Col. Jordan Simmons, III, USA, Ret.; Mr. William Sims; Mr. Peters Spears; Mr. Ralph Thomas III; Mr. Charles Tompkins; Assemblyman Darryl Towns; Mr. Larry Williams; Mr. Carmen Wilson II; Dr. Reginald Wilson; Mr. Jacob "J.J." Chestnut, USAF, Ret. (Posthumous); Black Patriots Foundation; Troops to Teachers Program, Department of Defense, Defense Activity for Non-Traditional Education Support; and the Veterans Education Project.

The Congressional Black Caucus Foundation Veterans Braintrust activities closed with a tenth anniversary reception co-hosted by the Black Patriots Foundation, the Veterans Benefits Clearinghouse, Inc., the Gatehouse Group, Inc. and Amistad Associates. More than 100 veterans, family members and friends gathered to celebrate the accomplishments of the past 10 years and to renew old friendships. Veterans will always hold a very special place in my heart and I look forward to working together with African American veterans representatives and advocates in order to present a strong national voice for veterans. I thank Dr. Elizabeth Allen, Mr. Arthur Barham, Mr. Harold "Lightbulb" Bryant, Mr. Ralph Cooper, Mr. Morocco Coleman, Mr. Michael Handy, Mr. Thomas Harris, Ms. Lane Knox, Mr. Reginald Lawrence, Mr. Job Mashariki, Dr. Erwin Parson, Mr. Clyde Poag, Mr. Wayne Smith, Ms. Arlene Williams, Ms. Joann Williams, Dr. James Woodard, Mr. Arthur Wright, and Mr. Thomas Wynn, Sr. for their commitment, dedication, and perseverance. I also want to thank the Congressional staff members Mr. Nick Martinelli, Ms. Brittlely Wise, volunteer Mr. Ron Armstead, Rev. Rosita Mathews, and forum evaluators Dr. Brenda Moore, Dr. Brenda "BJ" Jarmon, Dr. Lorraine Blackman, and Dr. Phillip Schervish, for their hard work and dedication.

TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE SIDNEY P. YATES

SPEECH OF

HON. BOBBY L. RUSH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 1, 1998

Mr. RUSH. Mr. Speaker, I come before you today in recognition of the distinguished career of my colleague and friend Congressman SIDNEY YATES. His service to his district and commitment to the amelioration of the lives of his constituents has long been a source of admiration for me.

YATES' 48 years as a United States Congressman has been a gift to the city of Chicago, the state of Illinois and the nation on a whole. He is responsible for channeling billions of dollars into various local projects ranging from the Chicago Deep Tunnel project to the Chicago Shoreline project. Additionally,

YATES served as the House's chief defender of the National Endowments for the Arts and Humanities. During the Bush years, when the NEA was under attack and politically unpopular, he insightfully recognized the institution's importance and successfully fought for its preservation for future generations of artists and art enthusiasts.

The assiduous and tireless efforts of SID YATES have never gone unnoticed by his constituents. Every two years, his general election percentages have consistently been robust and resilient.

So, today, I salute "Chicago's statesman." YATES' lifetime of service is a standard of excellent that I would encourage all of my colleagues to emulate.

DR. CARL M. KUTTLE HONORED
AS OUTSTANDING COMMUNITY
COLLEGE PRESIDENT OF THE
YEAR

HON. C.W. BILL YOUNG

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 2, 1998

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is a great pleasure for me to inform my colleagues that Dr. Carl M. Kuttler, Jr., President of the St. Petersburg Junior College, has just been named the outstanding community college president of the year by the National Association of Community College Trustees.

Having the privilege to represent the St. Petersburg Junior College, I know of the great work that Dr. Kuttler has done these past 20 years as President to make it one of the premiere colleges in our nation.

According to the U.S. Department of Education, the college ranks third in the Nation in the number of Liberal Arts and Science degrees conferred, fourth in the number of associate degrees awarded in Health Professions and Related Sciences, fourth in the number of associate degrees awarded in Nursing, and fourth in the total number of associate degrees awarded.

Dr. Kuttler has devoted his life to the growth of the St. Petersburg Junior College, having served in various capacities for 32 years. He was first a student at the college beginning in 1958 and in his second year was elected president of the student government, so he understands the needs of the students and faculty from various perspectives.

In addition to raising the academic level of excellence at the college, Dr. Kuttler has also established a number of unique programs that respond to the needs of our State and our community. In 1998, he negotiated a special agreement under which the Allstate Insurance Company agreed to donate to the college land and facilities valued at \$11.2 million. With this gift in place, Dr. Kuttler and the college have secured Federal and State grants totaling more than \$30 million to establish a state of the art Southeastern Public Safety Institute, which provides training to Federal, State, and local law enforcement officers and emergency response personnel.

Under his leadership, the college also responded to an unmet need for trained health care professionals by raising \$3.4 million in gifts, and \$6.5 million in State funds, to establish one of our Nation's finest allied health