

SENATOR

Paul Tsongas Reports



Tsongas Urges Ban on Weapons in Space

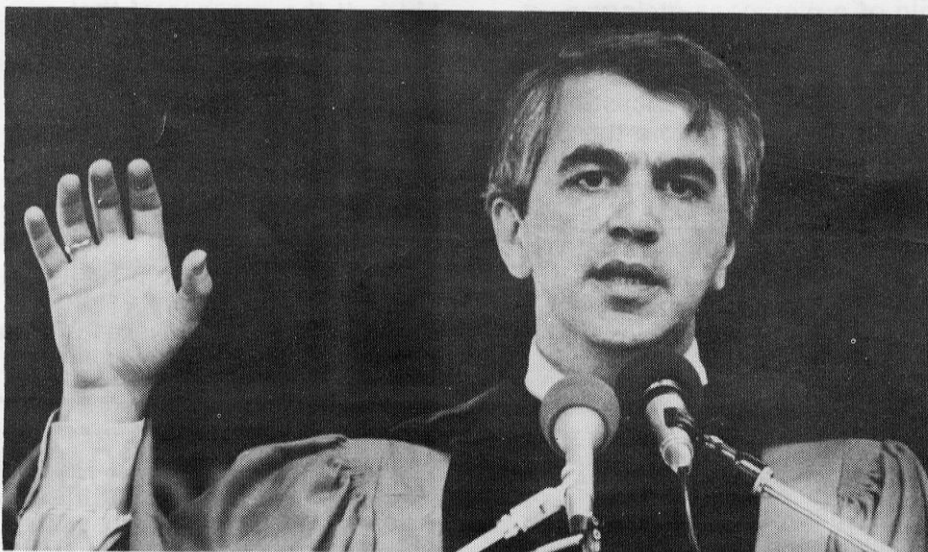


Photo by The Lowell Sun

In June commencement address at Middlesex Community College in Bedford Senator Tsongas calls for greater effort to curb the arms race.

Dear Friends,

By shooting down a South Korean passenger airliner Sept. 1, the Soviet Union has cast a long, dark shadow over the international landscape. Seldom has the world witnessed a more cold-blooded and repugnant attack by a nation against innocent persons.

The Reagan Administration has responded by shutting down the American offices of the Soviet airline, Aeroflot. I have urged more far-reaching sanctions: concerted Western action to deny the Soviets landing rights anywhere in the noncommunist world.

Further measures against the Soviets may be warranted. But it is important that we avoid acting in ways that hurt our own interests as much as theirs.

Arms control is a case in point. Some have proposed that we answer the Soviets by halting the arms control negotiations under way in Geneva. That would be a mistake. The United States has vital interests at stake in working toward verifiable, bilateral curbs on nuclear weapons.

Surely, the United States must retain a strategic force powerful enough to guarantee our national security. But the way to real security lies not in an escalating arms race, but through negotiations to reduce the hazards of nuclear war.

In the Senate I have called continually on the Administration to give negotiations a fair chance before embarking on new weapons programs that will fuel the arms race and spread it into space. I am determined to continue the quest for arms control, and would welcome your support in this all-important cause.

Sincerely,

Efforts to prevent the arms race from spreading into space have intensified in the Senate, with Senator Tsongas playing a leading role.

He is concerned that the Reagan Administration's insistence on pushing ahead with space weapons will short-circuit the possibility of negotiations toward a treaty to ban such weapons and will lead to another costly and destabilizing round in the arms race.

In July he hit at the space-weapons issue on three fronts:

- The Tsongas amendment to defer tests in space of antisatellite weapons until such time as the President certifies that he is attempting to negotiate a treaty banning their use passed the Senate unanimously, 91 to 0.

- The Senate Foreign Relations Committee endorsed the Tsongas-Pressler resolution calling for an antisatellite weapons treaty. In the House the resolution is sponsored by Congressman Joe Moakley of Boston.

- He helped lead the successful fight on the Senate floor to defeat a proposal by Senator Wallop of Wyoming to accelerate development of a space-based antiballistic missile (ABM) system.

Passage by the Senate of the amendment restricting space-weapons testing represents a major victory for arms control supporters.

In a speech supporting the amendment, Senator Tsongas warned that an arms race is beginning in space. "Yet we move blindly toward a test of various weapons which may preclude stopping the race," he said.

"The United States has more to gain by a treaty protecting the integrity of satellites than does the Soviet Union," he added. "If all satellites were destroyed, the

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Panel Approves Veterans' Loans

At Senator Tsongas' urging, a Senate committee has endorsed a \$25 million loan program for small businessmen who are Vietnam veterans or disabled veterans.

The Small Business Committee adopted Senator Tsongas' amendment to the Small Business Administration (SBA) authorization bill for next year. The original version of the bill contained no money for the SBA veterans loan program.

Senator Tsongas, who is a member of the Small Business Committee, argued that earmarking funds for the program would give Vietnam veterans and disabled veterans the access to SBA loans that a law enacted by Congress in 1982 intended.

Final approval of the \$25 million budget awaits further action in both the House and Senate.

Under the SBA program, low-interest loans would be available to Vietnam veterans and disabled veterans for investment in small business where there are no alternative means of financing at their disposal.

The program has the strong support of the American Legion and the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States. The American Legion backs the program "in the strongest possible terms," according to the organization's legislative director, E. Phillip Riffin.

Help Sought for Ethiopian Jews

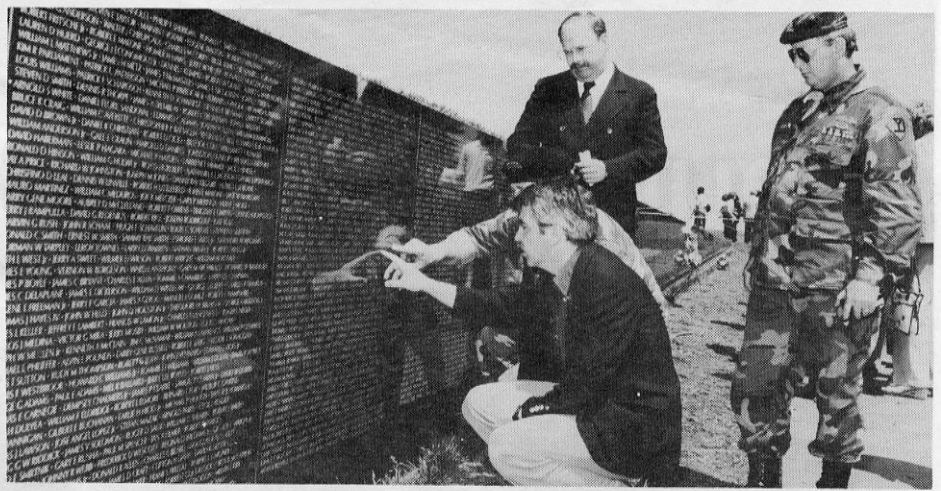
Senator Tsongas introduced a resolution in the Senate this July seeking United States assistance for Ethiopian Jews who want to emigrate to Israel.

Ethiopian Jews, commonly known as Falashas (which means stranger or landless person), are facing denial of their basic human rights to practice their religion freely and to emigrate.

The Falashas have lived in Ethiopia for more than 2,000 years. They have maintained their Jewish faith despite extreme hardship and repression, still speaking Hebrew and observing dietary laws.

But their numbers have dwindled from several hundred thousand to fewer than 25,000. The plight of those remaining is one of poverty, isolation and insecurity, and many of them wish to emigrate to Israel.

Senator Tsongas' interest in the fate of the Falashas stems, in part, from his Peace Corps experience in Ethiopia during the early



Senator Tsongas pays his respects to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial during Massachusetts week at the monument on the Washington Mall last May.

Senator Tsongas' Effort Bars Ellis

Senator Tsongas played a leading role this summer in blocking Senate confirmation of Thomas Ellis, whom President Reagan nominated for the Board for International Broadcasting.

In a hearing before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and in a letter to the White House, Senator Tsongas raised questions about Ellis' racial views and practices.

When it became apparent that a majority of the committee opposed the nomination, Ellis withdrew his name from consideration.

Ellis, a North Carolina lawyer, was director for four years of the Pioneer Fund, an outfit that funded research purporting to show that blacks are genetically less intelligent than whites.

Other points of concern

raised by Ellis' background included: his 12-day trip to South Africa at the expense of that country's government; his extensive investments in South African gold mining stock; and his membership in the Carolina Country Club, which excludes blacks.

Senator Tsongas charged that Ellis' appointment to the Board for International Broadcasting, which oversees Radio Free Europe, would be a "propaganda coup to our adversaries" in the Soviet Union and elsewhere.

Bill Asks Boost In Student Aid

A bill sponsored by Senator Tsongas would expand the maximum limits allowed under two Federal student loan programs to reflect the escalating costs of a college education.

The amendment to the Higher Education Assistance Act would raise the ceilings on the Guaranteed Student Loan and the National Direct Student Loan.

It is the product of a major research effort undertaken by a group of students from Needham High School who traveled to Washington and met with Senator Tsongas to seek his support for the idea. Excited by the proposal, he introduced the bill in the Senate in July.

It would raise the maximum for guaranteed loans to \$3000 a year, and for direct loans to \$2000. Under current law an undergraduate is eligible for Federally guaranteed loans of up to \$2500 a year for five years, or for direct Federal loans of \$1500 a year for four years.

In urging the modest increase in Federally subsidized borrowing power, the Needham students said the difference could prove critical in enabling many young persons to attend college.

EPA Outlays for Bay State Cleanup Increase Sharply

Spending by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for cleanup of hazardous wastes in Massachusetts has risen dramatically in recent months.

In the first 26 months of the Reagan Administration, during Anne Gorsuch's stewardship at EPA, the agency dispensed from its Superfund only \$705,000 for 14 high priority contaminated sites in Massachusetts.

But since Gorsuch resigned under fire -- amidst charges of laxity at EPA and sweetheart deals with some polluters -- Massachusetts has received almost \$10 million in additional money from the Superfund.

Senator Tsongas has lauded the changed outlook under Gorsuch's successor as EPA administrator, William Ruckelshaus.

"The American people have sent a message to this Administration," Senator Tsongas says, "that public health and safety are



Officials of the Environmental Protection Agency clear Norwood site of toxic wastes called PCB's. This cleanup took place last spring.

not negotiable issues."

And he adds, "I wish Mr. Ruckelshaus success and offer my complete cooperation to him as he seeks solutions to our critical environmental problems."

One particularly noteworthy

EPA outlay for Massachusetts is the \$3.4 million for cleanup of polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB) contamination in New Bedford Harbor and nearby area. This project will involve a two-year study and work at five sites, with immediate action on "hot" spots that show PCB density up to 19 percent.

New Bedford is listed as the most complex cleanup operation facing EPA among the 546 hazardous waste sites on the agency's national priority agenda.

Other Massachusetts sites designated recently for EPA action are in Dartmouth, Lowell, Holbrook, Groveland, Bridgewater, Plymouth, Westboro and Acton. They are slated for cleanup of such things as contaminated wells and chemical storage facilities.

Tsongas Salutes Rivers Month

Massachusetts and 42 other states celebrated American Rivers Month this June to dramatize the public interest in restoring and preserving the nation's rivers.

This year's observance marked the second time that the event has been held nationally. Massachusetts has had its own annual salute to rivers since 1979, when Senator Tsongas founded the event.

For the past five years, he has worked to expand citizen participation in the festival each June -- and to heighten awareness about the environmental and economic value of rivers.

"We must have help from a public willing to make sure that rivers stay clean, that more of them become swimmable and fishable and that scenic land along the rivers is accessible to everyone," he said this year in hailing American Rivers Month.

Senator Tsongas attended the Merrimack Riverfest on June 18 in Andover, which drew 1000

persons for boat and canoe races, a fishing derby and other activities.

Senator Tsongas decided in 1982 to seek participation in Rivers Month nationally, rather than merely in Massachusetts, to counter the Reagan Administration's retreat -- led by interior Secretary James Watt -- from many of the gains achieved by the environmental movement in the past 20 years.

Blackstone Valley Project Urged

In 1828 the Blackstone Valley Canal opened, thereby linking Worcester and Providence via a 45-mile stretch of picturesque waterway.

Though the Blackstone Valley achieved renown for its part in the American industrial revolution, the canal never fulfilled its early promise. By the mid-1840's, it was obsolete.

The canal stands today as a

19th Century oddity, but it has the potential to be much more -- to attain the prominence in this century denied it in the last.

Toward that end, this summer Senator Tsongas joined with five other Massachusetts and Rhode Island lawmakers -- Senator Kennedy, Congressman Early, Senator Pell, Senator Chafee and Congressman St Germain -- in seeking \$100,000 in technical assistance from the National Park Service for the Blackstone Valley project.

Massachusetts and Rhode Island are developing plans to convert the Blackstone Valley Canal into a jointly managed heritage park offering a variety of features, such as boat tours, extensive bicycle trails and a network of country inns.

Such a development would make the canal and adjoining area more accessible to the one million residents of the Blackstone Valley region while stimulating economic activity and enhancing the environment.



During observance of Rivers Month on the Concord River, Senator Tsongas paddles with Stu and Abigail Avery of the New England Sierra Club.

Tsongas Lauds Revival of Housing Projects in Lynn

Improvements at two public housing projects in Lynn, involving major renovations and a financial overhaul, have received high marks from Senator Tsongas.

On June 11 he visited the refurbished Green Street and Chestnut Street projects in East Lynn. He was accompanied by state Rep. Tim Bassett of Lynn, who has been a leader in the redevelopment effort.

Senator Tsongas praised the six-year initiative leading to conversion of the dilapidated housing into a model for urban development without displacing any residents.

Redevelopment has had the effect not only of redeeming two housing projects, but also of halting decline in an integral part of Lynn. And, as a result, the city has added additional property to its tax rolls.

Under the restructuring plan, the Lynn Housing Authority transferred title to a partnership, including the tenants and a private



At site of renovated and financially reorganized housing project in Lynn, Senator Tsongas consults with state Rep. Tim Bassett.

developer, Corcoran, Mullins and Jennison of Quincy. The two general partners will assume responsibility for managing the 104 units at the Quaker Courts and the Meadows, as the projects are now known.

Financing was obtained from a variety of sources, Federal, state, local and private.

The innovative financing ar-

range also provides \$1 million in loans at below-market rates for housing improvements in the Quaker Courts and Meadows neighborhoods.

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Soviets would gain a significant military advantage. They do not need satellites to communicate with their military forces in Europe and Asia; we do."

The resolution adopted by the Foreign Relations Committee calls upon the President to halt immediately plans for testing antisatellite weapons. It also asks the President to seek a treaty with the Soviet Union banning space-based weapons and weapons targeted at objects in space.

The Wallop amendment lost on a vote of 65 to 27. It urged deployment of a space-based ABM system within the decade. The proposed system -- using chemical lasers -- is considered unworkable by a broad spectrum of scientists, including Nobel laureates Hans Bethe and Edward Teller.

The Administration is expected to press for an additional half billion dollars for its Star Wars program, as it seeks an even higher priority for space weapons development. Both Senator Tsongas and Congressman Moakley plan to lead the fight against these efforts.

Staff Serving You

If Massachusetts residents run into red tape dealing with a Federal agency, whether it is the Social Security Administration, the Postal Service, the military services or some other, they are invited to seek information and help from Senator Tsongas' Boston staff. Telephone 617-223-1890 or write: Office of Senator Paul E. Tsongas, Room 2003f, John F. Kennedy Building, Boston, Ma. 02203.

Consumer Information — The Federal government offers numerous booklets for consumers, many of them free, some of which are listed in the "Consumer Information Catalog." The catalog is itself available free of charge from the Boston address above. Booklets listed in the catalog cover such subjects as autos, housing, travel, employment and gardening. An additional booklet related to gardening, "Canning, Freezing, Storing Garden Produce," is also being offered without charge by Senator Tsongas' Boston office.

Pensions — Many Massachusetts citizens contribute to employee retirement plans or are already receiving income from such a plan. The Department of Labor publishes an informational guide, "Know Your Pension Plan." It covers a variety of issues pertaining to pensions. This 16-page booklet is available for free from the Boston address above. For these publications there is a limit of one per constituent as long as supplies last.

United States Senate

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