

MESSAGE OF FOREIGN MINISTER, DORA BAKOYANNI,
ON THE OPENING OF THE EXHIBIT
"THE HIDDEN CHILDREN OF THE HOLOCAUST"
IN LOS ANGELES, ON FEBRUARY 19, 2008, at 7:00 p.m.

From far away, yet close in spirit, I send you my warm regards and heartfelt congratulations on presenting "The Hidden Children of the Holocaust", a testament to the will and determination of both rescuers and rescued, survivors of one of history's darkest moments, which left Greece devastated.

Thanks to the courage of their fellow citizens, the sixteen children featured in this exhibit grew up to become outstanding citizens of Greece, making the fabric of Greek society all the richer for it.

Furthermore, this deceptively simple exhibit is proof and testament of the power of one; the power of an individual to make the difference between life and death.

These children were saved by individuals, who risked life and limb, not only their own, but also of their families. In the process, they did more than save a life; they salvaged human dignity, they restored faith in humanity and made us proud.

No better example of both survivor and rescuer can be found than the Honorable Tom Lantos, who generously offered to put this event under his auspices before his passing. A Holocaust survivor himself at the age of sixteen, Tom Lantos, to the end of his life, was a champion of the struggle for human rights.

He rose out of tragedy to become a man of vision, of courage and humanity; he dedicated his life to the service of others and made the dignity of man the focal point of his life.

Last week, I was honored and humbled to be included in a special service held in his memory on Capital Hill, along with Secretary General of the United Nations, Ban Ki-Moon, Secretary of State, Condoleezza Rice, Foreign Minister of Israel, Tzipi Livni, and other dignitaries.

Today, this event is dedicated to his memory.