

106TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. CON. RES. 332

Expressing the sense of the Congress with regard to providing humanitarian aid to cyclone victims in the Indian State of Orissa.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 22, 2000

Mr. CAMPBELL submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on International Relations

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## CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the Congress with regard to providing humanitarian aid to cyclone victims in the Indian State of Orissa.

Whereas on October 17 and 29, 1999, cyclones struck the Indian State of Orissa, killing more than 10,000 people and destroying more than 7 million houses, leaving uncounted millions homeless;

Whereas Orissa is the second poorest State in India;

Whereas more than 80 percent of the rural population of Orissa are subsistence farmers and fishermen with fewer than two acres of land;

Whereas in the immediate aftermath of the storm, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) of the Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance provided \$3.3

million in relief aid and \$4.1 million in emergency food aid through the American private volunteer organizations Cooperative Assistance for Relief Everywhere (CARE) and Catholic Relief Services;

Whereas the government of Orissa did not declare an emergency and refused offerings from the United States Embassy in New Delhi to provide air lifts and emergency humanitarian rations;

Whereas assistance from United Nations agencies has been restricted to rehabilitation, which is largely unfounded;

Whereas additional assistance has been provided by the United Kingdom, European Union, the Canadian Government, and others and this combined assistance has not been adequate to meet the needs of the people of Orissa;

Whereas a recent nutritional survey conducted in Orissa by CARE found that 60 to 70 percent of children under five years old in several of the cyclone-affected areas are moderately to severely malnourished;

Whereas the CARE survey teams were unable to find people over 60 years old because nearly all people in this age range in the surveyed villages were killed in the storm or its aftermath;

Whereas there is no comprehensive plan or funding for meeting the needs of the cyclone survivors with respect to housing reconstruction, agricultural support, medical care, education, and nutrition supplementation; and

Whereas these factors make it likely that the rural poor of Orissa will migrate to cities and overwhelm the already limited social services available in this region: Now, therefore, be it

1       *Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate*  
2 *concurring), That it is the sense of the Congress that the*  
3 *Administration, through the United States Agency for*  
4 *International Development, make available to American*  
5 *private volunteer organizations and United Nations agen-*  
6 *cies an additional \$50 million a year for the next two*  
7 *years, to mitigate the effects of the cyclones that have dev-*  
8 *astated the poorest people in the second poorest State in*  
9 *India.*

