Pakistan's actions were condemned by the U.S. and the international community, and Pakistan was forced to essentially withdraw. But the attacks by Pakistani forces on India army positions continued day-to-day, causing casualties on both sides and threatening the stability of the entire south Asia region.

You have to wonder, Mr. Speaker, why the U.S. continues to try to win the favor of the Pakistani regime, given the proven collaboration between Pakistan and the fundamentalist Taliban militia in Afghanistan, and with bin Laden. Bin Laden and the Taliban represent the height of violent anti-Americanism, and yet here is the Pakistani regime tolerating, if not directly supporting, the operations of these movements in their country.

We have recently seen another example of the lack of respect for democracy and the rule of law on the part of the new Pakistani military regime with the initiative to indict the deposed Prime Minister, Sharif, on trumped up charges of treason and hijacking, charges which carry the death penalty.

Mr. Speaker, I do not want to get carried away singing the praises of Mr. Sharif. He was deeply involved in the ill-fated military campaign in Kashmir earlier this year. But he was the recognized legitimate leader of the nation. He had apparently attempted to dismiss the army's Chief of Staff, General Musharraf, and, instead, the general turned the tables and dismissed the prime minister, indicating who is really in charge in Pakistan. The turn of events indicates that the notion of democratic civilian leadership and the rule of law are not well developed in Pakistan.

Reports in the last day out of Pakistan indicate that Prime Minister Sharif, who has been in military custody since he was deposed in the October 12th coup, has been moved to the port city of Karachi in a military aircraft in preparation for a court appearance.

Mr. Speaker, in conclusion, there are some who seem to welcome the seizure of military power by the military in Pakistan as a recipe for stability. I believe this is misguided thinking. First, as the rocket attacks against American targets last week indicate, the military regime is no better at maintaining stability and security than the previous civilian government. Furthermore, this year's Pakistani attack on India in Kashmir demonstrates behavior that is highly destabilizing and could lead to a wider war that would devastate much of South Asia.

It was the military brass now in charge of the country who precipitated that conflict, and who continue to promote the ongoing border incidents. Finally, the fact that Pakistan has been under military dictatorship for approximately half of its 52 years of independence inevitably led General Musharraf to conclude that it was his right to dismiss the Prime Minister, not the other way around. Until that type of thinking changes, Pakistan's prospects for stability and democracy are dim. While we may not be able to change Pakistani behavior, the United States should not be playing the role of enabler, out of cynical expediency or in the misguided belief that the military regime will bring "stability." This body should go on record expressing our condemnation of this year's turn of events in Pakistan.

COMPREHENSIVE DEBT RELIEF ADOPTED BY OMNIBUS BUDGET RESOLUTION

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

Mr. LEACH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to emphasize to my colleagues and the public that as part of the omnibus spending resolution just adopted, the United States House of Representatives has endorsed the most seminal bill ever advanced for the developing countries of the world. Comprehensive debt relief has been adopted for the poorest of the poor, many, but not all of which, are in Africa.

Relieving the debt burdens of the world's poorest countries has become one of the foremost economic, humanitarian and moral challenges of our time. Indeed, seldom has there been such a compelling conjunction between abstract economics, ethics and public policy.

In an effort to address this problem, earlier this year I introduced H.R. 1095, an act which authorizes debt relief for certain countries and conditions that relief on those countries transferring the savings from debt service obligations into poverty reduction and sustainable development.

Although initially skeptical about the breadth of this legislative approach, the administration eventually embraced it, and I am particularly appreciative of the support of Secretary Summers in this cause. In Congress, a number of our colleagues have been instrumental in bringing this initiative to the floor, and I would like to thank the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. BACHUS), the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. CALLAHAN) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ARMEY) on this side of the aisle, and the gentleman from New York (Mr. LAFALCE), the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. FRANK), the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATERS) and the gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI) on the other.

That we are able to consider debt relief today is a result of extensive collaboration and dialogue with a coalition of non-traditional lobbyists. Such non-governmental organizations as OXFAM and Bread for the World have provided much needed impetus to the effort, and a group of some 200 religious groups embracing the entire spectrum of faiths and denominations have united under the banner of Jubilee 2000.

The term "jubilee" is particularly appropriate, as it invokes the Old Testament Biblical concept of restoration, providing a fresh start, in this case for the most abject poor, at the beginning of the new millennium.

A central text is Leviticus 25, which contains the injunction, "and ye shall hallow the fiftieth year, and proclaim liberty throughout all the land . . . In the year of this jubilee, you shall return every man unto his possession."

As the Book of Proverbs reminds, "If you refuse to listen to the cry of the poor, your own cry will not be heard."

The Jubilee movement is worldwide, but American leadership is critical. In recent years we have demonstrated to the world our capacity to lead in the use of force. Now we must show an equal commitment to leading in the delivery of compassion. In a world in which divisions between rich and poor daily become more accentuated, it is imperative that Jubilee relationships be righted, that the alternative to war and famine with their attendant social and capital costs be averted.

Just as the Marshall Plan symbolized practicality and generosity at the end of the greatest war in human history, debt relief under the Jubilee banner stands at the end of the second millennium after the birth of Christ as a critical moral response to social challenges in parts of the world where poverty is endemic and governments have proven unable or unwilling to serve well their people.

PROVIDING HOPE AND HELP TO FLOOD-RAVAGED NORTH CAROLINA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Mrs. CLAYTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. CLAYTON. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the Members and the Congressional and administrative staff numbering more than 500 who boarded 12 buses on Saturday, November 6, to provide hope and help to flood-ravaged Eastern North Carolina. On that day we cleaned up and fixed up places that 6 weeks after the hurricane were still saturated with water.

□ 2045

As a result of the flooding, lives have been disrupted, disturbed, and disordered. Tens of thousands were forced from their homes. Mr. Speaker, 11,000 homes were destroyed, and hundreds are living in a state of virtual homelessness. One-third of our population continues to suffer from a disaster that is unprecedented in the entire history of the State of North Carolina.

Mr. Speaker, we faced record high floodwaters covering more than 20,000 square miles, a land area greater than the size of the whole State of Maryland. Many people lost everything, their homes, their farms, their business, and their loved ones. The full amount of damage is still yet unknown.

As we begin to move from the phase of immediate relief to the phase of recovery and then rebuilding and reconstruction, many in the private sector