

Last year, while Congress worked to reauthorize NAWCA, a debate emerged concerning the role of the North American Wetlands Conservation Council and its membership. In discussions and correspondence with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and stakeholder groups, I came away with a clear message: everyone involves fully supports a growing NAWCA program. What was less clear was finding an appropriate means to foster continued non-governmental participation in, and contributions to, the quantitative and qualitative successes of the program.

The Fish and Wildlife Service informed me that it sought to ensure more diversity on the Council. For this reason, it indicated that the Secretary would not reappoint two organizations that have contributed mightily to NAWCA's success. Ultimately, one group chose to leave the Council and another chose to continue to seek reappointment, which I understand has been recently completed. I am hoping to receive written confirmation of this reappointment very shortly.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that the most effective means to diversify and expand the effectiveness of the Council is to provide the Secretary with new authority to appoint two additional Council members under Sec. 4(a)(1)(D) of the North American Wetlands Conservation Act. These appointments would give the Service the ability to include additional charitable and non-profit organizations from among many which actively participate in the development of NAWCA projects. Quite simply, this simple bill would allow a highly successful law to expand its reach, and I hope for its swift passage this year.

EAST TIMOR

HON. KEN BENTSEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 9, 1999

Mr. BENTSEN. Mr. Speaker, today I am offering legislation to address the troubling events that have been unfolding recently in East Timor. On August 30, 1999, the people of East Timor voted by 78 percent for independence from Indonesia, which invaded the former Portuguese colony in 1975. Since the election, which drew more than 98 percent of the territory's registered voters, militia groups backed by sections of the Indonesian military and police have engaged in widespread killings, arsons, and forced evacuations against the citizens of East Timor. These groups have forcibly transported tens of thousands of East Timor residents across the Indonesian border and intimidated foreign journalists, aid workers and election advisers into fleeing the territory.

On Tuesday, Indonesia declared martial law in the territory, but the declaration has made little difference. Relief agencies have estimated that up to 200,000 people in East Timor have fled to refugee camps in other parts of Indonesia, while thousands more have sought refuge wherever they could. Among those who fled was Roman Catholic Bishop Ximenes Belo, a Nobel Peace Prize winner, who was forced to flee to Australia after his home was viciously burned to ground by militia members. Yesterday, The United Nations announced it will be withdrawing most of its representatives

in the East Timor province in order to protect the lives of these emissaries. In addition, many of the foreign journalists in East Timor have also decided that they must evacuate in order to protect their lives. This deteriorating situation is a very serious matter which we must address. This campaign of killing, arson and forced evacuation has been clearly orchestrated by elements of the Indonesian military in a brutal attempt to devastate East Timor. The response by the Indonesian security forces, which represent the Indonesian government, has been wholly inadequate and stunningly indifferent, as these security forces have done nothing to stop the violence committed by the militia forces.

The backlash against the citizens of East Timor is an indication of a serious leadership crisis in Indonesia. It is important that, at this critical juncture, the response from the United States is both forceful and meaningful. The legislation I am introducing today would direct the U.S. representative to the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank to oppose any new monetary assistance to Indonesia including any additional tranches under the 1998 IMF/G-7 package until such time as the President certifies that the crisis in East Timor has been resolved.

As a long-time supporter of U.S. participation in the International Monetary Fund and the 1998 IMF/G-7 response to the Asian economic crisis, I do not believe the U.S. can continue to support assistance to a regime which has exhibited, at best, indifference to armed militia violence and slaughter following the East Timor plebiscite, and at worst complicity in the organized terror. However, I believe that this action is necessary to ensure that the Indonesian government take all necessary action to end this terror against East Timor's citizens. My legislation would apply not only to any future loans from the IMF and World Bank to Indonesia, but it would also require that the United States oppose additional extensions under existing loans. As a result, the United States representative to the IMF would oppose the next \$2 billion tranche of the existing \$12 billion IMF loan facility. My legislation would also require the United States Executive Director at the IMF to veto any future loans to Indonesia until the President certifies that the crisis in East Timor has been resolved.

It is also my understanding the IMF was scheduled to send a mission to Indonesia this week, but that it has been delayed in order to protect the safety of IMF employees. While IMF's concern for its employees safety is laudable, more must be done by way of response to this situation. I believe that we must discontinue these loans in order to convince the Indonesian government that its campaign of terror against the East Timorese will have dire consequences. My legislation would permit the IMF to restart these loans once the President of the United States has certified that the violence and human rights violations in East Timor have ended.

My legislation would also require our representatives to the World Bank to oppose any current or future loans to Indonesia. Last year, as part of the 1998 IMF/G-7 financial assistance package, the World Bank pledged to provide \$5.9 billion in aid to Indonesia. The World Bank is scheduled to release \$475 million of the \$1.375 billion outstanding loans during this fourth quarter of this year. My legislation

would require the U.S. to oppose this disbursement until the Indonesia government has acted to peacefully resolve the situation in East Timor.

As you know, Mr. Speaker, the United States helped to negotiate a \$49 billion restructuring program for Indonesia last year. I was very supportive of this package and believe that we should assist foreign countries on their paths of economic recovery. However, recent actions in Indonesia have forced me to reconsider my support for these financial assistance loans. I believe that it is highly regrettable that we must take this action, but the government of Indonesia has brought this upon themselves.

Let me also say that while most other nations in the region have experienced an economic rebound due in no small part to the IMF/G-7 participation, Indonesia has continued to lag behind as a result of its weak government structure. I do not believe a suspension of the IMF/G-7 package would pose the same contagious economic elements we experienced in January 1998, nor do I believe the U.S. should continue to support such a regime until such time as it can guarantee the safety of its own people.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation and to support the efforts of the United States to end the violence and human rights abuses occurring in East Timor.

A SALUTE TO MARILYN BERGMAN

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 9, 1999

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, as the Board of Directors of the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers (ASCAP) prepares to meet here in Washington, DC, I wish to call to the attention of all Members of Congress the many accomplishments of its President and Chairman of the Board, Marilyn Bergman.

ASCAP, the organization Ms. Bergman now leads, is a membership association of over 80,000 composers, songwriters, lyricists and music publishers. ASCAP's function is to protect the rights of its members by licensing and paying royalties for the public performances of their copyrighted works.

Marilyn Bergman is the first woman to be elected to ASCAP's Board of Directors. She brings to the leadership of ASCAP the unique experience of a creator, being herself an award-winning lyricist along with her husband, Alan Bergman. Among her many awards and honors, she has received three Academy Awards, three Emmy Awards, two Grammy Awards and one Cable Ace Award.

In collaboration with her husband, Alan, Marilyn won Oscars in 1968, 1973 and 1984 for the songs, "The Windmills of Your Mind," "The Way We Were," and for the score for Yentl. Since their first Oscar nomination in 1968, they have been nominated sixteen times—for such songs as "It Might Be You" from Tootsie, "How Do You Keep The Music Playing?" from Best Friends, "Papa, Can You Hear Me?" and "The Way He Makes Me Feel" from Yentl and "What Are You Doing the Rest of Your Life?" from The Happy Ending. In 1996 they were nominated for both a