

right now, I ask that this very thoughtful editorial from the Boston Globe documenting the shortcomings in the current administration policy in Afghanistan be printed here.

[From The Boston Globe, July 10, 2002]

AFGHAN TARGETS

The assassination Saturday in Kabul of a minister in President Hamid Karzai's government, no less than the lethal strafing of Afghan villagers by US aircraft, illuminates America's need to help Afghans rebuild their nation.

It was a calamitous error for the US military to use an AC-130 aerial gunship to attack four villages in Oruzgan province last week, killing dozens of women and children and wounding more than a hundred. Unless President Bush prohibits similar attacks in the future, his phoned apologies to President Hamid Karzai will be remembered as little more than a futile expression of regret from a leader who did not know how to preserve his battlefield victories.

There may be a bit of a mystery about how many villagers were killed in the attack and some unanswered questions about anti-aircraft guns that disappeared from sites where pilots had seen them firing. But US soldiers entered the village of Kakrak after the attack and saw the blood and gore. Something atrocious happened to a wedding party in Kakrak.

There is no excuse for loosing such firepower on an Afghan village without US spotters on the ground who can be trusted when they call in strikes on armed enemy forces.

Strategically, US decision makers are acting like rote managers who cannot see the forest for the trees. They are deploying high-powered US war machines to hunt tiny clusters of Taliban. In reality, the Taliban are finished. They present no immediate threat to the Karzai government. The members of Osama bin Laden's terrorist cult are in a different category, but because those foreigners are generally despised by Afghans, they are at the mercy of local Afghan informers.

The United States has much more to lose by killing innocent villagers than it has to gain by trapping a few Taliban diehards or even by catching their leader, Mullah Omar. The US strafing of wedding guests risks making the Americans, who liberated Afghans from the Taliban, look like just another band of foreign invaders.

Since nobody has claimed credit for the daytime assassination of Karzai's public works minister, Haji Abdul Qadir, the murder is unlikely to be part of a blood feud. It is more likely the work of forces intent on destabilizing Karzai's government.

To help that government survive and prosper, Bush should drop his administration's foolish opposition to expansion of the international security force—now composed of Turkish troops—this is currently confined to Kabul. If Bush wants to keep Afghanistan out of the hands of international terrorists, he must commit US power and prestige to nation-building in that country. Aid money must be funneled directly to the central government for the rebuilding of roads, bridges, canals, and irrigation systems. It will be much easier and less expensive to help rebuild Afghanistan than to go on chasing Taliban bandits through the mountains for years to come.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO JOHN HICKENLOOPER

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 16, 2002

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise before you to praise the lifeworks of Mr. John Hickenlooper. Mr. Hickenlooper plays an active role in the Denver, Colorado community, especially in the conservation of historical sites. It is an honor of this body of Congress to recognize his hard work and determination, which are two attributes highly deserving of our admiration.

John Hickenlooper was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania and graduated from Wesleyan University in 1974 with a Bachelor of Arts in English, later receiving his Masters in 1980 in Geology. He worked as an exploration geologist for Buckhorn Petroleum for five years before establishing the Wynkoop Brewing Company, the first brewpub in Colorado. He is considered a business pioneer in Denver's LoDo historic District, and his formerly small brewpub expanded and is now the largest brewpub in the world.

Mr. Hickenlooper has been a valuable contributor to the civic and business communities and has served his community well. He serves on numerous boards, including the Denver Art Museum, the Denver Metro Convention Visitors Bureau, the Institute of Brewing Studies, Volunteers for Outdoor Colorado, and the Chinoch Fund. He also acts as chairman for the Association of Brewers as well as the Colorado Business for the Arts.

Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to recognize the achievements of John Hickenlooper. He truly sets an example not only for his community, but also for the entire State of Colorado. His exploits have set an example for all Coloradoans and indeed the entire nation and I am grateful for his service to his community. John, I wish you the best in your future endeavors and thanks for your contribution to society.

AFGHANISTAN'S FUTURE IN ITS YOUTH'S HANDS

HON. MICHAEL E. CAPUANO

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 16, 2002

Mr. CAPUANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to inform my colleagues of the remarkable courage the children of Afghanistan have shown by returning to their classrooms this year in record numbers, despite the ongoing violence that has torn the country apart. The U.N. International Children's Emergency Fund, UNICEF, announced last week that over 5 million Afghani children, both boys and girls, have returned to school since the beginning of this year. This far exceeds the previously expected number of 1.78 million children. To the innocent people of Afghanistan who have long suffered from the great injustice, torture and oppression of the Taliban dictatorship, their children are a bright beacon of freedom and hope that a better future lies ahead.

I believe it is incumbent upon us to provide UNICEF with the necessary funds to continue

rebuilding Afghanistan's schools, hire more teachers and provide more books so they can live and learn like our children here in the United States. It is imperative that we keep the hopes of the Afghani people alive by assisting UNICEF's efforts to provide these children with proper food, shelter and clothing. We can help them grow up in happiness and in a safe environment in a country that has known neither in many years.

UNICEF's program in Afghanistan this year has been recorded as its largest educational development effort since its inception. However, the organization estimates that it will still need an additional \$57 million this year to support the newly crated education ministry, teacher training and recruitment, the development of curricula and textbooks for primary, secondary and higher education as well as a system of community radio programs to provide basic education to remote, underserved areas of Afghanistan.

Educating Afghani children is essential to the future stability of Afghanistan. With our help, UNICEF has taken on the enormous task of creating an educational system from scratch and has made remarkable progress so far. We must renew our commitment to the citizen of Afghanistan by investing more in UNICEF's efforts on behalf of the citizens of Afghanistan.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JAMES H. MALONEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 16, 2002

Mr. MALONEY of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained on Monday, July 15, 2002, and missed rollcall votes No. 296, No. 297 and No. 298. Had I been present, I would have voted "Aye," on rollcall No. 296, "Aye," on rollcall No. 297, and "Aye," on rollcall No. 298.

TRIBUTE TO SPECIALIST KENNETH LOEHNER AND OTHER MEMBERS OF THE MISSOURI NATIONAL GUARD

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 16, 2002

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, it has come to my attention that several acts of selflessness were performed by Missouri National Guardsmen. Specialist Kenneth Loehner, of Jefferson City, MO, heroically helped rescue a group of people in danger of falling into the Savannah River in Savannah, GA, while others protected the area from intrusion by growing crowds.

Spc. Kenneth Loehner and other Missouri National Guard members had been training during an annual two-week mission at Fort Stewart in Hainesville, GA. Halfway through their temporary duty, he and other members of his team were given a break and toured the local communities. During the break, Spc. Loehner heard a loud noise at a parking lot near the Savannah River. Part of the parking lot had caved in and trapped 3 tourists in a 10-foot deep crater nearly tossing them into