

"I'm very sorry," he said.

For much of Burma's history since it gained independence in 1948, the national army has been fighting guerrilla armies fielded by ethnic groups that want control of their own affairs and regions. Currently, army operations consist largely of low-intensity conflicts against a handful of opposition groups, notably the Shan State Army, the Karen National Liberation Army and the Karenni Army.

The army has a major advantage in numbers over these groups, none of which has more than 15,000 troops, according to Karen and Karenni officials and Human Rights Watch, but they say the army still employs underage soldiers.

"Children are picked up off the street when they are 11 years old," said Jo Becker, child advocacy director for Human Rights Watch. "Many have no chance to contact their families and see their parents again. Everyone we had talked to had been beaten during the training. Most were desperately unhappy."

The Burmese government denies the charges. "I am totally flabbergasted at the assertions in the Human Rights Watch report," said Col. Hla Min, deputy head of the Defense Ministry's International Affairs Department in the capital, Rangoon. "The Myanmar Defense Forces does not recruit underage and, in fact, MDF is a voluntary army. Today, after 98 percent of all the insurgents have made peace with the government, there is not much need for recruitment as accused by certain quarters."

In a faxed reply to a query, he stated that the Burmese troops are now engaged in work similar to that of the U.S. Civilian Conservation Corps during the Great Depression.

U Kyaw Tint Swe, Burma's ambassador to the United Nations, said in a statement to the U.N. Security Council on Jan. 14 that "there is no credible evidence of the use and recruitment of children by the Myanmar armed forces."

U.S. policy is that people can enlist in the military at age 17, but must be at least 18 to serve on front lines.

In an interview, a 19-year-old named Aung, who asked that his full name not be used, said he was taken into the army in 1998 at age 14 after seven years in an army-run prep camp, named Ye Nyunt. There he and others learned to march in straight rows, clean guns and recognize land mines. Aung was 9 when he first picked up a gun, a standard army-issue G-3. The gun was taller than he was, he recalled.

Aung thought that after he finished his studies, he would become an army captain. But one June day in 1998, when he was 14, a general showed up at the school. All boys older than 13 who had not finished the 10th grade were pulled aside. He and his schoolmates thought they were just being sent to another class. Instead, they were trucked to a holding center in Mandalay. "I got to the army by force," he said, "not voluntarily."

Aung said he first saw battle at the age of 15, and he was sick for three days afterward. But he grew used to it: In the following two years, he took part in seven major firefights and countless minor skirmishes, he said.

The worse battle lasted from early morning into the evening, in the village of Loi Lin Lay in 1999. The fighting began at the back of the village and by afternoon had moved to the front, where he and his friend, another 15-year-old, were deployed. By nightfall, most of his Burmese counterparts were dead. "During the fighting, you don't have time to think," he says. "Only shoot."

He said he felt powerless to resist. In the army, "if a bad person gives an order, you have to follow it. If he says burn the village, you have to burn it. If he says kill a person, you have to do it."

Naing Win, the boy soldier who recounted use of amphetamines, said in an interview that he was picked up at a train station near Mandalay when he was 15. Authorities found he had no identification card and gave him a choice: Join the army or go to prison. He was forced into a truck with 40 other people, 16 of whom were boys. They were taken to an army base, then to a holding camp for recruits.

If a boy refused to eat his food, was late or missed a task, the other soldiers would often be forced to beat the victim with bamboo strips or a whip, Naing said. There were other forms of punishment, the former soldiers said, such as jumping in the sand like frogs for 10 minutes, or lying flat on the ground and staring at the sun.

One boy was stripped naked, his hands and legs tied, Naing recalled. After 20 or 30 blows, his skin was bloody. An officer rubbed salt into the wounds on his back. The boy screamed in pain. Hours later, he was dead.

But not all officers were harsh, said Kyaw, who recounted being plucked for military service from a bus stop near Rangoon at age 11. One officer let the boys watch videos, including James Bond movies. Others would arrange surreptitious meetings between a youngster and his parents.

In the field, they had duties that included rounding up villagers in rebel areas to serve as porters, the former soldiers said. Those who balked or could not keep up were beaten or killed. Naing said he also witnessed Karenni villagers being raped. A general told the soldiers that raping women serves "to give the soldiers energy."

"Some of my friends said, 'It's okay. They're not Burmese. They're Karenni.'" Once, he said, he saw a teenage girl being raped repeatedly in an open field in the evening. First came the battalion leader, then a bodyguard, then ordinary soldiers. She was screaming and crying. She was left to die, he said.

All three of the former soldiers said they eventually deserted.

Naing fled in 1995, after six years in the army. He married a Karenni woman and joined the Burma Patriotic Army, a group of 30 fellow deserters whose aim is to oppose the central government in Rangoon. He said he has pretty much abandoned hope of seeing his family in Mandalay province again, unless there is a change in government. He still dreams about his friend who was killed.

Aung escaped in May 2001. Today, he lives in a Thai town near the border and works odd jobs. He is waiting for the political situation to change, so that he can return home to Rangoon province. The only way he expects that to be possible is if "people in the outside world put a lot of pressure on the government."

And last September, after three years in uniform, Kyaw was bathing alone in a stream near a waterfall. No one was watching. He bolted. After walking for four hours, he reached a Karen village, where soldiers tied his hands and punched him, thinking he might be a spy. After he convinced a Karen officer that he was a true deserter, he was given refuge in a border village.

He does not dare to go home. "They will put me in prison," he said. He has no desire to resume studying. His only desire is to be a kickboxer one day, like his favorite Burmese boxers Shwe da Win and Wan Chai. He says he does not think much about the army. He has no nightmares. "I don't dream," he said.●

COMMENDING LINDA MORGAN

● Mr. HOLLINGS. Madam President, I want to pay tribute to an outstanding

public servant, Linda Morgan, as she prepares to leave the Surface Transportation Board next month. She has been a Commissioner of the Board, and its predecessor, the Interstate Commerce Commission, since 1994, much of that time as Chairman. As such, she demonstrated real leadership, presiding when there were difficult years for the railroad industry as many companies merged.

I know Linda's excellent work firsthand. She served for 15 years as a professional staff member with the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, and I was proud to name her the first female General Counsel to the Committee. It is fair to say that Linda Morgan is responsible for much of the legislation that established the framework for today's surface transportation system.

Last month, the Washington Post interviewed Linda, seeking out her views on the railroad industry. I think it would do all members of this body well to read what this dedicated model of public service had to say.

I ask to print the following article in the RECORD.

The article follows:

[From the Washington Post, Feb. 27, 2003]

RAILROAD REGULATOR LINDA MORGAN
RESIGNS

(By Don Phillips)

Linda J. Morgan, the federal official who saw the railroad industry through a decade of turbulent mergers, said she will resign from the Surface Transportation Board on April 8, almost nine months before her term expires.

Morgan, a Democrat who had a cordial relationship with Bush administration officials, had been asked to remain as chairman until the administration could name a replacement, a process that took a year. Roger P. Nober, a Transportation Department official, was named chairman of the three-person board in December. Morgan's departure as a member had been expected. She said she will not decide on a future career until after she leaves.

Chairman of that board and its predecessor, the Interstate Commerce Commission, since March 23, 1995, Morgan presided over the Union Pacific-Southern Pacific merger in 1996 that resulted in a meltdown in rail service nationwide, and the 1999 division of Conrail between Norfolk Southern and CSX Transportation, which created serious service problems that were not solved for months. Those systems have recovered from their problems and service appears to be improving.

The Surface Transportation Board, in addition to approving rail mergers, also has some powers in regulating the commercial end of the railroad industry.

Morgan said she believes that the railroad industry has emerged from the merger period better, because the companies learned to pay closer attention to their customers and to day-by-day operations.

"This period without mergers has been good for the industry," she said. "For a time, mergers were the answer to everything."

But Morgan said she fears for the future of freight rail because the railroads, shippers, Congress and states are polarized over whether government should impose conditions to guarantee greater competition, which would cause freight rates to fall. Such "open access" proposals could hurt customers more than they help, she said.

Everyone is trying to gain narrow advantage rather than engaging in a debate on what role railroads should play in the future, she said.

Morgan said that freight railroads, although more successful than ever, do not yet earn enough to pay for the cost of maintaining and expanding their infrastructure. But she said the railroads may have a difficult time investing in infrastructure they would need to move more freight in the future, if some customers and Congress continue to push for even lower rates.

"Railroads can't be all things to all people," she said. "They can't be giving people lower rates but then sustaining the network they have in place today and opening up their line to commuters for some sort of low cost. You can't do it all. Somehow the finances have to make sense."

Unless there is a comprehensive and sensible debate, Morgan said, Congress and shippers may some day find that their only two choices are to let the industry shrink or to let the federal government take over the railroads or railroad infrastructure at a high cost.

"The customers want lower rates," she said. "But do they also understand that over time, over some period of time, if all these rates keep coming down, then there won't be the revenue coming into the system to sustain the network that exists today in the private sector? Then will that mean the customers will lose service that they don't want to lose, and will they be prepared for that?"

"Will members of Congress understand that if we go in certain directions from a policy position, and that ends up with a situation where there are not enough revenues coming into the system to sustain this rail network in the private sector, will they then be prepared to do what's necessary to do the next thing? . . . I want to make sure that everybody understands that is the challenge for the industry." •

PROFESSOR ANTHONY JONES

• Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, I rise today to recognize Professor Anthony Jones, president of the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. Professor Jones has been awarded the honor of Commander of the British Empire by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth for services in the promotion of British art in the United States. King George V created the Commander of the British Empire honor in 1917 to reward services to the World War effort by civilians at home and service personnel in support positions. The orders are now awarded in both military and civil divisions for public service or other distinctions.

Originally from Wales, Tony Jones is an internationally-known arts administrator, broadcaster, writer and historian of art design. Professor Jones studied at the University of London and the Newport College of Art, and came to the United States as a Fulbright Scholar. He earned his graduate degree from Tulane University in New Orleans, LA.

Before coming to Chicago, Tony Jones had been Director of the Glasgow School of Art. He created the "Welsh Chapels" exhibition of the National Museum of Wales, and is the author of "Chapel Architecture in the Merthyr Valley" and "Welsh Chapels." In 1999, his research on the architectural par-

allels of Glasgow and Chicago was examined in the BBC documentary "A Tale of Two Cities: Glasgow and Chicago." Professor Jones is a recognized authority on the development of art, design and architecture in the Modern Age, especially the work of the architect and designer Charles Rennie Mackintosh and the Celtic Revival movement designer Archibald Knox.

Professor Jones's accomplishments have earned him international recognition. In addition to his positions as Senior Fellow of the Royal College of Arts in London, where he also served as Director, and as Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts, he was appointed Honorary Director of Japan's Osaka University of the Arts in 2001 and was conferred the Austrian Cross of Honor for Science and the Arts in 2002. Here in the United States, Professor Jones was elected Honorary Member of the American Institute of Architects and has won the National Council of Arts Administrators Award for Distinguished Service in the Arts. He currently serves as the president of the School of the Art Institute of Chicago and as president of the Alliance of Independent Colleges of Art and Design.

Professor Jones was granted the honor of Commander of the British Empire in recognition of his long years of distinguished service to the arts and culture, international education, and the promotion of British arts in the United States. The honor will be awarded by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth at an investiture ceremony at Buckingham Palace later in the Spring.

It is my privilege to congratulate Professor Jones on the occasion of this prestigious award and to acknowledge his extensive contributions to the arts. He is an asset to the arts and education communities in Illinois and across the globe. •

RETIREMENT OF LTC TED PUSEY

• Mr. REED. Madam President, I wish to recognize and pay tribute to LTC Edward B. "Ted" Pusey, Liaison Officer in the Army's Office of the Chief of Legislative Liaison, who retired February 28. Colonel Pusey's career spans 27 years of Army service during which he has distinguished himself as a soldier, leader and friend of the United States Senate.

Born in Washington, DC in 1953, Lieutenant Colonel Pusey graduated from Wofford College in 1976 and was commissioned as a lieutenant in the Armor Branch of the US Army. During his career, he commanded at many levels and served in staff positions at the highest levels of the Army, always ably leading and training America's soldiers at home and overseas. His duty locations over the years included Fort Riley, KS; Mainz, Germany; Fort Leavenworth, KS, as the Executive officer for the Army's School of Advanced Military Studies; Fort Stewart, GA, with the 24th Mechanized Division as both a

Battalion and Brigade Operations Officer, as a Battalion Executive Officer and as a Brigade Adjutant during Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm; and, finally, in the Pentagon and Senate in the Office of Legislative Liaison. Lieutenant Colonel Pusey also served as a Tactics instructor at the Royal Armoured Corps Centre in Bovington Camp, England. He has always been placed in positions of responsibility throughout his Army career.

Since October 1995, Ted Pusey has served with distinction in the Army's Office of Legislative Liaison where he has superbly represented the Army Chief of Staff and Secretary and promoted the interests of soldiers and civilians of the Army. His professionalism, mature judgment and interpersonal skills earned him the respect and confidence of the Members of Congress and Congressional staff with whom he worked. In over 8 years on Capitol Hill, Ted Pusey has been a true friend of not only the Army he loves, but also of the United States Senate and the Congress. Serving as the primary point of contact for all Senators, their staffs, and committees, he helped Congress understand Army policies, actions, operations and requirements in a prompt, coordinated and factual manner. Additionally, he provided invaluable assistance to Members and their staffs while planning, coordinating and accompanying Senate delegations traveling worldwide. His substantive knowledge of the key issues, insight, and ability to effectively advise senior members of the Army leadership directly contributed to the successful representation of the Army's interests before Congress.

Throughout his career, Ted Pusey has demonstrated his profound commitment to our Nation, his selfless service to the Army, and a deep concern for soldiers and their families. Committed to excellence, he has been a consummate professional who, in over 27 years of service, has personified those traits of courage, competency and integrity that our Nation has come to expect from its professional Army officers.

I ask that my colleagues join me in thanking LTC Ted Pusey for his honorable service to the Army of the United States. We wish him and his family all the best in the future. •

MEASURE HELD AT DESK

The following resolution was ordered held at the desk by unanimous consent:

S. Res. 71. A resolution expressing the support for the Pledge of Allegiance.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, which were referred as indicated:

EC-1344. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to