

irreversibility, increased morbidity and mortality beyond acceptable levels and migration.

RECOMMENDATIONS

40. Given the continued deterioration of the situation, and the likelihood of increased needs and a wider affected population experiencing irreversible outcomes of the crisis, the mission recommends the following:

A. Issue demarche to other donor countries and request further assistance (see Reftel F).

B. Establish a reserve allocation of 150,000 MT from the Emerson Trust that can be used to respond to needs at the height of the hungry-season (July–September). Food would be distributed through NGOs and the World Food Program.

C. Continue CSB contributions and deliveries through NGOs and the World Food Program to meet the deterioration of nutritional status in developing hot-spots. Based upon needs, up to 25,000 MT of CSB should be made available for delivery in July and August 2003.

D. Use additional agency funding to meet immediate needs and put in place livelihood interventions and counter-famine measures particularly through U.S. non-governmental organizations now implementing the joint emergency operation.

E. Broaden the normal pool of implementing agencies and the tools to meet needs (i.e., beyond traditional food and non-food programs). It has become clear over the last several months that our NGO partners are quickly coming to a saturation point regarding their capacity and additional surge capacity is needed.

F. Provide follow-up CDC assistance to track epidemic outbreaks and implement appropriate nutritional and mortality surveys to deepen the understanding of the overall magnitude of the crisis.

G. Press the United Nations for the appointment of a special envoy and/or a senior operational humanitarian coordinator to establish an effective and credible emergency response across UN agencies. This point cannot be over-stated. Brazeal.

FREEDOM'S OBLIGATION

HON. J. DENNIS HASTERT

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 30, 2003

Mr. HASTERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to submit the words of John Marc Sianghio, Jr., a young man from Oswego, Illinois, to the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. John was recently named a winner in the Veterans of Foreign Wars Voice of Democracy scriptwriting contest for 2003.

The Veterans of Foreign Wars holds a Voice of Democracy competition each year in order to give high school students an opportunity to express their patriotism. This year, an overwhelming 80,000 students across the country participated in the contest. John's essay reflects upon the responsibilities inherent to life in a free nation—freedom's obligation.

I commend the Veterans of Foreign Wars for their continued commitment to fostering a sense of patriotism and responsibility in the youth of our great nation. And I congratulate John on his success and wish him the best of luck in his future endeavors.

2002–2003 VFW VOICE OF DEMOCRACY
SCHOLARSHIP CONTEST

"FREEDOM'S OBLIGATION"

(Illinois Winner.—John Marc Sianghio, Jr.)

Lady Liberty stands vigil over a city, and a nation that does not sleep. In her torch shines perpetual daylight, fueled by the great virtue that is tireless action. "Action" she demands. Even her silence cries out to the world, "Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free."

Though the words say "give me" the subtext shouts "come!" It is not an invitation, it is a command: not a gift, a demand. The imprisoned lightning in her torch thunders with a message understood in every language, that the Republic over which she stands with its liberties and justices, is not for all. It stands only for all those with the boldness to take it, for all those willing to pay its price. This precious freedom is open only to those who can meet its obligation.

That obligation can only be action, for America is a republic born of a hard and painful labor, a republic that earned its freedom at the point of a gun, and that has held its freedom with the same. America is a nation that did not emerge as the random offspring of intermingling tribes. It emerged by the active will of its people. Nor was its revolution won in the minds of inert philosophers, rather in the hearts of the masses; hearts that not only had passive sentiment, but that physically pumped charged blood into live limbs, stirring them to action: Hearts that bled freely so that the flag of independence might be striped in scarlet . . . But that once vibrant crimson has faded through uncounted years of stagnancy.

Stagnancy is the greatest treason. We justify it in this age by referring to it by an alias. Like the devil it is, it has many names. It is called caution, debate, delay, filibuster, complaint, apathy, and inaction. If it is not action . . . it is treason.

Treason was not a word in my vocabulary when I immigrated to this country. I was two at the time. Freedom when I first set foot on American soil meant that I would be out of the coach class seat that held me for twenty two hours, that I could stretch my legs on solid ground. Was that true freedom? Of course not. I had to learn freedom. I had to earn freedom.

From the moment I was first old enough to realize the opportunities and liberties gifted to me by American Freedom, the enormity of Freedom's obligation was already creeping onto my shoulders. As I have grown older and learned more and more about my rights, the responsibilities wrapped inside these rights also began to emerge.

As immigrants to this country, there was a long difficult process which my family and I had to undertake to stay in this country. This process required much sacrifice by each individual involved. However, we wanted to work to earn the freedoms we enjoyed. Had we not done it, we would have debased our honor and lowered ourselves to the state of common thieves. The sacrifices I have made earned me my freedom. Your story, your struggles, your road to earning freedom is probably much different. However, our obligations to freedom are in essence the same.

So what is the spirit of our obligation? What is the common labor that must be undertaken to be worthy of Lady Liberty's embrace? It is simply love. Patriotic love.

I speak of a patriot's love, not as the lust of a fool who thinks he serves his country by ignoring her laws and making his own rules because he believes they are better. I speak of true love, like that in marriage. Freedom's obligation is the marriage of our minds and our souls. It is a dreamer's desire

for the ideal, guided by the rational hands of what is real. Our obligation is to strive for that ideal. Realistically, we know that true freedom can only come when every human being is rid of their every chain, chains of poverty, chains of addiction, and chains of hatred. Still we are obligated as individuals to strive for the ideal of freedom. The ideal that every person is created equal because every person creates himself equal. It starts with one. It starts with me, and it starts with you. If we do not meet our obligations, this ideal can never be reached. If we do not meet our obligations, we cheapen freedom, and we cheapen ourselves.

For it is freedom's obligation, the great price at which freedom comes, that gives it its value. That is why we must act, so freedom may retain its value, and that we as individuals may maintain our integrity and human worth as well. For the obligation of freedom is Lady Liberty's call to the individual who longs to be free. Who, like a newborn child that struggles for its first life sustaining breath, expands his lungs against the weight of apathy so that he may breathe free.

HONORING 2002 PRE-TEEN AMERICA SR. TITLEHOLDER KATIE BECK

HON. MIKE ROSS

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 30, 2003

Mr. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment to recognize and honor Katie Beck for being named 2002 Pre-Teen America National Sr. Titleholder, and thank her for her outstanding contributions to her community. Competing against talented young ladies from all across the country, Katie distinguished herself through a demonstrated commitment to community, steadfast character, and drive: all the values that we, as parents, teachers, community members, and legislators, hope to instill in our next generation.

As a parent, I understand the demands that our young people face, which is why I am so encouraged by what Katie has accomplished. In addition to being an active member of her church, captain of the dance team, and the starting pitcher for her softball team, Katie has maintained an A average in school from grades first through eighth. Her energy and dedication have earned her numerous accolades and honors including: Duke University TIP Award, President's Education Award, and the National Science Award. At a time when our country needs youth leadership more than ever, Katie has answered the challenge and set a course that can serve as an example for us all. This is a young lady who exemplifies the Arkansas spirit, and who is destined for great things.

Just qualifying for the rigorous Pre-Teen program speaks volumes for the character and accomplishments of the young women who compete; however, by being named Pre-Teen America Sr. Titleholder, Katie has also shown maturity and poise beyond her years on top of her many accomplishments. And already, at such a young age, Katie has demonstrated leadership, and exemplary character and grace.

Again, I say to Katie, "Congratulations." You are a credit to yourself, your wonderful parents, your community, and your state, which is