

South Asia. It is particularly distressing because only 4 short months ago the prime ministers of India and Pakistan signed a watershed agreement known as Lahore Accord. In it both committed to reduce the risk of conflict, particularly in Kashmir, their most volatile source of discord.

Now the promise of peace has been replaced by the worst fighting in decades. Islamic insurgents infiltrating from Pakistan have occupied strategic mountain locations in India and control portions of Kashmir. Both sides have reinforced troops and weaponry, and fighting has intensified. India and Pakistan also are redeploying troops along the Punjab border, the key battleground in previous conflicts. Citizens are collecting money for the war effort, lining up at recruitment centers, and donating blood. Recent press reports indicate that hard-line politicians on both sides are talking about using their nuclear options.

There is good evidence that these heavily armed infiltrators at Kashmir could not have been positioned or sustained themselves without direct Pakistani assistance, possibly including Pakistani troop involvement. This Member calls upon Pakistan to immediately halt such assistance. This Member also calls on both sides, India and Pakistan, to stop seeking short-term tactical advantages and work to achieve a strategic accommodation on the issue of Kashmir.

Mr. Speaker, no solution can be achieved under the continued threat of increased military action. This Member, and I am sure this Congress and the world, strongly cautions against further escalation. At the Lahore meeting, the prime ministers of India and Pakistan sagely agreed that they owe peace to their people and to future generations. They should fulfill that hope and commitment starting now with the cessation of hostilities.

#### GUAM OMNIBUS OPPORTUNITIES ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 19, 1999, the gentleman from Guam (Mr. UNDERWOOD) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, each time I come to the floor of this House and my words are broadcast over C-SPAN, I often get calls to my office from Americans all over the country. Some want to express their support for what I have stated, others are against me, and sometimes a few are distant relatives or friends that are excited to see me on TV.

But for most who call the office and for many people I meet their understanding of delegates in Congress is fairly limited. They know we are unlike other Members of Congress and we

are afforded most of the opportunities that representatives have but are not able to make our mark with a vote on the House floor. So essentially we are Members, but not entirely, and the island or jurisdiction each respective delegate represents is not often afforded the attention that their jurisdictions deserve, and by our unique status we must introduce very unique legislation tailor-made for our respective jurisdictions.

I have come to recognize that making Guam's case in Washington continues to be for me the greatest challenge of my life, as it certainly was for my predecessors and will likely remain for future delegates, barring a major change in political status, and that finding ways to create opportunities or level the playing field to advance the political, social, and economic well-being of our islands while being mindful of their roles in history to advance the cause of democracy around the world will take great effort and great diligence.

In a few days, I will introduce such legislation tailor-made for my home island, Omnibus Guam legislation, bipartisan in nature, that addresses certain several pertinent issues and calls for creating opportunities and improving relationships with the Federal Government.

Three issues, and I have six issues in the omnibus legislation, have already been passed in the Senate in the last Congress as S. 210 and received widespread support here in the House. One of those provisions gives Guam the right of first refusal for Federal excess property located in Guam. In the years following World War II, some one-third of Guam was claimed in the interests of national security, was condemned by military authorities and adjudicated in military courts so the people of Guam, who were not even U.S. citizens at the time, really suffered a very grave injustice in the claiming of the land. And so it is entirely fair at this point in time that Guam be considered before any Federal agency if land is declared excess. Normally Federal land declared excess goes to other Federal agencies first.

Secondly, we also want to give more opportunities for governors of island jurisdictions affected by migration to their islands allowed under the Compacts of Free Association from some of our island neighbors in the Pacific, namely the federated states of Micronesia as well as Palau and the Marshall Islands. We want to give the governors the right to participate in the reporting of the way these migrations are affecting our islands.

Third, we want to ensure that American citizens in need of social services such as housing are not displaced by these very migrants. Our omnibus legislation will ensure that American citizens are not left in the back of the line for housing, for public housing.

I will include three new provisions in this particular piece of legislation. First of all, I will lift a ban on betel nut, the importation of betel nut from Guam which is a small cultural practice, but for some reason the FDA refuses to see fit to understand that this is a very minor cultural practice and will go to a great deal of goodwill for the Guam community inside the customs zone of the United States as well as outside.

The omnibus legislation also introduces an item that includes Guam in the tax treaties of the United States. Right now the tax treaty for foreign investors in the United States is variable depending on which country the U.S. signs a treaty with, but the tax rate for foreign investors in Guam is fixed at 30 percent. So this puts us at a great disadvantage.

And lastly, lastly we want to make sure that Guam gets the same level of funding as other insular areas in such programs as the Department of Justice block programs. This is legislation that corrects an inequity that has existed for some time.

Many of these items, I am sure, are obscure to many of the Members of the House, but I certainly look forward to the support of Members of both sides of the aisle. Most of these items have been very clearly vetted with both sides, both parties, and I look forward to its expeditious passage and that the House Committee on Resources will deal with it expeditiously, and I ask that my colleagues cosponsor this important legislation for the people of Guam.

#### RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. There being no further requests for morning hour debates, pursuant to clause 12, rule I, the House will stand in recess until 2 p.m.

Accordingly (at 1 o'clock and 10 minutes p.m.) the House stood in recess until 2 p.m.

□ 1400

#### AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. PEASE) at 2 p.m.

#### PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend James David Ford, D.D., offered the following prayer:

Give us, O gracious God, the full measure of Your blessings and on this day we pray for the gift of patience. We are busy with our lives and our work and we move quickly to seize the opportunity and run toward the mark. Yet we know too, O God, that some parts of life take time and need nurture and growth and cannot be hurried.