

and militia leaders involved in murderous attacks but did not, why on earth should anyone believe that martial law and more troops will solve the problem?" Jones said the existing troops in East Timor did not need the extraordinary powers that martial law confers. "They just need the political will to act," she said.

Human Rights Watch said it was concerned that with almost all international journalists out of East Timor and most foreigners evacuated save for some 100 UNAMET staff holed up in the UN compound in Dili, the army could now use martial law as a cover for furthering the work of the militias. "One test will be whether members of the Aitarak militia, responsible for some of the worst violence over the last three days, will be arrested and charged," Jones said. The international community has been urging Indonesia to either stop the violence or invite international forces in to do so.

A five-person delegation from the U.N. Security Council left for Jakarta Monday evening New York time with a mandate to insist that Indonesia take steps in the next forty-eight hours to curb the violence. The martial law decree appears to be Indonesia's response to growing international pressure to act. In interviews with Jakarta newspapers, General Wiranto continues to insist that Indonesia is fully capable of resolving the problem without international assistance and maintains that no international forces will be permitted in East Timor until November, when Indonesia's highest legislative body, the People's Consultative Assembly, ratifies the results of the referendum held last August 30. In that ballot, almost 80 percent of East Timorese voted to reject an offer of autonomy and separate from Indonesia.

URGENT

(Mr. WOLF asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WOLF. Madam Speaker, our colleague, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. HALL), nominated Bishop Belo for the Nobel peace prize; and shortly thereafter, I visited East Timor about 2 years ago. I want to read a fax that I just received in my office about East Timor. The man said this is a deliberate, carefully planned operation. The militia are not out of control. They are, in fact, firmly under the control of the Indonesian military. East Timor is an Asian Kosovo. Asian Kosovo; and then he goes on to say that a gentle 80-year-old nun who helped work for Bishop Belo has been shot. Bishop Belo's home has been burned down. Bishop Belo has fled the country. And he ends by saying the neck of a 3-year-old child was wrung while his family watched.

This administration has to speak out and deal with this issue, and they have to speak out and deal with this issue before the end of the day.

URGENT

September 9, 1999.

Congressman FRANK WOLF,
241 Cannon HOB, Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN WOLF: I'm aware of your interest in the people of East Timor

and am contacting you because I believe you may not have heard of the massacre at Suai. Details of this event follow later in this message.

The East Timorese desperately need outside help and the support of democratic nations, in particular the USA. No less than 78.5% of East Timorese voted for independence from Indonesia. Since then, Indonesia has subjected them to a terrible revenge. Militia and Indonesian military have been burning, shooting and looting their way through East Timor for days.

The latest estimate (given tonight by the Australian Defense Minister) is that 200,000 East Timorese have been forcibly evacuated to West Timor and elsewhere in the Indonesian archipelago. There is a systematic programme of destruction and genocide taking place—designed to wipe out the East Timorese elite and raze the infrastructure of East Timor to the ground.

This is a deliberate and carefully planned operation—the militia are not 'out of control', they are in fact firmly under control of the Indonesian military. East Timor is an Asian Kosovo: Indonesian-backed militia and Indonesian police and military are causing terror in East Timor even as you read this message. A gentle 80-year-old nun who helped care for Bishop Belo has been shot. Bishop Belo has fled the country, and there are numerous accounts of children and young men being hacked to death. The neck of a three-year-old child was wrung while his family watched.

I'm writing to you as an Australian citizen who is outraged at these events and who cannot believe that the world, and the US in particular, will do nothing to stop this holocaust. There is a desperate, urgent need for immediate outside help for the Timorese, a gentle Christian people, who believed that the world would stand by them.

Australia has committed 4,500 troops for a peacekeeping force but has so far failed to get any support from the US. There is a great sense of sadness, anger and frustration here about this. And I must tell you that there is great disappointment at the lack of US interest.

Australia has always stood by the side of the United States whenever the US has asked for support—in Korea, Vietnam and the Gulf War. This is the first time in more than 50 years that we have asked for US help and we are getting nowhere. Our troops are on standby in Darwin and by coincidence there is a substantial number of US troops and several US warships also in Northern Australia. My guess is that a significant show of force and commitment by the US would turn the tide.

Please, Congressman, so what you can to help. Ask your colleagues and President Clinton to take a stand for democracy and against the evil, malevolent forces at work in East Timor today.

Yours sincerely,

IAN EVANS.

The following information is from the web site of the Australian Broadcasting Corporation and was telecast on ABC-TV tonight (7:00 pm AEST, 9/9/99)

UN CONFIRMS MASSACRE AT SUAI

The United Nations has confirmed a massacre in which approximately 100 supporters of independence were shot or hacked to death by rampaging pro-Jakarta militia members earlier this week.

The victims were among more than 2,000 terrified people who had taken refuge from the militia for some weeks in a church in the western town of Suai. Three priests are be-

lieved to have been among those killed during the militia attack on Tuesday. The East Timorese head of the Catholic aid agency Caritas, Father Francisco Barreto, is also believed to have been killed.

In other reports, six nuns from the Canossian order were reportedly killed in the city of Baucau, 115 kilometers east of Dili.

A spokeswoman for Caritas in Australia said priests have been identified as supporting independence because pro-independence supporters had begun seeking shelter in church buildings in the past months.

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 2788.

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the gentleman from New York (Mrs. MCCARTHY) be removed as a co-sponsor of H.R. 2788. She was inadvertently added as a cosponsor of this legislation.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LAHOOD). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Illinois?

There was no objection.

LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

(Mr. BONIOR asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the distinguished majority leader for the purposes of inquiring about the schedule for the rest of the week and next week.

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. BONIOR. I yield to the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. BONIOR) for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to announce that we have completed legislative business for the week. The House will therefore not be in session tomorrow.

The House will next meet on Monday, September 13, at 12:30 p.m. for morning hour and at 2:00 p.m. for legislative business. We will consider a number of bills under suspension of the rules, a list of which will be distributed to Members' offices tomorrow.

On Monday, we do not expect recorded votes until 6:00 p.m.

On Tuesday, September 14, and the balance of next week, the House will take up the following measures, all of which will be subject to rules: H.R. 417, the Bipartisan Campaign Reform Act; H.R. 1551, the Civil Aviation Research and Development Authorization Act; H.R. 1655, the Department of Energy Research, Development, and Demonstration Authorization Act; H.R. 2490, the Treasury and Postal Service Appropriations Conference Report; S. 1059, the National Defense Authorization Conference Report; and H.R. 1402, a bill regarding Federal Milk Marketing Orders.

Mr. Speaker, on Friday, September 17, no votes are expected after 2:00 p.m.

I wish all of my colleagues safe travel back to their districts, and I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, I have just a couple of questions for the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ARMEY).

Can the gentleman tell us the day in which campaign finance will be brought to the floor?

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. BONIOR. I yield to the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. BONIOR) for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, the campaign finance reform will be considered on Tuesday, and I might add we expect that to be a fairly lengthy debate and we would expect Members or advise Members to expect a late evening on Tuesday.

Mr. BONIOR. Does the gentleman expect a late evening other than Tuesday next week?

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. BONIOR. I yield to the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. ARMEY. We can tell the gentleman we will conclude business by 6:00 or so on Wednesday evening. The Hispanic Caucus has a very important dinner, and the schedule will accommodate to that dinner.

We expect that Thursday evening might possibly run a little late, but we certainly would hold to our 2:00 departure time on Friday.

Mr. BONIOR. I thank my colleague.

Finally, let me just ask my colleague that in August, before the recess, about 18 colleagues on the gentleman's side of the aisle signed a letter to the leadership asking that the minimum wage bill be brought up this fall before we adjourn for the year, and I am just wondering if the gentleman, who I know has a real fondness for the minimum wage bill, would enlighten us on when and if that will happen.

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. BONIOR. I yield to the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. ARMEY. I appreciate the gentleman yielding.

Yes, we are aware of this interest on the part of the Members on both sides of the aisle. We have key Members of the House working on that. I can only say to the gentleman he might expect something later in the year, but I have nothing more definite to say on that.

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague for yielding, and have a good weekend.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Nebraska?

There was no objection.

DISPENSING WITH CALENDAR
WEDNESDAY BUSINESS ON
WEDNESDAY NEXT

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the business in order under the calendar Wednesday rule be dispensed with on Wednesday next.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Nebraska?

There was no objection.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 1999, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

CHINA SHOULD NO LONGER RELY
ON TECHNICAL BARRIERS TO
BLOCK AMERICAN PRODUCTS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Washington (Mr. NETHERCUTT) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. NETHERCUTT. Mr. Speaker, 5 months ago, the American agriculture sector celebrated the signing of groundbreaking market access agreements with China. In April 1999, Chinese Premier Zhou Rongji signed three bilateral agreements with the United States designed to open agricultural markets. These agreements concluded decades of discussions on sanitary and phytosyntax trade barriers which had locked American farmers out of Chinese markets.

Upon signature, China agreed to immediately begin implementing these agreements, permitting access to China's vast markets.

The larger issue of Chinese WTO accession was not resolved in April, but the side agreements were considered a significant victory for American farmers.

China has long relied on technical barriers to block American products. For more than 20 years, wheat from the Pacific Northwest has been banned because of unfounded concerns about TCK smut, a wheat fungus. The rest of the world recognizes that TCK poses no threat to human health and does not affect the quality of the product, yet China has maintained its ban for all of these years.

Meat producers have largely been shut out of the market because China has only allowed imports from five approved U.S. plants and all citrus growers have been locked out because of

concerns about Mediterranean fruit flies in certain regions.

In signing the three agreements, China agreed to accept USDA certification for meat safety for U.S. exports of pork, beef and poultry; eliminate the current comprehensive ban on citrus fruits and eliminate restrictions on the import of Pacific Northwest wheat. All future SPS disputes will be settled scientifically.

The potential consequences of the agreement were tremendous and touched most agriculture districts in the United States. But unfortunately, the disagreements remain only a distant unrealized potential. Three weeks ago, a member of my staff traveled to China to discuss implementation of these agreements. The Director General of American Affairs within the Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Corporation indicated that China did not intend, did not intend, to implement the agreements until discussions were concluded on WTO accession.

Such a decision would be in direct contravention of the April agreement, which held that implementation would begin immediately. Agricultural producers should not be held hostage to WTO negotiations, and I expect China to uphold its bilateral commitments.

We as a Congress, we as a country, we as people who care about our agricultural sector, should expect China to uphold its bilateral commitments. This should serve as a test case if Congress discusses permanent normal trade relations with China later this year as a part of a WTO agreement. If China delays action on agricultural agreements that have previously been signed, it raises serious questions about the sincerity of other commitments to implement market access agreements.

The April draft WTO agreement would have resolved a wide range of other outstanding market access issues: trading rights, distribution, quotas, reliance on state trading companies and export subsidies. The U.S. Trade Representative did a great job in moving China toward a tariff based system, with extremely low tariff rates, but if China is unwilling to act on the Sanitary Phytosanitary Agreement, it seems likely that we may see continued reluctance on other aspects of any WTO agreement.

So I am sending a letter to President Zemin and President Clinton urging immediate implementation of the bilateral agricultural agreements, and I urge any Member of this body who represents producers of wheat, pork, poultry, beef or citrus, to join in the signing of this letter. With low prices already hurting our farm leaders across the country, we should not stand by and let them continue to be locked out of one of the largest markets in the world.

ADJOURNMENT TO MONDAY,
SEPTEMBER 13, 1999

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 12:30 p.m. on Monday next for morning hour debates.