

the crisis. All members of APEC have a direct interest in preventing the further escalation of violence and political instability.

I urge the Administration to continue to work aggressively with APEC nations to make it clear to the Indonesian government that the clock is ticking on a resolution of this issue. In addition to the diplomatic efforts, we must take some steps to demonstrate our own disapproval of the government's response to the situation to date. I support the Administration's decision to cease our direct military-to-military contacts with Indonesia. I believe we also should offer to send humanitarian aid to both East Timor and governments in the region that accept refugees. There are other steps that we can take as well.

That is why I have joined my colleague Senator RUSS FEINGOLD in introducing a bill to suspend international financial assistance to Indonesia pending resolution of the crisis in East Timor. Specifically, this bill would suspend the remaining U.S. military assistance to Indonesia, require the United States to oppose the extension of financial support to Indonesia by international financial institutions such as the IMF, and require Congressional approval before any FY 2000 bilateral assistance to Indonesia may be allocated. I see the introduction of this bill as a way to send a signal—not only to President Habibie, but to all of the players in Jakarta—that we regard this issue very seriously.

Mr. President, I appreciate the opportunity to talk about East Timor and I yield the remainder of my time.●

MR. AND MRS. PETER AND PAT COOK PROCLAMATION

● Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, It gives me great pleasure to rise today and honor two outstanding Republican visionaries and admired civic leaders, Mr. and Mrs. Peter and Pat Cook, on the occasion of the Gerald R. Ford Republican Women's Club, Annual Fall Reception on September 13, 1999.

Peter Cook began his professional career with Import Motors Limited Inc., where he was named President in 1954. In 1977, with his typical entrepreneurial spirit and innovative thinking, Peter Cook formed Transitional Motors Inc., also known as Mazda Great Lakes, where he currently sits as chairman of the board and majority stockholder. Additionally, Mr. Cook serves on the boards for numerous companies, most notably, Gospel Communications, Woodland International, Applied Image Technology and the new Van Andel Institute. In the past he served as chairman of the South Y.M.C.A. and the Kent County Republican Finance Committee.

Pat Cook has always been very supportive of her husband's career. In the

late 1950's she took it upon herself to help deliver some of the first Volkswagens to dealers in Midland and Detroit. After the birth of their two children, Tom and Steve, Mrs. Cook stayed at home and continued in a voluntary capacity to enrich her community. She has served on the boards of Welcome Home for the Blind, Blodgett Hospital Guild and Porter Hills Ladies Auxiliary.

Perhaps what is most truly admirable and wonderful about Mr. and Mrs. Cook is their dedication to helping the lives of others and the Grand Rapids community. They made the leading gift establishing the Research and Education Institute of Butterworth Hospital. Mr. and Mrs. Cook are active members of the Grace Reformed Church and much of their support is focused toward youth and Christian institutions. They have helped make possible the construction of the carillon on the Grand Valley State University campus; they have worked with Aquinas College students in making a new Student Center; and they have also contributed greatly to the Hope College Student Housing Center and Cook Valley Estates for the Porter Hills Presbyterian Village.

Mr. and Mrs. Cook lead their lives as an example to others by being strong Christians, distinguished philanthropists, and dedicated citizens. Their countless efforts and support will continue to benefit the community for many years to come.

Mr. President it is with sincere joy and appreciation that I honor Peter and Pat Cook. Rarely do you see two people who have unselfishly done so much to help others.●

ARMOR PIERCING AMMUNITION

● Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, two of my colleagues in the House of Representatives, Representative BLAGOJEVICH and Representative WAXMAN, asked the Office of Special Investigations within the General Accounting Office (GAO) to investigate the manufacture and distribution of fifty caliber armor piercing ammunition, some of the most powerful and destructive ammunition available. This investigation made public a little known program administered by the Department of Defense that makes unserviceable, excess and obsolete military ammunition available for civilian use.

Under the Conventional Demilitarization Program, military armor piercing ammunition is transferred through a U.S. Company to the civilian market. This ammunition is powerful enough to penetrate metal, ballistic or bullet-proof glass, even armored cars or helicopters. With use of the fifty caliber sniper rifle, this ammunition can start fires and explosions and strike targets from extraordinary lengths. This is ammunition that is in no way

suitable for civilian use. According to James Schmidt II, the President of Arizona Ammunition Inc. and a member of the Board of Directors for the Fifty Caliber Shooters Association, "the armor piercing, incendiary, and tracer type bullets are used by the police and military. Those available to the consumer are generally surplus. Our company does not sell these to the general public because they have no sporting application."

Yet, through the Conventional Demilitarization Program, the Department of Defense makes their surplus available to the general public. The Department pays Talon Manufacturing Company \$1 per ton to take possession of its demilitarized armor piercing ammunition. A percentage of this ammunition is then reconstructed and resold by Talon to domestic and foreign militaries, and to civilian buyers. In one business year, Talon sold 181,000 rounds of this refurbished military ammunition to civilian customers.

Once available on the market, this extremely powerful ammunition is subject to virtually no restriction. It is easier to purchase armor piercing ammunition capable of penetrating steel and exploding on impact, than it is to buy a handgun. This deadly and incredibly damaging ammunition can be sold to anyone over 18 and possessed by anyone of any age. No federal background check is necessary. Purchases may be made easily by mail order, fax, or over the counter, and there are no federal requirements that dealers retain sales records. These loose restrictions make armor piercing ammunition highly popular among terrorists, drug traffickers and violent criminals.

Certainly, the U.S. Military is not responsible for all of the armor piercing ammunition on the civilian market, but they are responsible for hundreds of thousands of armor piercing, incendiary and tracer rounds made available to the general public each year. I am an original cosponsor of legislation that would prohibit the Department of Defense from entering into contracts that permit demilitarized armor piercing ammunition to be sold to the general public. I urge my colleagues to support this bill and put an end to this program.●

TRIBUTE TO DR. PAUL N. VAN DE WATER

● Mr. LAUTENBERG. Mr. President, today I join my colleague from New Mexico, Mr. DOMENICI, in bidding farewell to Dr. Paul N. Van de Water—a longstanding and highly respected member of the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) staff. Dr. Van de Water is leaving CBO at the end of this week after more than 18 years of service to the Congress. Paul will join the Social Security Administration as the Senior Advisor to the Deputy Commissioner for Policy.