

many hundreds more, if not thousands, have been killed in the mass blood-letting and carnage. A war crimes tribunal as called for by UNHCR head Mary Robinson is necessary to punish those responsible for the atrocities.

Mr. Speaker, I further commend the decision of the United Nations to maintain its presence in Delhi, even if only with a skeletal staff. It was absolutely essential that international observers, such as the United Nations, not desert East Timor or the likelihood of genocide against the Timorese people would have substantially increased.

It is clear the United Nations must also commit to a peacekeeping force and not shirk its duty. Besides playing a significant role in supplying airlift capabilities and logistical support, I believe America should also contribute a small, if not symbolic, contingent of ground troops which by its presence, Mr. Speaker, an international peacekeeping force in East Timor may well lend a hand in stabilizing not just that island but the fragile democracy that ostensibly governs that country.

Mr. Speaker, with Indonesia being the fourth largest nation and the largest Muslim country in the world which sits astride major sea lanes of communication and trade, I urge my colleagues that we do something about this, raising the question about the instability of that country but more importantly make the will of the East Timorese people become a reality.

Mr. Speaker, last Thursday, the House International Relations Subcommittee on Asia-Pacific Affairs, of which I am a member, held a joint hearing with the Senate Subcommittee on East Asian and Pacific Affairs to review the current crisis in East Timor, and the implications on the overall future of Indonesia. I commend the gentleman from Nebraska, Chairman DOUG BEREUTER, and the gentleman from Wyoming, Senate Chairman CRAIG THOMAS for jointly addressing this urgent and compelling crisis now confronting the international community.

Like many of our colleagues, I am greatly disturbed and saddened by the brutal, violent response of the pro-Jakarta militia and Indonesian military to the overwhelming vote for independence demonstrated by the courageous people of East Timor. However, I am not at all surprised at the rampant killings, Mr. Speaker, as the Indonesian military has routinely used violence as a tool of repression now, and for the past thirty years.

Although the Timorese struggle for self-determination has received much publicity, Mr. Speaker, scant attention has been paid to the people of West Papua New Guinea who have similarly struggled in Irian Jaya to throw off the yoke of Indonesian colonialism. Mr. Speaker, one cannot talk about the crisis in East Timor, and then ignore the same crisis in West Papua New Guinea or Irian Jaya. As in East Timor, Indonesia took West Papua New Guinea by military force in 1963. In a pathetic episode, Mr. Speaker, that the United Nations in 1969 sanctioned a fraudulent referendum, where only 1,025 delegates were handpicked

and paid off by the Indonesian government were permitted to participate in a so-called plebiscite, and at the point of guns on their heads and with threats on their lives, these 1,025 individuals voted for Indonesia. The rest of the West Papuan people, over 800,000 strong, had absolutely no voice in this undemocratic process.

And, Mr. Speaker, recent media reports indicate even Australia and our own country were parties to this fraudulent plebiscite.

Since Indonesia subjugated West Papua New Guinea, the native Papuan people have suffered under one of the most repressive and unjust systems of colonial occupation in the 20th century. Like in East Timor where 200,000 East Timorese are thought to have died, the Indonesia military has been just as brutal in Irian Jaya. Reports estimate that between 100,000 to 300,000 West Papuans have died or simply vanished at the hands of the Indonesian military. While we search for justice and peace in East Timor, Mr. Speaker, we should not forget the violent tragedy that continues to play out today in West Papua New Guinea. I would urge my colleagues, my fellow Americans, and the international community to revisit the status of West Papua New Guinea to ensure that justice is also achieved there.

Mr. Speaker, with respect to the events of the past week in East Timor, the Indonesian Government should be condemned in the strongest terms for allowing untold atrocities to be committed against the innocent, unarmed civilians of East Timor. I commend President Clinton for terminating all assistance to and ties with the Indonesian military. The latest U.N. estimates are that up to 300,000 Timorese, over a third of the population of East Timor, have been displaced and it remains to be seen how many hundreds, if not thousands, have been killed in the mass blood-letting and carnage. A war crimes tribunal, as called for by UNHCR head Mary Robinson, is necessary to punish those responsible for the atrocities.

I further commend the decision of the United Nations to maintain its UNAMET operations in Dili, even if only with a skeletal staff. It was absolutely essential that international observers, such as the U.N., not desert East Timor or the likelihood of genocide against the Timorese people would have substantially increased.

As to the issue of a U.N. or international peacekeeping force, I strongly support such an intervention in East Timor and commend Indonesian President Habibie for his decision this weekend to authorize entry. While Australia and new Zealand may take the lead in the formation of such a peacekeeping force, it is crucial that Southeast Asian nations, such as the Philippines, Malaysia, and Thailand, contribute significant troops to the effort, and I applaud the cooperation and commitment of these countries. Jakarta, however, should not be permitted to dictate which countries shall comprise and contribute to the international peacekeeping force.

It is clear the United States must also commit to this peacekeeping effort and not shirk its duty. Besides playing a significant role in supplying airlift capabilities and logistical support, I believe America should also contribute

a small, if not symbolic, contingent of ground troops, which could easily be drawn from our substantial forces of U.S. Marines based in Okinawa.

With Indonesia being the fourth largest nation and the largest Muslim country in the world, which sits astride major sealanes of communication and trade—certainly we have substantial national interests in preserving stability in Indonesia and Southeast Asia, as well as preventing a U.N. initiative from turning into a catastrophic humanitarian disaster.

Moreover, Mr. Speaker, I believe that what has happened in East Timor—where the Indonesian military forces played a major role in the horrific violence—holds prophetic ramifications for the future of Indonesia as a whole. In front of the world, President Habibie has been humiliated by the inability to control his own military while Defense Minister General Wiranto's hand in the unfolding events in East Timor is still being questioned. It raises the question as to who is actually in control in Jakarta, and whether a civilian democratic government or military regime holds the reigns of power to Indonesia—now and for the future.

By its simple presence, Mr. Speaker, an international peacekeeping force in East Timor may well lend a hand in stabilizing not just that island but the fragile democracy that ostensibly governs Indonesia.

□ 1915

PREPARING FOR HURRICANE FLOYD

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

Mr. WELDON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight to speak out in support for all of those people who are now working to prepare for the probable arrival of Hurricane Floyd. Hurricane Floyd is a Class Four, possibly Class Five, hurricane right now, which represents an extremely powerful and strong storm. The last hurricane that was a Class Four to hit the United States was Hurricane Andrew.

I had the opportunity to go down into the devastated area after Hurricane Andrew came through south Florida as part of a program involving the Florida Medical Society. I went into the area to work in a clinic, and I was able to see firsthand the devastation wrought by this powerful storm, and it is for that reason that my heart, my concerns, my prayers go out to all those people who are being now asked to respond to this devastating storm, and in particular those people who are being asked to evacuate. Emergency management personnel are now calling for the evacuation of many of the barrier island communities such as the community of Indialantic in my congressional district.

Additionally, the storm is projected to go up the coast and come very close to Kennedy Space Center, and I had the

opportunity to visit Kennedy Space Center today and review there with the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MCCOLLUM) and the Senate Director, Roy Bridges, the preparations that are underway. At Kennedy Space Center right now is about \$8 billion worth of space station hardware that is being prepared for launch on the space shuttle. Obviously, all the space shuttles are there as well. And the crews are doing a great job in getting ready, and boarding up the buildings and preparing the equipment for the arrival of this storm, and I would be very happy to yield to my colleague from Orlando, Florida (Mr. MCCOLLUM).

Mr. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman for yielding both because I want to comment on this storm with him as I know all about the east coast of Florida is preparing for what could be one of the most serious hurricanes to strike the United States in years, including Hurricane Andrew; and we all pray that it does not happen.

We do not want to see it strike landfall anywhere because of the strength and power of this storm, but it could be particularly devastating to our coastline and for the families that are there; but also to comment with him, as he has pointed out on the fact, that we were today at the Cape. I was scheduled as my colleague, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. WELDON), knows to go with him to visit and tour the Cape for other reasons, as it is a neighboring district to mine and I have a great interest in the space program, as the gentleman and I have shared over the years.

But to me to be there today when they were making these preparations is a reminder of the enormous task that NASA has to be involved with not only in launch preparations in terms of all of the shuttle program and now the space station program and the tremendous effort and dedication the men and women there for those purposes, but also to prepare for disasters like this, to protect those valuable goods that are there at taxpayer expenses.

So I want to pay tribute with the gentleman from Florida tonight to the men and women who work at the Cape for all they have done to be dedicated not only to the program itself, but to the preparation each and every time there has been an approaching storm like this, but particularly now.

I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. WELDON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman, and I, too, would ask that all Members keep the communities not only in coastal Florida, but as well Georgia and South Carolina in the path of this devastating storm in their thoughts and prayers. We have great emergency management personnel that are preparing the communities and getting ready for the arrival of Hurricane Floyd; and we cer-

tainly do hope that the winds carry it out to sea further up north into the cooler waters of the Atlantic where it could be downgraded into a tropical storm and then ultimately perhaps just become a rain storm.

Mr. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield again?

Mr. WELDON of Florida. I yield to the gentleman from Florida.

Mr. MCCOLLUM. As my colleague knows, one of the things that we talked about today that was impressive to me is this is just the wind damage that could be terrible and devastating. It is the storm surge itself, the water levels, pointed out at the Cape that that could come up 6 to 15 feet above sea level; and I know that is important to everybody concerned with the protection of all of the valuable equipment that is there.

But in addition to that, in your district and in many others along the coast of Florida there are many, many homes that are at a level which could be devastated by this, not just right on the beaches, but inland, too, if the water surge and storm surge comes up that much.

So there is a great threat in the storm that is approaching, not just in the wind and the things you read about from the tornadoes and the storms that are spawned by it, but also by the tremendous potential for flooding and water damage from that surge.

Mr. WELDON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman.

IN MEMORY OF FATHER HILARIO MADEIRA AND FATHER FRANCISCO SOARES WHO WERE MURDERED IN EAST TIMOR

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

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I welcome the news that Indonesia will allow an international peacekeeping force into East Timor, but let me emphasize that the international community must act quickly before more lives are lost.

Shortly before the August 30 referendum on independence, I was in East Timor with two of my colleagues from the other body. Dili was a bustling city as it prepared for the U.N.-supervised vote. We were the only Congressional delegation to travel to East Timor before the elections and the last Members of Congress to see Dili as it once was. The burned, looted, and destroyed city emptied of its people is heartbreaking. Our delegation traveled to two towns along the western border, Maliana and Suai; and I would like to share some of what I saw in Suai.

August is the dry season in East Timor. It was sweltering, hot and dusty. In this poor town we went to the Catholic church compound where over

2,000 people were seeking refuge. Father Hilario Madeira, the senior parish priest, and Father Francisco Soares who would be our guides greeted us. They introduced us to their world, one filled with worry and tension and subjected daily to violence and intimidation by the Indonesian military and militias organized and armed by the Indonesian armed forces.

Despite the strain and uncertainty of their situation, I was impressed by Father Hilario and Father Francisco's warmth, good humor, hospitality, and steady nerves. Here were men carrying out God's mandate to love and care for your neighbor, protect the weak and live humbly.

In talking to the refugees, we discovered most had been burned out of their homes or forcibly evicted. The majority were women and children. They sought refuge in the church compound surrounded by militia who over the past 2 days had cut off all their food and water.

Our delegation met with town officials asking that the water be restored. It was clear that militias were in charge of the water and that town officials would do nothing. The armed Indonesian police and soldiers, those charged with protection and security of the East Timorese people during the U.N. process, stood in the shade doing nothing, laughing and joking with the militias.

When I met with President Habibie in Jakarta, we demanded the water be restored in Suai. Less than 24 hours later the militias turned on the water.

Father Hilario shared with us his concerns about the current violence and his fears about violent retaliation against the people who would go to the polls scarcely a week later, and we took that message to heart.

That evening in Dili we had dinner with Nobel Peace Prize winner and Catholic bishop Carlos Belo. In the dining room of his house overlooking the courtyard between his residence and the chapel where he said mass, Bishop Belo emphasized the need for protection following the vote, and as we met in Dili with Indonesian officials, police and military commanders, we were constantly assured they were providing security for the people. They brushed aside our description of the situation in Suai, and I asked that they could cite a single instance where they had detained, arrested, or confiscated the weapons of any militia member, and they could not.

As our delegation prepared to depart from Dili, we called upon the U.N. to immediately deploy armed peacekeepers to East Timor to protect the people from further violence, especially following the referendum.

Now we know everyone's worst fears have been realized. Over the Labor Day weekend I received word that the home of Bishop Belo where I had dined just 2