

Sharif, who has been in military custody since he was deposed in the October 12th coup, has been moved to the port city of Karachi in a military aircraft in preparation for a court appearance.

Mr. Speaker, in conclusion, there are some who seem to welcome the seizure of military power by the military in Pakistan as a recipe for stability. I believe this is misguided thinking. First, as the rocket attacks against American targets last week indicate, the military regime is no better at maintaining stability and security than the previous civilian government. Furthermore, this year's Pakistani attack on India in Kashmir demonstrates behavior that is highly destabilizing and could lead to a wider war that would devastate much of South Asia.

It was the military brass now in charge of the country who precipitated that conflict, and who continue to promote the ongoing border incidents. Finally, the fact that Pakistan has been under military dictatorship for approximately half of its 52 years of independence inevitably led General Musharraf to conclude that it was his right to dismiss the Prime Minister, not the other way around. Until that type of thinking changes, Pakistan's prospects for stability and democracy are dim. While we may not be able to change Pakistani behavior, the United States should not be playing the role of enabler, out of cynical expediency or in the misguided belief that the military regime will bring "stability." This body should go on record expressing our condemnation of this year's turn of events in Pakistan.

**COMPREHENSIVE DEBT RELIEF  
ADOPTED BY OMNIBUS BUDGET  
RESOLUTION**

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

Mr. LEACH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to emphasize to my colleagues and the public that as part of the omnibus spending resolution just adopted, the United States House of Representatives has endorsed the most seminal bill ever advanced for the developing countries of the world. Comprehensive debt relief has been adopted for the poorest of the poor, many, but not all of which, are in Africa.

Relieving the debt burdens of the world's poorest countries has become one of the foremost economic, humanitarian and moral challenges of our time. Indeed, seldom has there been such a compelling conjunction between abstract economics, ethics and public policy.

In an effort to address this problem, earlier this year I introduced H.R. 1095, an act which authorizes debt relief for certain countries and conditions that relief on those countries transferring the savings from debt service obligations into poverty reduction and sustainable development.

Although initially skeptical about the breadth of this legislative approach, the administration eventually embraced it, and I am particularly appreciative of the support of Secretary Summers in this cause. In Congress, a number of our colleagues have been instrumental in bringing this initiative to the floor, and I would like to thank the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. BACHUS), the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. CALLAHAN) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ARMEY) on this side of the aisle, and the gentleman from New York (Mr. LAFALCE), the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. FRANK), the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATERS) and the gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI) on the other.

That we are able to consider debt relief today is a result of extensive collaboration and dialogue with a coalition of non-traditional lobbyists. Such non-governmental organizations as OXFAM and Bread for the World have provided much needed impetus to the effort, and a group of some 200 religious groups embracing the entire spectrum of faiths and denominations have united under the banner of Jubilee 2000.

The term "jubilee" is particularly appropriate, as it invokes the Old Testament Biblical concept of restoration, providing a fresh start, in this case for the most abject poor, at the beginning of the new millennium.

A central text is Leviticus 25, which contains the injunction, "and ye shall hallow the fiftieth year, and proclaim liberty throughout all the land . . . In the year of this jubilee, you shall return every man unto his possession."

As the Book of Proverbs reminds, "If you refuse to listen to the cry of the poor, your own cry will not be heard."

The Jubilee movement is worldwide, but American leadership is critical. In recent years we have demonstrated to the world our capacity to lead in the use of force. Now we must show an equal commitment to leading in the delivery of compassion. In a world in which divisions between rich and poor daily become more accentuated, it is imperative that Jubilee relationships be righted, that the alternative to war and famine with their attendant social and capital costs be averted.

Just as the Marshall Plan symbolized practicality and generosity at the end of the greatest war in human history, debt relief under the Jubilee banner stands at the end of the second millennium after the birth of Christ as a critical moral response to social challenges in parts of the world where poverty is endemic and governments have proven unable or unwilling to serve well their people.

**PROVIDING HOPE AND HELP TO  
FLOOD-RAVAGED NORTH CAROLINA**

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentle-

woman from North Carolina (Mrs. CLAYTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. CLAYTON. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the Members and the Congressional and administrative staff numbering more than 500 who boarded 12 buses on Saturday, November 6, to provide hope and help to flood-ravaged Eastern North Carolina. On that day we cleaned up and fixed up places that 6 weeks after the hurricane were still saturated with water.

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As a result of the flooding, lives have been disrupted, disturbed, and disordered. Tens of thousands were forced from their homes. Mr. Speaker, 11,000 homes were destroyed, and hundreds are living in a state of virtual homelessness. One-third of our population continues to suffer from a disaster that is unprecedented in the entire history of the State of North Carolina.

Mr. Speaker, we faced record high floodwaters covering more than 20,000 square miles, a land area greater than the size of the whole State of Maryland. Many people lost everything, their homes, their farms, their business, and their loved ones. The full amount of damage is still yet unknown.

As we begin to move from the phase of immediate relief to the phase of recovery and then rebuilding and reconstruction, many in the private sector have been helping as well. Certainly, the Red Cross and Salvation Army have been at work. Business enterprises have stepped forward with their support. Individual citizens from across the Nation have helped. The church community is doing its part and will do more. In fact, on December 19, the church community across the country will hold a nationwide effort to gather support from various denominations to help with the housing needs, especially for those who are the working poor, disadvantaged and senior citizens.

Mr. Speaker, I believe those Members and staffers who joined us on the November 6 now have a clear view of the needs of the people of eastern North Carolina. I believe those Members and staff now understand why this Congress must indeed pass an emergency rebuilding and reconstruction package when we return in January.

When Congress returns, I and others will put before the Congress a comprehensive rebuilding and reconstruction bill. At that time, we will seek the support of our colleagues in the House and Senate, as well as the support of the administration.

One aspect of the legislation we will introduce will be the provision of grants rather than loans for those homeowners and businessowners who simply cannot be helped by loans alone. Unless we are able to provide grants, there are many, many who owned homes before the storm will not