

the 21st Century. He said we are on the brink of enormous clinical progress and pointed to extraordinary research momentum propelling us toward major medical advances. His leadership has been a key factor in making these advances possible.

Though he will soon leave as head of the institute, Dr. Gordon has charted an ambitious and steady course for the NIDDK as it begins both a new century and its second 50 years of service to the Nation.

Mr. Speaker, it is appropriate for us to recognize outstanding public servants for a job well done. Our thanks today go to Dr. Phillip Gordon for his lifetime commitment to improving the quality of life for his fellow citizens. Millions of Americans are living healthier lives as a result of the research Dr. Gordon and his colleagues have done and continue to do at NIH.

EXPRESSION OF SORROW AT TRAGIC DEATH OF JOYCE CHIANG

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

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, like the distinguished gentleman from California (Mr. BERMAN) who spoke before me, and like the distinguished gentlewoman from California (Mrs. LOIS CAPPES) who will speak after me, I rise to express sorrow at the tragic death and to commemorate the short but inspirational life of Joyce Chiang.

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On January 9, Joyce was last seen in Dupont Circle, and she was not seen thereafter. A body was discovered on April 1, and yesterday that body was positively identified as being Joyce.

Joyce lived a life of public service and public involvement, starting with her involvement with the student body government at Smith College, where she served as student body president, continuing here in the House of Representatives on the staff of the gentleman from California (Mr. BERMAN), and continuing to her service at the INS, where she spearheaded the implementation of the 1996 immigration bill.

Joyce never stopped contributing, never stopped involvement in public life. And Joyce was an incredible human being to all who knew her. As everyone who I have talked to says, and we all say the same thing, she lit up a room every time she walked in.

Those who knew Joyce were not surprised at what was an incredible and unprecedented outpouring from her friends when she became missing. I participated in the first of many vigils for Joyce held at Dupont Circle, and hundreds showed up to express their concern and their love of Joyce. And almost immediately, posters of Joyce appeared all over the City of Washington,

urging people to contact authorities if they had any knowledge of her whereabouts.

Not only her friends, but also and especially her family missed and worried about Joyce. Her family endured with courage and religious faith the unendurable 3 months knowing that their sister, their daughter was missing.

Our heart goes out to her brother Robert, in Texas, and her brother Roger, who lives here in the District of Columbia and who spent so much time publicizing Joyce's absence in the hope that someone would be able to identify Joyce's whereabouts, hopefully to help us find her, help the authorities find her during her life.

And I am proud to represent and my heart goes out to two residents of the San Fernando Valley, her mother Judy, who has spent so long and prayed so hard for Joyce, and especially to my very close friend, my successor in State government and Joyce's brother, John, who has lived through with his family what I just cannot imagine living through, 3 months of Joyce's absence.

Joyce will be remembered by so many. She was an inspiration to so many, and she will be missed by so many.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the distinguished gentlewoman from California (Mrs. CAPPES).

Mrs. CAPPES. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague from California (Mr. SHERMAN) for yielding.

And with our mutual colleague, the gentleman from California (Mr. BERMAN), I simply want to join on this sad day to remember Joyce Chiang and send my most heartfelt condolences to her family and her many friends, her friends particularly here on Capitol Hill.

As the mother of two grown daughters, I can only imagine the suffering of this family, and the anguish, over the past 3 months. I realize that mere words can be of little consolation at a time like this, but I do hope that the warm memories and very fond recollections that Joyce inspired will provide some comfort over time.

I did not know Joyce like my colleagues, but I feel connected to her through her brother Roger, who has been the family's courageous public voice over these past several weeks. And Roger is from my family, that is, the University of California at Santa Barbara family. He was a student of my husband Walter, an active UCSB alumnus, and is a close friend of many of the young people who worked for Walter and work with me.

To Roger and to the countless others who loved Joyce, my heart is with them today.

KOSOVO REFUGEES: AN EXODUS OF BIBLICAL PROPORTIONS

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

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, an exodus from Kosovo of biblical proportions is taking place. Thousands upon thousands of refugees stream across the border 24 hours a day.

There was a newspaper headline in Europe that said "Europe's turn in the killing fields." That writer must have seen what I saw, a catastrophe that should have been anticipated. Ethnic Albanian refugees from Kosovo are now paying a heavy price for this poor judgment.

I just returned from a 4-day visit to the Balkans. I went to focus on humanitarian conditions and the massive numbers of refugees flooding out of Kosovo each day. I traveled to Kukes and Morina on the Kosovo-Albania border. And when I left, an estimated 270,000 to 300,000 refugees had crossed the border.

The scene there is heart-wrenching. Our first introduction was the stench, the overpowering smell of urine and feces from refugees with no place to go to the bathroom. In many places the ground was covered with feces. It will not be long before disease breaks out, especially among the people who are already dehydrated, malnourished, and sick. Four cases of measles had been confirmed as of last Tuesday.

Refugees are everywhere, camped on hillsides, along the road, in parks and plazas, and in parking lots. Most arrive as an extended family in carts and trailers being pulled by farm tractors or, in some cases, by horses. Some arrive in cars, but many are on foot, an unending procession of people who had been threatened; and many have been separated from their families.

Everyone had a bad story. There is no need to document the reports, but every report was different: "I lost my husband." "I lost my wife." "I lost my son." "I lost my daughter." And we should now have people documenting that for a war crimes trial but also for history.

The country of Albania has responded admirably to this entire crisis. It is a poor country but it has opened up its heart and its homes. Still, in spite of the tremendous effort of people on the scene, the refugee situation is still a disaster. The Clinton administration, the international community, and NATO were ill prepared to deal with this crisis they should have anticipated. The information was there, but those who decided the course of events, particularly the Clinton administration, did not listen.

People on the ground in Kosovo before the bombing campaign began warned that the Serbs could begin to brutalize ethnic Albanians.

Some comments and suggestions:

The brutality has been taking place for too long. Serbian President Milosevic is the father of the Kosovo tragedy, as he was in Bosnia and even before. Beginning in the fall of 1991, when Serbs shelled and bombed and laid siege to Vukovar, he has continued this pattern of destruction. This is just another chapter.

Two, Milosevic is an evil man who has directly caused nearly a decade of terror and killing. Nine Serb generals have just been warned that they may be named as war criminals. Should Milosevic head the list? And the answer is "yes."

Three, there is a life-and-death crisis in Albania. President Clinton should immediately send a high-level delegation of NSC, State Department, and Defense to go on the scene, people who can make decisions.

Four, massive amounts of infrastructure supplies and communications equipment are needed at the border, along with people to assemble and operate.

Five, there is a huge shortage of food and people are starving today. But once the influx of refugees ends, the problem of sustaining them for a longer period is no less critical.

Six, refugees report that a vast number of houses and buildings and infrastructures have been destroyed. Every family said, "My house had been burned." "My house had been destroyed." We need to help them rebuild, and that will take a long time for them to return.

Seven, it is doubtful that Kosovo can ever again be part of the Yugoslav Federation. It will take a long time to implement workable solutions. In time, Albanians will tire of having to deal with the refugees who infringe upon their normal life. Most Kosovo refugees have no documentation, no identity cards, no medical history, no records. This will take a long time to reconstruct. And everyone I spoke to said they want to go home.

Lastly, we must do everything possible to help the suffering refugees. These victims of war have lost their homes, their livelihoods, and in many cases their identities. Additionally, having witnessed firsthand their struggle to survive and having seen their fear and their tears, I believe our country, the United States of America, and NATO's resolve with our partners must be to stop once and for all the brutality of Serbian leader Slobodan Milosevic.

Mr. Speaker, I include for the RECORD the following report of our visit to Albania:

REPORT BY U.S. REPRESENTATIVE FRANK R. WOLF OF VIRGINIA, VISIT TO ALBANIA: REFUGEES—AN EXODUS OF BIBLICAL PROPORTIONS, APRIL 4-7, 1999

This report provides details of my trip to Albania on April 4-7, 1999. I met briefly with Albanian leaders in Tirana and spent the

bulk of my time at the Kosovo-Albanian border near Morina and the nearby town of Kukes. Thousands upon thousands of refugees streamed across the border, 24 hours a day. They desperately need lifesaving care now and will require sustaining aid for a long time until all the problems revolving around Kosovo are solved, and they can once again return home.

An exodus from Kosovo of biblical proportions is taking place. I saw a newspaper headline yesterday, "Europe's turn in the killing fields." That writer must have seen what I saw, a catastrophe that should have been anticipated. Ethnic Albanian refugees from Kosovo are now paying a heavy price for this poor judgment.

I just returned from a four-day visit to Albania—my second since mid-February. I went this time to focus on humanitarian conditions and needs with tens of thousands of refugees streaming across the border from Kosovo each day.

By the time we left on Wednesday, an estimated 270,000-300,000 refugees had cross the border from Kosovo. They have added about 10 percent to the Albanian population in a matter of only a few days.

We arrived in Tirana on Eastern Sunday courtesy of Americares—one of the many non-governmental organizations (NGO's) saving lives, delivering food, water, blankets, medicine and other items desperately needed in large quantities.

Our airplane, a Belgian Air Force C-130 Hercules, seconded to Americares, was loaded with baby food, flour, and other emergency supplies. About 20 passengers were on board, mostly print and TV journalists and Americares staff and volunteers. A few NBC people from the TODAY show were there. We crowded in amid relief supplies, wherever there was room to sit.

The Tirana airport is just beginning to come alive with relief supplies and equipment arriving from many nations. U.S. Air Force personnel, with their positive attitude and "can do" spirit, have set up a tent city to get the planes off-loaded and the goods dispersed. They are doing a great job, and planes do not linger on the ground.

We left Tirana very early the next morning for Kukes, a northern Albania town nearest the border crossing. It is a drive of six to nine hours or more, depending on traffic, weather and luck. We travelled with USAID's Disaster Response Team (DART) which was going to assess and coordinate relief efforts.

It is the only road to Kukes. It is the only road available to transport relief supplies to Kukes. It is the only road for newly arriving refugees to travel out of Kukes to the villages, towns and cities throughout Albania where they will stay, or be moved to other countries.

It is a treacherous road—a dangerous road through mountains and valleys with steep drop-offs of hundreds of feet. It is barely two lanes wide with no barriers to prevent going over the edge. The roadway is dotted with flower adorned memorials to earlier accidents and fatalities.

We bounced from pothole to pothole around tight S curves, dodging traffic going in both directions. Worse, the roadbed in a number of places is being undercut by the passage of heavy trucks. Chunks of road are just falling off. As more and more relief trucks make the trip, the roadway may deteriorate to the point where it is impassable.

Officials are looking at creating an airstrip near Kukes capable of handling up to C-130 Hercules aircraft. They need to hurry.

In Kukes we joined with Catholic Relief Services (CRS). Like other NGO's, CRS is doing a remarkable job with what they have to work with. The overall relief effort was late in getting started, is slow in coming up to speed and, thus far, is overwhelmed by the vast number of refugees.

Our first introduction to the area was the stench—the overpowering smell of urine and feces from the enormous numbers of refugees with no place to go to the bathroom. In many places, the ground was covered with feces. It won't be long before disease breaks out under these conditions, especially among people who are already dehydrated, malnourished and sick. Four cases of measles had been confirmed by Tuesday and the NGO's were trying to arrange a massive inoculation program.

The number of people in Kukes was startling. This is a town of 23,000 inhabitants which is growing by tens of thousands each day. About 30,000 refugees are estimated to cross the border every day, 24 hours a day. Only about 15,000 to 20,000 refugees are transported from Kukes daily to other places. The population continues to swell. The most common estimates are that about 80,000 refugees were in Kukes on Tuesday and Wednesday.

They are everywhere, camped on hillsides, along the road, in parks and plazas, and in parking lots. Most arrive as an extended family in trailers being pulled along by tractors, or in some cases, by horse. Some arrive in cars, but many are on foot. Their only possessions are carried on their back. Our time at the Morina border crossing was an overpowering, emotional experience. We saw an unending procession of people and families, each with a horrific story to tell. Many had been travelling for days under constant threat of being harmed or killed by Serb militia.

Perhaps just reaching the border was an emotional release for them. There were many more women, children and elderly than younger men. Tears were streaming down their faces—many sobbed uncontrollably. We had an interpreter and the tales they told were chilling.

An 18-year-old boy from the village of Blac was randomly pulled out of line and shot to death—in front of his mother and family. They wouldn't even let his mother kiss him goodbye.

An elderly paralyzed woman was given 10 minutes to leave her home. There wasn't even time to get her medicine. As they moved away, the family home was set afire—blazing behind them.

Everyone has a story. Most have had their homes destroyed. There is a need to document these reports while they are still fresh, not only for war crimes, but for history as well.

The refugees have little food, water, shelter, sanitation or medical care. We went with a CRS feeding mission on Monday night. It was scheduled after dark to keep the hungry people from seeing what was going on and getting out of hand at food distribution points. But it didn't work. As soon as the distributors showed up, starving people began clamoring and struggling for food. The trucks were overwhelmed and had to speed away to keep people from being injured. Police were helping as much as they could but they are too few. We saw individual policemen on duty for 24 hours straight. Many Albanian families, and especially some in Kukes, were warm, welcoming and generous. Many opened their homes to refugees they did not know and had no earlier connection with.

I visited two apartments in Kukes to see for myself. In one, the residents vacated their two-room apartment so that a Kosovar family of 17 could have a place to stay. The grandfather was blind and just sat facing a wall. There was a baby girl, just weeks or perhaps a few months old. They had been a thriving family in Kosovo, but now have nothing, not even an idea of what the future holds.

In the next two-room flat, 10 refugees stayed in one room and 17 in the other. The host Kukes residents stayed with them, all sleeping on the floor.

Albania is a poor country in wealth, but rich in generosity.

We also sat in on a coordinating meeting of NGO's who are struggling to cope, many themselves on the edge of exhaustion and sickness. The room was filled with coughing and sneezing—respiratory cases about to happen.

The talk was of how to provide the most help. Who could do what? Who could best ease the shortfall of supplies? The overall conclusion was one of inadequacy, of being overwhelmed, of having too little to share among too many. And the talk was especially about poor logistics and communications.

The refugees situation in Albania, in spite of the tremendous effort of people on the scene, is a disaster. I think the Clinton administration, the international community and NATO were ill-prepared to deal with this crisis they should have anticipated. The information was there, but those who decided the course of events, particularly the Clinton administration, did not listen.

Satellite imagery could detect the large lines of refugees forming along the way to the borders, but this information has not been available to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) with overall coordinating responsibility.

People on the ground in Kosovo before the bombing began warned of the possibility that Serbs would begin to brutalize ethnic Albanians. I visited Kosovo in February, a few days before Rambouillet talks broke down ending hope for a truce with NATO peacekeepers in Kosovo. Many Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), UNHCR and NGO representatives and diplomats predicted then that ethnic Albanians would be attacked before NATO troops could arrive. In Kosovo, nearly every Serb family is armed, not with Saturday-night specials, but with Kalishnikov automatic rifles. The Serbs Army and Police are heavily armed, too. Real concern existed that, hidden from western observers, helpless and unprotected ethnic Albanians would be brutalized. That is exactly what happened. Had this been anticipated by decision-makers, measures to provide relief and the basis for survival of refugees could have been put in motion. Shiploads, and caches of relief supplies then could have been positioned nearby.

Even now, when it is clear that enormous problems exist, too little is being done. There is much talk of providing for the long run. But people are dying today. Massive amounts of life-giving supplies are needed now.

I would like to close with a few comments and recommendations.

1. This brutality has been taking place for too long. Serbian President Milosevic is the father of the Kosovo tragedy as he was in Bosnia and even before. Beginning in the fall of 1991 when Serbs shelled, bombed and laid siege to Vukovar, Croatia, Milosevic has continued a pattern of destruction. Kosovo is just the latest chapter.

2. Milosevic is an evil man who has directly caused nearly a decade of terror, killing and destruction. Nine Serb generals have just been warned that they may be named as war criminals for their actions in Kosovo. Shouldn't Milosevic head the list?

3. There is a life and death crisis in Albania. President Clinton should immediately send high level people from the National Security Council, State and defense department—people who can make decisions on the scene—to the border crossings in Kukes. A decision-maker/policy person has yet to visit there. And that's where you have to go to see what is really happening. Too many visitors stop briefly in Tirana and quickly move on, thinking they know what is taking place. They don't. Today, the refugee problem is hemorrhaging at the border. That's where the compress now needs to be applied. Once the influx of refugees ends, and they are placed throughout Albania, the same amounts of massive help and support must be re-targeted to provide long-term assistance.

4. Massive amounts of infrastructure supplies and communications equipment are needed at the border along with people to assemble and operate them. It is not enough to ship a load of tents. People to erect them, dig toilets and purify water must be there as well. Equipment alone is insufficient. Operators and technicians must be there, too. When refugees stop coming to the border, these needs will continue throughout Albania where massive numbers of refugees will be housed.

5. There is a huge shortage of food, and people are starving today. Once the influx of refugees ends, the problem of sustaining them for a longer period will be no less critical. Albania can't feed itself. Food is the country's largest component of imports. Albania is going to need help.

6. Albania also has difficulty maintaining law and order, even in Tirana. In many remote areas, police protection is non-existent. Unemployment is very high, and there is no capacity to provide work and economic sufficiency for refugees. The Albanian government will need to be propped up and the economy improved.

7. Refugees report that a vast number of houses, buildings and infrastructure have been destroyed in Kosovo. Rebuilding will take a long time and care for refugees must be worked out while this take place.

8. Little is known about the refugee situation in Montenegro, but it will undoubtedly add to the overall problem.

9. It is doubtful that Kosovo can ever again be a part of the Yugoslav federation. It will take a long time to implement workable solution. In time, Albanians will tire of having Kosovo refugees to deal with and infringe upon normal life. Most Kosovo refugees have no documentation, no identity cards, medical histories or necessary records. Even the license plates were ripped from cars as they crossed the border. This, too, will take time to reconstruct.

10. And lastly, let me say a word about the press. Without their coverage as refugees began to pile up, it would have taken even longer to recognize the crisis at hand. The press has done a good job of telling the world what is happening and in mobilizing people to come to the aid of hundreds of thousands of the neediest people. Members of the press should be proud of their work.

STILTSVILLE: A COMMUNITY OF STRUCTURES IN SOUTH FLORIDA

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

woman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, a writer in one of our hometown newspapers once said that "Miami is two parallel universes of life on water and life on land." She was describing Stiltsville, a community of structures located approximately 1 mile south of Key Biscayne, Florida, part of the Congressional district that I am proud to represent.

It is difficult to describe in words the picturesque and peaceful view that the homes supported by stilts looming above the water makes against the Florida skyline. Stiltsville began in the 1940s with the Quarterdeck Club, a beautiful locale featured in Life magazine for its unique architecture and location on the northernmost extreme of pristine Biscayne National Park.

By 1960, at least 25 structures existed which represented distinctive architectural facades with brightly colored wood frame buildings resting on steel foundations. Stiltsville served for many years as the backdrop for many television shows, movies, books, and advertisements, including the long-running television show "Miami Vice." It has been a favorite of movie makers, of boaters, and tourists alike because of its unique features and its frame against the Miami skyline. Unfortunately, due to the hurricanes that often plague our south Florida shores, only seven of the original 25 structures remain intact today.

Stiltsville homes are privately owned and represent no cost at all to the Florida taxpayers. These seven remaining structures have now been equipped with especially engineered features which have been adapted to meet the rigors of a hurricane-prone area.

The remaining seven homes provide not only aesthetic beauty for the landscape but a haven for fish and other sea life that inhabit the area. For boaters and fishermen, Stiltsville is often used as a navigational guide and as a shelter for many during storms.

For Floridians, Stiltsville symbolizes the Miami of yesterday and the Miami of today. In fact, Florida governors since Governor Leroy Collins have spent time at Stiltsville. Many of our local civic and charity groups have used these homes, including the Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, the Miami Chamber of Commerce, and the Rotary Club, just to name a few.

For many of our cities across our Nation, there are local historical sites that give our cities character and that make them unique. For south Florida, Stiltsville is one of those places that gives our community flavor and keeps us linked to the history of our great State.

It is unfortunate, however, that in spite of the historical and cultural symbolism that Stiltsville holds for all