Government of Japan to formally issue a clear and unambiguous apology for the sexual enslavement of young women during the colonial occupation of Asia and Pacific Islands during World War II.

Ms. Soon Dok Kim told a large audience this afternoon about how she was kidnapped from her village at 17 years old and forced to be a comfort woman. She is a very courageous person to take such a public role and share the story of her suffering in order to seek justice.

It has been almost 56 years since Japan surrendered to the allied powers. Very few comfort women are still alive and time is running out for Japan to properly account for its actions. We must act soon and remember that there is no statute of limitations on crimes against humanity.

When human rights are violated, the international community must act because we have a moral responsibility to do so.

So, let us do what is just and what is right for the comfort women and other victims. Let us speak out for them. Let us stand up for the comfort women and other victims. Let us speak out for them. Let us stand up for them. Let us lend them our strength.

Let us not remain silent.

END OF INDIA-PAKISTAN TALKS SIGNALS INSTABILITY IN SOUTH ASIA

HON. CYNTHIA A. MCKINNEY
OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 24, 2001

Ms. MCKINNEY. Mr. Speaker, I was disappointed to see that the recent talks between Pakistan and India ended with no agreement due to India’s intransigence. India wanted a statement that Pakistan was engaging in cross-border terrorism, when India itself is responsible for terrorism against its own people. Last month, a group of Indian soldiers tried to burn down a Gurdwara and some Sikh houses near Srinagar in Kashmir. This terrorist act was prevented by the efforts of townpeople of both the Sikh and Muslim faiths. In March 2000, during former President Clinton’s visit to India, the government killed 35 Sikhs in Chithisinghpora, according to two independent investigations. The book Soft Target shows that India blew up its own airliner in 1985, 329 innocent people died in that explosion.

The newspaper Hintavada report that the Indian government paid official to generate state terrorism in Kashmir and in Punjab, Khalistan. According to a 1994 State Department report, the Indian government paid more than 41,000 innocent people in Kashmir and in Punjab, Khalistan. According to a 1994 State Department report, the Indian government paid more than 41,000 cash bounties to police officers to kill Sikhs.

Before the meeting, the Council of Khalistan wrote to President Musharraf. They noted that he and his government had been friendly to the Sikhs and their cause of freedom. They noted that in 1948 the Indian government promised the United Nations that it would hold a plebiscite so Kashmiris could decide their political status in a free and fair vote. This should not be too hard for “the world’s largest democracy” to do, but we are now more than halfway through 2001 and it hasn’t been held yet. When does India plan to keep its promise?

In addition, the people of Khalistan, the Sikh homeland, declared their independence from India on October 7, 1987 and the people of primarily Christian Nagaland are actively seeking theirs. In all, there are 17 freedom movements in India. When will these people be allowed by “the world’s largest democracy” to exercise their right to self-determination? Self-determination is the birthright of all people and nations.

Mr. Speaker, if America can do something to help bring democracy and freedom to South
Asia, that is not only in our national interest, it is the right thing to do. Fortunately, there are measurable ways to help bring freedom, peace, and stability to that dangerous region. The time has come to stop providing American aid to India—remember, this is public money—until India begins to treat all its people fairly and ends the repression against the minorities. The other thing that we can do is to strongly urge India to hold a plebiscite in Kashmir as it promised in 1948, but in Khalistan, Nagalim, and everywhere else that people seek their freedom. This will help to defuse the tense situation in South Asia and enhance America's national security by bringing peace, freedom, and stability to that dangerous region.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to place the Council of Khalistan's letter to President Musharraf into the RECORD for the information of my colleagues.

COUNCIL OF KHALISTAN,
GURU GOBIND SINGH INDCINDER,

HON. GENERAL PERVEZ MUSHARRAF,
President of Pakistan,
Islamabad, Pakistan.

DEAR PRESIDENT MUSHARRAF: On behalf of the Sikh Nation, I congratulate you on becoming President of Pakistan. We hope and pray that this step will be useful for the people of Pakistan, the Sikhs, and the people of South Asia.

Soon you will be visiting India. We sincerely hope that your visit will go well and will be productive to the cause of peace and freedom in South Asia.

While you are in India, I urge you to visit the Golden Temple in Amritsar. The Sikhs who visited Nankana Sahib last fall were so well treated that we know you are a friend of the Sikh Nation. Your visit to the Golden Temple will enhance your friendship with the Sikh nation.

You are aware that India divided Pakistan through a war and created the nation of Bangladesh. You are also aware that India promised in 1948 to hold a plebiscite on the future of Kashmir. Fifty-three years later, that plebiscite has yet to be held. They have split the Punjab, Khalistan also seek their freedom, and General Javed Nasir has endorsed the achievement of Khalistan by peaceful means. In addition to its freedom movements in Nagalim, Tamil Nadu, Assam, Manipur, and other nations under Indian occupation, self-determination is the birthright of all peoples and nations. Support for the freedom movements within India's borders would also be in Pakistan's interest, as well as the interest of peace, freedom, and stability in South Asia. In addition, it would help to prevent another war between India and Pakistan.

India has murdered over 250,000 Sikhs since 1984, murdered 10,000 Muslims and over 3,000 Christians since 1988, over 200,000 Christians in Nagaland since 1947, and tens of thousands of Dalits, Tamils, Manipuris, Assamese, and others. It has admitted to holding over 32,000 Sikh political prisoners without charge or trial. Recently in Kashmir, Muslim and Sikh villagers caught a group of Indian soldiers trying to bury down a Guwara and overpower them. Is this the way of the "world's largest democracy"? Add to this the fact that India started the nuclear arms race in South Asia with their nuclear tests. India is a destabilizing and repressive country seeking hegemony in the subcontinent.

President Musharraf, I urge you to support the resolutions in Khalistan, Nagalim, Khalistan, Nagaland, and all the other nations seeking their freedom from India. I urge you to press the Indian government on this issue and urge them to hold a free and fair plebiscite on the question of independence, monitored by the international community. This would go a long way towards establishing stability, peace, and freedom in South Asia.

Sincerely

DR. GURMIT SINGH AULAKH,
President, Council of Khalistan.

MARKING THE CENTENNIAL OF THE VILLAGE OF VANDERBILT, MICHIGAN

HON. BART STUPAK
OF MICHIGAN
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, July 24, 2001

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, certainly one of the milestone events in the history of our nation was the adoption of the Constitution by a convention of the states in 1787. But another significant event in our history took place that year. Congress, operating under the governing document known as the Articles of Confederation, approved a plan for the growth of the United States known as the Northwest Ordinance.

I call these facts to mind, Mr. Speaker, because the Northwest Ordinance spelled out the world that the United States planned to settle the areas that would eventually become Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Wisconsin, and my own state of Michigan.

Despite this early commitment by the young nation to expand, settlement came late to many of these areas. In my congressional district the Village of Vanderbilt is celebrating its centennial, making it a young community even by the standards of this young nation. The community plans to mark its celebration with three days of festivities at the end of July.

Communities like Vanderbilt sprang into being when railroads pushed north into the vast timberlands of the upper Midwest. Vanderbilts itself is named for Cornelius Vanderbilt—famously known as Commodore Vanderbilt—who in 1866 took over the railroad that runs through this small village, located near the northern end of Lower Michigan.

The efforts of Commodore Vanderbilt to build for himself a sprawling rail empire are the stuff of American legend, the legendary tycoon did not visit all his holdings. As Vanderbilt local historian Bonnie Karslake has written, "None of the Vanderbilts ever lived in northern Michigan, even though the town as named for them."

Bonnie Karslake's history details the arrival of the first permanent settlers and the development of the first local businesses around 1880. Such business activity, like the Vanderbilt Bowl Factory under the proprietorship of G.G. Williams, were based on forest products. As Bonnie's history makes clear, however, a village truly becomes a community when other businesses and services arrive, such as the Vanderbilt Gazette in 1883 and the Corwith Township Library in 1884.

Within a decade of 1879 the community acquired three hotels, a two-story school, three sawmills, a planing and shingle mill, a stave mill, and a store and post office. Among other professionals and tradesmen, it had a taxidermist, a shoemaker, a constable, a milliner, a barber, and an independent druggist, blacksmiths, wagon makers and two justices of the peace. Though not yet incorporated as the Village of Vanderbilt, by 1887 a community had sprung to life in the North Woods, much as the writers of the Northwest Ordinance had envisioned 100 years before.

Elizabeth Haus, village president, has said that residents have planned an "old-time celebration" to mark the milestone 100 years. In addition to celebrating the centennial of Vanderbilt's incorporation, the community will also mark the 100th birthday of the Vanderbilt Community Church building, one of the centers of community life.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my House colleagues join me in wishing the people of Vanderbilt a joyous centennial celebration and in hoping the community can thrive and continue to be a great place to live, work and raise families.

TRIBUTE TO EDWARD AND SALLIE MCCLAIN
OF SOUTH CAROLINA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, July 24, 2001

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Edward and Sallie McClain of Charleston, South Carolina, who have been chosen as the South Carolina Parents of the Year for 2001. Reverend and Mrs. McClain will be honored on July 25, 2001 with this prestigious award at the seventh annual Congressional Parents' Day Celebration cosponsored by The American Family Coalition and The Washington Times Foundation.

Reverend and Mrs. McClain have been married for 42 years. They have five children, twenty grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren. All of their children lead successful lives, ranging from personnel directors and electrical engineers to Olympic basketball players and college students. I have no doubt their success is due in strong part to the selfless and unconditional love bestowed upon them by their parents and passed on to their children.

In addition to this complete and absolute devotion to their family, Reverend and Mrs. McClain continually extend their hearts to the Charleston community. Reverend McClain, a former educator and minister of Calvary African Methodist Episcopal Church, serves on the local school board. Reverend McClain is also one of the founders of the Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance, in which Mrs. McClain plays an integral role as well. Reverend and Mrs. McClain began a soup kitchen that has operated for 17 years. They hold special church services every year to honor the young people in their church who have achieved academic excellence, and have been leaders in a highly effective program against drug dealing in their neighborhood. These examples are only a fraction of the contributions Reverend and Mrs. McClain have made to the Charleston community.