

to immunize its human-rights violations by proclaiming itself a democracy?

America is the bastion of freedom in the world. It is our mission to extend and expand liberty wherever and whenever we can. Accordingly, we should stop U.S. aid to India until we no longer have to stand up here denouncing its human-rights abuses and we should support the birthright of all people, the democratic right to self-determination. If India is truly a democracy, it should live up to its promise made 53 years ago to hold a plebiscite in Kashmir. If India genuinely believes in democratic values, it must hold plebiscites on the political future of Kashmir, of Nagaland, of Punjab, Khalistan, and of all the nations seeking their freedom from India. India is an inherently unstable country composed of many different nations whose breakup is inevitable. For the cause of peace, prosperity, stability, security, and freedom, we must do whatever we can to ensure that this occurs peacefully like the breakups of the Soviet Union and Czechoslovakia, not violently like that of Yugoslavia. Unfortunately, India seems to be headed down the violent path. Let us work to help end the violence, repression, and terrorism and to ensure freedom and peace for all the peoples of that troubled region.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to insert the Council of Khalistan's press release about the breakdown of the India-Pakistan talks into the RECORD at this time.

INDIAN ARROGANCE EXPOSED DURING
MUSHARRAF-VAJPAYEE SUMMIT

PLEBISCITE IN KASHMIR, PUNJAB, AND OTHER
NATIONS ESSENTIAL FOR PEACE IN SOUTH ASIA

Washington, DC, July 17, 2001.—Indian hypocrisy was exposed to the international community when they refused to mention the word Kashmir during the bilateral talks between Pakistani President Musharraf and Indian Prime Minister Vajpayee. The Indian Foreign Ministry's press spokeswoman, Niruparna Rao, did not even list Kashmir among the items discussed. Aides to President Musharraf said that three drafts of a joint statement had been approved by both sides but the Indian Cabinet vetoed them.

"It is very clear from these actions that India does not want any peaceful solution to the Kashmir issue," said Dr. Gurmit Singh Aulakh, President of the Council of Khatistan, which leads the Sikh struggle for independence from India. "India must learn that 54 years of repression in Kashmir which resulted in the murder of over 75,000 Kashmiris and the expenditure of over \$2 billion a year have not extinguished the flame of freedom which is burning in the hearts of the people of Kashmir," he said.

"India must keep its promise of a plebiscite in Kashmir, which it agreed to in 1948 in a United Nations resolution," Dr. Aulakh said. "India is morally wrong. If India is a democracy, why is it afraid of a vote?" he asked. "How can India justify its invasion annexation of Hyderabad, where the ruler was a Muslim and the majority population was Hindu, but by the same token in Kashmir population is Muslim and the ruler was Hindu and India sent the army to maintain its illegal occupation?" Dr. Aulakh asked.

India is not one country and it is not one nation. It is a multinational state put together by the British for administrative convenience. India is a vestige of colonialism. India has 18 official languages and there are 17 freedom movements within its borders.

The fundamentalist Hindu ruling BJP government is on record that anyone living in India must either be a Hindu or subservient to the Hindus. This is not acceptable to the Sikh, Christian, or Muslim minorities.

India has unleashed a reign of terror on the minorities. In 1984, the Indian government attacked the Golden Temple, the holiest shrine of the Sikh religion, and 38 other Gurdwaras and killed over 20,000 people during that attack throughout Punjab. India demolished the Babri mosque in Ayodhya, the most revered mosque in India, and it is planning to build a Hindu temple on that site. Similarly, Christian churches, prayer halls, and schools have also been demolished. Christians have also seen the murder of priests, rape of nuns, the murder of a missionary and his two sons, ages 8 and 10, by burning them alive while they slept in their jeep and other atrocities. Now the government plans to expel his widow from the country.

Last month, Indian soldiers were caught red-handed attempting to burn down a Gurdwara and several Sikh homes in Kashmir. Sikh and Muslim townspeople overpowered the troops and prevented them from carrying out this atrocity. In March 2000, while former President Clinton was visiting India, the Indian government murdered 35 Sikhs in the village of Chithisinghpora in Kashmir and tried to blame the massacre on alleged militants. In November 1994 the Indian newspaper Hitavada reported that the Indian government paid the late governor of Punjab, Surendra Nath, \$1.5 billion to organize and support covert state terrorism in Punjab and Kashmir.

Indian security forces have murdered over 250,000 Sikhs since 1984, according to figures compiled by the Punjab State Magistracy and human-rights organizations and published in *The Politics of Genocide* by Inderjit Singh Jaijee. Over 52,000 Sikh political prisoners are rotting in Indian jails without charge or trial. Many have been in illegal custody since 1984. Since 1984, India has engaged in a campaign of ethnic cleansing in which over 50,000 Sikhs have been murdered by the Indian police and security forces and secretly cremated. The Indian Supreme Court described this campaign as "worse than a genocide." General Narinder Singh has said, "Punjab is a police state." U.S. Congressman Dana Rohrabacher has said that for Sikhs, Kashmiri Muslims, and other minorities "India might as well be Nazi Germany."

"The people and nations of the subcontinent are entitled to freedom and self-determination," said Dr. Aulakh. "It is time for India to do the democratic thing and end the repression," he said. "It will help the Indian government and the people of India to give freedom to all the nations of South Asia," he said. "As soon as it happens, the South Asian nations can make a South Asian economic market parallel to the European Economic Community where the nations are independent but joined economically, which benefits every member," he said. "It will also include Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal, Sri Lanka, and others. This will reduce tensions and the nuclear threat in this dangerous region and will benefit all the people of South Asia," Dr. Aulakh said.

HONORING EUDORA WELTY

HON. CHARLES W. "CHIP" PICKERING

OF MISSISSIPPI
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 24, 2001

Mr. PICKERING. Mr. Speaker, Mississippi has lost one of its most treasured authors. We all mourn the passing of Eudora Welty and as Mississippians, we celebrate her accomplishments and her love of our state and its people. She is recognized around the world as a Pulitzer Prize winner and an ambassador for Mississippi by sharing her vivid descriptions of its people and places so that others might learn about our state through her writings.

Ms. Welty won the Pulitzer Prize in 1973 for her work titled "The Optimist's Daughter". She was presented with numerous other honors and awards including the National Book Award for fiction in 1971, the National Medal for Literature 1980 Book Award, and the National Medal of Arts in 1987. She was the first living writer ever to be included in the prestigious Library of America series in 1999.

Mr. Speaker, today we recognize and honor Ms. Welty for her outstanding literary achievements and awards. While we are all saddened by her death, we celebrate her life and her concern for the people of Mississippi and all of America. Her writing shows the care and concern she had for her fellow man. Ms. Eudora Welty will truly be missed by all of us.

TRIBUTE TO MARANDA PHILLIPS
HOLMES

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 24, 2001

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mrs. Maranda Phillips Holmes of Charleston, South Carolina, a recent recipient of a National Jefferson Award. Mrs. Holmes is greatly admired for her outstanding community and public service. I join the citizens of Charleston County in expressing our deepest gratitude for everything she has done and continues to do.

Mrs. Holmes, who is often known as "Mother Teresa," has been a church and community volunteer for more than forty years. She has served on numerous boards and commissions, including the Neighborhood Housing Service Commission where she helped provide loans and grants to those wishing to renovate their homes. She is an extraordinary person and throughout her life has made extraordinary contributions to her church, and the politics, and social welfare of her community.

Mrs. Holmes has been the recipient of 154 awards that reflect her lifelong dedication to community improvement. The American Institute—an organization founded in 1972 by Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis, Senator Robert Taft, Jr., and Sam Beale—presents this prestigious award annually. The award seeks to recognize individuals for their outstanding community and public service. WCSC-Channel Five, a local television station, produced a thirty-minute documentary highlighting the contributions on Mrs. Holmes and two other National Jefferson Award recipients.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you to join me today in honoring Mrs. Maranda Phillips Holmes for the incredible service she has provided for the citizens of her community. The world is a better place because of her years of distinguished service, and she has certainly earned the honor this notable award recognizes. The citizens of Charleston County and I congratulate Mrs. Holmes on her outstanding accomplishments and wish her the best in all of her future endeavors.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. NEIL ABERCROMBIE

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 24, 2001

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, on July 23 I was necessarily absent and was not able to vote on three recorded votes. Had I been present, I would have voted as follows:

H.R. 2137—Criminal Law Technical Amendments Act of 2001—Yes; H.R. 1892—Family Sponsor Immigration Act of 2001—Yes; S. 468—James Corman Federal Buildings Designation—Yes.

ON THE ANOINTMENT OF REVEREND DR. HUBERT BANKS AS BISHOP

HON. MARGE ROUKEMA

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 24, 2001

Mrs. ROUKEMA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Reverend Dr. Hubert Banks on his elevation to the Office of Bishop in the Pentecostal Deliverance Tabernacle Worship Center in Ridgewood, New Jersey. On July 29, 2001, Reverend Dr. Banks will be consecrated as Bishop, one of the highest levels in his faith, at the Gilmore Memorial Tabernacle in Paterson, New Jersey. Reverend Dr. Banks has devoted his life to his faith, community, his family, and to ministering throughout the world. He is truly an exemplary man of faith and we are fortunate to have him serve our northern New Jersey community.

Reverend Dr. Banks has faithfully ministered since 1985, however his involvement with the Church began when he was twelve years old. A graduate of Ridgewood High School, he has served as Director of various youth, senior, and state choirs and worked actively with youth faith groups. His outstanding leadership and devotion brought him to the position of deacon while continuing his work with a men's chorus. At this point, Reverend Dr. Banks was also named Board Chairman of the Allene Gilmore Day Care Center.

In 1980, Reverend Dr. Banks was licensed into ministry as an Evangelist by the United Christian Church and Ministerial Association. One year later, he was ordained and went on to found the Pentecostal Deliverance Ministry. Reverend Dr. Banks then brought his spiritual leadership overseas as he spent time ministering in Israel. Since that experience, he has

spent extensive time doing evangelistic work throughout Africa in Venda, Malawi, and Johannesburg. In 1990, Reverend Dr. Banks was promoted to District Elder in the Northern New Jersey region and received his Doctorate Honoris Causa from the Shiloh Theological Seminary shortly thereafter. In 1998, Reverend Dr. Banks was named Bishop-Elect under the Faith Tabernacle Outreach Ministries and now, three years later, he will be appointed to the respected position of Bishop in a traditional ceremony, rich with his faith's symbols. With his elevation to the title of Bishop, Reverend Dr. Banks will serve a larger congregation, bringing his dedication to new churches in the area. These churches are fortunate to have such an outstanding man both leading and serving their communities.

Reverend Dr. Banks' life as a minister includes his wife and two daughters, three stepsons and five grandchildren. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating Reverend Dr. Banks for his elevation to the position of Bishop and for the outstanding example he sets for all of us.

HONORING ANDREW A. ATHENS

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 24, 2001

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an outstanding American, a humanitarian and a dedicated health provider, Andrew A. Athens.

Mr. Athens has dedicated his life not only to serving his family, his faith, and his nation, but is trying to improve the quality of life for millions of patients in need of health care throughout the world. With the same dedication and work ethic, Andy Athens and his wife, Louise, have raised their children and grandchildren in the best traditions of philanthropy, respect, and good will.

Andy was born in Chicago, IL, the son of Greek-American immigrants. He went on to serve as a captain in the U.S. Army during World War II where he distinguished himself in the European and African campaigns for which he was decorated with the Bronze Star. Following the war, he helped rebuild the infrastructure of war-ravaged Europe, which service earned him a citation from the Hungarian Government. Subsequent to his return to America, Andy cofound Metron Steel Corporation, in which he served as its president for 41 years and during which time it became a major steel service center in the Midwest.

A life-long activist in the Greek Orthodox Faith, Andy Athens has held leadership roles on the local, Diocesan and national levels. While President of the Archdiocesan Council of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America from 1974–1995, the highest position a layman can hold in the Church's national administration, Andy helped to establish the charitable arms of the Greek Orthodox Church in America, the International Orthodox Christian Charities, and Leadership 100. For his outstanding humanitarian service, Andy received numerous awards, including the highly

regarded Religious Heritage of America Award, the Athenagoran Human Rights Award, the Medal of Saint Paul, and other honors. Furthermore, Andy's service to the National Church has earned him the international recognition of the leader of World Orthodoxy, the Ecumenical Patriarch of Constantinople, who has elevated Andy to the rank of Archon of the Order of Saint Andrew.

Responding to the need for political action, Andy mobilized the Greek American community to petition elected officials and to express their views for global action. In 1974, he founded the United Hellenic American Congress (UHAC), and continues to serve as its' chairman. UHAC has helped to bridge the gap between the Greek American communities who govern nationally and globally. It is a voice for human rights violations in the Mediterranean and the Balkans and the need for religious freedom in Turkey. Continuing his international humanitarian service, in 1995, Mr. Athens was elected to serve as the 1st President of the World Council of Hellenes Abroad (SAE).

Andy's greatest political and humanitarian achievements have been in his service with the SAE, which represents 7 million Hellenes living outside of Greece. Under Andy's leadership, the SAE instituted an historic program bringing primary health care and job opportunities to Hellenes and their neighbors living in the countries of the former Soviet Union. The SAE Medical Relief Program has established three health care centers in Georgia, a clinic and visiting nurses program in Ukraine, and a health care clinic in Armenia. Soon, they will begin a full program in Albania. They have managed to help more than 34,000 patient's per month throughout these clinics.

Mr. Speaker, I invite my colleagues to join in honoring Andrew A. Athens, a "Greek-American global advocate of all the values that have made our nation so strong." Mr. Athens has lived the American dream based on honor, duty, faith and respect. He has truly been saintly as a philanthropic global advocate for the values we all embody as Americans.

EUROPEAN INTERESTS ARE NOT ALWAYS THOSE OF THE U.S.

HON. DOUG BEREUTER

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 24, 2001

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, this Member wishes to commend to his colleagues the July 22, 2001, editorial from the Omaha World-Herald entitled "Why America Says No."

Currently, the U.S. is under intense pressure from members of the European Union (EU) to conform to what they deem best for their combined interests. While U.S. economic and security interests often intersect with those of its European allies, such convergence is not always the case. Environmental standards (particularly those outlined in the Kyoto Protocol), agriculture subsidy levels, and the use of genetically modified organisms (GMOs) are among the issues on which the U.S. and the EU disagree. Participation in the proposed