

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.