

people but we trust in the God whose name is ascribed above the Speaker's chair. By reconvening here today, we make an important statement to the world, to our friends and our foes alike, that the American Government stands ready and willing and able to do the people's business even in these challenging days.

Mr. Speaker, along those lines, I rise today specifically to speak about a relationship that the United States of America enjoys. It is not difficult for Americans since September 11 to imagine living in a country made the subject of repeated attacks against our citizens and even now against our leaders. It is also easy for every American to understand why a country whose innocent citizens have been murdered and whose leaders have been attacked would take temporary and necessary military action against the government and against the perpetrators of these acts to establish a just government in the land from which these attacks were launched and also to bring to justice those who harmed those citizens and harmed those leaders.

Well, even though it is so easy to imagine and identify with that as Americans, nevertheless, Mr. Speaker, in the wake of the first-ever assassination of a cabinet official in Israel, as our partners and friends since 1948 took the necessary military action to move not only against the perpetrators of this dastardly attack but also against the authorities that have harbored them and refused to bring them to justice, what did the State Department of the United States of America say, Mr. Speaker? Permit me to quote. Philip T. Reeker, State Department spokesman, spoke to the world media yesterday and accused Israel, the Nation in question, of killing "numerous innocent citizens," in its "unacceptable military action in six West Bank towns."

We have seen the tanks on the news, Mr. Speaker. We know, as foreign minister Shimon Peres said from our Nation's capital this morning, they have not the slightest intention of remaining in any of these West Bank towns. They are about the business of requiring that the Palestinian Authority bring to justice those who not only killed a cabinet official, have organized the death of innocent citizens in Israel, but also, Mr. Speaker, have boasted about it on television, just like Osama bin Laden has done. The United States said we, quote, "deeply regret and deplore Israel's actions."

What have they said of the Palestinian Authority or of Yasser Arafat or those who committed these crimes? Well, Mr. Speaker, we wrote a letter. The State Department of the United States deplores what Israel does, but we did write a letter to Yasser Arafat; not a public letter, but a very clear letter, we are told in the media, telling Arafat to make absolutely certain that the assassins were arrested.

Mr. Speaker, there is a great verse in the Bible that we have inherited from the great people of Israel. It is: "There is a friend who sticks closer than a brother, and now is a time for such friends." But why do we capitulate about Israel? I submit, Mr. Speaker, it is very simple. The reason we capitulate about Israel is because we are afraid. We are afraid, Mr. Speaker, to offend, to offend moderate Arab states that are assisting us in our own quest against a morally bankrupt government and against terrorists who attack our leaders and our innocent citizens.

But we need not be afraid. We need to recognize that fear is useless. What is needed is trust. The most powerful message we can send to our new friends in the Arab world is that we are good friends. What is a more powerful or compelling message to send to King Abdullah in Jordan or King Fahd in Saudi Arabia than to say, "When the going gets tough, when your Nation does what is necessary to be done, we will stand with you." America will always stand for justice and restraint. But America must stand with Israel.

America will stand with its friends, for fear is useless. What is needed is trust.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12 of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 43 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until 2 p.m.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. HANSEN) at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

The Reverend Pete Williams, Harvest Baptist Church, Goldsboro, North Carolina, offered the following prayer:

Heavenly Father, we thank You for this beautiful day and for all the wonderful gifts that You have given to us. We thank You for the gift of salvation through Your son, Jesus Christ. We thank You for our families. We thank You for our country and the gift of government. We especially thank You for this House where we are gathered today and for the leaders that guide and defend our Nation. We pray that You will give the wisdom and knowledge that is needed to do Your business today. We ask that at this time of uncertainty that You would give the extra grace needed for the difficult tasks ahead.

We also remember those who have recently suffered and died for our country. These are true heroes. Father, on

this anniversary of the Beirut bombing, we remember those heroes also. We thank You that we are a nation that is built on the foundation of Your word. Help us keep our Nation on these never-failing principles. Heavenly Father, we are proud to be "one nation, under God" and we commend this country into Your hands. We also ask for Your hand of protection during these times and we also want to especially leave this House in the blessed arms of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. MCCARTHY) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

WELCOME TO PASTOR PETE WILLIAMS

(Mr. JONES of North Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. JONES of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I am proud and pleased to welcome Pastor Pete Williams and his family and friends to the United States House of Representatives.

Pastor Williams and his family live in Goldsboro, North Carolina, in Wayne County, home of Seymour Johnson Air Force Base. Pastor Williams is the pastor of Harvest Freewill Baptist Church in Wayne County.

I have known Pastor Williams and his family for 8 years, and I am most grateful for the friendship he has extended to me.

Pastor Williams is a true disciple for our Lord and he understands and reminds his congregation that the strength of America comes from God Almighty.

In this trying time, I want to especially thank Pastor Pete Williams and all ministers, priests, rabbis, and clerics who have helped all of America remember it is God who we must trust.

Again, I would like to thank my friend and brother from Christ, Pastor Pete Williams, for being with us today. God bless America.