CALL FOR HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO THE PEOPLE OF THE NUBA REGION IN SUDAN

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL
OF NEW YORK
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 28, 2001

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today to bring your attention to the grave situation in Sudan and specifically to the people of the Nuba region. I urgently call on President Bush and Secretary of State Colin Powell to work for an immediate lifting of the cruel siege of the Nuba region of Sudan. For over ten years, the Government of Sudan has denied all humanitarian aid relief to the people of the Nuba, despite the terrible plight of tens of thousands of innocent civilians. Very recent reports indicate that the cumulative effect of this brutal siege has been to push 85,000 human beings to the very brink of starvation. Without immediate humanitarian intervention, thousands of people will begin to die—and they will continue to die until humanitarian aid is permitted into the region. Countless mothers will suffer the agonizing fate of watching helplessly as their children die for lack of food, and then succumbing themselves.

This is intolerable and utterly indefensible. Nowhere in the world is the denial of food aid used as a more vicious weapon of war than in the Nuba region of Sudan. Further, Government of Sudan offenses have recently burned thousands and thousands of people out of their homes, making them even more vulnerable in these precarious circumstances. There is in Lokichokio in northern Kenya, the center of relief operations for southern Sudan, humanitarian aid ready and able to assist the people of the Nuba tomorrow. What is required is access. It is imperative that the United States take the international lead in demanding, in the strongest possible terms, that the Government of Sudan lift this brutal siege immediately.

We must continue to work together as a nation to stop slavery, aerial bombardments of innocent civilians, religious persecution and induced famine in the Sudan. The recent passage of the Sudan Peace Act of 2001 with an overwhelming vote of 422 to 2 shows the tremendous support of the U.S. House of Representatives in applying all necessary means to bring an end to the 18-year civil war and its related atrocities. We must continue this momentum in the Senate, and show unified U.S. support with unanimous passage of the Sudan Peace Act when it comes to the Senate floor.

INTRODUCTION OF THE "ENDANGERED SPECIES CONSOLIDATION ACT"

HON. C.L. "BUTCH" OTTER
OF IDAHO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 28, 2001

Mr. OTTER. Mr. Speaker, since 1970, two federal agencies have had jurisdiction over implementation and enforcement of the Endangered Species nationwide—the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) under the U.S. Department of the Interior, and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), which is part of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration under the U.S. Department of Commerce. Before 1970, NMFS' programs were implemented by USFWS. This changed when President Nixon signed the Endangered Species Act 3 years before the enactment of the Endangered Species Act. If President Nixon knew how ESA and NMFS would look today—30 years later—he probably would have second thoughts.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has jurisdiction over 1,800 species of plants, mammals, birds, and fish, and an annual ESA budget of $112 million. NMFS—with responsibility for just 42 listed species of marine mammals and fish—has an annual ESA budget nearly as high as USFWS—$105 million. Many of NMFS' "species" include "evolutionary significant unit" designations that NMFS created without Congressional authorization—an issue that is now pending in federal district court.

Mr. Speaker, the goals and activities of these two agencies have become blurred. For example, both NMFS and USFWS have undertaken the listing and recovery of Atlantic salmon, the Gulf sturgeon, and four species of sea turtles.

In the Pacific Northwest, the USFWS manages freshwater bull trout and hatchery salmon, while NMFS has devoted billions of dollars to regulate and enforce the recovery of "wild" salmon and steelhead in the same water-sheds. NMFS allows the commercial and tribal harvest of thousands of salmon that it acknowledges are endangered. NMFS' interpretation of ESA has caused hundreds of activities—including those having minimal impact—or those that actually aid—the recovery of species to be held up for months or years.

Instead of becoming more efficient, NMFS' response is to request even more federal money and expand their regulatory activities while failing to identify goals of how many species of fish it needs to recover.

All species—fish and humans—deserve better from the federal government. That is why today I and my friend and colleague from Idaho, Congressman Mike Simpson, together will introduce the "Endangered Species Consolidation Act". This measure will ensure that ESA activities regarding fish that spawn in fresh or estuarine waters and migrate to ocean waters—and vice versa—are managed and coordinated through one agency—the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

The bill will eliminate duplication and allow scarce resources to be focused on achieving the true objective of the Endangered Species Act—recovery of species through science-based management.

WRIGHT TOWNSHIP CELEBRATES 150TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI
OF PENNSYLVANIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 28, 2001

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call the attention of the House of Representatives to the 150th anniversary of the founding of Wright Township in Luzerne County, Pennsylvania. I am honored to be asked to participate in the township's Independence Day parade, which will double as a celebration of the sesquicentennial.

Wright Township was established by the Court of Quarter General Sessions on April 12, 1851. It is named for Hendrick Bradley Wright, a resident of Luzerne County who served four terms in this House between 1853 and 1881 and also served as speaker of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives and Luzerne County district attorney. In commemoration of the 150th anniversary, the National Archives and Records Administration recently donated to the township a framed photograph of Hendrick Wright taken in the 1860s.

The community was carved from Hanover Township, and has seen its population grow despite seeing part of its territory incorporated into the new communities of Fairview Township, Rice Township and Nauvoga Borough over the years. The township encompasses 13.9 square miles of land.

At its founding, Wright Township had just 152 inhabitants, and its character remained primarily rural until the 1950s. In 1950, the population was 948, which has more than quintupled to 5,593 in 2000. A major reason for the increase in population was the opening of the Crestwood Industrial Park in 1952. This 1,050-acre facility is home to more than 20 businesses that employ more than 3,000 people. Wright Township continues to work with the Greater Wilkes-Barre Chamber of Business and Industry and businesses located or considering location in the industrial park.

To help preserve the quality of life the residents enjoy and provide for orderly community and economic development, the township adopted a comprehensive plan and subdivision and land development and zoning ordinances in the late 1960s and early 1970s. As the township grew, it upgraded its public services to meet the citizens' increasing needs. In 1972, the police, the public works department and the supervisors' office moved into the newly constructed municipal building. Previously, the police operated out of the firehouse, the road department operated out of a developer's garage and the supervisors' office was in the home of the secretary.

In the 1970s, the Wright Township Recreation Park was completed, and the township is