

Pakistan and by selling equipment for manufacturing chemical weapons to Iran. This is the same China that stands accused of operating an island-like chain of slave-labor camps and of dealing with unwanted orphans by allowing them to starve to death.

Beijing needs to understand that the American eagle offers a choice. The first, an olive branch, promises peaceful intercourse and free trade. But the other claw holds the mightiest quiver of arrows the world has ever known, and America is ready to use them.●

#### FAIRBANKS, THE ICE CAPITAL OF THE WORLD

● Mr. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, On March 17, 1996, the great Alaskan city of Fairbanks, my hometown, is hosting the World Ice Sculpting Championships as part of the annual Fairbanks Winter Carnival. The organizers of the event have discovered that Alaska has the best ice in the world for ice sculpting. In 1988 they invited ice sculpting teams from Chicago and China to come to Fairbanks in hopes of reviving the art of ice sculpting. At the time, they were unaware of the fine quality of Alaskan ice, so to make sure they had the right ice for the guest instructors they brought in blocks of ice from Seattle, WA. In addition, however, they harvested some local ice for comparison. As a surprise result, they discovered that Alaskan ice is superior to any other ice found in the world. They now export Alaskan ice to such far away places as Frankenmuth, MI, for ice sculpting.

The organizers of this event believe that because of the superiority of Alaskan ice and other favorable conditions, they have been able to attract a growing number of artisans to participate in the Fairbanks ice art ice sculpting championships. This year, Fairbanks is proudly hosting 67 teams from countries around the world including China, Korea, Holland, Belgium, Brazil, Chile, Japan, France, Russia, Canada, and the contiguous United States.

Fairbanks is able to successfully host this event through the hard work of volunteers. The organizers hope to continue to host the world championships every year except during years when the Winter Olympics are held. I am confident that this year Fairbanks, AK, will hold one of the biggest and best Winter Carnival's ever. My congratulations to the organizers and volunteers for all their effort and hard work.●

#### IS WEST SLIGHTING AFRICA'S HOT SPOTS LIKE LIBERIA?

● Mr. SIMON. Mr. President, I am concerned about the deterioration in Liberia, Burundi, and a few other nations.

The pattern in Bosnia is for the United States and other nations to wait until the situation deteriorates very, very badly—until hundreds of thousands of people are killed—and then the United States and the community of nations move in.

I applaud what we are finally doing in Bosnia.

In no country in Africa do we have greater responsibility than in Liberia, where it was sometimes viewed as an American colony because it was founded by former American slaves.

Their ties to the United States have been long.

And when there was a dictatorship in Liberia, we did not hesitate to cooperate with that dictatorship. An article by Howard W. French recently appeared in the New York Times which I ask to be printed in the RECORD.

Now that the dictatorship is gone and chaos has followed, our concerns appear to be minimal.

The article follows.

[From the New York Times, Jan. 23, 1996]

#### IS WEST SLIGHTING AFRICA'S HOT SPOTS LIKE LIBERIA?

(By Howard W. French)

MONROVIA, LIBERIA, January 22.—When the American delegate to the United Nations, Madeleine K. Albright, stopped here briefly on Wednesday during a tour of several African countries, there were the predictable pledges of assistance from Washington to war-torn Liberia.

But along with the promise of helicopters and trucks to help in the disarming of combatants in a devastating six-year civil war, there was also a stern warning that the international community had little patience for crisis-ridden African countries that failed to settle their own problems.

"We have no intention of our logistical support being squandered by anyone's failure of political will," Mrs. Albright said at an airport news conference, straining at times to be heard over a Nigerian transport plane ferrying in new peacekeepers. "Delay," she said, can "no longer be in the vocabulary" of Liberia's political actors.

But for many African leaders and diplomats, the trip of Mrs. Albright—the highest-ranking American to visit Liberia since Secretary of State George Shultz came here before the war that killed more than 150,000 people—inadvertently underscored another point: by the time African crises receive this level of outside attention, the moment for averting catastrophe or sealing the peace has all too often passed.

The most critical obstacle to fulfilling the Liberian peace agreement reached last August, these African officials say, has been the delay in getting the kind of international response needed to carry out a disarmament program and remark this country's shattered economy.

In this regard, African officials argue, the handling of the Liberian crisis by the outside world strongly resembles the ambivalent or tardy international response to past crises in other stops on Mrs. Albright's itinerary: Angola, Rwanda and Burundi.

In Liberia, despite widespread skepticism about its prospects, a cease-fire has largely held for months. But recent days have seen the first serious signs of an unraveling of the country's settlement, as unruly fighters of one of the country's several armed factions have killed as many as 50 West African peacekeepers.

Diplomats say the fighting began because of the economic desperation of the militia members, who are often unschooled boys, and add that the conflict nearly flared out of control because of the limited means available to a short-handed and poorly equipped peacekeeping force.

"Last fall, the American Government pledged \$75 million to help us," said Wilton

S. Sankawulo, the former schoolteacher who is chairman of Liberia's governing Council of State. "But they said go home first and prove that you are serious."

Liberia has been the first instance in which a regional organization, namely the Economic Community of West African States, or Ecomog, has acted with the official sanction of the United Nations to end a civil war. Nigeria has led this effort from the start, spending an estimated \$4 billion. But with major political and economic crises at home, diplomats say Nigeria cannot now carry out Liberia's peace agreement without substantially more outside help.

Foreign diplomats say the most critical immediate element is giving the 7,500-man Nigerian-led peacekeeping force—known as Ecomog, for the Ecomog monitoring group—the means to deploy throughout the country; the trucks and helicopters pledged but not yet delivered by the Americans, and more troops from poor West African countries, which would require financing from the outside world.

Unlike other crises in which the United Nations send its own peacekeepers and directly assess contributions from members, international fund-raiding for Liberia has been conducted through voluntary donor conferences that have garnered sparse contributions.

On top of the outside world's reluctance to contribute to an African-led peacekeeping effort, which has embittered many of this region's leaders, there is the additional complication of deeply strained relations between the United States and Nigeria over the latter's human rights situation.

Rather than being turned over to the Nigerian-led peacekeepers, as is the practice in most international efforts of this sort, the troop trucks promised by the United States are leased vehicles that, at Washington's insistence, will be operated only by private contractors to keep them out of Nigerian hands.

"The resources of Ecomog have been stretched to the limit, and it would be wrong and unfair for the international community to expect it to proceed further without getting it more help," said Anthony Nyaki, the United Nations special representative to Liberia. "Because of the unique mandate given by the U.N. to the West Africans whatever happens here will be precedent-setting."

"In five days as much is spent in Bosnia as was spent in a whole year on Liberia," he said. "If this is allowed to fail, the question will become more pertinent than ever why the outside world cares so little for Africa."

The comparison with Bosnia is one that comes up again and again in conversations with African officials throughout this region, and it is one that inspires cynicism among many.

The international community was slow to act and committed far too few resources to managing crises like the transition to democracy in war-torn Angola or the prevention of a genocidal civil war in Rwanda, African diplomats say. And in Burundi today, where the signs of a possible Rwanda-style civil war are multiplying, the same reluctance to act seems apparent to many.

"Since Somalia ended, I have attended three major conferences on the lessons of that crisis, but these lessons never seem to be learned," said Victor Gbeho, a Ghanaian diplomat who represents the West African economic community here and was the United Nations special envoy to Somalia at the height of that country's crisis.

"For some reason it still takes far too long to get the international community to react to African crises, to realize their pledges of support and work through their bureaucratic mazes," Mr. Gbeho said. "It took the Americans one week to raise \$1.8 billion for Bosnia."