

In the western half of the same island, some miles away, agonies of another sort were being experienced by the people of West Papua. It is not my intent, Mr. Speaker, to detract in any way from the horror and the misery inflicted on the people of Papua New Guinea by the disaster which wiped out their coastal villages. Rather, my concern is that in the midst of the devastation wrought by nature we should not forget the devastation wrought by our fellow human beings.

We can only respond after the fact to the devastation brought by a Tsunami. We have the opportunity to respond with more immediacy to the devastation which is caused by our fellow human beings.

Mr. Speaker, I have spoken on previous occasions about the history of the people of West Papua and about their struggle for independence from Indonesia. On July 3rd, Indonesian Armed Forces fired on pro-independence demonstrators at a university in Jayapura, the capital of West Papua. On July 6th, more than 1000 people were wounded and at least three people were killed when Indonesian Armed Forces fired on a crowd of pro-independence demonstrators on the island of Biak.

Both of these demonstrations were peaceful, Mr. Speaker. They expressed the desire of the people of West Papua for a just resolution to the matter of their political status. Human Rights Watch has called for a full investigation into the shootings in Biak, where 140 citizens have been detained by the government and where there are reports that wounded detainees are being denied medical care and that their families are not being allowed to visit them.

Since 1962, the people of West Papua have been under the occupying rule of Indonesia. Over the last three decades the use of excessive and lethal force has been a feature of the Indonesian Armed Forces' response to both peaceful and armed opposition. The recent events in West Papua have only served to underscore the brutality with which the aspirations of the West Papuan people are being suppressed by the new regime which took power after the resignation of President Suharto.

Mr. Speaker, the recent violence by the Indonesian Government against the people of West Papua is part and parcel of a long history of Jakarta's oppression. Papuan people are not Indonesian, they are Melanesian. Their country is not naturally a part of Indonesia, which is more than 2,300 miles away—across the ocean, with many island nations in between. West Papuan languages, religions, history, identity and customs are their own, and bear no relation to those of Indonesia.

These two nations were cobbled together in 1969 to serve the foreign policy interests of the United States and its ally Indonesia. Indonesia took West Papua in 1963, suppressing the West Papua people's dreams of freedom and self-determination. There was no natural reason for this union, and so it should come as no surprise that it is unravelling.

Since Indonesia took over West Papua, the native Melanesian people have suffered under one of the most repressive and unjust systems of colonial occupation in the twentieth century. The Indonesian military has waged an ongoing war against the "Free Papua Movement" (OPM) and their supporters since the 1960s. The civilian populace that has objected

to Indonesia's plans for development in West Papua has suffered similar oppression. The thousands of killings associated with the expansion of the freeport copper and gold mines in West Papua are testimony to the brutality of the Jakarta central government.

Incredible as it may seem, Mr. Speaker, estimates are that between 100,000 to 300,000 indigenous West Papuans have been killed or have simply vanished from the face of the Earth during the years of Indonesian occupation. And this pattern of annihilation is being continued by the regime of Mr. Habibie, despite initial promises of reform.

The current Government of Indonesia continues to choose a policy of repression, a policy which disregards the rights of the indigenous people of West Papua. Mr. Speaker, the tragic situation in West Papua is of great concern to me. The recent shooting over the pro-independence demonstrations in Jayapura and on the island of Biak, the violent responses which we have seen to pro-independence demonstrations in towns and cities all across West Papua indicate that this new regime is prepared to continue the repression of the past.

One half of Papua New Guinea is still reeling from the worst natural disaster to hit the island in recent memory. Whole villages and the lives of the people in them have been completely obliterated, wiped off the face of the Earth. In the other half of the same island, the people of West Papua are suffering another form of devastation. Their identity as a people is being obliterated by a brutal regime thousands of miles away.

I would hope that all my colleagues would join me in urging the Indonesian Government to cease these violations of human rights and instead take immediate steps to review the political status of West Papua. The new regime in Indonesia has an opportunity to correct the mistakes of the past, not repeat them. It seems to me that we have an obligation to lend our support to this effort, and I urge my colleagues to protest in the strongest possible terms these continuing violations of basic human rights by the new Government of Indonesia.

THE INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND AND RUSSIA

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SHIMKUS). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. STEARNS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, this afternoon I come to the House floor to talk about the international money fund and Russia. I think many of us are very deeply concerned about what is happening in Russia, and there have been calls in the land to have Americans continue funding the international money fund, and the international money fund should help bail out Russia.

But I come here this afternoon to talk about what we really should do. Secretary of Treasury Robert Rubin was quoted recently as saying, "At this point, we don't have a Russian economic team. We don't have a Russian economic plan."

That is unbelievable. We had, in the subcommittee, a hearing on this. I did

not serve on this, but the chairman invited me to listen, and I heard some of the witnesses. I think we all agree that the goal should be to find a way to help Russia, but more importantly, what has gone wrong with Russia's economy, and how has the IMF's policies affected the current economic state of Russia?

As I have mentioned numerous times in the past here on the floor, the economic dilemmas in Asia, in Russia, are not due necessarily to excess capitalism but to the lack of controls, the lack of policing in these nations, and truly, not putting in place a free market system.

There is a great book by Michael Novak called *The Spirit of Democratic Capitalism*. Mr. Novak talks about how the need for successful capitalism in countries depends upon a culture, a culture of honesty and a culture in which, if honesty is not in place, the government polices it and makes sure corruption does not exist. It also talks about democracy, the freedom of a Nation to elect its leaders, and it talks about ownership of property.

These three components make up every successful Nation that deals in the area of capitalism. But in this case, Russia does not have in place a policing system to stop corruption.

Let me quote from Jim Hoagland, who did an article entitled "Russia, a System that Prevailed and Failed." He said, "The fundamental problem in Russia, Indonesia, Malaysia, and elsewhere was not that they went too far in adopting American style capitalism, but these nations did not go far enough."

Then he went on later to talk about Russia, and he said, "Russia demonstrates the perils of trying to skim off the cream of a globalized economy without adopting the checks and controls needed to restrain human appetites and ambitions. Lacking in Russia and Asia was an appreciation of the open and fair competition needed to police capitalism and to make it work."

That is the key. "Since its 1991 revolution, Russia has not developed a risk-based entrepreneurial market economy, and its institutions, to allocate rewards and pain through the efficiency of the marketplace." That has not been in place.

Mr. Speaker, not only have Russia's leaders failed in developing a free market system, they have allowed pure, all-out corruption to guide Russia, and allowed the corrupters to steal billions of dollars to create their own criminal fiefdoms. Official Russian corruption is unmatched anywhere in the world.

Experts say Russia is being plundered through the sale of its natural resources. In a typical scheme, a seller, aided by corrupt officials, sells Russian commodities overseas for higher prices than he reports to the government, and pockets the difference.

A Russian scholar compared reports of such sales filed with the Russian government with known market prices

of the same commodities. His findings are related on the chart that I have here on the floor, Mr. Speaker. The difference in the chart represents the amount believed to have been stolen.

When we talk about crude oil, petroleum products, natural gas, and aluminum, you can see the estimated illegal profits from commodity sales in Russia. For 1995 alone, the estimated illegal profits from the sale of crude oil were \$828 million, \$1.5 billion in petroleum products, \$1.2 billion in natural gas, and \$900 million in illegal profits from aluminum sales. All told, the Russian government lost \$4.4 billion in revenue in 1995.

With these facts of how Russia has been plundered, how can the Clinton Administration and the IMF continue to justify propping up the failed Russian government by demanding more money from hard-working U.S. taxpayers. We have seen that the recent Russian bailout by the IMF amounting to \$22.6 billion has been a failure.

The IMF should suspend any additional payments to Russia immediately and until there can be a consensus built whether any additional funding would actually do any good for Russia. Congress should continue withholding any additional funding to the IMF itself until Congress can determine if the IMF is increasing the "moral hazard" by continuing its bailouts.

Let me close, Mr. Speaker, by saying the IMF should suspend funding until we find out how to stop corruption, and in fact, Congress should not give funding to the IMF until it understands how the IMF works in Russia.

TRIBUTE TO ED BOHRER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 1997, the gentlewoman from Maryland (Mrs. MORELLA) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker, on Labor Day the city of Gaithersburg, which is the second largest city in my congressional district, celebrated its traditional Labor Day parade, one of the biggest parades in the State, and I would venture, probably in the region. It was the 60th parade.

The parade was dedicated to the mayor, Ed Bohrer, who on August 27 at age 58 died suddenly. He was there in spirit. I pay tribute to Ed Bohrer.

Ed Bohrer was a man of Gaithersburg, born and bred. He lived and loved in the town that he knew so well, where everyone knew each other and everyone cared. He loved his native Gaithersburg, and he enthusiastically nurtured his town into a community which has become the second largest city in the State of Maryland.

He was first elected mayor in 1986, after he had already served 10 years on the Gaithersburg city council. He was a man who truly believed in the people of Gaithersburg. He was committed to his community, and he exhibited honor and integrity in all that he did. His leadership and achievements enhanced

the quality of life for all of the citizens of Gaithersburg, and he made us very proud.

Ed was very proud that Gaithersburg was a very fiscally solvent city. He was a Republican, but he was a Republican who was bipartisan, in fact nonpartisan in working with businesses, elected officials, organizations to serve all the people.

His vision led to the establishment of the Wells Robertson house for transitional homeless, in response to a problem of homeless in Gaithersburg, giving them the opportunity to prepare for jobs and for transitioning into the city beyond the homeless shelter.

He established effective antidrug programs. He was very much involved with the revitalization of the Gaithersburg Old Town, and he established Gaithersburg as a "character counts" city, a model for the Nation. We will sorely miss the beloved mayor, whom I called endearingly "Mr. Gaithersburgermeister."

Most of all, we remember Ed Bohrer, the man. Each of us who knew him in some way has been touched in a very special, personal way by Ed Bohrer. We have called him a mentor, because he guided, helped, and cared. We recall his pride and involvement on the athletic fields, cheering the young people. We can almost see him now, wearing his hallmark outfit: loafers and no socks and chino pants. We were his classmates, his neighbors, his letter carriers, his school crossing guards, his community police. We all knew that we were part of his leadership, his commitment to community service.

Ed Bohrer was unpretentious with a sense of humor and a sense of values. He was loyal to his friends. He was a man of his word who believed passionately that public service meant helping others.

On August 30th, which was the eve of his funeral service, Ed lay in state in the hallowed sanctuary of his church, Epworth United Methodist Church in Gaithersburg, Maryland. Well over 1,400 people passed through to pay tribute to this man that they remembered so endearingly.

It was very appropriate because he truly lived the prayer of the founder of Methodism, John Wesley: "to do all the good you can, in all the places you can; in all the ways that you can; for as long as you can." Pastor Reverend Green in his homily celebrated the life and legacy of Ed Bohrer by citing examples of his faith in his actions.

Ed Bohrer was a family man. He knew the values of family. I remember his pride when his wife, Sharon, graduated from Columbia Union College, when the children were adults. She was getting a graduate degree, and in fact, I was the speaker.

He and Sharon gave their children, Paige and Patrick, a loving home. They have reflected in their lives that inspiration. He encouraged his son Pat's dedication to a law enforcement career. He was filled with joy for Paige

and his four grandchildren, and he was devoted to his mother, Juanita.

We were very proud to be part of one of the many things that Ed and Sharon did in the community. They had a holiday tradition where he and Sharon would serve members of the community at their home at a breakfast, and they had the traditional pancakes prepared by his mother, Juanita.

Ed's loss leaves a void, particularly in the lives of his family. We offer our prayers for Sharon, Paige, Patrick, his mother, Juanita, his sisters, grandchildren, and all the family.

At the memorial service on August 31, reflections on the life of Ed Bohrer were offered by Sidney Katz, Gaithersburg city council member; Roy Green, his brother-in-law; his son, Patrick Bohrer; the Board Chairman of the Adventist Health Care, Ron Wisbey; Teresa Wright, a community representative. I also had the honor of offering some reflections.

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What was so special was that the eulogy was given by his wife. And it was so filled with the warmth, enthusiasm, humor, and compassion that characterized Ed, we all felt that he was there. Everyone was deeply moved.

Sharon stated she was following Ed's request to deliver the eulogy.

I stress that Ed Bohrer personified the pillars of "Character Counts." In Congress we have a resolution encouraging States and localities to become "Character Counts" cities, States, and jurisdictions. Gaithersburg's commitment shows its effectiveness.

Those pillars of "Character Counts" are Respect, trustworthiness, fairness, citizenship, caring and responsibility. And, indeed, in this day when public servants are judged not only by accomplishments but by character, Ed Bohrer was truly a role model.

I talked with Ed on the phone at the hospital a few days before he passed away. His wife, Sharon, had just washed his hair. He was filled with hope. I told him that I loved him, and I said that for all of us who knew him.

Thornton Wilder wrote, "There is a land of the living and a land of the dead, and the bridge is love—the only survival and the only meaning."

Ed Bohrer will be missed, but he will certainly live on in love and is our inspiration. "We thank you, Ed."

SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Mrs. MEEK of Florida) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. CONYERS, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. WISE, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. NORTON, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. KILPATRICK, for 5 minutes, today.