

Intimidation is rampant in the countryside. . . Peasants are told that their votes are not secret and that they will suffer if they do not give them to the ruling party. People suspected of supporting opposition parties have been threatened, beaten and in some cases killed. Rural clinics and hospitals have been ordered to refuse treatment to opposition supporters. Teachers in the countryside have been singled out for attack, dragged from their classrooms and beaten in front of their students. Some female teachers have been stripped naked. More than 260 rural schools have been closed by the violence.

As chairman of the International Republican Institute, which has maintained a presence in Zimbabwe along with its counterpart National Democratic Institute, I am appalled at developments in that southern African country. Parliamentary elections, widely expected to result in a resounding victory for the opposition Movement for Democratic Change and thus threaten the ruling Zimbabwe African National Union-Patriotic Front's 20-year hold on power, are being systematically undermined by the kind of campaign violence and intimidation that has been all too common in other countries that resisted the path of democratization. That is unfortunate, for Zimbabwe, like other strife-torn countries of Africa, has the potential to provide its people a far better quality of life than can ever enjoy under one-party rule.

Those parliamentary elections, Mr. President, as with the defeat of the constitutional referendum in February, would have provided ample evidence that the majority of Zimbabweans are tired of corruption, vast unemployment, 60 percent inflation, and the fuel and energy shortages that have become a part of life in a once wealthy nation. The recent decision by the International Republican Institute to withdraw its election observers, however, as well as the United Nation's withdrawal of its election coordinator, should be seen for what it is: a very clear warning sign that President Mugabe has no intention of permitting free and fair elections, and fully intends to continue his campaign of exacerbating ethnic divisions in Zimbabwe for his personal benefit. That President Mugabe refuses to even accredit U.S. Embassy personnel to act as observers is a stinging and unfortunate rebuke to the international community. The recent jailing of an opposition activist with whom I had the privilege of meeting in my office only two months ago not only augurs ill for the future of Zimbabwe, but hurts me deeply for the promise this fine woman showed in that meeting.

The deterioration of the political situation in Zimbabwe is the direct result of the unwillingness of President Mugabe to countenance any level of political opposition that threatens his hold on power. And make no mistake, that some ruling party members have come under attack by the opposition does not place both sides on an equal moral footing. On the contrary, Am-

nesty International and other foreign observers have been very clear that the government and its supporters are responsible for the violence that has wracked a country that had enjoyed 20 years of peace, flawed though it was by the socialist policies of Mr. Mugabe. The 30 or so deaths and hundreds of injuries that have occurred may, I fear, be only a precursor to greater violence should the Movement for Democratic Change continue to attempt to mount a credible campaign against one-party rule.

Mr. President, some may look at the seizure of white-owned farms by black squatters openly and vociferously encouraged by President Mugabe, and the murder of some of those farmers, through the prism of the former era of colonial and white-minority rule. That would be a tragic mistake. The deteriorating situation in Zimbabwe is directly tied to President Mugabe's autocratic rule and desperate attempt to hold back the tides of history, which appear to favor democracy. Mugabe's rejection of South African President Thabo Mbeki's efforts at brokering a quasi-reasonable resolution of the land-reform issue was further evidence of his growing penchant for petty tyranny as a substitute for enlightened government.

It is imperative that the United States, the European Community and, most importantly, the Organization of African Unity act forcefully in pressuring Mugabe to reverse his current dictatorial policies and allow for the conduct of free and fair elections. His failure to do so should be widely condemned. What ails Zimbabwe is not racial tension, but the age-old problem of a dictator who fails to read the writing on the walls. As with others before him, he will find, I suspect, that his world will become more and more confined, more and more restrictive and his actions more and more desperate. At a time when Sub-Saharan Africa has become synonymous with civil strife and the international community debates the ongoing wars in Sierra Leone and Congo, while conflict continues in Angola and ethnic violence continues in and around Rwanda and Burundi, Zimbabwe should have been a beacon of political stability and economic development. Instead, it descends into the darkness of tyranny. It is hopefully not too late to reverse the situation there, but the signs are not encouraging.●

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 1:09 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Niland, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 4578. An act making appropriations for the Department of the Interior and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2001, and for other purposes.

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

At 1:09 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Niland, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bill:

H.R. 4387. An act to provide that the School Governance Charter Amendment Act of 2000 shall take effect upon the date such Act is ratified by the voters of the District of Columbia.

The enrolled bill was signed subsequently by the President pro tempore (Mr. THURMOND).

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. REID:

S. 2749. A bill to establish the California Trail Interpretive Center in Elko, Nevada, to facilitate the interpretation of the history of development and use of trails in the settling of the western portion of the United States; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. REID:

S. 2750. A bill to direct the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, the Secretary of the Army, the Secretary of Agriculture, and the Secretary of the Interior to participate constructively in the implementation of the Las Vegas Wash Wetland Restoration and Lake Mead Water Quality Improvement Project, Nevada; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. REID:

S. 2751. A bill to direct the Secretary of Agriculture to convey certain land in the Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit, Nevada, to the Secretary of the Interior, in trust for the Washoe Indian Tribe of Nevada and California; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

By Mr. THOMPSON:

S. 2752. To amend the North Korea Threat Reduction Act of 1999 to enhance congressional oversight to nuclear transfers to North Korea and to prohibit the assumption by the United States Government of liability for nuclear accidents that may occur at nuclear reactors provided to North Korea; read the first time.

By Mr. DASCHLE (for himself, Mr. MOYNIHAN, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. AKAKA, Mr. BAUCUS, Mr. BIDEN, Mr. BINGAMAN, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. BRYAN, Mr. BYRD, Mr. CLELAND, Mr. DODD, Mr. DORGAN, Mr. DURBIN, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. HOLLINGS, Mr. INOUE, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. KERRY, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. LEVIN, Mrs. LINCOLN, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. REED, Mr. REID, Mr. ROBB, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Mr. SARBANES, Mr. SCHUMER, and Mr. WELLSTONE):

S. 2753. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide a prescription drug benefit for the aged and disabled under the medicare program, to enhance the preventative benefits covered under such program, and for other purposes; placed on the calendar.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated: