Mr. Speaker, the time has come to stop supporting governments that actively work against us. We should cut off all American aid to India and declare our support for the freedom movements through democratic plebiscites. These are important steps to extend the hand of freedom to the people of South Asia.

INTRODUCTORY STATEMENT FOR THE BRING THEM HOME ALIVE ACT OF 1999

HON. JOEL HEFLEY
OF COLORADO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, May 25, 1999

Mr. HEFLEY. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to introduce today the Bring Them Home Alive Act of 1999. This legislation provides a powerful incentive to persuade foreign nationals to identify and return to the United States any living American POW/MIA who served in the Vietnam or Korean War. I am pleased to be joined in this effort by 28 bipartisan co-sponsors.

The on-going war in Yugoslavia has brought the plight of American POW/MIA to the forefront of the nation's psyche. We all watched in horror several weeks ago as three captured American servicemen were displayed with visible cuts and bruises on Serbian television. We feared for their lives, their safety and their well-being. It was with great relief that we watched as Staff Sergeants Christopher Stone and Andrew Ramirez and Specialist Steven Gonzales were released, relatively unharmed, from a Serbian prison.

The story of the capture of these three servicemen ended with family reunions and a safe return home to America. However, too many POW/MIA's were not so fortunate. There is the possibility that soldiers from the Vietnam and Korean Wars are still living as prisoners of war. It is our duty to do all that we can to bring them home.

The Bring Them Home Alive Act would grant asylum in the U.S. to foreign nationals who help return a living American POW/MIA from either the Vietnam War or the Korean War. The bill specifically allows citizens of Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos, China, North Korea, or any of the states of the former Soviet Union who assist in the rescue of an American POW/MIA to be granted asylum. The legislation would also grant asylum to the rescuer’s family, including their spouse and children, since their safety would most likely be threatened by such a rescue.

While there is some doubt as to whether any American POW/MIA's from these two wars remain alive, the official U.S. policy distinctly recognizes the possibility that American POW/MIA's from the Vietnam War could still be alive and held captive in Indochina. The official position of the Defense Department states, “Although we have thus far been unable to prove that Americans are still being held against their will, the information available to us precludes ruling out that possibility.” Actions to investigate live-sighting reports receive and will continue to receive necessary priority and resources based on the assumption that at least some Americans are still held captive. Should any report prove true, we will take appropriate action to bring them home and hold their captors accountable.

Mr. Speaker, we are less than two weeks away from the end of the Clinton/Gore administration. It is fitting to remember the sacrifices of those who served and protected our nation and our freedoms. American servicemen and women deserve this recognition, as well as our respect and appreciation. I believe it would be a fitting tribute to American soldiers to pass the Bring Them Home Alive Act. As long as there remains even the remotest possibility that there may be American survivors, we owe it to our servicemen and their families to bring them home alive.

HUNGER’S SILENT VICTIMS

HON. TONY P. HALL
OF OHIO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, May 25, 1999

Mr. HALL of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring to our colleagues’ attention a humanitarian crisis in Asia, one half a world away from the glare of television lights and public concern—but one every bit as worthy of our attention as the crime scene that is Kosovo.

I recently visited rural villages in Cambodia, and was surprised to see that Pol Pot’s legacies—serious malnutrition and illiteracy—persist two decades after he was run from power. I am especially concerned that our country is focusing too much on political issues, and ignoring the tremendous humanitarian problems in Cambodia.

One aspect of these problems—hunger and malnutrition so severe that it is stunting the bodies and brains of more than half of Cambodia’s children—was explained in a superb article recently in Time Magazine’s Asian edition. We all know the tragic of Cambodia; this article describes a future sure to be needlessly sad.

Cambodia is a fertile land at the crossroads of a thriving regional economy. Its people are hard-working and innovative. With a little peace, and a little humanitarian assistance, they can again be the stable, growing rice exporter they were in the 1960s.

I would respectfully request that Time’s article be included in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.
and disease. The quiet of peace, however, has begun to feel like echoes of fear. The latest crisis: food security, or its shameful absence among the country’s malnourished poor.

The problem is hardly new, only newly appreciated. Earlier this year a joint survey published by UNICEF and the United Nations World Food Program (WFP) found that in Cambodia’s poorest rural areas, half the children under age five are physically stunted, while 20% suffer acute malnutrition.

According to a separate U.N. study published last December, Cambodia has the highest malnutrition rates in East Asia, with an average daily intake of only 1,960 calories, even lower than that of famine-stricken North Korea (2,390 calories) “Malnutrition in Cambodia is chronic,” says the WFP’s acting country director, Ken Noah Davies. “You could call this a silent emergency, or you could call this a national crisis.”

The scope of the problem bears out that dire warning. A recent U.N. study found that not only income, but also socio-cultural factors may contribute to the underfeeding of children. For traditional cultural reasons—breastfeeding from birth is seen as taboo—Cambodian women are often reluctant to suckle their newborns immediately, waiting several days and thereby depriving them of highly nutritious colostrum, or first milk.

Much of the difficulty in feeding kids properly stems from the devastation wrought by the Khmer Rouge. Pol Pot’s mad atrocity at the beginning of Cambodia’s problems. Ms. Hilleary told me that the pictures children draw almost always feature guns or weapons—because violence and war are so familiar to them.

“People need more traditional education of proper nutrition and care,” says Kao Chheng Huor, head of the WFP office for the provinces of Kampong Thom and Preah Vihear. “The overwhelming majority of Cambodians, whose lifespan is just 47 years, don’t know what peace is. If the areas long held by the Khmer Rouge aren’t opened with roads and other basic infrastructure, if the people do not have an opportunity to get some basic education—if ordinary Cambodians don’t see progress in meeting their basic needs, the peace that is holding now may not last. We have an opportunity today that has not existed in three decades. A chance to introduce Cambodians to the fruits of peace.

INTRODUCTION OF HOME HEALTH ACCESS PRESERVATION ACT

HON. VAN HILLEARY

OP TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 25, 1999

Mr. HILLEARY. Mr. Speaker, the Balanced Budget Act (BBA) made many changes to