

Bishop Belo is a most courageous figure who has ceaselessly tried to promote a peaceful solution and dialog as a way out of the 20-year-old conflict in East Timor, which Indonesia invaded in 1979 and where as many as a third of the population has perished.

During his 13 years as apostolic administrator of the Roman Catholic Church in the Indonesian-occupied former Portuguese colony of East Timor, Carlos Filipe Ximenes Belo has been a tireless advocate of peace, human rights, nonviolence and reconciliation in a situation marked by war, grim atrocities and an atmosphere of terror. It is worth recalling some of the details of Bishop Belo's effort. On November 12, 1991, Indonesian troops opened fire on a peaceful gathering of thousands of people at Santa Cruz cemetery in the East Timor capital of Dili. More than 250 were killed on that day, many more were badly wounded. The full extent of the tragedy surrounding the Santa Cruz events is still not widely known. Most of the victims were young people.

In the immediate aftermath of the Santa Cruz massacre, driving his own automobile, between the hours of 9 a.m. until 2 a.m. the next morning, Bishop Belo gathered, in groups of five and six, hundreds of young people who has been at Santa Cruz cemetery the morning of November 12 and returned them to their homes before they could meet further harm at the hands of the Indonesian military. Subsequent reports indicate that dozens of those who survived the massacre at Santa Cruz cemetery were taken away and executed by Indonesian security forces.

On numerous occasions before and since, Bishop Belo has acted to deter violence. But in the absence of greater international support his power over the situation is limited. The other day he told a friend from Washington that last week two villages—a civil servant on the way to picking up his pay envelope with a relative—were shot dead by Indonesian troops in the town of Viqueque, while others in the region of Ermera were beaten, arrested, and prevented from attending Mass and from tending their coffee fields.

The tension in East Timor is of great cause for concern, particularly now that the fifth anniversary of the November 12, 1991 Santa Cruz massacre approaches. I believe the Congress and the administration should be prepared to give the greatest possible support to Bishop Belo in his efforts to bring peace to East Timor and to help strengthen Bishop Belo's hand in the difficult weeks and months ahead.

For the benefit of my colleagues, I would like to submit for the RECORD a firsthand account by Arnold Kohen from the December 10, 1995, Boston Globe:

[From the Boston Sunday Globe, December 10, 1995]

BURIED ALIVE: EAST TIMOR'S TRAGIC OPPRESSION

(By Arnold S. Kohen)

With the world's attention focused on the Bosnian peace agreement, the 20th anniversary of an invasion that led to even greater carnage than the tragedy in the Balkans passed Thursday with little notice. But the consequences of Indonesia's December 1975 invasion of the former Portuguese colony of East Timor are still with us. The children of those who perished in the first wave of savage repression are at this moment being beaten and tortured.

Over most of the last two decades, East Timor has received only sporadic worldwide

attention: in 1991, when Indonesian troops massacred more than 250 people in a church cemetery, an event filmed by British television and broadcast around the world, and again last year, when East Timorese students occupied part of the U.S. Embassy compound in Indonesia during a visit by President Clinton. On Thursday, in recognition of the anniversary of the invasion, pro-independence Timorese occupied part of the Dutch and Russian embassies in Jakarta. But for the most part, the public knows little of what is happening in East Timor.

East Timor, an area located off the north coast of Australia, and about the size of Connecticut, deserves the special sympathy of Americans, because, the United States provided the arms and diplomatic support for that 1975 invasion. President Ford and Secretary of State Henry Kissinger were in Jakarta the day before, and they made no objection to the Indonesian action, though it was illegal under international law and has never been recognized by the United Nations. Longtime efforts in Congress finally have stimulated pressure to address the tragedy in East Timor.

If the public is troubled about Bosnia, it should also be concerned over East Timor. About 250,000 people of a population of 4 million have perished in Bosnia since 1991, while in East Timor, it is estimated that 200,000 of a population of less than 700,000 died from the combined effects of the Indonesian assault between 1975 and 1979, many in a war-induced famine compared with some of the worst catastrophes in recent history, including starvation in Cambodian under Pol Pot.

"It defies imagination that so many people have perished in such a small place as East Timor," said Mairead Corrigan Maguire, who won the 1976 Nobel Peace Prize for her work in Northern Ireland, where 3,000 people have died in the violence since 1969. East Timor has sparked public concern in Ireland, in part because of the Irish historical experience of occupation by a powerful neighbor.

Today, tension and oppression have a vise-like grip on East Timor. I visited there in September, during some of the most serious upheavals since the Santa Cruz massacre of 1991. "This place is like a concentration camp," said a priest who could not be identified.

At a Mass one day at the home of Roman Catholic Bishop Carlos Ximenes Belo, himself considered for the Nobel Peace Prize in 1995, there was a crippled boy, his face black-and-blue with caked-up blood from a beating by security forces. Traumatized and barely willing to speak, he said he had been in a police station with 30 other young people who had been stripped naked and similarly assaulted.

"We have been going from prison to prison—I don't know where he is—and the police won't tell us," said one desperate parent searching for his child. He took a considerable risk simply in talking to a foreigner. Nearby, dozens of young people taking refuge in a courtyard, several with head wounds inflicted by Indonesian police.

"They're taking everything from us," said one man. "All most Timorese have now is the skin on their bones." Indonesian settlers brought into East Timor are taking the scarce jobs and opportunities. As in Tibet, invaded by the Chinese in 1950, the settlers seem to be there to swamp the East Timorese in their own country.

"It's a slow annihilation," said another priest, who reported that as many as 80 percent of the native East Timorese in some areas suffer from tuberculosis, while Indonesian authorities make it difficult for many people to obtain medicines.

The disparity between the two sides could not be more clear. On the one hand, unarmed

young people who have little more than ideals to sustain them. The other consists of heavily armed elite units of Indonesian mobile brigade riot police. I saw countless trucks filled with machine-gun toting army troops, both uniformed and in plainclothes, some wearing ski masks in broad daylight in the oppressive tropical heat—an open reminder of those in East Timor who have "disappeared" without a trace. Spies working for Indonesian forces are everywhere.

In a telephone conversation this week, Bishop Belo, a courageous moderate who has worked hard to deter violence in the territory, said the situation remains the same.

During the past few months, dozens of young East Timorese have entered embassies in Jakarta seeking political asylum. The personal histories of almost all of these young people tell the story of East Timor today: Many, if not most, have lost parents in the war, and most have been beaten or tortured.

Involvement of the Clinton Administration in Bosnia and Northern Ireland has helped smooth the way for peace agreements. There are signs that over time, the same might work in East Timor. President Clinton, who has raised the issue with Indonesian President Suharto, can increase his support for United Nations peace talks and try to convince Indonesian government to take concrete steps in pursuit of a peaceful solution. Experts say there is growing recognition in Indonesia that changes must be made if Jakarta is to rid itself of what has come to be a debilitating injury to the country's international reputation.

In the meantime, international pressure could save lives. All official buildings in East Timor today are adorned by idealized portraits of Indonesia's vice president, Try Sutrisno, former commander of the army. I was reminded of his statement after the Santa Cruz massacre: The young victims "were delinquents who needed to be shot and we will shoot them." I was told by authoritative diplomatic sources that, in the absence of growing international pressure led by the United States, Indonesian forces would simply kill the young resisters of East Timor, as they have killed so many of their elders. All the more reason why distant East Timor should have more than a little meaning for us.

Arnold S. Kohen is writing a book on East Timor and international policy.

TRIBUTE TO THE HALFWAY SCHOOLHOUSE

HON. DAVID E. BONIOR

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 26, 1996

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, this coming Saturday, September 28, 1996, in Eastpointe, MI, a historical marker honoring the Halfway Schoolhouse will be formally dedicated.

The Halfway Schoolhouse was built in 1872 and served the community until 1921. At that time it was located in the village of Halfway, midway between Mount Clemens and Detroit. When the school closed in 1921, it was moved and used as a warehouse. The East Detroit Historical Society acquired the school in 1984, returning it to within 100 feet of its original site and restoring its 19th century appearance. The contributions of the members of the historical society are numerous and they deserve our gratitude for their hard work and dedication to preserve this beautiful Victorian building for future generations.

It has been 124 years since this school first opened its doors to this community but many values remain the same. The people were hard working, family oriented and aware of the importance of education. This school brought hope for a better way of life. It opened doors within the minds of the young people and inspired future leaders. Today, the school is once again servicing the needs of the community. Children who visit leave with a sense of the past and a feeling of pride and belonging in their community.

I commend the members of the East Detroit Historical Society for their role in preserving this treasure. The Halfway Schoolhouse will be formally recognized as a Michigan historic site with the dedication of this marker. The citizens of Eastpointe should feel pride in knowing that they have reclaimed something precious that will now be a living memorial.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE DEDICATED SERVICE OF LARRY MATHIS

HON. KEN BENTSEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 26, 1996*

Mr. BENTSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Larry L. Mathis, the president and chief executive officer of Methodist Health Care System in Houston, TX, in my district. Mr. Mathis has faithfully served the Houston area as the head of one of our Nation's leading nonprofit health care organizations for more than 25 years.

Later this year, Mr. Mathis will be retiring from Methodist Health Care System. Mr. Mathis began his career at Methodist Hospital in 1971 as an administrative resident. He was quickly promoted and was appointed president and chief executive officer of the hospital in 1983. During his leadership, Methodist grew from a single-site hospital in the Texas Medical Center to its emerging presence today as a community-based health care system. Methodist is now a leading provider of state-of-the-art medical care in the competitive managed care market in Houston. The Methodist Health Care System includes the Methodist Hospital, Diagnostic Center Hospital, San Jacinto Methodist Hospital, an international network of affiliated hospitals, a managed care organization, a health maintenance organization, home health services, skilled nursing, primary, and secondary physician groups, community health care centers, and hospice services.

During Mr. Mathis' tenure, the Methodist Hospital won the Commitment to Quality Award, an important award for hospital quality, and was named one of America's Best Hospitals by U.S. News and World Report. Methodist was also included in the 1993 edition of "The 100 Best Companies To Work for in America" and in the 1995 edition of the "Best Hospitals in America." Mr. Mathis was also named as one of the five best managers in nonprofit health services in Business Week.

Mr. Mathis has been recognized by his peers as an expert in health care policy. He is chairman-elect of the American College of Healthcare Executives, a professional society of 30,000 members. He has served as chairman of the board of the American Hospital Association, the Texas Hospital Association, and

the Greater Houston Council. In addition, Mr. Mathis served as a member of the Prospective Payment Assessment Commission and the Quality Task Force of the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations.

As Methodist Hospital searches for a replacement, Mr. Mathis will continue to serve as president and CEO of Methodist Health Care System. After this retirement, Mr. Mathis will continue to consult and work with Methodist Hospital on selected projects and programs. I applaud the dedicated leadership and hard work that Mr. Mathis has given to the Houston area and wish him the very best in his new career. Thank you, Mr. Mathis, for your service to the patients, the employees, and your community at the Methodist Health Care System. Your presence as a health care visionary will be missed.

TRIBUTE TO BENJAMIN FRANKLIN CLEVELAND

HON. GERALD B.H. SOLOMON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 26, 1996*

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, it is great honor for me to introduce a true American hero, Benjamin Franklin Cleveland. Mr. Cleveland, a resident of Johnsbury, NY, will soon celebrate his 100th birthday. I am proud to call this gentleman one of my constituents.

Mr. Cleveland is the only living veteran of the First World War residing in Johnsbury. I would like to offer my heartfelt appreciation for his service to the Nation. In recognition of Mr. Cleveland's 100th birthday, the town of Johnsbury, a small town in the 22d Congressional District, is throwing a parade in his honor this Saturday, September 28. I am thrilled that Johnsbury is honoring Mr. Cleveland.

Mr. Speaker, serving your country is the ultimate sacrifice. It takes courage, dedication, perseverance, and above all, love of country. Mr. Cleveland has fought to preserve the freedoms many Americans, unfortunately, take for granted. You deserve the respect and admiration of all Americans.

The United States must look awfully different to Mr. Cleveland than it did in the year of his birth, 1896. In his lifetime, he has seen the introduction of air travel, the automobile, radio and television, nighttime baseball, and many other advances that have forever altered the American landscape.

Mr. Speaker, the country is different, but not necessarily better in all aspects. We have much to learn from members of Mr. Cleveland's esteemed generation. The country can draw on the wisdom he obtained in his 10 decades of life in the United States. He has a great deal to offer our Nation. I sincerely hope our youngsters can display the same virtues that Mr. Cleveland has amply demonstrated: duty, honor, sacrifice, and love of God and Country.

Once again, Mr. Speaker, I want to thank Mr. Cleveland on behalf of the U.S. Congress for your military service. I hope he has a wonderful birthday on October 14, 1996 and pray that he has many more years in beautiful upstate New York.

Living 100 years is a true milestone—Mr. Cleveland has great reason to feel proud of his accomplishment.

God Bless You, Mr. Cleveland. You are in our prayers.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. HENRY B. GONZALEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 26, 1996*

Mr. GONZALEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to clarify my vote on the Immigration and Nationality Act conference report yesterday. While my vote was recorded as "aye", it was my intention to vote "no", as I still oppose this legislation. My position on the issue of immigration is long standing and a matter of public record. I would thus like the RECORD to accurately reflect my position on this bill. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

TRIBUTE TO THE DEALE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT AND RESCUE SQUAD ON THEIR 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 26, 1996*

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the past and present men and women of the Deale Volunteer Fire Department and Rescue Squad. This October, they will be celebrating their 50th anniversary of service to the citizens of Deale, MD.

Prior to the fire company's inception in 1946, the citizens of Deale relied upon surrounding communities to provide their fire protection. As the population grew, following World War II, it became apparent that Deale could no longer rely entirely on other communities and it needed its own fire department. In October 1946, a small group of community leaders started the Deale Volunteer Fire Department. They were Tilghman Franklin, Gordon Phipps, Oregon Nutwell, Ray Clark, Sterling Knopp, Maurice Whittington, and Joseph Adcock.

As with most volunteer fire companies they started off small. They didn't have much money and hadn't been in the community long enough to establish a very large volunteer base. However, what they lacked in resources they more than made up in hard work. Their first fire engine was purchased second hand from the Clinton Volunteer Fire Department and they used a local businessman's garage as a firehouse. The first few years of the department were difficult because the department had to be entirely self-sufficient. They raised the necessary funds to purchase all the equipment and start construction on a proper firehouse by hosting oyster roasts, game parties, and collecting donations from the community.

In 1951, the fire department started receiving tax funds from Anne Arundel County. This steady revenue, supplemented by their fund-raising activities, allowed the department to complete the second stage of the firehouse construction which began in 1948. Additionally it allowed them to hire Junior Windsor and James "Tutti" Revell to be the first full-time professional firefighters for the department.