

hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. PALLONE addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

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

(Mr. FOLEY addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

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

(Mr. DEFAZIO addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. FERGUSON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. FERGUSON addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

TRIBUTE TO U.S. MARINE LANCE CORPORAL PETER ORLANDO

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

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to my friend, 20-year-old United States Marine Lance Corporal Peter Orlando, who died on Saturday in service to our country. Peter Orlando was a lifelong resident of my hometown of Lowell, Massachusetts, who joined the United States Marine Corps 2 years ago. He valiantly served his country as part of our forces of Operation Enduring Freedom, deployed on a supply ship off the coast of Bahrain in the Persian Gulf. Peter was currently training at Camp Lejeune in North Carolina in preparation for continuing desert warfare training later this month in California.

Peter was a member of the 3rd Battalion 2nd Marines, 2nd Marine division, since December of 2000 after graduating from boot camp at Parris Island. Peter was assigned to the battalion's combined antiarmor platoon within the weapons company. He served as a machine gunner.

In June of this year, Peter had returned to the United States after a 6-month deployment in Okinawa. While deployed to Okinawa, Peter had further deployed to Bahrain from January to April of this year. There he participated at shipboard security operations in support of Operation Southern Watch and Enduring Freedom.

Peter was an expert rifleman and was a recipient of the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, the Sea Service Deployment Ribbon, and the National

Service Medal. Peter's death during a military training exercise was a tragic and devastating loss to his loving family, to his community, and to his country. His death touched me personally as well. I got to know Peter when he was 9 or 10 years old. He became involved in my first campaign for Congress in 1992. I remember Peter walking the mile or so from his home in the Centerville area of Lowell to our campaign headquarters. I remember his useful enthusiasm as a volunteer, his constant zeal. He was always campaigning, no matter where he was. Over the decade that followed, I kept in touch with Peter and was proud that from time to time he would call me for advice or my view on something that he was doing. Every Saturday when I would go to the Double Tree Hotel in Lowell for breakfast with community leaders, I would meet his mother and she would tell me how Peter was doing and where Peter was, wherever he was around the world.

He was a 2000 graduate of Lowell High School, after which Peter enlisted in the armed services, a career that I was very, very proud of him for entering. I remember one time he said to me "I am going to enter the service, which do you think I should enter?" I said, "Well, I hear the Marines is the toughest." He said, "Yeah, that is the one for me. I have brothers who are also Marines."

And I was extremely proud to hear of his plans to reenlist for another 4 years, his resolve, like that of our Nation, strengthened by the cowardly attacks on our country on September 11.

Peter is survived by his loving mother, Audrey, and 10 siblings: Lisa, Karyn, Christine, Heidi, Allyson, Gino, Anthony, Joseph, Maria, and Sara, as well as of many nieces and nephews. Yes, Peter was a United States Marine, but first and foremost he was a loving son, brother, uncle, a young man who was committed to his family, a legacy where he will always be remembered by not only his family but to those he touched and to those who loved him from his hometown of Lowell.

Peter Orlando served his family, his community, and his country proudly and faithfully, and I salute him today in the United States House of Representatives and say to you, Peter Orlando, today, thank you for your service to our country, and tonight from the floor of the House, Peter, you are my hero.

FOOD CRISES IN SOUTHERN AFRICA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mrs. CLAYTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. CLAYTON. Mr. Speaker, I want to share with my colleagues and put into the RECORD a continuous issue that I have been trying to bring before the Congress and others, as you have heard the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATERS) as well speak of. The issue is Southern Africa, and many of

those countries have reached proportion of their citizens suffering from hunger and malnutrition to the extent of being a famine. Whether it is in Malawi or Swaziland or Zambia or Zimbabwe, Lesotho, all of those countries now suffer for one reason or another in terms of having food insecurity. It is either the drought that is there or mismanagement of their government or conflict in the area. It is currently said, and I have some figures up here, that right now we know more than 7 million people now are starving. Hunger is over a long period of time, and as people call it a slow burn, if we do not see them dying in the streets, we do not get the impression that they are suffering. Right now we know they are dying from it. It is a slow death. We do not feel the urgency but it is an urgency. What makes this a travesty is that it is an urgency, an emergency that we can do something about. We can actually intervene and make a difference. We can provide food and stop the starvation and possibly stop the death, but if we do nothing, we allow the starvation to continue and we allow other issues to develop. Indeed, if we do nothing right now, rather than in Zimbabwe having 6,000 people who are now starving, you will have more than 7,000 people who are. In other words, right now we could intervene and make a difference. In that region, more than 7 million people right now. We could intervene and move that from starvation to maybe food insecurity, but if we do nothing, we can be assured that it is our cavalier attitude or our disregard that it is not our problem but their problem.

I want to suggest to you that our security is in fact dependent on others having a sense of humanity and a state of living because it does threaten our security when free regions of the world are so destabilized that they care nothing about their lives or anyone else's life, that indeed threatens their security. So there is something we can do. We certainly can intervene and provide some food. Let me suggest that the United States is indeed doing some things. The World Food Program, which this country funds, is involved in there. Right at the bottom there it tells the number of families that are being fed now because the program that we support is providing that, but they would say that we need to do a lot more if we are going to make a difference in that program.

So we get a sense of the region. It shows on the map, the darker shading of the map is an indication where more than 100,000 people are right now suffering. And so we see that whole region, the deepness of the orange and the yellow indicates the severity. The light yellow is less than 10,000 people are suffering. The dark brown is where you have more than 100,000 people.

That whole region is again for many reasons but mainly drought. They are not producing as much maize as they usually do. So the immediate response is to provide the food.

We will be considering a supplementary budget and usually supplementary budgets are to respond to emergencies here in the United States or abroad as it is related to our vested interest. I submit that supporting people who live in Africa or any part of this world that are suffering from malnutrition or starving from lack of food is in the Nation's self-interest. Why is that? One of the reasons we do that is because part of our foreign policy is to ensure there is a civility and a stable market in a region that adds to the democratization of that country. You cannot have a country with democratization when, indeed, kids are starving. I think that picture says it all, that we have an opportunity to make a difference. We do not want to see kids actually dead in the street. There should be enough of our conscience to know that people are hungry.

Mr. Speaker, I submit into the RECORD the overview from the FAO which describes in detail the situations in all six of the countries in Southern Africa which speaks to the severity.

HIGHLIGHTS

In southern Africa, a food crisis looms over several countries following sharp falls in maize production in 2001 and unfavourable harvest prospects this year. Acute food shortages have emerged in Malawi, Zimbabwe and Zambia, where food reserves have been depleted and food prices have soared, undermining access to food for large sections of their populations. In Malawi, maize production declined by over 33 percent last year mainly due to excessive rains and floods, coupled with reduced and late delivery of agricultural inputs. The strategic grain reserve has been depleted and importation of maize is seriously constrained by transport bottlenecks. As a result, maize prices have risen by over 300 percent since July last year. The Government has declared a state of emergency and appealed to the international community for food assistance. In Zimbabwe, maize production in 2001 dropped by 28 percent compared to the previous year and was well below average, due to a combination of reduced plantings, dry spells and excessive rains. Maize stocks have been depleted and imports are severely constrained by a shortage of foreign exchange. The Government has appealed for international assistance. In Zambia, maize production in 2001 declined by a quarter from the previous year mainly due to excessive rains and flooding, coupled with drought in southern parts. As in Malawi, importation of maize is seriously constrained by transport bottlenecks. The Government has also appealed for assistance. The food situation is also serious in the southern provinces of Mozambique, and for vulnerable rural populations in Lesotho, Swaziland and Namibia affected by poor harvests last year. The situation is set to worsen in several countries in 2002/03 due to anticipated further falls in production this year.

In eastern Africa, the overall food supply situation has improved considerably compared to last year mainly due to favourable weather conditions. Grain surpluses in many areas have resulted in record low prices, severely affecting farm incomes and raising

concerns over possible reductions in plantings next season. Nevertheless, acute food shortage persist in most pastoral areas of Somalia, Kenya and Ethiopia due to continuing drought conditions. In Eritrea, despite an improved harvest, large numbers of internally displaced people and refugees returning from Sudan depend on food assistance. For the subregions as a whole, nearly 11 million people affected by drought and/or conflict continue to depend on food assistance.

In the Great Lakes region, civil strife continues to undermine the food security of millions of people. In the Democratic Republic of Congo, the food situation of over 2 million internally displaced people continues to be of serious concern. Access to this population remains problematic, particularly in rebel-held areas where provision of relief assistance is hampered by insecurity. Elsewhere in the Great Lakes region, the food supply situation has significantly improved in Rwanda and Burundi following two successive good harvests. However, in the latter country the security situation remains volatile in some provinces, with frequent surges in violence displacing rural populations and disrupting food production.

In western Africa, the food outlook for 2002 is generally favourable, following above-average to record harvests in the Sahelian countries and satisfactory crops elsewhere. However, the food supply situation is tight in Mauritania where the harvest was below average. The situation was worsened by unseasonable heavy rains and floods last January that left hundreds of people homeless and killed an estimated 120,000 livestock. In Liberia, a resurgence of civil strife has led to fresh population displacements, with thousands of people fleeing their homes to seek elsewhere in the country or in neighboring countries. In Sierra Leone, despite an improvement in the security situation, full recovery in food production is unlikely in the immediate term. These two countries will continue to rely on international food assistance for some time to come.

Sub-Saharan Africa's cereal import requirements are set to remain high in 2002, reflecting mainly the anticipated sharp drop in cereal production in southern Africa. For 2001/02, cereal import requirements of sub-Saharan Africa have been estimated at 15.9 million tonnes, including 1.7 million tonnes of food aid.

PART I: OVERVIEW

The food outlook for sub-Saharan Africa in 2002 is generally mixed. In eastern and western Africa better cereal harvests have improved the overall food outlook, while in southern Africa the outlook is bleak due to a sharp drop in the 2001 maize harvests coupled with anticipated falls in this year's cereal production in nearly all the countries of the sub-region.

SEVERE FOOD SHORTAGES EMERGE IN SOUTHERN AFRICA

The tight food supply situation in most countries of southern Africa, following sharp falls in cereal production in 2001 due to prolonged dry spells, floods and disruption of farming activities, is set to deteriorate with the anticipated fall in cereal production for the second year running. In February 2002, FAO's Global Information and Early Warning System issued a Special Alert warning of impending serious food shortages threatening the lives of some 4 million people in the sub-region.

In Zimbabwe, the food supply situation is extremely tight as a result of the poor cereal harvest last year, delays in importing maize and the general economic and financial crisis prevailing in the country. Against Government plans since November 2001 to import

200,000 tonnes of maize, only 80,000 tonnes had arrived in the country by late March, mainly due to the country's severe shortage of foreign exchange. The Government has appealed for international food assistance. WFP has pledged close to US\$60 million to provide 94,000 tonnes of cereals to some 558,000 rural and urban people facing acute food shortages until November 2002. However, by late March pledges covered 30 percent of the requirement and only 5,000 tonnes had arrived to the country.

The outlook for the country's food security is bleak. The 2002 maize harvest is expected to be poor as last year due to reduced plantings and severe dry weather. The depletion of official maize reserves and the continuing deterioration of the economic situation point to a looming food security crisis in 2002/03. An FAO/WFP Crop and Food Supply Assessment Mission is scheduled to visit the country from 23 April to 11 May 2002 to assess the food situation and estimate food import requirements, including food aid needs, for 2002/03 marketing year (April/March).

In Malawi, the Government has declared a state of emergency in the country and has appealed to the international community for food assistance to avert famine. This is the result of a poor harvest in 2001, the depletion of the strategic grain reserve and late planting of maize imports. Deaths by starvation and acute nutritional problems have been reported. Against planned maize imports by the Government of 150,000 tonnes only 83,000 tonnes had arrived in the country by the end of March, mainly due to transport constraints. Prices of maize have increased several fold, curtailing access to food for large sections of the population. WFP is distributing relief food to the most affected households.

Prospects for this year's cereal harvest have deteriorated following a prolonged dry spell, with maize production likely to be reduced for the second consecutive year. Widespread consumption of maize in green form due to severe hunger will also reduce domestic maize supply in 2002/03 marketing year (April/March). An FAO/WFP Crop and Food Supply Assessment Mission will visit the country from 22 April to 10 May 2002 for the same purpose as for Zimbabwe.

In Zambia, the food supply situation is also extremely tight as a result of a poor cereal crop last season and delays in importing maize. Out of planned imports of 150,000 tons of maize, only about 60 percent is expected to have arrived in the country by the end of April, the close of the current marketing year. Prices of maize meal are at extremely high levels, seriously restricting access to food for large sections of the population. The Government has appealed for international food assistance for 2 million people in districts declared to be in a state of emergency. WFP started relief food distribution in late January, and pledges until the end of March covered 60 percent of the requirement. However, only some 20,000 tonnes are expected to be distributed before the next harvest.

Prospects for this year's cereal harvest are poor. A prolonged dry spell in the southern parts since late January is reckoned to have seriously reduced yields over large growing areas. An FAO/WFP Crop and Food Supply Assessment Mission is scheduled to visit the country from 6 to 24 May 2002.

In Mozambique, the food situation continues to be serious in the southern provinces of Maputo, Gaza and Inhambane, where the 2001 cereal harvest was significantly reduced. Emergency food assistance is being provided to 172,000 vulnerable people in these provinces. Recent estimates indicate that as a result of a severe dry spell, 40,000 households have lost over 60 percent of the expected production. This will be the third consecutive reduced harvest for these provinces.

An FAO/WFP Crop and Food Supply Assessment Mission is scheduled to visit the country from 22 April to 10 May 2002.

In Lesotho, the food supply situation is also tight due to reduced cereal production in 2001 and commercial imports falling short of requirements. Food reserves are at a minimum and food shortages are being experienced by vulnerable households affected by last year's poor harvest. Relief agencies are distributing food to 36,000 most affected people. The situation is likely to worsen with the deterioration of prospects for the 2002 cereal harvest, following persistent heavy rains in recent months. Production is forecast to be below average for the third consecutive year. An FAO/WFP Crop and Food Supply Assessment Mission is scheduled to visit the country from 25 April to 4 May 2002.

In Swaziland, prospects for this year's cereal harvest have deteriorated as a result of a severe mid-season dry spell that adversely affected yields. This would be the third consecutive year of a below-average harvest. The food supply situation is very tight, reflecting last year's poor harvest and imports falling short of requirements. The Government is providing some food relief to vulnerable households most affected by successive poor harvests. An FAO/WFP Crop and Food Supply Assessment Mission is scheduled to visit the country from 15 to 24 April 2002.

Elsewhere in the sub-region, the food situation remains precarious in Angola, due to the long-running civil conflict, and in Namibia due to a reduced harvest last year. In Madagascar, marketing of food and non-food commodities is being adversely affected by the current political crisis. By contrast, prospects for the 2002 maize crop in South Africa, the largest producer and exporter in the sub-region, are favourable and production is anticipated from last year's below average level.

IMPROVED FOOD SUPPLY SITUATION IN EASTERN AFRICA BUT DIFFICULTIES PERSIST IN PARTS

Despite improved cereal harvests in 2001/02 in most parts in eastern Africa, the effects of recent devastating droughts and past or ongoing conflicts continue to undermine the food security of an estimated 11 million people.

In Eritrea, despite a strong recovery in grain production during the 2001 main cropping season, the food situation of large numbers of people affected by the recent war with neighbouring Ethiopia and drought remains precarious. Overall, nearly 1.3 million people continue to depend on emergency food assistance. Continuing drought conditions in parts of Anseba, Debub, Northern Red Sea, and Southern Red Sea zones, are also cause for concern.

In Ethiopia, a bumper main season grain harvest late last year preceded by a favourable short rains ("belg") crop have significantly improved the food supply outlook for 2002. An FAO/WFP Crop and Food Supply Assessment Mission in December 2001 forecast a main season ("meher") cereal and pulse harvest of 12.3 million tonnes, about 9 percent above the average for the previous five years. Consequently, cereal market prices have fallen sharply in main producing areas, resulting in severe financial difficulties for farmers. However, despite the satisfactory harvest, an estimated 5.2 million people face severe food shortages and need food assistance. Unseasonable migration of people and livestock is reported in the pastoral areas in the south-eastern parts due to persistent drought.

In Kenya, overall food supply has improved considerably following favourable rains in major cereal producing areas. However, a sharp decline in maize prices is negatively impacting on farmers' incomes. In northern

and eastern areas, hopes of recovery for pastoralists from the effects of the recent devastating drought have once again been dashed by insufficient rains during the current season.

In Somalia, despite the recently harvested better than expected secondary ("Deyr") season cereal crop, up to 500,000 people are threatened by severe food shortages. Poor 2001 main ("Gu") season crops coupled with slow recovery from a succession of droughts in recent years and long-term effects of years of insecurity have undermined households' ability to withstand shocks. The continuing ban on livestock imports from eastern Africa by countries along the Arabian Peninsula has sharply reduced foreign exchange earnings and severely curtailed the country's import capacity.

In Sudan, food supply is generally adequate following a good 2001 main season cereal crop in both southern and northern parts of the country. Bumper harvests in central and north-eastern parts have led to a sharp decline in prices, adversely affecting farmers. By contrast, several zones in southern Sudan, particularly in Western and Eastern Equatoria and Bahr el Ghazal, face severe food shortages mainly due to population displacement and insecurity. In addition, parts of Greater Darfur and Kordofan in western Sudan have suffered crop failures due to erratic rainfall. Large numbers of people in these areas are expected to depend on emergency food assistance until the next harvest.

In Tanzania, the food supply situation is generally stable. However, prices of maize continue to rise in the south due to increased, largely informal, exports to neighbouring countries (Malawi, Zambia, Democratic Republic of Congo) which are facing serious food shortages. Price increases are also observed in the east coast and northern parts due to reduced "vuli" season harvests.

In Uganda, the overall food supply situation is favourable following recent good harvests and improved pastures. However, food difficulties persist in parts of Katakwi and Moroto Districts, due to localised drought conditions and/or insecurity.

FOOD SITUATION IN DRC REMAINS PRECARIOUS WHILE OUTLOOK IMPROVES ELSEWHERE IN THE GREAT LAKES REGION

In the Democratic Republic of Congo, economic and agricultural activities continue to be disrupted by the persistent civil war and consequent population displacements. The food and nutritional situation of over 2 million internally displaced people, particularly in north-eastern parts, and of over 330,000 refugees from neighbouring countries, is cause for serious concern. It has been estimated that about 64 percent of the people in the eastern provinces are undernourished. Overall, poverty is reported to have reached very high levels, with 16 million people or one-third of the country's population estimated to be seriously food insecure. While access to government-controlled regions has improved as a result of simplification of procedures, for international agencies, distribution of humanitarian assistance in rebel-held areas remains constrained by insecurity and violence.

In Burundi, the overall food situation has improved following a satisfactory 2002 first season harvest, particularly of non-cereal crops. This reflects a relatively better security situation in most of the country and generally favourable weather during the growing season. Prices of staples in the main provincial markets have declined significantly compared to their levels a year ago. However, production was constrained by insecurity in eastern provinces and parts of Bujumbura Rural.

Despite the peace agreement reached in mid-2000, the security situation remains volatile in these provinces. Heavy fighting between government forces and rebel groups in March resulted in the displacement of large numbers of people, and it is estimated that as many as 80,000 civilians have been displaced since January 2002.

In Rwanda, the overall food supply situation has improved significantly as a result of a one-third increase in the 2002 first season harvests. Markets are well supplied with food staples.

Food prices, which were at their lowest levels since 1994, declined further with the arrival of the new harvest into the markets last January and have since then stabilized. Nevertheless, despite the satisfactory food supply situation, many households remain food insecure, particularly in the provinces of Gikongoro, Butare and Gisenyi.

OVERALL FOOD SUPPLY SITUATION SATISFACTORY IN WESTERN AFRICA BUT DIFFICULTIES PERSIST IN PARTS

In the nine Sahelian countries, the 2001 aggregate cereal production has been estimated at a record 11.7 million tonnes, some 26 percent higher than in 2000 and about 20 percent above the average of the previous five years. Records crops were harvested in Burkina Faso, Gambia and Niger, while Chad, Mali and Senegal harvested above average crops. Production in Cape Verde was lower than in the previous year but above average. However, in early January, unseasonably heavy rains and cold weather affected parts of the subregion, causing some loss of life and leaving thousands of people homeless, especially in Senegal and Mauritania.

Following the good harvests, the food outlook for 2002 is generally favourable. Households are expected to replenish their stocks, which had been depleted in some countries. However, access to food for some sections of the population may be difficult as above-normal grain in prices have been reported in some countries due to flooding or drought. In Mauritania, a joint FAO/CILSS Crop Assessment Mission in October 2001 estimated aggregate cereal production in 2001 at some 160,000 tonnes, lower than the previous year and below average. This decrease was mostly due to inadequate availability of irrigation water. The resulting tight food supply situation has been worsened by the unseasonably heavy rains and cold weather in January which affected the regions of Brakna, Trarza and Corgol, causing casualties and leaving thousands of people homeless and more than 120,000 head of livestock dead. Prices of cereals, which were already higher than a year ago, have risen considerably in most local markets.

In Liberia, the 2001 paddy crop is estimated slightly above the 144,000 tonnes produced in the previous year, reflecting generally favourable weather. However, the general security situation has deteriorated in recent months compelling the Government to declare a state of emergency on 8 February 2002. About 60,000 IDPs have been reported around Monrovia and in Bong County nearby, while at least 12,000 Liberian refugees have been registered at the Sierra Leone border town of Jendema. With frequent eruptions of violence and resulting displacement of the farming population, Liberia will continue to depend on international food assistance for the foreseeable future. WFP is currently assisting 75,000 IDPs throughout the country.

In Sierra Leone, cereal production in 2001 has been estimated at 348,000 tonnes, higher than the previous year, reflecting increased plantings by returning refugees and farmers previously displaced, as well as improved

conditions for the distribution of agricultural inputs. The security situation is reported to be relatively clam. Over 47,000 ex-combatants, including hundreds of child soldiers, have handed in their weapons, and on 18 January the President declared the end of the disarmament process. However, Sierra Leone will continue to depend on international food assistance for some time until full recovery in food production can be realized.

In Guinea, the overall food supply situation is favourable following satisfactory harvests in 2000 and 2001. Aggregate 2001 cereal production is officially estimated at 1,026,000 tonnes, slightly lower than in the previous year but above average. Markets are well supplied, except in the south-east where recurrent rebel incursions from Sierra Leone continue to disrupt agricultural activities. The presence of a large refugee population and the persistent instability in neighbouring countries have exacted a heavy toll on the country. Armed clashes in and around the country have resulted in increasing numbers of internally displaced people. A UN Consolidated Inter-Agency Appeal was launched on 26 November 2001 to assist the country cope with the serious humanitarian situation.

Elsewhere in western Africa, the food supply situation is satisfactory, notwithstanding localized food deficits, such as in northern Ghana.

UPDATE ON FOOD AID PLEDGES AND DELIVERIES

With improved cereal harvests in parts, cereal import requirements in Sub-Saharan Africa in 2001/02 are expected to be lower than last year but still remain high. This reflects mainly the anticipated poor crop in southern Africa in 2002 coupled with last year's significantly reduced crop. GIEWS latest estimates of 2001 cereal production and 2001/02 import and food aid requirements are summarized in Table 1. Total food aid requirement is estimated at 1.7 million tonnes, about some 36 percent less than in 2000/01. Cereal food aid pledges for 2001/02, including those carried over from 2000/01, amount to 0.9 million tonnes of which 0.8 million tonnes have so far been delivered.

AREAS OF PRIORITY ACTION

The serious food supply situation in several countries of southern Africa gives cause for serious concern. Food production is anticipated to decline for the second consecutive year, mainly due to adverse weather. In eastern Africa, despite improved food supply prospects, the effects of recent severe droughts, coupled with conflicts in parts, are still being felt, with nearly 11 million people in need of food assistance. Furthermore, civil strife continues to disrupt food production in Angola, Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo, Guinea, Liberia, Sierra Leone, Somalia and Sudan, necessitating good assistance for the affected populations.

Against this background, the attention of the international community is drawn to the following priority areas requiring action:

First, high priority should be given to food assistance for southern African countries facing a looming food crisis, particularly Malawi, Zambia and Zimbabwe, but also Mozambique, Lesotho and Swaziland.

Second, continued food assistance is needed for populations in several countries of Sub-Saharan Africa affected by conflict and adverse weather, including Angola, Burundi, DR Congo, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Guinea, Liberia, and Sierra Leone, Somalia and Sudan.

Third, donors are urged to give priority to local purchases and triangular transactions wherever possible for their food aid programmes in Sub-Saharan Africa in order to support domestic food production.

□ 2130

NATIONAL DNA DATABASE LEGISLATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PLATTS). Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the time that I have to address a very important matter. It can be classified similar to a movie that got the attention of many Americans some years ago called *Network*. One of the principal actors took to a tall building and raised its window and shouted, "I can't take it anymore." For some reason, that struck a chord in America. Whatever that issue was, it may not have been what the movie was discussing, but it raised the level of one's ability to protest: "I can't take it anymore."

Mr. Speaker, I cannot take the murderous acts that are being perpetrated on our children, one after another. Some, of course, we do not know their end and we hope that our prayers will bring them home. But we realize that we have a crisis of sorts. Even though we can find evidence that the numbers of missing children, exploited children may be going down, one child is one too many. I share with my colleagues just a picture of a loving mother and her baby. It could be a loving father, a loving grandmother, a loving grandfather, but it shows the vulnerability of a child.

We have in this country become maybe jaded. One child after another, Samantha Runnion being the last, most vicious and violent exhibition of the lowest grade of individual, a 5-year-old playing with her friend in front of her house being snatched away, snatched away screaming and kicking and pleading for her life. Then, to find this child's nude body only a day later, knowing that she had been sexually assaulted and strangled. I cannot take it anymore, and none of us in this Congress and none of us in this land should take this abuse of our children.

Elizabeth Smart, Laura Ayala in my own community, a 13-year-old just trying to get a newspaper for her homework, maybe less than 50 feet away from a store and being snatched away, newspaper scattered, sandals left in place, no sign of her. Mother grieving, family grieving; the vulnerability of our children. Danielle Van Dam, Rilya Wilson, 5 years old, missing for a year before the children's protective services in Florida even wanted to say anything. Danielle Van Dam's trial going on now with all kinds of circus defenses by the defendant. They have every right to have their day in court.

But, Mr. Speaker, we have a crisis, I believe. In a 1999 report authored about children as victims, it states, "Although the U.S. violent crime rate has been decreasing since 1994, homicide remains a leading cause of death for young people. Juveniles are twice as likely as adults to be victims of serious

violent crimes and 3 times as likely to be victims of assault. Many of these victims are quite young. Law enforcement data indicates that 1 in 18 victims of violent crime is under the age of 12. In one-third of the sexual assaults reported to law enforcement, the victim is under the age of 12. In most cases involving serious violent crime, juvenile victims know the perpetrator, who is not the stereotypical stranger, but a family member or acquaintance."

But, there are strangers, because in the case dealing with some of these victims, the perpetrator said, particularly in the Danielle Van Dam case, "I am looking for my dog." Children are vulnerable. They are caring, they are loving.

We must find a way, yes, to penalize those who come before the system, but we also have to express our outrage that anyone with such vial behavior would be accepted by society, and we must provide resources so that these individuals can be caught quickly. It is important to know that the average victim of abduction and exploitation is an 11-year-old girl who meets her abductor within a quarter of a mile from home, like Laura Ayala going to get a newspaper.

Only 22 States sex offender registries collect and maintain DNA samples as part of the registration. Only 22 States have a DNA registry that can be utilized for sex offenders. Research on sex offenders found that over a 4- to 5-year period, 13.4 percent recidivated with another sexual offense, and 12.2 percent recidivated with a nonsexual offense, violent offense, and 36.6 percent recidivated with any other offense. One offense is one too many for me. A long-term follow-up on a study of child molesters in Canada found that 42 percent were reconvicted of a sexual or violent crime during the 15- to 30-year follow-up period.

Mr. Speaker, it is important that we do something. This week, I am going to file legislation to instruct the Attorney General to establish a national DNA database only for sex offenders and violent offenders against children. It was noted at the scene where Samantha Runnion lost her life that a lot of DNA evidence was there. I can imagine that this happens in crime scene after crime scene. With only 22 States even bothering to have a collection of DNA data, this legislation is needed, Mr. Speaker.

I am sorry to express this outrage as I close, but it is because of the loving relationship and the love we have for our children that outrage is befitting and we must legislatively do something. The Attorney General must establish this national database of DNA samples to be able to help find these horrible people, these sex offenders who would do harm to our children, now and immediately.

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