

(Mrs. JONES of Ohio addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

SUPPORTING THE TSUNAMI VICTIMS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2005, the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. WILSON) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, as the previous cochair of the Congressional Caucus on India and Indian Americans, I rise to express our solidarity with the people of India and the Indian American community in the aftermath of the devastating tsunami that has affected so many nations in the Indian Ocean.

Earlier tonight, a resolution of sympathy for South Asia was presented by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HYDE) and the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS), chairman and ranking member of the Committee on International Relations, along with the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. LEACH), who is leading a delegation to the affected areas, and the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON), Indonesian Caucus cochairman.

Nearly 140,000 people in 11 countries in South Asia and East Africa have died, approximately 3 to 5 million people have been displaced and citizens of over 40 countries have been affected by the tsunami. The most devastating death toll was in the nation of Indonesia, which is appreciated as the world's largest Muslim democracy of nearly a quarter of a billion people. India has nearly 15,000 casualties. In this time of need, the American people and our government are demonstrating the generosity and compassion that have been the hallmark of American society and culture since our Nation's founding.

As we grieve for the dead, we must also continue to work hard to save those now living in the wake of this terrible disaster. Under the leadership of President George W. Bush, America has committed \$350 million in relief to the nations in need. This substantial funding will go a long way to helping the estimated 3 to 5 million people who now face numerous hardships as they lack access to the basic necessities of life.

Our country and our people are also contributing to this effort in countless other ways. Almost immediately after the disaster occurred, the United States military dispatched aircraft and ships to survey the damage and deliver supplies. Presently there are disaster relief assessment teams on the ground and 20 ships and 80 military aircraft in the area and en route, with 12,600 American military serving the relief effort. The U.S. Pacific Command said this week it is deploying 20 ships from docks in Hong Kong, Guam and the island of Diego Garcia. The ships are loaded with medical equipment and

mobile hospitals, 41 helicopters, 2,100 Marines, 1,400 sailors and the capacity to generate 600,000 gallons of fresh water daily. Our Secretary of State Colin Powell and Governor Jeb Bush of Florida are tonight visiting the devastated nations of South Asia, proving our sincere efforts for reconstruction and recovery. Additionally, the United States Department of Defense and USAID have established coordination centers in Bangkok, Thailand, and Colombo, Sri Lanka. These centers will help coordinate the massive U.S. relief efforts.

As the world has witnessed throughout our history, the American men and women in uniform always act boldly to help those in need.

Over the past week, I have been most encouraged by the outpouring of support from the American people. Since December 26, Americans have contributed hundreds of millions of dollars to help those in need. Yesterday President Bush asked President George H.W. Bush and President Bill Clinton to head a nationwide charitable fund-raising effort. In the coming days they will urge all Americans to donate directly to reliable charities already providing help to tsunami victims. My colleagues, as you advise your constituents as you receive inquiries where to send contributions, I have two suggestions that I would want to suggest to you that I have learned in working with the Embassy of India here in Washington. First is the Prime Minister's National Relief Fund which is the Embassy of India at 2107 Massachusetts Avenue Northwest, Washington D.C. 20008. Additionally in India itself, the Tsunami Disaster Relief Fund of the American Chamber of Commerce of India, the AmCham, which is Room 1262, Maurya Sheraton Hotel, S.P. Marg, New Delhi, India. Both of these are organizations that will work to help in the recovery and restoration for the people who have been affected by the tsunami.

I am confident that this effort will further highlight the tremendous decency of the American people. In the 1840s, historian Alexis de Tocqueville wrote, "When America asks for the co-operation of its citizens, it is seldom refused. And I have often seen it afforded spontaneously with great good will."

Most importantly, we should all remember that no contribution is too small. President Bush has asked that we all contribute as we are able to do so and fortunately citizens are responding in innovative ways. In my home State of South Carolina, an 11-year-old girl donated \$11 she collected at her birthday party. In Columbia, South Carolina, Jack Edgerton, corporate president of Adluh Flour Company, and the Allen family recently demonstrated another example of the concern and compassion exhibited by the American people. They have offered to send nearly 100,000 pounds of flour from the farmers of South Carolina to af-

fected countries, and I do appreciate their generosity. I am also grateful to Dr. Jim Carpenter of Oconee County, South Carolina, who has practiced medicine in Indonesia and speaks Indonesian. He has volunteered to return to provide medical assistance.

These efforts exemplify the President's statement that "the greatest source of Americans' generosity is not our government, it is the good heart of the American people." While the full impact of this disaster may never be known, the significant contribution of the American people will be remembered. I join President Bush in urging all Americans to give generously to this important cause.

Since citizens of over 40 nations have been affected by the tsunami, this is truly a global event. As a member of the Congressional Caucus on India and Indian Americans, I am pleased that President Bush visited the Indian Embassy here in Washington yesterday to pledge that we would help the Indian government and the Indian people in any way we can. After losing over 15,000 of its own people, the country of India has responded selflessly to this tragedy. India is now part of a disaster relief coalition with Japan, Australia and the United States. Yesterday, India began deploying Israeli-made unmanned aerial vehicles in round-the-clock searches for victims of the tsunami. By providing significant financial and military assistance to neighboring tsunami affected countries, India is already playing a vital role in this coalition.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased that the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROSLEHTINEN), the new India Caucus cochair who succeeded me today, has also expressed her support to the people of India. It was an honor for me to cochair the largest country caucus in Congress and I am pleased to have worked with people like the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE) my predecessor, the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. KELLY), the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. KNOLLENBERG), and other leaders in our work with the Indian American community.

□ 2100

As a real estate attorney in South Carolina, I worked with Indian Americans for nearly 30 years in the hospitality, medical, and business sectors; and I have always appreciated the strong family values, entrepreneurship, and patriotism they have shown in our communities. There has been no better or finer example of this than the recent elections of the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. JINDAL) to Congress and Nikki Randhawa of Lexington, South Carolina to the South Carolina statehouse where she recently was elected president of the freshman class. They embody the hard work and drive that so many Indian Americans have fulfilling the American Dream.

At such a critical time, it is important we stand beside the people of India

identified today in the gentleman from Illinois's (Speaker HASTERT) acceptance speech as the world's largest democracy, as America is the world's oldest democracy. Our two nations share the same values. I am confident with the proven generosity of Americans we will again demonstrate by our assistance to the people of South Asia to help recover from this terrible tragedy.

Tonight I am very grateful to be joined by the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. EHLERS), a person of extraordinary credentials, a person serving in Congress who is a dedicated scientist, a graduate, a Ph.D. in nuclear physics from the University of California at Berkeley, a professor at Calvin College in Michigan, and a person, again, who has a deep understanding and appreciation of science and what it can mean to improve the lives of the American people and the people of South Asia.

I yield to the gentleman from Michigan.

Mr. EHLERS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding to me. I certainly appreciate his sponsoring this particular Special Order and particularly his encouragement of the American people to contribute.

We are impressed that the President has designated \$350 million to deal with this tragedy, but I would like to point out that that is very little more than \$1 per person this country and very little more than \$2 for every working person in this country. Certainly we can do better than that, and I encourage all Americans to send contributions to the charities that the gentleman mentioned. I would also mention the American Red Cross will play a role in this through its international arms. I am also aware in my community of relief organizations such as the Christian Reform World Relief Committee, which is very active in this. International Aid is another organization in Spring Lake, Michigan, which has dispatched \$3 million of medical equipment and other supplies already. And I am sure every American can look around their own community and find similar organizations that they can contribute to to help during this incredible tragedy.

We certainly want to express our sympathy as the American Congress and the American country to the people who have suffered this tragedy. It is almost incomprehensible. For years scientists have talked about the possibility of a mega-tsunami and it has largely been dismissed even though tsunamis can be very large, but the idea of a mega-tsunami has been dismissed by most scientists. This one does not quite measure up to that in terms of the power and the energy it contained, but it certainly is a mega-tsunami in terms of the damage and the death, the destruction that it has caused. So I do want to express my personal sympathy and that of the Congress for those who are suffering and encourage all Americans to help.

But the main thrust of my comments this evening are going to be about the

science of tsunamis. That may seem inappropriate at this point when we are all dealing with a tragedy, but I know there is a lot of interest because I have fielded a number of questions from colleagues and staff in the Congress, and so I think it is worth time talking to our colleagues about what a tsunami is, how it happens, particularly as it relates to the possibility of developing a warning system for tsunamis.

First question, how do tsunamis occur? They have four major sources. Earthquakes are the primary source but also volcanos can cause tsunamis either through eruption or collapse. Other possibilities are landslides, slumps, or rock falls. If they are large enough, they can cause tsunamis. The last category is more esoteric. Asteroids, meteorites. They are very rare, but they cause the largest tsunamis. And also man-made explosions, which many people think could cause them, but, in fact, it would be very difficult to do that. I will discuss each of these a bit later.

But let me also address, first of all, why we cannot warn people. And I should mention some have asked me why the name "tsunami," why do we use that. Do we not have an American term? Actually we do not have an equivalent American term. It is from two Japanese words that mean harbor and wave, and that is literally what it is. It is primarily waves in harbors or coastlines.

If we look at the natural disasters we have in this world and the warning systems that we have, if we look at the very largest natural disasters, such as volcanic explosions, we generally have hours to months of warning time before a volcano will explode, and the emphasis is generally on months provided we have seismic devices measure the activity within the volcano. Hurricanes, we have days in which to prepare and to evacuate or to tighten up our homes or other buildings. Tsunamis, we could have hours of warning if we have a good warning system, and that is the big "if," which I will talk about a bit later.

Tornadoes we generally have 10 minutes to an hour of warning. And earthquakes we have no warning whatsoever. We know of no good warning system for earthquakes. Although there are some precursors, we can never predict an earthquake precisely. And since earthquakes cause most tsunamis, that means it is very difficult to predict tsunamis. But because they take from minutes to hours to reach the shore once we detect the earthquake and detect whether or not it causes a tsunami, we do have some warning time available and we have a warning system in the Pacific Ocean, which has been quite successful.

Let us talk about some of the science behind tsunamis. Why do they occur? What is going on? How does an earthquake cause a tsunami? First of all, not all earthquakes do. If it is an earthquake that does not cause much

shifting of the surface under the ocean, there is generally not much of a tsunami. Also if it is a weak earthquake, it generally does not create a tsunami. But if we have a large earthquake, let us say above about 7.0, in that neighborhood, on the Richter Scale, and if it involves substantial motion of material, we will get a tsunami.

And the most common way in which these are called is when there is a subduction, when a tectonic plate sliding under another tectonic plate in the ocean and if there is a big movement and if it extends for many miles or many kilometers in the direction, we get a lot of motion in a very quick time. The water pours in to try to fill up that space. It is sort of like throwing a rock in a pond, and we get ripples coming up. But if we are talking about an ocean, and a typical ocean depth is in the neighborhood of, let us say, 15,000 feet, we have a huge amount of water being moved in a very short time, and it is like throwing a very, very large rock in the ocean.

The waves that spread out from this disturbance are not very big. Typically the wave that is caused by an earthquake or an underwater volcano will only have a height ranging from a few inches to a few feet. So the waves that are traveling across the ocean are barely noticeable to a ship that is sailing on the ocean. And that is why we have this strange situation, terrible destruction around the Indian Ocean now, but the fishermen who were out in their ships were not injured. They scarcely even knew that they were lifted up a foot and then let down again as the wave went under. But the waves are very deep; and as they approach shore, it becomes shallower. All of that energy of motion is condensed together and the waves add together and create huge walls of water that hit the coast and travel inland from the coast.

So if we have an earthquake, a volcano, a landslide, a slump, a rock fall, anything that generates motion of a lot of water, as that spreads out across the ocean, it loses a little energy but not very much, and depending on the depth of the ocean, it can travel very rapidly. If the ocean is deep, we can get speeds of these waves on the order of the speed of a jet airplane. And it is just a tremendous speed to travel. That is why we do not have much warning time, because they travel very rapidly.

As they approach shore, as I said, they slow down, mount up, and we get this huge wall of water. And it depends entirely upon the geology of the area, the shape of the land, the nature of the source of the earthquake. One of the most destructive that occurred was the one up in Alaska some years ago, and it was not that large an earthquake, but the wall of water that hit the land was over 100 feet high. It hit a reinforced concrete lighthouse and demolished it and killed everyone inside. It had that kind of force, much more force than we had in the Indian Ocean last week, but it did not have as great

an extent. Interestingly enough, that tsunami which was close to Alaska did cause substantial damage in Hawaii and killed more people in Hawaii than it did in Alaska because Alaska is not very heavily populated and Hawaii is.

So we have many different sources of tsunamis, and I hesitate to go into a great deal of detail on that. I do want to point out for the people who like to be terrified or those who like to make movies to terrify people that the largest tsunamis, as I mentioned, would result from asteroids or meteorites. If one of those lands in an ocean area, we would have a tsunami that could totally decimate all of the surrounding coastal area for miles inland. That has happened in the past geological history of this planet; but, in fact, it is quite rare. Usually the time between those is measured in millions of years, sometimes many millions of years.

What about the warning system? As I said earlier, we do have the Pacific warning system. It has worked fairly well. What we have to do is have a good system to detect earthquakes since they are the main cause and seismographs that could not only detect earthquakes but could detect a volcanic explosion or a volcanic collapse, anything that would move a lot of material and therefore create a big hole for the water to pour into or else an explosion that would make the water move out.

So if we have the seismographs that can detect that, then we have to have a method of calculating where the earthquake occurred, and we have that in many parts of the world. Unfortunately it took a while to establish the exact location of the earthquake in the Indian Ocean and find out its magnitude and find out really what the danger was. And then that tells us the starting time of the tsunami.

Then we have to be able to detect the motion of it, the velocity. So we have to have buoys displaced around that can measure these waves I mentioned, which are not all that large; but we have to have a buoy system that can detect that so we can calculate the speed.

And above all we need a warning system that will send out a warning to the people in the countries that are going to be hit. That is where we completely failed in the Indian Ocean, because no one expected a tsunami of this size in the Indian Ocean. The Pacific system has worked reasonably well, but even then we cannot always predict far enough in advance exactly where it is going to hit and how hard it is going to hit. And as I said before, not every earthquake results in a tsunami.

So we are going to have false alarms. We may send out the alert and the people will all quickly evacuate the coastal areas, get to high ground, and there is just a minor little wave that comes in. It is like the boy who cried wolf. If this happens several times, people say, well, it is a good warning system, but we really do not need it. But we never

know when the big one is going to come, so people have to be trained to follow the warning system no matter what and recognize that not every time will it result in a major tsunami in every location that is warned, but sometime it will.

I believe it is incumbent upon us to lead the way as we have in developing the Pacific Ocean tsunami detection system which has saved a lot of lives. We cannot protect against a tsunami; so we cannot stop the property damage. But at least we can save the lives.

□ 2115

We know how to do it. The problem is, the nations around the Indian Ocean and in other threatened areas are going to have to join the effort and, above all, they are going to have to develop a warning system and train their people how the warning system will work and how tsunamis work so that they will take the warning seriously and flee to high ground at the first indication of any disaster of this sort.

I thank the gentleman for yielding me time, and I hope I have not taken too much time. But as I said, since so many people are interested in the nature and the science behind tsunamis, I thought this might be helpful, particularly as this Congress will be involved in the next year or 2 in helping to decide on what type of warning system should be developed worldwide and what our role is going to be in that.

Lest we think that all the tsunamis are in the Pacific, just because the majority are, be aware that there is potential for huge tsunamis in the Atlantic and, as we all know, we have a heavily populated Atlantic coastline, New York City just to name one major population center, but all the way from Maine down to Miami. We will have to worry about it. And the likelihood of it is small, but if it occurs, the probability of major damage is so high that we should not just concentrate on the Pacific Ocean, the Indian Ocean, but we should also worry about the Atlantic Ocean and our eastern seaboard.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman. It was certainly very helpful to have the gentleman explain tsunamis and the effect and how precautions can be taken. We greatly appreciate the gentleman's excellent scientific background that can be so helpful. I know I particularly represent the low country of South Carolina, and we are certainly observing what has occurred in south Asia and we identify with our beaches of Hilton Head Island; it is a concern. But I thank the gentleman so much for his service.

Mr. Speaker, as I complete my service as the cochair of the India Caucus, I want to give a special thanks to Dino Tepparo who is the legislative assistant and attorney of the office of the second district of South Carolina. I give so much credit to him for helping build the largest caucus on Capitol Hill. He also developed the website for

the India Caucus, and he has really made a difference in trying for better relations between the world's largest democracy of India and the oldest democracy of the United States. And Dino Tepparo is a person, I greatly appreciate his efforts.

Mr. Speaker, also I want to review the significance of this tragedy on so many different points, because it is so massive that it is almost overwhelming, as was indicated by the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. EHLERS) of the magnitude of what the people of the world are facing. As to the disaster background itself, on Sunday, December 26, a magnitude 9.0 earthquake off the West Coast of northern Sumatra, Indonesia triggered massive tsunamis that affected several countries throughout South and Southeast Asia as well as Somalia, Tanzania, and Kenya in East Africa. Aftershocks continued to occur in the region through January 1, when a magnitude 6.5 earthquake occurred off the west coast of northern Sumatra.

The current situation. The estimated death toll from the December 26 earthquake and tsunamis is more than 140,000 people in South and Southeast Asia and East Africa and may be as high as 150,000. Between 3 million to 5 million people throughout the affected region are lacking basic survival requirements, access to clean water, adequate shelter, food, sanitation, and health care. Contaminated water sources in the affected countries have increased the risk of cholera, dysentery, malaria, and dengue fever.

Approximately 500,000 people are displaced in Indonesia. More than 889,175 are displaced in Sri Lanka. Mr. Speaker, 3.5 million people are affected in India, and more than 10,000 are injured in Thailand. In addition, between 15,000 and 30,000 may have been affected in Somalia, 12,000 are displaced in Malaysia, and approximately 12,000 are displaced and 300,000 affected in the Maldives.

The American response. On December 31, President Bush pledged \$350 million in relief and recovery assistance, bringing the total amount of pledges from donor countries and the World Bank to an estimated \$2 billion. The United States is leading a core group of nations to help with immediate humanitarian relief, rehabilitation, and long-term reconstruction efforts, including India, Japan, and Australia.

On January 2, U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell led a delegation of U.S. officials, including Florida Governor Jeb Bush, to visit the disaster-stricken areas of Asia. The United States Pacific Command said this week it is deploying 20 ships from the docks in Hong Kong, Guam, and the island of Diego Garcia. The ships are loaded with medical equipment and mobile hospitals, 41 helicopters, 2,100 Marines, 1,400 sailors, and the capacity to generate 600,000 gallons of fresh water daily.

On December 27, the United States provided more than 3,000 metric tons of

rice to the U.N. World Food Program for use in the affected region. The United States Department of Defense and the United States Agency for International Development have established regional coordination centers in Bangkok, Thailand, and in Colombo, Sri Lanka. These centers will help coordinate the massive U.S. relief efforts.

In addition to the hundreds of U.S. embassy and USAID mission staff who are now dedicated to the response to this disaster in their respective countries, USAID disaster assistance response team members and other U.S. assistance team members are already on the ground and moving into the affected countries.

Of course, all of us want to advise our constituents, what can Americans do? Government officials on the ground are advising Americans wishing to offer support in the relief effort to focus on cash donations as opposed to shipments of used clothing, canned goods, or other commodities. While all assistance is greatly appreciated, cash donations are proving to be the most helpful form of assistance for tsunami victims for the following reasons: cash is the fastest and most direct way to get assistance to specific affected areas through nongovernmental and charitable organizations that are established and respected in the disaster response field. The cost of shipping these types of goods exceeds the value of the goods themselves, and many of these goods may not be culturally appropriate or timely in their arrival. Cash will also be used to help the purchase of goods on the ground in the affected areas in order to help jump start the local economies which were so severely impacted by the tsunami.

At this time, unless there is further response and there is, thank goodness, from Congressman EHLERS.

Mr. EHLERS. Mr. Speaker, I just wanted to mention one point which I did not include, a very practical point for anyone who is in an area that might suffer a tsunami. There is a very natural warning system that nature provides, but it is very short term and that is before a tsunami, before the big waves roll in, the water recedes, not always, but almost always, and that is precisely what happened in this case. In fact, that killed more people because they did not recognize it. Any time one is on the coast and you see the water receding for some unexplained reason, head for high ground. That is your first warning. But, in fact, what happened, all the fish were left stranded on the shore, people rushed out, and especially children rushed out to grab the fish because obviously they need the food and they were out there beyond where they should have been when the water hit. They had no chance of survival whatsoever.

So there is one good warning system every person in every country should be aware of, in case you are ever on shore, you see the water running out, you run in, and head for high ground as fast as you can.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Again, Mr. Speaker, we appreciate so much the gentleman's practical advice, his expertise, and his obvious compassion for the people of south Asia.

As we conclude, I certainly want to say God bless our troops, and we will never forget September 11.

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 Mr. LEWIS of Georgia) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Ms. PELOSI, for 5 minutes, today.
 Ms. WOOLSEY, for 5 minutes, today.
 Ms. LEE, for 5 minutes, today.
 Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, for 5 minutes, today.
 Mr. BACA, for 5 minutes, today.
 Mr. DEFAZIO, for 5 minutes, today.
 Mr. FILNER, for 5 minutes, today.
 Mr. FARR, for 5 minutes, today.
 Mr. MOORE of Kansas, for 5 minutes, today.
 Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, for 5 minutes, today.
 Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD, for 5 minutes, today.
 Mr. POMEROY, for 5 minutes, today.
 Ms. WATERS, for 5 minutes, today.
 Ms. ESHOO, for 5 minutes, today.
 Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, for 5 minutes, today.
 Mr. PALLONE, for 5 minutes, today.
 Mr. BROWN of Ohio, for 5 minutes, today.
 Mr. HINOJOSA, for 5 minutes, today.
 Mr. EMANUEL, for 5 minutes, today.
 Mr. TOWNS, for 5 minutes, today.
 Mrs. JONES of Ohio, for 5 minutes, today.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 11, I move that the House do now adjourn in memory of the late Honorable ROBERT T. MATSUI.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 9 o'clock and 25 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until Thursday, January 6, 2005, at 11 a.m., in memory of the late Honorable ROBERT T. MATSUI of California.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AFTER SINE DIE ADJOURNMENT OF THE 108TH CONGRESS 2D SESSION AND FOLLOWING PUBLICATION OF THE FINAL EDITION OF THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD OF THE 108TH CONGRESS

APPOINTMENT BY THE SPEAKER AFTER SINE DIE ADJOURNMENT

Pursuant to section 1238(b)(3) of the Floyd D. Spence National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2001 (22

U.S.C. 7002), amended by Division P of the Consolidated Appropriations Resolution, 2003 (P.L. 108-7), and the order of the House of December 8, 2003, the Speaker reappointed the following Member on the part of the House to the United States-China Economic and Security Review Commission:

Mr. Larry Wortzel, Alexandria, VA, for a term to expire December 31, 2006.

COMMUNICATION FROM HON. NANCY PELOSI, DEMOCRATIC LEADER, AFTER SINE DIE ADJOURNMENT

ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH CONGRESS,
 OFFICE OF THE DEMOCRATIC LEADER,
 December 31, 2004.

Hon. J. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker of the House, House of Representatives,
 Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to section 1238(b)(3) of the Floyd D. Spence National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2001 (P.L. 106-398), I hereby appoint Mr. Michael Wessel of Virginia, for a term of two years, to the United States-China Security Review Commission.

Best regards,

NANCY PELOSI.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 8 of rule XII, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

1. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting a letter indicating the President's concurrence with Congress in the designation of funds provided as part of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, FY 2005 (H.R. 4818) as an emergency requirement to support the African Union security force in Darfur, as well as to construct a mail irradiation facility in Washington, D.C.; to the Committee on Appropriations.

2. A letter from the Secretary of the Air Force, Department of Defense, transmitting notification that the Program Acquisition Unit Cost and the Average Procurement Unit Cost for the Advanced Extremely High Frequency (AEHF) Program exceeds the Acquisition Program Baseline values by more than 15 percent, pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 2433(e)(1); to the Committee on Armed Services.

3. A letter from the Principal Deputy Under Secretary for Personnel and Readiness, Department of Defense, transmitting authorization of Captain Gerald R. Beaman, United States Navy, to wear the insignia of the grade of rear admiral (lower half) in accordance with title 10, United States Code, section 777; to the Committee on Armed Services.

4. A letter from the President and Chairman, Export-Import Bank of the United States, transmitting a report on transactions involving U.S. exports to Egypt pursuant to Section 2(b)(3) of the Export-Import Bank Act of 1945, as amended, pursuant to 12 U.S.C. 635(b)(3)(i); to the Committee on Financial Services.

5. A letter from the Secretary, Federal Trade Commission, transmitting a copy of the Commission's Report to Congress Under Sections 318 and 319 of the Fair and Accurate Credit Transactions Act of 2003; to the Committee on Financial Services.

6. A letter from the Chairperson, National Council on Disability, transmitting a report entitled, "Livable Communities for Adults with Disabilities," pursuant to 29 U.S.C.