

We have had four budget airlines go broke. Why did they go broke? They couldn't afford the price of aviation fuel. How did South African airlines fuel their jets? Coal-to-liquid technology. Taking South African coal, turning it into aviation jet fuel. That's what our competitive advantage is. Our advantage is using our natural resources. Not assuming that our natural resources are an environmental hazard.

That's our policy. Don't go after our natural resources. It's an environmental hazard. Most countries say go after your natural resources; it makes you stronger. It makes you more competitive. It lowers the cost of doing business. It creates jobs. Look at the jobs that would be created here in southern Illinois. Build a coal mine, that creates jobs. Operate the coal mines, that creates jobs. Build a coal-to-liquid refinery, jobs. Operate the coal-to-liquid refinery, jobs. Build a pipeline, American jobs. Low-cost fuel, American jobs.

For every dollar a barrel increase on aviation fuel, do you know how much it costs us taxpayers? \$60 million just to fund the Air Force.

So this policy of no supply hurts the taxpayers. And we have to pay for it. We had the authorization bill of the Coast Guard. For every dollar increase in diesel fuel, do you know what it cost the Coast Guard to operate and make sure our shores are protected? \$24 million for every dollar increase.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman from Ohio has expired.

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Madam Speaker, let me just say in closing that I, too, am concerned and outraged about the fact that we are dealing with an energy crisis that is impacting small businesses, but more important is the fact that we passed an energy bill that has provisions that will provide low-cost loans for small businesses to be able to cope with energy and the gas prices, and yet the President refuses to implement the program.

So I would ask the gentleman, Mr. SHIMKUS, to join with me in asking the administration and asking the President to implement this provision contained in a bill that was overwhelmingly supported, a bipartisan bill, the energy bill.

And then the gentleman comes here and gives this great speech about energy prices, and yet whenever there is an opportunity for the gentleman to support legislation that would provide relief to small businesses and consumers, he votes against it. Even today on the Gas Price Relief for Consumers Act, Mr. SHIMKUS voted against it.

Mr. SHIMKUS. Would the gentlelady yield?

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Not on this point. I will not yield.

Mr. SHIMKUS. You're referring to me. I would be happy to debate if you're going to bring my votes to the floor.

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Reclaiming my time.

You had a lot of time. You claimed a lot of time.

The gentleman voted against this bill.

Mr. SHIMKUS. Will the gentlelady yield?

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. I will not yield at this time.

So, Madam Speaker, I will ask that the Members of this House support the reauthorization of the Small Business Administration, and I will invite everyone who is concerned about energy prices to come and support the bills that we pass that would provide relief to consumers and to small businesses.

You should put your money where your mouth is.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Ms. VELÁZQUEZ) that the House suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill, S. 3029.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the Senate bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

EXPRESSING CONDOLENCES AND SYMPATHY TO THE PEOPLE OF SICHUAN PROVINCE, CHINA

Mr. WU. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 1195) expressing condolences and sympathy to the people of the People's Republic of China for the grave loss of life and vast destruction caused by the earthquake of May 12, 2008 in Sichuan Province, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 1195

Whereas on Monday, May 12, 2008, at 2:28 p.m. local time, a massive earthquake measuring 7.9 on the Richter scale struck a mountainous region of Sichuan Province in southwest China;

Whereas the epicenter of the earthquake was Wenchuan County, 60 miles northwest of the provincial capital of Chengdu;

Whereas the earthquake destroyed 80 percent of structures in some of the towns and small cities near the epicenter;

Whereas the death toll is currently estimated to exceed 22,000 and is expected to rise as the scope of the damage becomes clearer;

Whereas tens of thousands of people across southwest China remain buried beneath rubble, and hundreds of thousands of people are injured or homeless;

Whereas an estimated 900 eighth and ninth grade students and their teachers remain trapped, with as many as hundreds dead, after a school collapsed in Dujiangyan, a county located southeast of the epicenter;

Whereas another school with up to 1,000 students and teachers inside collapsed in the city of Mianyang;

Whereas two chemical plants have collapsed in Shifang, northeast of the epicenter, spilling 80 tons of toxic ammonia;

Whereas more than 150 people have been killed in the provinces of Gansu and Shaanxi, and in Chongqing municipality;

Whereas the People's Republic of China has mobilized 50,000 police and civilian rescue

workers, who have been working tirelessly in disaster areas to aid in rescue and recovery efforts;

Whereas the tremors of the powerful earthquake were felt as far south as Vietnam and Thailand and set off another, smaller earthquake near the outskirts of Beijing, 900 miles away;

Whereas the earthquake is China's largest natural disaster since a previous earthquake struck the city of Tangshan in eastern China in 1976; and

Whereas the People's Republic of China has said that it is spending \$120 million on rescue efforts and that it would accept international aid to cope with the disaster: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) extends its condolences and sympathy to the people of the People's Republic of China for the grave loss of life and vast destruction caused by the massive earthquake centered in Sichuan Province;

(2) vows its full support for the people of the People's Republic of China as well as the members of the Chinese American community in the United States who have relatives in the affected areas of China; and

(3) expresses confidence that the people of the People's Republic of China will come together to help those in need and succeed in overcoming the hardships incurred because of this tragedy.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. WU) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. MANZULLO) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Oregon.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. WU. I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the resolution under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Oregon?

There was no objection.

Mr. WU. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of this resolution and yield myself such time as I may consume.

For the past week, the world has been shocked and saddened by the aftermath of the horrendous earthquake that struck the Chinese Sichuan Province last Monday, May 12. Chinese news reports now confirm that the 7.9 Richter scale magnitude earthquake has claimed the lives of over 40,000 people.

□ 1545

The number of fatalities climbs higher each day as the full scale of the devastation unfolds. Chinese authorities estimate that, despite strenuous rescue efforts, in the end as many as 50,000 people could have perished from the earthquake and its aftermath.

Particularly heartbreaking are the hundreds, perhaps thousands, of children who were killed as their schools collapsed on them. These young lives were cut far, far too short, and it is so tragic that had the earthquake occurred just 2 or 3 hours later, or had the schools that the children were in

met applicable building codes, these young lives would have been spared.

We are all deeply moved by the images of parents overwhelmed by grief at the side of the limp, lifeless body of their child. As we speak, hundreds of parents are sifting through the wreckage with desperate hope that their child may still be alive under all that schoolhouse rubble.

Rescue workers continue to work tirelessly, day and night. Stories of heroism and miraculous survival are interwoven with tales of loss and devastation.

Doctors and nurses tend to injured victims around the clock, as hospitals handle many times their normal number of trauma injuries.

This earthquake is the most devastating natural disaster to strike China since 1976, and sadly, as major aftershocks continue to hit the area, the turmoil continues.

Just yesterday, Chinese media reported that more than 200 rescue workers were buried and killed by mudslides while they were repairing roads in Sichuan Province.

While the 1.3 billion people across China unite in grief for 3 days of mourning, it is fitting that this body expresses our deepest sympathies for the people of China. With this resolution, we offer our condolences to the people of China as they cope with this awful tragedy. Our thoughts and prayers are with them.

House Resolution 1195 also vows the full support of the House of Representatives to the people of China and expresses our confidence that they will succeed in coming together to help those in need and overcome this terrible disaster.

Finally, the House also extends its condolences and support to members of the Chinese American community here in the United States who have relatives and friends in the affected areas of China.

I urge strong support of this resolution, and I encourage my colleagues to join me in doing the same.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MANZULLO. Madam Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

Today, we rise to offer our heartfelt condolences and sympathies to the people of China for the horrific loss they suffered as a result of the gigantic earthquake that struck Sichuan Province in southwestern China on May 12 of this year. The 7.9 earthquake struck without warning during the busiest time of the day when schools and office buildings were full of people. And as Congressman WU states, the toll of the dead has not yet been completed, except we know it remains in the tens of thousands, including those that remain missing. At least 10 to 12 million people remain displaced, and we all saw with horror on television the school that had collapsed on over 900 children on that one particular site.

I want to thank Mr. WU for sponsoring this resolution so that the House of Representatives can stand with the people of China in their hour of need. I also want to commend the American people for showing their generosity in pledging humanitarian support for the victims. In America, the sense of loss is perhaps felt strongest in the Chinese American communities where loved ones pray and hope for positive news from across the Pacific.

Madam Speaker, I chaired the U.S.-China Interparliamentary Exchange for 7 years, and I'm now the vice-chair. I had the opportunity to travel extensively in China, including the Chengdu area in 2005, as part of our official business. To see the utter destruction on television comes as a complete shock. I echo the words of the President in saying that we admire the spirit and the character of the Chinese people as they desperately strive to put their lives back together.

I also want to commend the Chinese Government for not being embarrassed or too proud to seek out and receive help from American resources. I only wish that the Government of Burma were as open under these particular and similar circumstances.

I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WU. At this time, I would like to yield 2 minutes to the gentlelady from California, BARBARA LEE, of the Ninth District of California.

Ms. LEE. Madam Speaker, first let me thank and applaud Congressman WU for his leadership in offering this very important resolution today.

It is with great sadness that all of us have watched the news reports of thousands of people who have been displaced or who have died as a result of the earthquake in China last week. I have talked with constituents in my district who have family and friends affected by this tragedy.

I was particularly pained by the children who were trapped in the collapsed schools and buildings. It is my hope and my prayer, like those of this entire body, that more survivors will be found and that more families will be reunited.

I want to extend my condolences to the Chinese people and especially to those families who have lost their loved ones.

The people of my district, the Ninth Congressional District of California, are rallying together in solidarity to provide humanitarian relief in response to the quake.

Donations to humanitarian relief agencies are already flowing in, and our local Chinatown Chamber of Commerce is working with the local Red Cross to place donation canisters at local restaurants and businesses to help raise additional funds. I know that 14 of the canisters have already been placed.

The people of my district and myself will do everything we can to help with

the relief and recovery efforts during this tragic time. This is a natural disaster of enormous proportions that requires an unprecedented response. As a country, we must extend our hand of friendship and our heart of compassion.

My heart and my prayers go out to the people of China, but I know that with the world unified in assisting with these efforts that the people will receive some form of relief very quickly.

I thank Congressman WU for your leadership and for your compassion and for giving us the opportunity to talk about this very important, tragic natural disaster that has turned really into a human disaster.

Mr. MANZULLO. I recognize Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, ranking member of the Subcommittee on Africa and Global Health, for as much time as he may consume.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. I thank my good friend for yielding, Madam Speaker, and I especially want to thank Mr. WU, the gentleman from Oregon, for offering this very important resolution, and I'm very proud to be one of the cosponsors.

Madam Speaker, when a friend is struck by a tragedy, perhaps the death of a family member, we all know what to do. We call them up, we visit with them, we reach out to them. And that's what they need at that moment, to know that they are not alone, that they are accompanied by friends.

I think that is with nations as well. When tragedy strikes a nation, other nations have to reach out and remind them that they are part of a great human family and that other nations grieve with them. So it is right that our country should make this gesture after the tragedy that struck the great Chinese people.

Madam Speaker, lest anyone doubt the importance of this gesture, let me remind them of the outpouring of support that came from every corner of the globe after the attack on the World Trade Center in 2001. That meant so much to us.

Madam Speaker, many of us in this House number Chinese human rights activists among our friends, and among the list of people we admire most are people like Harry Wu, Joseph Kung, Wei Jingsheng, Bob Fu, and so many others come to mind. Over the past 10 days, I have been reminded of them as I have seen their mixture of practical earnestness and great generosity in the Chinese people's response to this tragedy, the outpouring of help from everywhere throughout China. The Chinese people continually amaze me for their willingness to stand by the unfortunate and the oppressed, and that sentiment is very strong among the people.

So, Madam Speaker, let us ask God to comfort all of those who have lost family members and friends in this terrible earthquake. I hope we can remember particularly the parents. Several days ago, I read an article in the Los Angeles Times, which I will enter into the RECORD, which reminds us, as

the headline says, "One-Child Policy Adds to the Grief of China Quake." This is in the L.A. Times.

In Chinese culture, parents shower an extraordinary love on their children, investing their time and hope in them. The Chinese Government has cruelly and forcibly prevented most mothers and fathers from having more than one child, making brothers and sisters literally illegal. Now these parents have lost that one child. So we need to keep them in our prayers as well.

CHINA'S 1-CHILD POLICY CAUSES EXTRA PAIN
(By Christopher Bodeen)

After their daughter was born, Bi Kaiwei and his wife, Meilin, decided to adhere to China's one-child policy and its slogan, "Have fewer kids, live better lives."

For them and other couples who lost an only child in this week's massive earthquake, the tragedy has been doubly cruel. Robbed of their sole progeny and a hope for the future, they find it even harder to restart their shattered lives, haunted by added guilt, regret and gnawing loss.

"She died before becoming even a young adult," said Bi, an intense, wiry chemical plant worker, standing beside the grave of 13-year-old Yuexing—one of dozens sprinkled amid fields of ripened spring wheat and newly planted rice. "She never really knew what life was like."

Yuexing, a bright sixth-grader, was in school when Monday's quake struck, bringing the Fuxin No. 2 Primary School crashing down, killing her and 200 other students. Teachers had locked all but one of the school's doors during break time, parents said, leaving only a single door to escape through.

Many among the more than 22,000 people killed across central China were students in school. Nearly 6,900 classrooms collapsed, government officials said Friday, in an admission that highlighted a chronically underfunded education system especially in small towns and compounded the anger of many Chinese over the quake.

In Wufu, a farming village two hours north of the Sichuan provincial capital of Chengdu, most of the dead students were a couple's only child—born under a policy launched in the late 1970s to limit many families to one offspring. The policy was meant to rein in China's exploding population and ensure better education and health care.

The "one-child policy" has been contentious inside China as well as out. The government says it has prevented an additional 400 million births. But critics say it has also led to forced abortions, sterilizations and a dangerously imbalanced sex ratio as local authorities pursue sometimes severe birth quotas set by Beijing and families abort girls out of a traditional preference for male heirs. The policy is law but there are exceptions.

Farther down the lane from where Yuexing is buried, 10 more graves were laid out, some accompanied by favorite items—textbooks for English and music, a pencil box, a Chinese chess set. At one, grandmother threw herself to the dirt and wailed as her husband lit a handful of "spirit paper" believed to comfort the dead in the afterlife.

Another bereaved parent, Sang Jun, stood where his daughter, Rui, is buried, a simple mound of dirt beside his quake-shattered farmhouse. The house is surrounded by burned bushes—a traditional disinfectant. "The house is gone and the child is dead," said Sang, who wore a T-shirt and plastic sandals. His parents, both in their 70s, looked on with tears in their eyes.

Resistance by ordinary Chinese has forced Beijing to relax the policies, allowing many rural families to have a second child if the first was a girl. But in Wufu, the family planning committee seems to have prevailed on most families to stop at one child. Slogans daubed on boundary walls and houses all along the rutted country road leading to Wufu call on families to "stabilize family planning and create a brighter future."

Standing in the rubble of the school holding his daughter's ID and a posed shot taken at a local salon, Bi—pronounced "Bee"—said starting a new family, either by having another child or adoption, is simply imponderable.

"I'm 37 years old and my child was 13. If we were to do it again, I'd be 50 when this stage comes along," Bi said.

Parents who lose children in disasters often feel intense guilt for what they see as a failure to protect them, said psychology professor Shi Zhanbiao. Parents, he said, may also recall their past relationships with their children with regret, thinking they were too stern, did not show them sufficient love or did not interact with them enough.

"They'll think that if they just hadn't sent their children to school that day, they would have been saved," said Shi, a researcher with the Chinese Academy of Science in Beijing.

The loss is intensified for those with no other offspring to lavish with care and affection, Shi said. And in China, other, more practical concerns may also come into play because children are generally expected to care for their aging parents.

"They'll be worried about the future, because for the later part of their lives, they'll have no one to depend on," Shi said.

Bi said Yuexing was polite and smart. She had won a coveted place at the county's best high school on the recommendation of a teacher. She was a top student who got better after the family moved closer to school to reduce her commuting time, said Bi, who completed high school but failed the national university entrance exam.

In her pictures, Yuexing, whose name combined the Chinese characters for moon and star, is smiling and demure. The studio shot shows her wearing a bright yellow sweater and looking playfully over her shoulder.

Parents in Wufu said they plan to bring a formal complaint over what they say was corruption and malfeasance in construction of the school. They say officials moved the students from a group of one-story classrooms—all of which survived the quake—into a modern-looking, but unsafe building.

"We have nothing else, no other wish but to win justice for our children," said Sang's wife, Zhao Jing. "We put all our hopes on these kids, and this is the return we get."

[From the Los Angeles Times, May 15, 2008]

ONE-CHILD POLICY ADDS TO THE GRIEF OF
CHINA QUAKE

(By Ching-Ching Ni)

XINGFU, CHINA.—On Sunday, Liu Li received a simple Mother's Day present from her only child: a basket of red, pink and white carnations wrapped in purple rice paper. That afternoon, her 15-year-old boy returned to boarding school knowing he had made his mother the happiest woman in their village.

Liu and her husband never thought about defying China's one-child policy. They already had everything they could hope for in a son. Meng Hao was not only a good student and star athlete, he was even the tallest kid around.

On Wednesday, the Mother's Day flowers were still fresh in the family's living room, next to rows of certificates of merit from Hao's school years. But Liu's beloved boy was dead.

"When I heard he was gone, my whole body went numb," she said. "I felt the sky falling."

As the death toll rises from the worst earthquake to hit China in 30 years, Sichuan province has become a valley of sadness. Schools were among the most badly damaged buildings, and some of the most grief-stricken residents are parents who lost an only child.

Liu, 38, slumped Wednesday in a chair in a makeshift tent among the wheat fields here. Not only are parents mourning the loss of a cherished child; the next generation is expected to look after their parents in old age in a society where the safety net is disappearing. And many in Chinese society regard people in their late 30s and early 40s as too old to have another child.

In Sichuan, one of China's most populous provinces, the government's one-child policy is strictly enforced among poor farmers.

"I'd say 90% of the people around here have only one child," said Wang Xia, hugging her 5-year-old daughter close after finding the girl with big, round eyes and two long braids alive at her kindergarten. "It takes a lot of money to raise children—we farmers have a hard time even supporting ourselves; how can we afford to pay fines to have more?"

The name of this town, Xingfu, means Happiness. But it has become a hell for parents who at first thought they had escaped the tragedy. When disaster struck Monday, Hao's parents raced to the nearby school and helped dig through the rubble.

First there was good news. After being trapped under broken concrete for eight hours, Hao was rescued.

"He kept saying, 'I am OK, I want to go home,'" said his father, Meng Daoling, 44.

"When he was buried under all that debris, he told me he kept thinking of his parents. He held on for eight hours so he could see us again," said his mother, tears streaming down her face.

To their shock, a few hours after that brief reunion, their son died about an hour away at a hospital in Chengdu, where he had been rushed for treatment.

Like so many people here, Hao's parents had done everything they could to give him a good education. His father drives a tractor.

In addition to toiling in the family field, his mother works long hours at a factory making bottle caps.

Boarding school costs a bit more than regular school, but for many rural children, schools are too far for daily travel, so they live there.

"Everybody knew him," a villager said of Hao. "He was nearly 6 feet tall. He wanted to go to college and be a pilot."

One of Hao's schoolmates who escaped the falling building said he survived because his teacher told the students to run from the first-floor classroom when the magnitude 7.9 quake rocked the country.

"There were 66 students in our class. All but seven or eight made it out alive," said Ba Cong, 14.

He thinks he probably survived because he was in the second row. "I sat in the front because I am nearsighted. The people who didn't make it sat in the back."

Hao was in a third-floor classroom. Most of the students there were trapped.

"He told me his teacher told them, 'Don't run, duck,'" his mother said.

Parents say the school was built in the early 1990s—old by Chinese standards—and that students were to move into a new building next year.

Bitter villagers suspect shoddy construction is partly to blame for the catastrophe.

"Even our humble rural homes built by hand didn't collapse completely," said villager Gong Fuzhong. "How can a big school

building collapse? Something is definitely wrong here."

Across an open field filled with makeshift shelters, another mother, Zheng Hongqun, 40, was so paralyzed by grief that she hadn't been able to get out of bed.

The body of her 15-year-old son, Wen Zheng, was pulled from the rubble about 24 hours after the earthquake.

"His father is a migrant worker far away in northeastern China so his son can have money to go to school," said neighbor Wang Xia. "We only told him he is still being rescued. We don't dare tell him the truth."

Outside their temporary shelter, a plastic tarp wrapped over sticks, Zheng's grandparents were surrounded by neighbors trying to distract them from the tragedy. It wasn't working.

"The child is gone. We can never see him again." Wen's silver-haired grandmother sobbed. "It should have been us."

PARENTS' LOSSES COMPOUNDED BY CHINA'S ONE-CHILD POLICY

SICHUAN, CHINA.—Li Yunxia wipes away tears as rescue crews dig through the ruins of a kindergarten class that has buried her only child—a 5-year-old boy.

Other parents wail as soldiers in blue masks trudge through the mud, hauling bodies from the rubble on stretchers.

"Children were screaming, but I couldn't hear my son's voice," she says, sobbing.

This grim ritual repeated itself Thursday across southwestern China, as thousands of mothers and fathers await news about their sons and daughters.

The death toll from Monday's massive earthquake could be as high as 50,000, according to state-run media.

The grief is compounded in many cases by a Chinese policy that limits most couples to one child, a measure meant to control explosive population growth.

As a result of the one-child policy, the quake—already responsible for at least 15,000 deaths—is producing another tragic aftershock:

Not only must thousands of parents suddenly cope with the loss of a child but many must cope with the loss of their only child.

China's population minister recently praised the one-child rule, which dates to 1979, saying it has prevented 400 million children from being born.

Some wealthy families ignore the order, have more children and pay a \$1,000 fine. In rural areas—like earthquake-devastated Sichuan province—families can petition for an additional child, but there's no guarantee the authorities will approve the request—they usually don't.

That reality has cast parents like Li into an agonizing limbo—waiting to discover whether their only child is alive or dead.

Thousands of children were in class when the temblor hit Monday afternoon. Many of their schools collapsed on top of them.

In Dujiangyan City, more than 300 students were feared dead when Juyuan Middle School collapsed with 900 students inside. A similar number died at the city's Xiang'e Middle School.

Now parents cluster outside collapsed school buildings, held back by soldiers in some cases as rescue crews search for signs of life.

"Which grade are you in?" a rescuer asks a trapped child in Beichuan County.

"Grade 2," comes the answer.

"Hang on for a while," he says. "We are figuring out ways to rescue you."

The child is pulled from the rubble a short time later.

Madam Speaker, again I want to thank Mr. WU for sponsoring this reso-

lution. We need to express our solidarity with those who have lost so much. This resolution does it very, very well.

Mr. WU. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I want to thank the gentleman from New Jersey for his leadership and always caring about the people of China.

I include the following news article from the Portland, Oregonian:

[From the Oregonian, May 20, 2008]

BOEING MAY BE THE TICKET FOR RELIEF SUPPLIES; CHINA QUAKE—NEW JETS ARE SCHEDULED FOR DELIVERY, AND OREGON AGENCIES HOPE THEIR AID CAN HITCH A RIDE

(By Richard Read)

Oregon aid agencies aim to piggyback on Boeing's booming sales to China, loading earthquake-relief supplies in new jets being delivered to Chinese airlines.

Managers of Medical Team International are negotiating to send \$470,000 worth of supplies that Mercy Corps would help distribute to earthquake victims in China. A Boeing spokesperson says the aircraft manufacturer has entered similar deals in the past, but rarely in urgent response to humanitarian disasters.

Boeing and the relief workers are reviewing 15 aircraft that have been ordered by Chinese airlines, said Barbara Agnew, spokeswoman for Tigard-based Medical Teams International. The jets are scheduled for delivery to six Chinese cities, she said.

"None of these destinations are actually hubs that are near the disaster site," Agnew said. "So they're going back to specific airlines and saying, 'Would you be able to take this cargo to a closer hub?'"

The Boeing deal is one of several the humanitarian organizations are feverishly negotiating as disaster estimates grow in both China and cyclone-hit Myanmar. The aid agencies are forming partnerships to overcome government restrictions and other obstacles in the two countries.

Mercy Corps plans to load items ranging from school kits to rubber gloves in Portland for delivery in Seattle to DHL International. The global delivery company plans to fly the supplies for free to Bangkok, Thailand, for distribution in Myanmar and perhaps China, also providing warehouse space.

DHL is also working with Mercy Corps on a charter flight to carry pharmaceuticals from the United States to China. "Something like this would be impossible for us to do on our own," said Susan Laarman, a Mercy Corps spokeswoman, saying the charter otherwise could cost as much as \$1 million.

In Myanmar, where the government has kept foreign relief workers out of hard-hit areas, Portland-based Mercy Corps expects to team with Merlin, a British organization already working inside the reclusive country. As with the Indian Ocean tsunami in 2004, Mercy Corps will most likely launch cash-for-work programs, paying local people to repair roads, clear debris and rebuild houses.

Already Mercy Corps has helped Merlin secure boats to carry emergency medical kits to Myanmar's Irrawaddy Delta, which took the brunt of the May 2 cyclone. Four Mercy Corps aid workers have managed to get into Myanmar—also known as Burma—but not beyond the capital, Yangon or Rangoon.

Michael Bowers, Mercy Corps Northeast Asia regional program director, departed Portland on Monday for Chengdu, China. There, too, the agency plans to team with local organizations.

"We think we'll focus particularly on youth and vulnerable women who may have

been affected by the earthquake," said Bowers, adding that Chinese officials were easing access. "The authorities in this disaster took a pause before they went down the road of Burma."

Medical Teams International has no relief workers in either country yet, but a doctor on its staff plans to depart Wednesday for Myanmar. The first choice of the organization, formerly called Northwest Medical Teams, would be to send one of its volunteer medical-worker teams to Myanmar.

"The numbers are just speaking so loudly in Myanmar," Agnew said.

Myanmar is hardly a big aircraft buyer, but China is a giant Boeing customer, which could work in the aid agencies' favor. Boeing forecasts that China will require 3,400 new airplanes worth about \$340 billion over the next two decades.

But arranging on short notice to pack antibiotics, bandages and pain relievers into new airplanes is a complex project, requiring sign-offs by numerous managers even within Boeing. Chinese customs inspectors also must approve the unusual shipments.

A Boeing spokeswoman confirmed Monday that negotiations were progressing on the program. "It's something that we're considering," she said.

Just today, Richard Read of The Oregonian printed that, "Oregon aid agencies aim to piggyback on Boeing's booming sales to China, loading earthquake-relief supplies in new jets being delivered to Chinese airlines."

"Managers of Medical Teams International are negotiating to send \$470,000 worth of supplies that Mercy Corps would help distribute to earthquake victims in China."

Medical Teams International and Mercy Corps are domestic organizations, and they can be assisted directly by private parties.

"A Boeing spokesperson says the aircraft manufacturer has entered similar deals in the past, but rarely in urgent response to humanitarian disasters."

"Boeing and the relief workers are reviewing 15 aircraft that have been ordered by Chinese airlines," and Medical Teams International said that they're trying to get space. "The jets are scheduled for delivery to six different Chinese cities."

None of these cities are actually hubs that are near the disaster site so they're going back to specific airlines and asking the Chinese airlines: Would you be able to take this cargo to a closer hub?

The Boeing transaction is one of several that these humanitarian organizations have been feverishly negotiating as the disaster estimates grow in China.

Michael Bowers, Mercy Corps Northeast Asia regional program director, departed from Portland, Oregon, for Chengdu in China.

A Boeing spokesperson confirmed on Monday that negotiations were progressing on the program, and that, "It's something that we're considering."

We commend to the Boeing Corporation that it seriously, deeply and quickly consider this, and we are grateful for their consideration.

With that, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MANZULLO. I have no more speakers. Can I inquire of Mr. WU if he has any more speakers?

Mr. WU. I understand that we have a couple of additional speakers who are on the way to the floor, but they are not here at this time.

Mr. MANZULLO. I'm ready to yield back the balance of my time, if the gentleman from Oregon is.

Mr. WU. If the gentleman is prepared to close, then I would be prepared to close with the caveat, if additional speakers show up, that I be permitted to recognize them.

□ 1600

Mr. MANZULLO. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. WU. I want to recognize the hard work put in by staff on both sides of the aisle, particularly Elsa Tung on my staff, and Cobb Mixter on the Foreign Affairs staff. I want to thank their counterparts on the Republican side.

I want to thank Members on both sides of the aisle for signing aboard this resolution, bringing it to the floor quickly, permitting its markup in committee very, very quickly last week, and having it here on the floor within 8 days of this terrible humanitarian disaster. I ask all Members to support this resolution.

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of House Resolution 1195 authored by my good friend from Oregon, Mr. WU, and of which I am a proud cosponsor. H. Res. 1195 expresses our condolences and sympathy to our friends of the People's Republic of China for the tragic loss of life and devastation caused by the earthquake in Sichuan Province.

On May 12, 2008, a massive 7.9-magnitude earthquake shook China's mountainous southwest Sichuan province. This powerful quake and its aftershocks have killed over 40,000 people, injured hundreds of thousands more, and destroyed entire communities. The full impact of this disaster will not be realized for some time as rescue and recovery efforts are still ongoing.

I applaud the courage and determination of the emergency workers that are placing themselves in treacherous situations while still searching for survivors. The recent report of over 200 emergency workers overcome by a mudslide is testament to their peril.

The increased openness to news coverage in the devastated areas is also encouraging and has allowed the international community to share in China's sorrow and witness their massive emergency efforts. In support of these efforts, the United States offers any assistance that it can provide.

I would also like to reiterate my condolences and sympathy to the Burmese people tragically impacted by Cyclone Nargis, and sincerely hope that the Burmese regime recognizes the desperate need for immediate unfettered international assistance.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote in support of H. Res. 1195. In times of great natural disasters, all humanity suffers. As the people of China have come together for a moment of silence, the world community must also unify in support of those that have suffered by these natural disasters.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Res. 1195, expressing condolences and sympathy to the people of the People's Republic of China for the grave loss of life and vast destruction caused by the massive earthquake centered in Sichuan Province. I would like to thank my colleague Representative DAVID WU of Oregon for introducing this important legislation that reaffirms the humanitarian commitment of the United States to the people of the People's Republic of China who have become victims of a catastrophic earthquake. Let me also thank the Chairman of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, Chairman BERMAN, for his leadership in bringing this resolution to the floor today.

As my colleagues are aware, the province of Sichuan, in southwest China, was struck by a 7.9 magnitude earthquake on May 12th. Centered in Wenchuan County, the earthquake brought a plethora of devastating aftershocks, casualties, and tragedy. It is reported that the death toll has approached 40,000, and a further 250,000 people have been injured. With tens of thousands of people still missing, it is likely that these figures will only rise. Furthermore, the earthquake has left an estimated 4.8 million people homeless making this one of the most devastating earthquakes in China since the 1976 Tangshan earthquake.

A New York Times article published this morning describes the many residents of neighboring counties who have traveled long distances without hesitation to volunteer their services to the humanitarian needs of the victims. Record sums of money had also been donated to the victims of the earthquake. I hope that this resolution and stories of heroic action will also inspire others to take part in the global community to take action in contributing humanitarian aid.

While the human toll is tragic, the sheer numbers of people who have lost their homes is truly colossal. Though rescue efforts may be nearing a close, relief efforts are only just beginning. Five million people are reported to be homeless in the wake of the earthquake, with government officials citing a "desperate need for tents." Even as we work to meet these emergency needs, Mr. Speaker, we must also focus our efforts in studying and implementing ways on which we can prevent future disasters from affecting as many people.

As Chair of the Congressional Children's Caucus, I am particularly concerned by the large number of children who were trapped within collapsing school buildings when the earthquake hit. Particularly tragic was the collapse of a three-story school building in the city of Dujiangyan, burying an estimated 900 students. According to reports, it is still not known how many children were killed by their own schools as the buildings fell down on their heads, and the Chinese government has reportedly called for an investigation into the collapse of school buildings. I would especially like to extend my condolence to many children caught up in this immense disaster.

Mr. Speaker, I take this opportunity to commend the thousands of police and civilian rescue workers who have been working tirelessly in disaster areas to aid in rescue and recovery efforts. They are truly a testament to the good that exists in the world today.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this legislation to extend sincere con-

dolences and further the efforts of the United States to ensure the complete restoration of the tragic loss of life and devastation of the People's Republic of China.

Mr. WU. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CAPUANO). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. WU) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 1195, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution, as amended, was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

REAFFIRMING SUPPORT FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF LEBANON UNDER PRIME MINISTER FOUAD SINIORA

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 1194) reaffirming the support of the House of Representatives for the legitimate, democratically-elected Government of Lebanon under Prime Minister Fouad Siniora.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 1194

Whereas, on May 7, 2008, the terrorist group Hizballah, in response to the justifiable exercise of authority by the sovereign, democratically-elected Government of Lebanon, initiated an unjustifiable insurrection by fomenting riots, blocking roads, seizing buildings, and organizing marauding groups of gunmen who took control of much of Beirut, including the sites of key government institutions, and provoked sectarian fighting elsewhere in Lebanon;

Whereas, in the course of this ongoing insurrection initiated by Hizballah, more than 80 Lebanese citizens have been murdered and more than 250 have been wounded;

Whereas, in the course of this fighting, Hizballah and allied fighters attacked the residences of Future Party leader Saad Hariri and Progressive Socialist Party leader Walid Jumblatt, both of whose parties are members of the legitimate governing coalition under Prime Minister Fouad Siniora;

Whereas, in the course of their insurrection, Hizballah and allied fighters forced the Future Party's television station off the air and burned the building housing the Future Party's newspaper;

Whereas Hizballah and its allies have turned over some of the areas they conquered in Beirut to the Lebanese Armed Forces;

Whereas key government institutions, including the prime ministry, remain under siege, as do the residences of Saad Hariri and Walid Jumblatt;

Whereas the purpose of Hizballah's insurrection is to intimidate the legitimate, democratically-elected Government of Lebanon, the Lebanese Armed Forces, and other legitimate Lebanese authorities, so that Hizballah will have maximum freedom of military action, can deepen its control over its "state within a state" in Shiite-dominated areas of Lebanon, and can enhance its influence on Lebanese Government decision-