

## DISASTER ASSISTANCE

Mr. DODD. Madam President, as all Americans, especially those in Florida, Mississippi, Alabama, and Louisiana well know, this hurricane season is proving terribly destructive and it is not over yet. Many of my colleagues have risen before this body to describe the damage caused by Hurricanes Charley, Francis, and Ivan. I want to commend them for their efforts and commend this body for the speed with which it passed \$2 billion worth of aid to help Florida recover from the devastation. I understand additional aid packages are also under consideration, and I urge my colleagues to move as swiftly as possible to provide all necessary aid to help those who were affected by these storms.

At the same time, I want to call attention to another region which was also hard-hit by these storms. To date, Hurricanes Charley, Francis, and Ivan, as well as Tropical Storm Jeanne have claimed the lives of well over 1,000 people and caused extensive damage throughout the Caribbean, especially in Haiti, Grenada, and Jamaica.

Just this past week, Tropical Storm Jeanne made landfall on the Island of Hispaniola. Rain, mud slides and flooding have made it the season's deadliest storm, claiming at least 1,070 lives in the impoverished nation of Haiti, 19 in the Dominican Republic and 7 in Puerto Rico. As of September 21, 50 percent of the city of Gonaives, in northern Haiti, remained under water, and the loss of lives and infrastructure to the people of Gonaives are enormous and likely to increase.

Tropical Storm Jeanne is only the latest in what has been a deadly hurricane season. Two weeks ago, Hurricane Ivan cut a swath of destruction across much of the Caribbean. Keith Mitchell, the Prime Minister of Grenada, called the damages to his island, "beyond imagination," and with good reason. Over 90 percent of the buildings in Grenada were damaged by the storm. Two thirds of the population, approximately 60,000 out of a total of 95,000 residents, are now homeless. Power is out across the island, and the Grenadan people are in desperate need of food, water, and shelter. The Hurricane even destroyed a 17th century stone prison, allowing a number of inmates to escape.

I am pleased that the United States has already provided nearly \$1 million in direct assistance to Grenada, \$700,000 to Jamaica, \$300,000 to the Bahamas, and \$60,000 to Haiti. The Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance, moreover, currently has teams on the ground throughout the Caribbean, assessing what steps the United States should take to bring additional aid to this devastated region.

But the Caribbean remains in desperate need. United Nations Disaster Assessment and Coordination teams have estimated that more than 50,000 people require urgent water and sanitation services in Jamaica. In the Gonaives region of Haiti, at least 20,000

are homeless, and 80 percent of the population was severely affected by the storm. Indeed, our immediate goal has to be providing basic necessities: food, water, shelter.

But while we must focus on these requirements, we cannot forget that rebuilding lost infrastructure in these countries will require a much more significant and sustained commitment of aid. It is always difficult to estimate total damages so soon after such a devastating storm, but one thing is certain—the cost of recovery will be immense. The World Bank estimates the rebuilding costs in Grenada alone are likely to rise to several billion dollars. The United States and the international community must rise to this challenge.

Many countries and organizations have already made some important contributions. CARICOM nations, in particular, have stepped forward to provide assistance. Trinidad and Tobago has pledged \$1.7 million to Grenada and Jamaica, and around 200 troops from CARICOM countries have helped restore order in St. George's, the capital of Grenada, where looting was rampant in the immediate aftermath of the storm.

These storms, however, did more than just knock out power and telephone lines. They damaged schools and hospitals. They destroyed agriculture and industry critical to the long-term economic future of the region. In Grenada, the nutmeg crop, which is critical to the Grenadan economy, suffered extensive damages, and these crops will take years to recover, since Nutmeg trees take as many as 20 years to grow to their full potential. The year's banana crop was almost entirely lost, and the tourist industry was also badly damaged. National Public Radio quoted an advisor to Prime Minister Mitchell as saying, "Grenada has no economy. The economy is dead."

Flooding, meanwhile, has destroyed homes and crops throughout Haiti, particularly in the northern region of Gonaives. Most of the agricultural land outside that city has been flooded, and at least 20,000 are without homes. The poorest nation in the Americas, Haiti has already suffered from political turmoil as well as flooding, which four months ago claimed the lives of at least 1,700 people. As I mentioned earlier, this time, more than 1,070 have lost their lives.

Mr. President, Louis Telesford, a 27 year old Grenadan, had his wooden home destroyed by Hurricane Ivan. According to the Associated Press, he is now living along with 15 other people in his neighbor's concrete house. "It's going to be a long, long time before we recover," said Mr. Telesford. "We need help." I urge the administration to ensure that we provide this critical assistance.

## ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

## HONORING THE MEN AND WOMEN OF THE BOISE AIRPORT TRAFFIC CONTROL TOWER

• Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, today I offer my congratulations to the men and women who operate the Boise Airport Traffic Control Tower, ATCT, on its being named the Regional Facility of the Year for 2003 by the FAA.

The Boise ATCT was rated outstanding and best among five other level-8 facilities with the FAA Northwest mountain region. Each facility was evaluated in the categories of operational excellence, communications, employee development, external relations, resource management, human relations, professionalism, employee morale and customer service. Boise's outstanding facility handled 163,022 operations in 2003 with consistent, dedicated and superior service.

I am proud of these highly capable men and women, and proud to have them representing our State. I wish each of them continued success in serving the great State of Idaho, its citizens and the citizens of the Nation. •

## POLISH HERITAGE ASSOCIATION

• Ms. MIKULSKI. Madam President, I rise today to salute the Polish Heritage Association of Maryland on the occasion of their thirtieth anniversary.

In 1974, a hearty band of Polish-Americans in Maryland decided to make a difference by founding the Polish Heritage Association of Maryland. Founders, like Stan Ciesielski, came together to make outstanding contributions to America, future generations and Poland. The Polish Heritage Association shows that in America, it is possible to be both Polish and American; by promoting the rich legacy of our past and enriching our community for the future.

The Polish Heritage Association does this through scholarships for young people: over \$160,000 supporting more than 150 of Maryland's best and brightest students of Polish ancestry. The Polish Heritage Association has also been tireless in their humanitarian support for Poland. As the Polish people suffered under martial law, they created and organized Maryland Action for Poland, raising thousands of dollars and sending thousands of food packages to Poland. In 1995, the Polish Heritage Association raised over \$300,000 to send medical supplies to Lodz, where Communist mismanagement had led to severe supply shortages.

The Polish Heritage Association has forwarded Polish life with cultural and educational programs, such as lectures, concerts and exhibits. The Polish Heritage Association has shown that by organizing and cooperating with each other, we can make a real difference.

I am proud to be the first Polish-American woman in Senate. Growing up in East Baltimore, I learned about