

growing, vibrant economy, and it darn sure is not growing much when you have trade policies that move America's strength overseas.

I will return to the floor with other presentations on trade, along with proposed solutions. I appreciate your indulgence.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

Mr. THURMOND. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak for 3½ minutes as in the morning hour.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

TRIBUTE TO GEN. CARL MUNDY, COMMANDANT OF THE U.S. MARINE CORPS

Mr. THURMOND. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize one of this country's most distinguished military leaders, Gen. Carl E. Mundy, 30th Commandant of the U.S. Marine Corps. General Mundy is retiring after 38 distinguished years of service to our country during which he has served this Nation honorably in a number of very important posts. Among these are the commanding general of the Fleet Marine Force Atlantic, the II Marine Expeditionary Force, and the Allied Command Atlantic Marine Striking Force. General Mundy has received numerous decorations for his service including the Legion of Merit, the Bronze Star, and the Purple Heart which he received while serving in the jungles of Vietnam.

Mr. President, General Mundy is a leader, visionary, and a warrior. As he completes his watch, he leaves behind a Corps of Marines that is ready to respond instantly to the Nation's "911" calls, relevant to meet the defense needs of the Nation into the next century, and capable of meeting the requirements of today's national military strategy.

As Commandant of the Marine Corps, General Mundy has been a central figure in shaping the post-cold-war military. He has acted as a principal author on a number of key Department of Defense white papers. Among these papers, "From the Sea" and "Forward . . . From the Sea," have been instrumental in outlining the future role of naval and marine forces. He has been a tireless spokesman for the Department of Defense and has traveled extensively throughout the country to speak to citizens on key issues related to national security.

Mr. President, it is with deep regret that I wish General Mundy and his wife, Linda, farewell. He has always provided us the benefits of his great wisdom. He has continuously lived up to the Marine Corps motto: Semper Fidelis.

Mr. President, General Mundy is truly one of the few, one of the proud.

He is, and always will be, a U.S. marine. Our Nation is proud of him, and we wish him well in the future.

I yield the floor. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mrs. KASSEBAUM. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE U.N. CHARTER

Mrs. KASSEBAUM. Mr. President, 50 years ago today, the victorious nations of World War II gathered in San Francisco to sign the charter that created the new United Nations. It was a time of enormous hope and promise, and the world's expectations ran high. No country had more influence in shaping that international organization than the United States. From the details in the charter to the name of the new organization itself, American leadership—then at its strongest on the heels of victory in the war—was everywhere in evidence. Just as American hesitation doomed the League of Nations a quarter-century earlier, so American leadership in 1945 gave the world the United Nations.

I would like, Mr. President, today to express a strong belief that America must again lead in the significant reforms that are now necessary to save this valuable organization for generations to come.

There is much criticism of the United Nations, and much of that is well-deserved. The Secretariat has ballooned into a collection of bloated, often ill-operated bureaucracies. The structure of the Security Council reflects a by-gone era. The Trusteeship Council has outlived its usefulness.

There is mismanagement, waste, and general lack of accountability. Too often, there is no focus and no real sense of priorities.

But there also is much muddled thinking in America's approach to the United Nations. In much of the country—including Washington—there is much misunderstanding and confusion about the organization's purposes and structures. The standards by which we judge its success or failure have become unrealistic. And there are some who would take us again down the failed path of the League of Nations and sacrifice a valuable international organization for domestic political gain. I believe we must fix the United Nations, and only the United States can provide the leadership to get the job done. There are several reforms that I think we can achieve without amending the charter.

First, we should lead those reforms that can be accomplished without amending the charter. I have joined with Congressman LEE HAMILTON, the

ranking member of the International Relations Committee in the House of Representatives, in putting forward some thoughts on reforms that can be accomplished without opening the Pandora's box of amending the charter. Let me summarize some of the suggestions:

First, focus on the core agencies. The United Nations today has more than 70 agencies under its umbrella. We would finance only a handful of agencies that serve core purposes of the organization, for instance the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA], the World Health Organization, and the High Commission on Refugees. Other agencies should be abolished, merged, or financed at the discretion of one or more of the core agencies.

Second, peacekeeping. This is a difficult one, Mr. President. In the heady days of the cold war, and after the cold war, expectations for peacekeeping grew far out of control. But the truth is that peacekeeping has inherent limits, and many of the failed hybrid operations we have undertaken—such as nation building in Somalia—which probably ultimately turned out to be better than was assumed at the time that the forces were withdrawn, and peace enforcement in Bosnia—which has ignored those limits. Future peacekeeping should be limited to classic operations.

Third, conferences. Conferences have come to dominate far too much of the United Nations time, resources, and attention. The United Nations should get out of the conference business and focus itself on more meaningful activities. Otherwise, we run the risk of just being a traveling road show from summit to summit.

Last, accountability. Today, the United Nations is accountable to no one. We should significantly strengthen the Office of the Inspector General and give it some real teeth. The member states should also reform the process by which they select the Secretary-General, to ensure that his or her accountability and selection is primarily one of skills and ability to administer the Organization.

I think this is enormously important and probably very difficult to achieve. It is one of the more sensitive areas to deal with, and yet it is the key to making much of it work as it should.

I think we should take the lead in reforms that would require amending the charter. I, for one, believe membership in the Security Council should be reformed to better reflect the realities of contemporary international politics.

Nations such as Japan and Germany, which pay large portions of the U.N.'s bills and are powerful international players, should have permanent seats on the Council; and, of course, the Charter's reference to them as enemy states should be struck. The number of nonpermanent members should be expanded to better accommodate major regional powers.

We should also eliminate the Trusteeship Council established to handle