

NATO—are in the process of dramatically reducing the size of their ground forces. Such developments could have adverse consequences for the future of NATO, and require ever-increasing U.S. military contributions to the Alliance to compensate for European shortfalls. In such developments continue, NATO's ability to fulfill its commitments under Article 5 of the "NATO Charter" could be called into question.

As Chairman of the AirLand Forces Subcommittee of the Armed Services Committee—the Subcommittee with primary jurisdiction over NATO and the European Command—I will need information from the Department of Defense in order to assess the impact on the United States of the issues raised in the enclosed article. In particular, I am concerned about the long-term plans for meeting our NATO commitments in light of the reductions planned by our European allies; the need for increased U.S. military contributions to the Alliance to offset the European reductions; and the adequacy of current U.S. force structure planning to meet our NATO commitments in light of these changes.

During a time when NATO expansion is being actively considered, by some, these issues must be thoroughly examined. I ask that you provide your assessment as soon as possible in order for my Subcommittee to incorporate this information into its upcoming budget review and schedule of hearings. I am hopeful your reply will be detailed, as I view the representations in this article with deep concern.

SENATOR THURMOND APPOINTS ROMIE L. BROWNLEE AS NEW SENATE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE DIRECTOR

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I compliment the chairman of the Armed Services Committee, Senator THURMOND, for his selection of Col. Les Brownlee as the new staff director of the Armed Services Committee. Colonel Brownlee has served me with extraordinary professionalism for 12 years. He brings to this position a record of significant achievement as a highly decorated career military officer for his valor in combat, service with the Army Secretariat, special assistant to the undersecretary of the Army, and many other qualifications.

I wish to compliment the chairman for the selection of Colonel Brownlee, who, although he has been in my employ, so to speak, for a dozen years, now will owe his total allegiance to the chairman and all other members of the committee. I was so pleased when Chairman THURMOND consulted me on this nomination that he had in mind some days ago. Of course, I strongly recommended Colonel Brownlee, and I am pleased that the chairman did select him from the strong field of candidates to become the staff director.

Colonel Brownlee is well known throughout the Senate and the staffs. He has worked here by my side and by the side of many others, including Senators Tower, Goldwater, NUNN, and many members of the committee, in the preparation of our legislative responsibilities, which have been discharged here on the floor through these many years. I would like to think that

the men and women in the Armed Forces on active duty today, and, indeed, the retired military, will receive with pride the news that one of their own, one who has distinguished himself so well in uniform, as well as in service to the committee, has been selected to this very, very important post.

I add, Mr. President, the fact that while Colonel Brownlee had not in any way actively looked at outside opportunities because he is a strict adherent to the rules of conflict of interest here, it was clear to me in our conversations that, in all probability, having spent 12 years on the committee and having many years before him of useful and productive life, thoughts were given to the more lucrative opportunities that are frequently offered by the private sector. But he clearly decided, once again, on the offer to serve his Nation, serve this Senate, and indeed serve the Armed Forces of the United States. The call came, and he responded unhesitatingly.

I ask unanimous consent that the press release accompanying the announcement by Chairman THURMOND be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

THURMOND APPOINTS NEW SASC DIRECTOR

WASHINGTON, FEB. 27, 1996.—Chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee Strom Thurmond (R-SC) today appointed longtime committee staff member Romie L. Brownlee as the new Staff Director for the Committee.

Brownlee, a retired Army Colonel, has worked on defense issues in the Senate since 1984, when he began his career in the Legislative Branch as a National Security Assistant to Senator John Warner (R-VA), and then joined the Committee in 1987 as the Deputy Staff Director for the Minority. Before being named Staff Director, Brownlee was responsible for handling issues related to the Army and Marine Corps land forces, Special Operations Forces, and drug interdiction.

"Les Brownlee is extremely well qualified to serve as Staff Director of the Senate Armed Services Committee, as he is a man with a keen intellect and proven abilities," said Thurmond. "He is widely respected by senior members of the armed forces, by Senators serving on the Armed Services Committee, and by his fellow staffers. We are fortunate to have him as our new Director."

A native Texan, Brownlee was commissioned a Second Lieutenant of Infantry following his 1962 graduation from the University of Wyoming. Brownlee served two tours in Vietnam, including one as a Company Commander with the 173rd Airborne Brigade. During his career, Brownlee earned a number of decorations including two Silver Stars, three Bronze Stars, and a Purple Heart. In subsequent years, Brownlee would hold postings that included serving as Commander of the 3rd Battalion, 36th Infantry, and at the Pentagon as the executive officer for the Under Secretary of the Army. He earned a Master's of Business Administration from the University of Alabama, graduated from the Army War College, is a distinguished graduate from the Army's highly demanding Ranger Course, and is an Honor Graduate of both the Infantry Officer Advanced Course, and the Command and General Staff College.

Brownlee is replacing retired Brigadier General Richard Reynard, who is resigning

from his position as Staff Director to return to the private sector.

Mr. WARNER. 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.

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

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

NEW MEXICO, THE LAND OF ENCHANTMENT

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, once again, 1 of our 50 is missing. If that seems like an enigmatic statement, bear with me a little longer. I have a story to relate to you that proves true once again the adage that truth is often stranger than fiction.

On Tuesday of this week one of my constituents, a man named Wade Miller, of Santa Fe, NM, called the Olympic ticket office in Atlanta, GA, in the United States—Atlanta, GA, USA. He was calling them to request tickets for the Olympics, I say to my friend from New York. Instead, imagine his surprise when he was told that since he was calling from New Mexico with his request, he would need to consult with the Mexican or Puerto Rican Olympic Committees in order to get tickets—not the Olympic office in Atlanta, which, I repeat, is in Georgia, USA.

Keep in mind that the area code for New Mexico is 505. The area code for Atlanta is 404. I checked it myself, and this does not register as an international call. If it was, my poor constituent, who argued with them for a half hour to 45 minutes trying to convince them that New Mexico was, indeed, in the United States, would have a real telephone bill. There was even some debate about old Mexico versus New Mexico. But when all was said and done they still told him that, no, you cannot buy any tickets from us. You have to get them from either the Mexican or Puerto Rican—they were not sure, I guess—Olympic office.

Finally, Mr. Miller produced a mailing address in Arizona and asked if his tickets could be mailed to that address. They established on the phone that yes, Arizona was in the United States and that tickets could be sent there. Alas, the identity crisis for New Mexico, USA, seems to continue. And while I'm pleased we could all agree that Arizona, our distinguished neighbor to our west, is a State, I must point out that New Mexico was actually a State even before Arizona, although not by much.

So, as the Senator from New Mexico—although I guess the Olympic Committee would simply call me a delegate, not a Senator—I must once more rise to refresh everyone's memory. New Mexico—that large span of land between the oil wells of Texas and the saguaros of Arizona—is in the United States. I flew home during the last recess and they did not book me on an