

estimate for H.R. 363 as ordered reported by the House Committee on Commerce on March 5, 1997. On April 17, 1997, CBO prepared an estimate for the version ordered reported by the House Committee on Science on April 16, 1997. The three estimates for H.R. 363 are identical.

Estimate prepared by: Kathleen Gramp.
Estimate approved by: Robert A. Sunshine,
Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.

TRIBUTE TO THE U.S. ARMY ON THE OCCASION OF ITS 222d BIRTHDAY

Mr. THURMOND. Mr. President, the primary mission of any army is to fight and win the wars of the nation which it protects. For the past 222 years, since June 14, 1776, the soldiers of the United States Army have valiantly and successfully defended the interests, ideals, and people of our Nation.

The American Army that was born on that June day a little more than two centuries ago is very different from the military force that meets our Nation's security needs as we prepare to enter the new millenium. The soldiers of our first Army were largely untrained, were poorly and infrequently paid, and faced tremendous logistical burdens. It is truly testament to the leadership abilities of General Washington that he was able to hold his troops together in the face of such odds. Of course, the men and women who serve in today's Army receive months of intensive and excellent training before they join their units, are paid fair wages on a regular basis, and benefit from a commitment to creating a professional, career oriented force. Despite these differences, one thing that has remained constant about those who have served in the United States Army over the past 222 years is that these are largely men and women who are selfless individuals and who are motivated by a patriotic desire to make a difference. From Valley Forge to Sierra Leone, no nation's army has benefitted more from the efforts of a finer array of people than our's.

Throughout its history, the American Army and its soldiers have served with distinction on literally every continent of the world. Minutemen, Johnny Reb & Billy Yank, Rough Riders, Doughboys, Dogfaces, and GI Joes have stood up to dictators, deposed tyrants, beaten back communism, defended freedom, and protected all that we hold dear. Additionally, our soldiers have served as a grassroots diplomatic corps in combat boots, spreading to people around the globe the knowledge that Americans are peaceful, that there is no finer form of government than democracy, and that we prefer building friendships with the citizens of other nations to fighting them in wars. There is no question that in many ways, a candy bar given to a small child from a smiling GI is the best form of foreign aid and diplomatic relations that can be undertaken by the United States.

While the battlefield accomplishments of the United States Army are impressive and unequalled in history, the missions of today's Army go far beyond that of warfighting. In addition to being able to act and react decisively to threats to our Nation no matter where they might arise, our Army is now tasked with a number of non-traditional missions which range from providing fresh water to refugees in Rwanda to keeping the peace in Bosnia. Though these missions are more varied and decidedly different from simply containing or destroying our enemies, our soldiers have characteristically embraced their new responsibilities without complaint and are carrying out their duties professionally.

As we approach the new century and look to the future, Americans have good cause to be optimistic. Our Nation is enjoying a period of prosperity, the world is in a relatively peaceful state, and we no longer are in a Cold War contest with another superpower, however, we must not allow ourselves to be lulled into a state of complacency. While things are calm now, we must remember that threats to our security and interest can crop up suddenly and we must remain vigilant for such developments. We cannot ignore our military and those who serve in them, to do so would undermine years of hard work and the significant investment we have made in building the finest and most technologically advanced fighting forces ever known to man. Clearly the Army will continue to have a critical role in assuring that the United States remains secure and that the world remains a stable place where disputes are resolved in manners short of warfare.

Mr. President, as the Army celebrates its 222nd birthday, it is important that we pause from our duties to remember the men and women who have served in the ranks of this service throughout its history. It is easy to forget that those who protect us and who carryout the policies we develop in this Chamber are individuals who are young, making many sacrifices, and have volunteered to protect the Nation. Their service is invaluable and they should be commended for their efforts. On this occasion I say to each of these soldiers, from the newest graduate of Fort Jackson to Chief of Staff Reimer, a happy 222nd birthday and thank you for all you do to keep the United States free and safe.

OBSERVATIONS REGARDING A TRIP TO LEBANON

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I visited Lebanon over the Memorial Day recess in order to assess the security situation there. A number of my Lebanese-American constituents have contacted me to request that the State Department's travel policy for Lebanon be changed, and I also decided to see firsthand the situation there.

Pursuant to United States law, the Secretary of State may restrict the use of United States passports for the travel of U.S. citizens to countries with which the United States is at war, where armed hostilities are in progress, or where there is imminent danger to the health or the physical safety of United States travelers. The Secretary of State has exercised that authority in the case of Lebanon and consequently U.S. passports are not valid for travel to, in or through Lebanon unless special validation has been obtained. The passport restriction includes landing at the Beirut airport en route to another destination.

Special validation is possible for professional reporters; representatives of the American Red Cross traveling pursuant to an officially-sponsored Red Cross mission; compelling humanitarian considerations such as a critical illness of an immediate family member; family reunification such as a situation where a spouse or minor child is residing in Lebanon, with and dependent on, a Lebanese spouse or parent for his or her support; or where the travel is found to be in the national interest.

In view of the limited exceptions to the travel restriction, a number of Americans have resorted to the practice of acquiring a Lebanese visa on a piece of paper separate from their American passports so that they will not encounter any difficulty from U.S. authorities upon returning to the United States. I have been advised that forty to fifty thousand Americans travel to Lebanon by this means each year. In doing so, they may be violating U.S. law. Countless other Americans, despite their earnest desire to visit relatives or friends in Lebanon, await a change in U.S. policy.

I traveled to Lebanon with the approval and support of the State Department. I arrived at the U.S. Embassy compound via U.S. Army helicopter from Cyprus in mid-afternoon on May 29th, spent the night on the embassy compound, and returned to Cyprus by the same means in mid-morning on May 30th.

While in Lebanon, I had a busy schedule. I met at length with our Ambassador Richard Jones. I also met with Nasrallah Sfeir, 76th Maronite Patriarch of Antioch and all of the East; Mohamed Rashid Qabbani, Grand Mufti of the Republic; IMAM Mohamed Mahdi Shamseddine, President, Higher Islamic Shi'a Council; Prime Minister Rafiq Hariri; President Elias Hrawi; and General Emile Lahoud, Commander of the Lebanese Armed Force. In each instance, the meeting was held at the place where the religious figure or government official was located, requiring travel throughout the city of Beirut and its environs. Additionally, I met with a number of government officials, members of the Lebanese Parliament, and Lebanese businessmen at a dinner at the American Embassy hosted by Ambassador Jones.

I made it a point to ask each individual with whom I met about the United

States travel policy. I was advised that there are large numbers of Americans in Lebanon at all times and that they are safe. Frequent reference was made to the recent visit of the Pope to Lebanon. Finally, I was told that the U.S. travel policy was keeping relatives apart and was preventing needed U.S. private investment in Lebanon. General Lahoud pointed out that members of the Hizballah Party, which is the primary security concern of the United States, were elected to and participating in the Lebanese parliament and that there had not been an incident against an American in five years.

Significantly, our representatives in Beirut favored a lifting of the travel restriction.

Based upon my personal observations during my visit, it is clear to me that perceptions about the security situation in Lebanon are outdated. There is no substitute for an on-the-scene assessment.

Later on the trip I visited Bosnia and I had an opportunity in Sarajevo to meet with Secretary of State Madeleine Albright. I urged her to send a team to Lebanon to assess the security situation there and was pleased when she advised me that she was doing so. I am confident that such an assessment will provide a sound basis for the revision of the current policy and I have written to Secretary Albright urging her to change the current U.S. policy. Senator ABRAHAM has joined me in writing to Secretary Albright.

While I strongly favor a lifting of the travel restriction, I realize that the situation in Lebanon is not normal. Accordingly, in our letter to Secretary Albright, we also urged that a travel warning for Lebanon be issued in lieu of the current travel restriction. In addition to citing the always possible Hizballah terrorist attacks, I believe that the travel warning should note that as long as foreign military forces are present in Lebanon, the situation there is not normalized.

I ask unanimous consent that our letter to Secretary Albright be printed in the RECORD at the conclusion of my remarks.

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

(See exhibit 1.)

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, the Secretary of State bears a heavy responsibility when assessing the security situation in a country to determine if travel restrictions should be applied. The imposition of a travel restriction is rare, as it should be. For example, in the case of travel to Somalia, the State Department issued a travel warning on June 28, 1996, which is still in effect, that states that:

The Department of State warns U.S. citizens against all travel to Somalia. Sporadic fighting among local militias continues in parts of the country. Kidnappings and other threats to foreigners occur unpredictably in virtually all regions. There is no national government in Somalia to offer security or police protection for travelers. There is no U.S. diplomatic presence in Somalia to pro-

vide consular assistance to U.S. citizens. United Nations peacekeeping forces were withdrawn from Somalia in March 1995 and all U.S. citizens were advised to depart the country.

In another example, the Department of State travel warning that was issued on September 2, 1996 regarding Iraq, states:

The U.S. Government views with grave concern the latest reports of spreading violence in northern Iraq. Given the government of Iraq's renewed repression, we are strongly recommending that all U.S. citizens leave Iraq.

Mr. President, based upon my visit to Lebanon, I see no reason to treat Lebanon more restrictively than countries like Somalia and Iraq. I strongly believe that the time has come to substitute a travel warning for the current travel restriction with regard to Lebanon.

EXHIBIT 1

U.S. SENATE,
COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES,

Washington, DC, June 9, 1997.

Hon. MADELEINE K. ALBRIGHT,
Secretary of State, Department of State, Washington, DC

DEAR MADAM SECRETARY: I am writing to you to request a change in the State Department's policy prohibiting the use of a U.S. passport for travel to, in or through Lebanon.

My colleague, Senator Spencer Abraham, who is very familiar with these matters and who has received numerous briefings from Administration officials on this policy, joins me in this request.

As you know, I visited Beirut, Lebanon from May 29 to May 30 via the Beirut Air Bridge that operates out of Cyprus. During my visit to Beirut, I met at length with Ambassador Richard Jones. I also met with Nasrallah Sfeir, 76th Maronite Patriarch of Antioch and all of the East, Mohamed Rashid Qabbani, Grand Mufti of the Republic, IMAM Mohamed Mahdi Shamseddine, President, Higher Islamic Shi'a Council, Prime Minister Rafiq Hariri, President Elias Hrawi, and General Emile Lahoud, Commander of the Lebanese Armed Force. In each instance, the meeting was held at the place where the religious figure or government official was located, requiring travel throughout the city of Beirut and its environs. Additionally, I met with a number of government officials, members of the Lebanese Parliament, and Lebanese businessmen at a dinner at the American Embassy hosted by Ambassador Jones.

I made it a point to ask each individual with whom I met about the United States travel policy. I was advised that there are large numbers of Americans in Lebanon at all times and that they are safe. Frequent reference was made to the recent visit of the Pope to Lebanon. Finally, I was told that the U.S. travel policy was preventing needed U.S. private investment in Lebanon and was keeping relatives apart. General Lahoud pointed out that members of the Hizballah Party, which is the primary security concern of the United States, were elected to and are participating in the Lebanese parliament and that there had not been an incident against an American in five years.

Significantly, Ambassador Jones, the Embassy staff, and the representatives of other U.S. government agencies in Beirut favored a lifting of the travel restriction.

During the course of my visit, I learned that a number of U.S. businessmen and, to a lesser extent, U.S. citizens with relatives in

Lebanon travel there by obtaining a Lebanese visa which is issued on a piece of paper separate from the visitor's U.S. passport. Unfortunately, as I understand it, that practice avoids problems when the traveler returns to the United States but they still may be violating U.S. law. I have been contacted by a number of my constituents who want to visit their relatives in Lebanon, but are unwilling to violate U.S. policy.

Prior to my departure from Washington, I was urged by a high-level U.S. official not to travel to Lebanon because I would not be safe there. Based upon my personal observations during my visit, it is clear to me that perceptions about the security situation in Lebanon are outdated. I was pleased to learn during our meeting in Sarajevo that you are sending people to Lebanon to assess the security situation there. There is no substitute for an on-the-scene assessment. I am confident that such an assessment will provide a sound basis for the revision of the current policy.

Finally, we would urge that a travel warning for Lebanon be issued in lieu of the current travel restriction. In addition to citing the threat from Hizballah terrorists, the travel warning should note that as long as foreign military forces are present in Lebanon, that the situation there is not normalized.

Sincerely,

SPENCER ABRAHAM.
CARL LEVIN.

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 11:39 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Hays, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following joint resolution, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.J. Res. 54. Joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States authorizing the Congress to prohibit the physical desecration of the flag of the United States.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following joint resolution was read the first and second times by unanimous consent and referred as indicated:

H.J. Res. 54. Joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States authorizing the Congress to prohibit the physical desecration of the flag of the United States; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. THURMOND. Mr. President, pursuant to section 3(b) of Senate Resolution 400 of the 94th Congress, I request that the bill, S. 858, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 1998 for intelligence and intelligence-related activities of the U.S. Government, the Community Management Account, and the Central Intelligence Agency Retirement and Disability System, and for other purposes, reported by the Select Committee on Intelligence on June 9, be referred to the Committee on Armed Services for a period not to exceed 30 days.

S. 858. An original bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 1998 for intelligence and intelligence-related activities of the United States Government, the Community Management Account, and the Central Intelligence Agency Retirement and Disability