

The fundamental and emotional issue of refugee returns comprises the seventh condition. The property laws of both entities in Bosnia must comply with the Dayton Accords. Property commissions must be fully functioning. Both the Federation and the Republika Srpska must be participating in phased and orderly cross-ethnic returns.

The key cities of Sarajevo, Banja Luka, and Mostar must have accepted substantial returns of refugees and displaced persons, and the local police throughout Bosnia and Herzegovina must protect returnees, whatever their religion or ethnicity.

The thorny subject of Brcko comprises the eighth condition needed to be met before all troops can be withdrawn. An arbitration award must have been implemented without violence. As we know, Mr. President, in mid-March the arbitration award on Brcko was postponed for the third time.

Specific benchmarks for Brcko include local elections having been implemented, an integrated police force functioning, two-way refugee returns and ethnic reintegration continuing to progress, and job creation underway.

The ninth condition involves war crimes. All parties to the Dayton Accords, including entity justice authorities, must be cooperating with the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia (ICTY).

Local authorities must facilitate the apprehension of indictees.

The tenth and final condition necessary for withdrawal of American troops, Mr. President, concerns the relationship of Bosnia with international organizations. One benchmark is certification that local authorities and the entity armies are capable of assuming responsibility for demining operations.

Another is that the Office of the High Representative in Bosnia (OHR) demonstrates its authority to enforce inter-entity agreements without military back-up.

A third, more general, benchmark is that the OSCE, NATO, and the European Union develop more traditional relationships with Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Mr. President, I believe that these detailed conditions and benchmarks show conclusively that the Administration is not asking for an open-ended commitment. It has the exit strategy that critics have long been demanding.

One or two of the ten conditions, and several more of the individual benchmarks have already been met. Many others are well on their way to fulfillment. Many others are only just beginning to be implemented.

And, Mr. President, I would repeat my cautionary word that the fulfillment of such a detailed formulation leaves much open to interpretation.

If the Senate approves this supplemental appropriation for our troops in Bosnia—as I strongly believe it should—we have the right to insist that the Congress be consulted on an

ongoing basis on how the implementation of these civil-military benchmarks is going and also that our NATO and other SFOR partners are continuing to shoulder their responsibilities.

The SFOR mission is of high national security importance for the United States.

We have every right to be pleased with the quite striking progress that has been achieved in Bosnia over the past year. Much remains to be done, and with the game-plan—the “exit strategy” if you will—that the Administration has provided, closer cooperation with Congress is possible.

I urge passage of this supplemental appropriation for both Iraq and Bosnia. I think that it is vital that the Senate and House pass this supplemental as soon as possible. The more expeditiously we act, the less our military readiness will suffer. The brave men and women serving in Bosnia and Iraq deserve to know that their missions are adequately funded by a proud Congress and not by cannibalizing important core military accounts.

For that, they should thank the Senator from Alaska, because he has been absolutely, positively—how can I say it politely—consistent in insisting that we undertake these missions without cannibalizing our core accounts.

Both of these missions further America's national security interests. They have achieved real results and what the Chairman of the full committee is suggesting is the way to go.

I compliment the chairman in being able to fend off the amendments put forward so far today. I wish him luck for the remainder of the process here.

I yield the floor.

Mr. STEVENS addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alaska.

Mr. STEVENS. Does the Senator from Illinois seek time?

Ms. MOSELEY-BRAUN. Yes, only 2 minutes. It was really a very short statement.

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, I yield to the Senator for not to exceed 5 minutes because we want to get to the Wellstone amendment as soon as possible.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Illinois is recognized.

THE TRAGEDY IN JONESBORO, ARKANSAS

Ms. MOSELEY-BRAUN. Mr. President, I would like to take a brief moment to express my condolences to the families of the students and teachers killed or wounded during yesterday's tragic shooting at the Westside Middle School in Jonesboro, AR. The Nation's prayers are with those families today and, of course, the thoughts of all Americans are with the people of the Jonesboro community. It is yet another American community whose residents' lives have been changed forever by children who managed to get access to firearms.

The attack yesterday was the third multiple killing in a school by a youth under the age of 16 in the last 6 months. Mr. President, these horrific crimes amply demonstrate that we have a responsibility to oppose the proliferation of violence and to stand fast against any effort to make firearms more freely available. Does anyone in their right mind still believe that it is possible to raise children in a society where guns are so easily obtained? It is clear that we cannot protect our children in such a world. They are such easy prey for those who seek to maim and to kill.

Now, Mr. President, until all the facts have been obtained, it would not be prudent to speculate on the events leading up to the massacre in the school yard yesterday. But this much we do know: We must come together as a society and recommit ourselves to keeping firearms out of the hands of children and guaranteeing that only those people who know how to use guns responsibly have access to them. In order to make our community safer, we must expand programs to train gunowners in the proper use and storage of their weapons.

I believe that responsible gunowners have nothing to fear from reasonable gun laws, and that is what I think we need to have a debate and talk about, and that is what the majority of us who support reasonable gun control seek to have happen—laws that will help to keep tragedies like the one that happened yesterday in that small community in Arkansas from ever happening again. I think it is appropriate for us to have that debate, given the importance to our children, to their safety, to our liberty and freedom and safety in our communities.

I yield the floor.

Mr. BUMPERS. Mr. President, will the Senator yield? Senator MOSELEY-BRAUN was speaking about the shooting in Jonesboro, and I have not said anything on the floor about that. I would like 2 minutes to follow up on that.

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senator from Arkansas be recognized for 2 minutes, and following that, the Senator from Ohio be recognized for not to exceed 5 minutes.

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

The Senator from Arkansas is recognized.

THE TRAGEDY IN JONESBORO, ARKANSAS

Mr. BUMPERS. Mr. President, let me just, first of all, express my profound thanks to the distinguished Senator from Illinois for her sensitivity and sincere compassion over what is the most traumatic event, perhaps ever, in my State. We have tornadoes and we lose a lot of lives in tornadoes, and we have a lot of property damage. But for just sheer trauma, this event is really