that he will consider every year whether we must withdraw from the Treaty and resume testing to maintain nuclear deterrence.

I also know, Mr. President, that the American people overwhelmingly support the Test-Ban Treaty. A national-wide poll in mid-May, after the Indian tests, found 73 percent in favor of ratification and only 16 percent against it. Later polls in 5 states—7 with Republican senators—found support for the Treaty ranging from 79 percent to 86 percent.

The May poll also found that the American people knew there was a risk that other countries would try to cheat, so the public is not supporting ratification because they wear rose-colored glasses. The people are pretty level-headed on this issue, as on so many others. They know that no treaty is perfect. They also know that this Treaty, on balance, is good for America.

So perhaps those who block the Senate from fulfilling its Constitutional duty regarding this Treaty are doing that because they know the people overwhelmingly support this Treaty, and they know that ratification would pass.

Perhaps they just don't like arms control treaties. Perhaps they would rather rely only upon American military might, including nuclear weapons tests. Perhaps they want a nation-wide ballistic missile defense and figure that then it won't matter how many countries have nuclear weapons. Perhaps they figure our weapons will keep us safe, even if we let the rest of the world fall into the abyss of nuclear war.

I don't share that view, Mr. President. I believe we can keep non-proliferation on track. I believe that we can maintain nuclear deterrence without engaging in nuclear testing, and that the Comprehensive Test-Ban Treaty is critical for keeping the non-nuclear states with us on an issue where the fate of the world is truly at stake.

I cannot force a resolution of ratification on this Treaty through the Foreign Relations Committee and onto the floor of this body.

But the American people want us to ratify this Treaty. They are absolutely right to want that. I will remind my colleagues—however often I must—of their historic defense and figure that then it won't matter how many countries have nuclear weapons. Perhaps they figure our weapons will keep us safe, even if we let the rest of the world fall into the abyss of nuclear war.

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Mr. President, the distinguished Senator from Maryland, Senator Sarbanes, recently warned those who think we can do without the IMF that they are “playing with fire.” He’s right.

They have decided, for short-term political reasons—some as small as their own fight over the Speaker’s job—that they are willing to fiddle while the international economy burns. The IMF is not a perfect institution, Mr. President, but right now it is the only fire insurance we have.

By delaying indefinitely the funding for the IMF, these gamblers are taking deadly risks with our own economy, an economy that has taken years of sacrifice to restore to health. They are squandering our ability to lead economically and politically in a time of international crisis in exchange for some short-term political gains.

It is time to cease this recklessness, Mr. President. It’s time to provide the IMF with the funds it needs, and remove short-sighted bickering and self-serving calculations in the U.S. Congress from the list of threats to our own economy.

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Williams, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting three withdrawals and sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees. (The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 4:08 p.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 bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H. R. 872. An act to establish rules governing product liability actions against raw material suppliers and by manufacturers of products for sale via the Internet, and for other purposes.

H. R. 3505. An act to award a congressional gold medal to Gerald R. and Betty Ford.

H. R. 640. An act designating the Federal building located at 310 New Bern Avenue in Raleigh, North Carolina, as the “Terry Sanford Federal Building”; to the Committee on Environmental and Public Works.

H. R. 2766. An act to designate the Federal building located at 310 New Bern Avenue in Raleigh, North Carolina, as the “Terry Sanford Federal Building”; to the Committee on Environmental and Public Works.

The following concurrent resolutions were read and referred as indicated:

H. Con. Res. 294. Concurrent resolution commending the Armed Forces for their efforts, leadership, and success in providing equality of treatment and opportunity for their military and civilian personnel without regard to race, color, religion, or natural origin; to the Committee on Armed Services.

H. Con. Res. 305. Concurrent resolution authorizing the use of the Capitol Grounds for a clinic to be conducted by the United States Luge Association; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, which were referred as indicated:

EC-6278. A communication from the Associate Managing Director for Performance and Innovation and Reforms, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Rules to Adopt Regulations for Automatic Vehicle Monitoring Systems” (Docket 93-61) received on 11/14, 1998, to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6287. A communication from the Chair of the Regulations Unit of the Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Commissioner of the Euro” (RIN1545-AW34) received on July 29, 1998, to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-6288. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report of a rule entitled “Kentucky Regulatory Program” (Docket KY-217-FOR) received on July 29, 1998, to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-6291. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Export Administration, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Exports to the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro); Imposition of Foreign Policy Controls” (RIN0994-AE65) received on July 29, 1998, to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-6292. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary for Export Administration, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, a rule entitled “Exports to the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro); Imposition of Foreign Policy Controls” (RIN0994-AE65) received on July 29, 1998, to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-6293. A communication from the Employment Benefits Manager, AgFirst Farm Credit Bank, transmitting, pursuant to law, the financial statements of the Bank’s Retirement Plan and Employee Thrift Plan for calendar year 1997, to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. ROTH, from the Committee on Finance, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute, H. R. 4237. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Export Administration, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, a rule entitled “Exports to the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro); Imposition of Foreign Policy Controls” (RIN0994-AE65) received on July 29, 1998, to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. DICKEY, Mr. LIVINGSTON, Mr. FAZIO, Mr. KNOLLENBERG, Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN, Mr. PARKER, Mr. CALLAHAN, Mr. DICKEY, Mr. LIVINGSTON, Mr. Fazio of California, Mr. VISCLOSKY, Mr. EDWARDS, Mr. PASTOR, and Mr. OBEY, as managers of the conference on the part of the House.

At 10:31 p.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 bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H. R. 4237. An act to amend the District of Columbia Convention Center and Sports Arena Authorization Act of 1995 to revise the revenues and activities covered under such Act, and for other purposes.

MEASURES REFERRED

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

H. R. 3962. An act to designate the Federal building located at 310 New Bern Avenue in Raleigh, North Carolina, as the “Terry Sanford Federal Building”; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

The following concurrent resolutions were read and referred as indicated:

H. Con. Res. 294. Concurrent resolution commending the Armed Forces for their efforts, leadership, and success in providing equality of treatment and opportunity for their military and civilian personnel without regard to race, color, religion, or natural origin; to the Committee on Armed Services.

H. Con. Res. 305. Concurrent resolution authorizing the use of the Capitol Grounds for a clinic to be conducted by the United States Luge Association; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.