brushfire war has now claimed lives unnecessarily on both sides, and it must be ended. Mr. President, the CIS peacekeepers are a major part of the problem and the reason the war continues.

As the Times of London noted on July 27th, CIS peacekeepers only under duress, because the UN blinked. These CIS peacekeepers, the Times points out, have not exactly distinguished themselves by their impartiality. They are "entirely drawn from Russian and Transcaucasian契据 and commanded from Russian, not CIS, headquarters. Of its four battalions, one fought the Georgians in the 1992-93 war, while another two are recruited from anti-Georgia nationalities." It is hard to imagine that this formula can create anything but conflict, and indeed, there have been constant complaints from Georgia that these so-called peacekeepers are merely part of a Russian strategy to destabilize Georgia, a strategy that includes several assassination attempts on President Shevardnadze.

From the beginning, the Abkhaz conflict has been widely acknowledged to be Russia's doing. The separatists who want to break off Abkhazia from Georgia have been armed and encouraged by the Russians. Georgia has offered Abkhazia full autonomy, an offer that has been answered by Russian guns.

As early as 1992 Russia provided the Abkhazians with weapons to conduct the war, and the Russian government today supports the Abkhaz leadership in its unwillingness to bring the conflict to a close through negotiation. One member of the Abkhaz leadership wrote in the Russian nationalist press in 1992 that "Abkhazia is Russia." Since then, Russia has managed to scuttle all budding negotiations, even while serving as the putative "mediator" at the recent Geneva talks between the Georgians and Abkhazians, and it has unfailingly sided with the Abkhaz against Georgia at the frequent bargaining tables and on the battlefield.

Let us be frank: These Russian peacekeepers do not want peace. Rather, they seek to extend the hostilities so that the UN and its peacekeepers only under duress, because the UN blinked. These CIS peacekeepers, the Times points out, have not exactly distinguished themselves by their impartiality. They are "entirely drawn from Russian and Transcaucasian契据 and commanded from Russian, not CIS, headquarters. Of its four battalions, one fought the Georgians in the 1992-93 war, while another two are recruited from anti-Georgia nationalities." It is hard to imagine that this formula can create anything but conflict, and indeed, there have been constant complaints from Georgia that these so-called peacekeepers are merely part of a Russian strategy to destabilize Georgia, a strategy that includes several assassination attempts on President Shevardnadze.

The Abkhazians (who constitute less than 20 percent of the population of the region they claim as their own) and their Russian supporters, should harbor no illusions about the ultimate outcome of this struggle: Abkhazia will remain part of Georgia. The Georgian government will never acquiesce in territorial claims on its historic territory, and the US government will never support such claims. Meanwhile, Abkhazians are poised to miss what could be one of the most exciting periods in the development of the South Caucasus. The opening of energy pipelines from the Caspian will create unprecedented opportunities for growth and development, and the forgoing of the Eurasian Transport Corridor, the New Silk Road. Refugees and internally displaced persons in Georgia, foretells a future in which all Georgians, including Abkhazians, should prosper.

Those of my colleagues who have traveled to Georgia know of the immense beauty of the country, and the kindness and generosity of its people. They know of the Georgians' will in the face of numerous obstacles and barriers. And, increasingly, they understand why and where Georgia's interests intersect with America's.

Put simply, Georgia is a key strategic ally for America in a region in which America has few strategic anchors. America has a strong national interest in encouraging a close and multifaceted relationship with Georgia. Though small, poor and weak, Georgia has the potential to be small, yet rich and strong. It is in our best interest to promote this transition with American and American support.

EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF CONGRESS CONCERNING THE HUMAN RIGHTS AND HUMANITARIAN SITUATION FACING THE WOMEN AND GIRLS OF AFGHANISTAN

(To the text of the concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 97), with its preamble, as agreed to by the Senate on July 29, 1998, is as follows) S. CON. RES. 97

Whereas the legacy of the war in Afghanistan has had a devastating impact on the civilian population, and a particularly negative impact on the rights and security of women and girls;

Whereas the current environment is one in which the rights of women and girls are routinely violated, leading the Department of State in its 1997 Country Report on Human Rights, released January 30, 1998, to conclude that "women's rights are being increasingly restricted by Talibani dress codes, which require women to be covered from head to toe, women are strictly prohibited from working outside the home, and girls are denied the right to an education, women are forbidden from appearing outside the home unless accompanied by a male family member, and beatings and death result from a failure to observe these restrictions;" Whereas the Secretary of State stated, in November 1997 at the Nasir Bagh Refugee Camp in Pakistan, that if a society is to move forward, women and girls must have access to schools and health care, be able to participate in the economy, and be protected from physical exploitation and abuse;

Whereas Afghanistan recognizes international human rights conventions such as the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the Covenant on the Rights of the Child, and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, and the International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights, which espouses respect for basic human rights of all individuals without regard to race, religion, ethnicity, or gender;

Whereas the use of rape as an instrument of war is considered a grave breach of the Geneva Convention and a crime against humanity;

Whereas people who commit grave breaches of the Geneva Convention are to be apprehended and subject to trial;

Whereas there is significant credible evidence that warring parties, factions, and powers in Afghanistan are responsible for numerous human rights violations, including the systematic rape of women and girls;

Whereas in recent years Afghan maternal mortality rates have increased dramatically, and the level of women's health care has declined significantly;

Whereas there has been a marked upswing in human rights violations against women and girls since the Talibani coalition seized Kabul in 1996, including Talibani edicts denying women and girls the right to education, employment, access to adequate health care, and direct access to humanitarian aid; and

Whereas peace and security in Afghanistan are conducive to the full restoration of all human rights and fundamental freedoms, the voluntary repatriation of refugees from their homeland in safety and dignity, the clearance of mine fields, and the reconstruction and rehabilitation of Afghanistan: Now, therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That Congress—

(1) deplores the continued human rights violations by all parties, factions, and powers in Afghanistan;

(2) condemns targeted discrimination against women and girls and expresses deep concern regarding the prohibitions on employment and education;

(3) strongly condemns the use of rape or other forms of systematic gender discrimination by any party, faction, or power in Afghanistan as an instrument of war;

(4) calls on all parties, factions, and powers in Afghanistan to respect international norms and standards of women and girls;

(5) calls on all Afghan parties to bring an end without delay to—
The United States should de-
stand; and
put the right of women to work; and
right of women and girls to an edu-
carded by the United Nations for the purposes of
employment, training, literacy, and voca-
the Senate to submit a report to Congress not later than 6 months after the
date of the adoption of this resolution re-
garding actions that have been taken to im-
plement this resolution.

WORKFORCE INVESTMENT ACT OF

Mr. JEFFORDS. I ask unanimous
consent that the Senate now turn to
the consideration of the conference re-
port to accompany H.R. 1385 to consoli-
date, coordinate, and improve employ-
ment, training, literacy, and voca-
tional rehabilitation programs in the
United States, and for other purposes,
and ask for its immediate consider-
ation.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The re-
port will be stated.

The Legislative clerk read as follows:

The committee on conference on the dis-
agreeing votes of the two Houses on the
amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 1385), have agreed to recommend and do rec-
ommend to their respective Houses this re-
port, signed by a majority of the conferences.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without
objection, the Senate will proceed to
the consideration of the conference re-
port.

The conference report is printed in the
House proceedings of the RECORD of
July 29, 1998.)

Mr. JEFFORDS. I ask unanimous
consent that the conference report be
adopted, the motion to reconsider be
laid upon the table, and other state-
ments relating to this conference re-
port be printed in the RECORD.

Before you proceed, Mr. President, I
believe the Senator from Ohio would
like to make some comments, and I in-
vite him to do that.

Mr. DeWINE. Mr. President, I thank
the Chair. I thank the chairman of the
committee, Senator JEFFORDS, for
yielding to me and thank him also for
the tremendous work he has done on
this bill. He has been working on this
for a number of years. This is the cul-
mination of a great deal of work.

We are about to pass the conference
report. Once the bill is sent on to the
President and signed by the President,
it will represent a major accomplish-
ment. This bill consolidates over 70 federally funded job
training related programs—over 70 of
them consolidated. This bill will make
job training, federally funded job train-
ing, in this country much more ac-
countable. It will also involve the busi-
ness community much more in the de-
velopment and design of job training.

The one thing Chairman JEFFORDS
and I have learned in the years of
hearing on this matter over the years
is that if you want job training to
work, it has to be run locally and it has
to have great input from the local busi-
ness community. This bill will make
sense, and we have faith in it. We
have to remember who the consumers
are. When you are talking about job
training, there are two consumers. One
is the person who wants the job and
wants to be trained for the job. But the
other, equally as important, is the
company or the individual who wants
to hire that person, and so you have to
involve them both in the design of job
training.

That is what this bill does. This bill
does dramatically reforms Job Corps.
Job Corps is a Great Society-era job
training program, residential, that is
run by the Federal Government. It
costs over $1 billion a year. It is tar-
ged at our most at-risk young people
in this country, people who desper-
ately need help, desperately need our
assistance. What this bill does is make
sure that $1 billion will be correctly
spent. And again, we do that by meas-
uring the results.

One of the things that Chairman JEF-
FORDS and I think, and the rest of the
committee, were so shocked about
when we held hearings several years ago
in this—actually former Senator
Kassebaum was chairman—was that
Job Corps did not really measure suc-
cess or failure of the young people. It
didn't measure the success or failure of
a particular job training program.
They looked at it and saw whether or
not a person had a job for 2 weeks. If
they kept a job for 2 weeks after grad-
uation from the program, that didn't
matter what the job was—the program
was considered a success. The contrac-
tor who was in charge of getting that
person a job got paid, and then no one
ever looked back.

What we do with this bill is say we
are going to measure success or failure
after 6 months. We are going to meas-
ure success or failure after 12 months.
And then we are going to be able to tell
which programs work and which do not
work in regard to Job Corps.

Another change we are making in
Job Corps is to involve the local busi-
ness community. Too often Job Corps
has herded young people from 500, 600,
700 miles a way. They go to the Job
Corps. They stay there for awhile, they
complete the program, and then they
go back home, and it is very difficult
to involve the local business commu-
nity when they know that person is not
going to be there to work for them.

And so we change those priorities in re-
gard to Job Corps as well.

We also in this bill make a major
step forward to link the regular job
training programs of this country with