

nuclear, chemical, and biological weapons that remain unsecured in the Russian Federation and elsewhere.”

Second, the resolution urges the Russian Federation to increase access to key weapons facilities and to share more information about its weapons programs. According to General Accounting Office testimony delivered to the House Armed Services Committee on March 5:

Russia will not allow DOD [Department of Defense] and DOE [Department of Energy] the level of access they require to design security improvements [at weapons storage sites], verify their installation, and ensure their proper operation. As a result, agencies have been unable to help protect substantial portions of Russia's nuclear weapons. . . . In addition, many Russian biological sites that store dangerous biological pathogens remain off-limits. (GAO testimony, 3/5/03, GAO-03-526T)

Third, the resolution urges our country to redouble efforts to achieve full implementation of nonproliferation programs, under effective management, and with full use of the funds that Congress may appropriate for nonproliferation activities.

Critics have been active in pointing out that poor management of some nonproliferation projects has resulted in wasted money and lost time. Most recently, some have leveled criticism at two projects that were intended to eliminate Russian rocket fuel. The United States spent \$200 million to build two facilities to eliminate fuel that was left over from destroyed Russian missiles, only to find that the fuel was diverted into the Russian civil space program. As a result, these facilities are left with no rocket fuel to destroy.

It is a very serious issue when such a great amount of money is devoted to an unsuccessful program. There is no excuse for poor planning and management. We should not lose sight of the importance of nonproliferation programs, and to ensure their success we must not ignore such examples of mismanagement. That is why the Byrd-Lugar resolution makes a point about the need for effective management in our nonproliferation programs.

But just as management improvements are needed, the Executive Branch has been slow to implement nonproliferation programs. There has been delay after delay in spending funds that Congress appropriates for these projects.

According to the administration's fiscal year 2004 budget, \$543 million in DOD nonproliferation funds will remain unexpended this year. To put that figure in perspective, the White House has requested \$439 million for these programs in its fiscal year 2004 budget. I support that request, but that money—like the half a billion dollars that remains in our coffers—will do nothing to improve our security unless it is spent by the administration. Whatever funds that Congress appropriates to nonproliferation programs should be used in a timely manner that

recognizes the serious nature of the threat posed by loose nuclear weapons in Russia.

The Byrd-Lugar resolution underscores the important nonproliferation tasks ahead of us by spotlighting problems that need to be addressed by the United States and Russia. Just as this resolution follows up on the Moscow Treaty, there is much more work to do after this resolution. These are matters on which the Armed Services Committee, of which I am a member, and the Foreign Relations Committee, of which Senator LUGAR is chairman, should continue to work together.

One issue that is particularly deserving of increased attention is expansion of non-proliferation programs to countries outside of the former Soviet Union. The supplemental appropriations bill passed by the Senate on April 3, 2003, included temporary authority for the President to spend up to \$50 million in nonproliferation funds outside of the former Soviet Union during this fiscal year. Unfortunately, this provision was not included in the final version of that bill that was signed into law by the President on April 16, 2003.

The Director of the Central Intelligence Agency warned the Armed Services Committee on February 11 of a new nuclear arms race among smaller countries. Let us look beyond the borders of the former Soviet Union to address the heart of the growing menace of nuclear proliferation, and start thinking about how to leverage the success in Russia of the Nunn-Lugar programs into results in other countries.

The Nunn-Lugar programs have greatly reduced the chance that a poorly secured Russian military facility may serve as a one-stop shop for terrorists seeking a nuclear, chemical, or biological weapon. I count myself as a consistent and strong supporter of these programs.

But there is much more work to do. The Moscow Treaty, which requires that thousands of nuclear warheads be removed from deployment, but not necessarily destroyed, renews the need for a cooperative program to keep these weapons out of the hands of terrorists. The Byrd-Lugar resolution sends a message to the White House and to the Kremlin that we need to fix the problems that have surfaced in the nonproliferation programs between our countries and accelerate our work to secure and destroy unneeded and unwanted weapons of mass destruction.

MEASURE INDEFINITELY
POSTPONED—S. CON. RES. 23

Mr. FRIST. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that Calendar No. 34, S. Con. Res. 23, be indefinitely postponed.

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

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO
REPORT LEGISLATIVE AND EXECUTIVE MATTERS

Mr. FRIST. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding the recess or adjournment of the Senate, committees be authorized to report legislative and executive matters on Wednesday, July 2, from 10 a.m. to 12 noon.

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

AUTHORIZING THE CHAIR TO
MAKE APPOINTMENTS

Mr. FRIST. Madam President, notwithstanding the Senate's adjournment or recess for the Fourth of July recess, I ask unanimous consent that the Chair be authorized to make chair appointments.

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

AUTHORIZATION TO SIGN DULY
ENROLLED BILLS OR JOINT RESOLUTIONS

Mr. FRIST. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that during this adjournment of the Senate, the majority leader or the assistant majority leader or Senator ALLEN be authorized to sign duly enrolled bills or joint resolutions.

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

MORNING BUSINESS

A SMALL TOWN WITH A BIG
HEART

Mr. DASCHLE. Madam President, Independence Day marks a time for Americans to celebrate our country's creation through an epic struggle for freedom and liberty. Families come together to commemorate the qualities displayed by the early patriots: a commitment to democratic expression, a yearning to be free from tyranny, and a sober willingness to sacrifice life itself on behalf of these aims.

This Fourth of July, thousands of men and women in our military will be in Iraq, dedicating themselves to the reconstruction of this country that has lived so long in the shackles of Saddam Hussein's reign of terror. Our objective is much the same as in 1776: creating conditions in which the people are protected from oppression and in which free expression and democratic government can flourish. We know this is not an easy task—indeed, our forces continue to suffer casualties but its success or failure will be very important, not only to Iraq, but also to the future of this country and the entire Middle East.

I am so proud of the service members who have stepped forward, making tremendous sacrifices, to fight for the liberty of a foreign people in a foreign land. These men and women have been

unflinching in their resolve and have already accomplished much.

I am particularly proud of the roughly 2,000 South Dakotans who have been involved in the Iraq campaign. Many of them are South Dakota National Guard members, who participated in a mobilization with few precedents in our State's history. It was, by far, the largest mobilization since World War II. At the time the fighting began, units from more than 20 communities had been called up, from Elk Point in the south to Lemmon in the north, from Watertown in the east to Custer in the west. Indeed, our State's mobilization rate ranked among the highest of all the States on a per-capita basis. Also, hundreds of personnel from Ellsworth Air Force Base were deployed overseas at the height of the campaign.

But no community in South Dakota, or perhaps the even country, is more remarkable in its contribution to this effort than the small town of Frederick.

Frederick lies roughly 30 miles from my hometown of Aberdeen. It is a small, close-knit community with a population of fewer than 300 people. But twenty-six of Frederick's sons and daughters answered the call to duty—nearly ten percent of its population! Frederick's military personnel are serving in nearly every branch of the armed forces, including the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, Army National Guard, Air National Guard, and Army Reserve. To put this tremendous display of patriotism in perspective, the boroughs of New York City would need to send roughly 750,000 people to match Frederick's effort.

On July Fourth, Frederick is commemorating the patriotism of its service members with a community parade and celebration that will feature a fly-over by a B-1 bomber out of Ellsworth Air Force Base. They will honor their friends, neighbors and loved ones serving in the U.S. military, and I want to join them by recognizing them here today. They are:

Air Force: A1C Justin Wallace, SSgt. Jason Strand, Senior MSgt LeRoy Fiekens, SSgt. Tara Meyers,

A1C Paul Sumption, and TSgt. Reiff Mikkonen.

Air Force National Guard: SSgt. Brian Achen.

Army: LTC Ronald Claeys, PFC Gary Kurtzhals, and PFC Mikael Schmit.

Army National Guard: SPC Stephen Achen, Sgt. Ryan Henningsen, Sgt. Robert Heider, PFC Jeff Pierce, Cpl. Mike Bunke, Col. Gordon Niva, SSgt. Eric Kinslow, Sgt. Dave Gunther, SPC Ben Deuter and Sgt. Ryan Bakeburg.

Army Reserve: Maj. Susan Lahr and PFC Glenn Gunther.

Navy: PFC Josh Larsen and Petty Officer Randy Jensen.

Marine Corps: Sgt. Eric Thompson and MSgt. Scott McCullough.

Let me also take a moment to recognize another young patriot from Frederick, 10-year-old Peyton Healy. Though she does not know any of the 26

deployed soldiers personally, Peyton took the initiative to develop a way for the people of Frederick to support troops serving abroad, creating the "Project Patriotic Penny Fund." Working with the local American Legion post, she placed donation cans in area businesses to raise money for postage on care packages to the troops. She hoped to raise roughly \$100—enough to pay for one package to every Frederick service member. The people of Frederick placed \$195 in these cans—19,500 pennies. They also donated supplies for the packages, such as crossword puzzles, pens and paper, batteries, hygiene products, and candy.

Most importantly, Peyton helped us see the defining characteristic of the people of Frederick. She helped us see that the people of this tiny town have enormous hearts. I call upon my colleagues and the people of this Nation to join with me in commending the people of Frederick, and in celebrating alongside them on Independence Day the democracy and liberty they so proudly defend and promote.

BURMA

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, on June 11, 1995 my colleagues joined Senator FEINSTEIN and myself in passing the Burma Freedom and Democracy Act. This legislation prohibits the importation of all products from Burma, freezes the assets of Burma's ruling thugs and their political arm, bans travel to the United States for the junta's political and military leadership, and provides assistance for democracy activists inside the country. At this time, our House colleagues are working to pass their version of this legislation and I urge them to do so quickly.

Today we have news reports from Tokyo that the Japanese Foreign Ministry will be suspending new development assistance pending the release of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi. This is a positive first step, but this is not enough.

I urge our Japanese allies to reflect upon the junta's continual efforts to smother democracy in Burma and review their overall engagement policy towards the junta. The junta put the final nail into the coffin of constructive engagement when it signaled its hostility to political dialogue and national reconciliation on May 30 by arresting Suu Kyi and murdering Burmese democrats. It is painfully clear now that the junta's support for engagement was nothing more than a farce used to bankroll its corrupt and vicious rule.

Constructive engagement for Japan and Association of Southeast Asian Nations, ASEAN, has done nothing to improve the political, economic, or social situation in Burma. The ASEAN policy of noninterference will not stand. Burma's military government is a festering sore infecting the region with narcotics, HIV/AIDS, and instability. In fact, without question, Burma is

worse off now than at any point in its history. The path now is clear: isolate the vile thugs who rule this country. We must encourage Burma's neighbors to use their considerable influence to make clear to the military regime that they, too, find the political situation intolerable; it must change.

When the Prime Minister of Thailand visits the United States and his meetings with American officials are dominated by the issue of Burmese atrocities, it displaces Thai national security and economic issues from the discussion. When the Association of South East Asian Nations convened in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, this month and the discussions centered not on fighting HIV/AIDS or improving regional economic development but on the arrest of Suu Kyi and the murder of National League for Democracy political activists, it distracts ASEAN from other important issues.

The regime in Burma is pulling down the region, and it is time that its neighbors owned up to their responsibility in fixing this problem once and for all. This is not a problem that can be pushed under the rug; ASEAN and Burma's neighbors must confront this problem. Until the region confronts the junta and demonstrates backbone in the face of corrupt despotism, they will find the United States a less willing negotiating partner.

Clearly, the transfer of power 1990 elected government will provide peace, stability, and the opportunity for enhanced regional economic growth. It is this goal, not merely the release and continued harassment of Suu Kyi, that should drive the foreign policies of Burma's regional neighbors.

I welcome the statements coming from Japan demanding Aung San Suu Kyi's release from the notorious Insein Prison—a jail Burmese political prisoners call "The Hell of Asia." However, her release from prison alone will solve none of Burma's problems. There is much more that needs to be done here in Congress, and at the White House, by Japan, ASEAN, the European Union, and by Secretary General Kofi Annan and the United Nations Security Council to ensure that the thugs now ruling Burma are one day soon consigned to the ash heap of history.

PRESCRIPTION DRUG AND MEDICARE IMPROVEMENT ACT

Mr. AKAKA. Madam President, I rise today to speak on S. 1, the Prescription Drug and Medicare Improvement Act of 2003.

For far too long Medicare has lacked a prescription drug benefit. The lack of this benefit has been the gaping hole in the Medicare safety net. Prescription drugs are the largest out-of-pocket health care cost for seniors. Many who cannot afford drug coverage often break the drugs in half, skip doses, or do not fill their prescriptions.

The legislation the Senate passed last night will finally establish a benefit. I supported this bill because it is