

Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Ghana.

Ann Louise Wagner, of Missouri, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to Luxembourg.

Terence Patrick McCulley, of Oregon, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Mali.

[NEW REPORTS]

Richard J. Griffin, of Virginia, to be Assistant Secretary of State (Diplomatic Security).

FOREIGN SERVICE

PN120-3 FOREIGN SERVICE nominations (3) beginning Donald B. Clark, and ending Michael T. Fritz, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 24, 2005.

PN387 FOREIGN SERVICE nominations (96) beginning Christine Elder, and ending Samantha Carl Yoder, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 4, 2005.

PN388 FOREIGN SERVICE nominations (101) beginning Todd B. Avery, and ending John P. Yorro, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 4, 2005.

PN389 FOREIGN SERVICE nominations (167) beginning Michael Hutchinson, and ending Marie Zulueta, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 4, 2005.

PN485 FOREIGN SERVICE nominations (122) beginning Charles W. Howell, and ending Hector U. Zuccolotto, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 9, 2005.

NOMINATION OF RODOLPHE "SKIP" VALLEE

Mr. LEAHY. Madam President, I am pleased that the nomination of Rodolphe "Skip" Vallee to be Ambassador to the Slovak Republic has been confirmed so expeditiously. This is an important post, and I am confident that he will serve honorably.

Skip is a native Vermonter whose family has lived in the State for generations, and I know he will take his strong Vermont values with him to Slovakia. While we may not always agree on political matters, I have great respect for Skip's integrity, intelligence, and commitment.

During his hearing before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Skip discussed a number of initiatives he will undertake in this position; from enhancing trade opportunities to promoting democracy. His business experience will be of immense value as the Slovak Republic seeks to build its economy and integrate itself more fully into the global economy.

While I will miss seeing Skip in Vermont, I know I am joined by Vermonters in saying how proud I am to have one of our own representing our country overseas. I would like to congratulate Skip and his family and wish them the best in this new endeavor.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will now return to legislative session.

RECOGNIZING BURMESE DEMOCRACY ACTIVIST AND NOBEL PEACE PRIZE LAUREATE AUNG SAN SUU KYI

Mr. FRIST. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 174, which was submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 174) recognizing Burmese democracy activist and Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Aung San Suu Kyi as a symbol of the struggle for freedom in Burma.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. FRIST. Madam President, I would just like to add a real note of appreciation to an individual, Jackson Cox, who has spent much time focusing on this issue of Burmese democracy.

The resolution sponsored by Senators MCCONNELL and FEINSTEIN is a resolution celebrating the tremendous struggle for freedom in Burma. Jackson Cox is someone for whom I have tremendous respect, who has focused on that initiative. I do want to recognize his tremendous work.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, along with my colleagues from California, Arizona, Tennessee and Indiana, I support this resolution recognizing Burmese democracy activist and Nobel Peace Prize laureate Aung San Suu Kyi as a symbol of the struggle for freedom in Burma.

While many may know of the horrors committed in Burma by the illegitimate State Peace and Development Council, SPDC, and the courage, dignity and determination of Suu Kyi and her compatriots in the face of this repression, some people may be unaware that June 19 marks Suu Kyi's 60th birthday.

I would like nothing more than to pick up the telephone and call her in Rangoon to give her best wishes on her birthday. However, I cannot. Nor can anyone else. Suu Kyi remains under house arrest by the SPDC.

In addition to my colleagues in the Unofficial Burma Caucus in the Senate—Senators FEINSTEIN, MCCAIN, FRIST and LUGAR to name but a few—it is important to recognize the expressions of support for Suu Kyi and democracy in Burma by other stalwarts of freedom, including Georgian President Mikheil Saakashvili, Mongolian Prime Minister Elbegdorj Tskahiagiin, former Czech Republic President Vaclav Havel, former Malaysian Deputy Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim, and a litany of fellow Nobel Peace Prize recipients. I ask that statements by President Saakashvili and Prime Minister Elbegdorj be printed in the RECORD following my remarks.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered. (See exhibit 1.)

Mr. MCCONNELL. Let me close by reiterating the call for the immediate and unconditional release of Suu Kyi

and all prisoners of conscience in Burma. I urge Secretary of State Rice to encourage regional neighbors and allies to redouble their efforts to support freedom in Burma when she attends the 12th Association of Southeast Asian Nations regional forum, and post-ministerial meetings in Laos.

Happy birthday, Suu Kyi. You continue to be in our thoughts and prayers.

EXHIBIT 1

STATEMENT IN SUPPORT OF AUNG SAN SUU KYI AND FREEDOM IN BURMA

I want to extend my warm greetings to those attending this important ceremony and most of all to offer my heartfelt support to Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Aung San Suu Kyi. It is a tragedy that she could not be celebrating her birthday among her family, friends and the Burmese people. Her continued jailing is a powerful symbol of the strength of Burma's democracy movement and the weakness of those trying to block this country's path to freedom.

There are those who try to argue that democracy and individual rights are Western ideals. How wrong they are. In Mongolia, our constitution guarantees the right to life, religious tolerance, the right to own property, the right to a free press and free expression, and for the public to bring grievances before their democratically elected representatives. These are not Western ideals, these are rights that each of us inherit at birth from our Supreme Creator.

Today, Burma is ruled by a military regime that inflicts death, terror and fear on the people in their struggle to maintain power. History as written by the Czechs, Poles, Hungarians, Serbs, Georgians, Ukrainians, Romanians, Indonesians, we Mongolians and many others has proven that freedom in the face of tyranny will triumph. Burma's generals should take this history to heart.

Friends, it is up to each of us living in free societies to reach out and help those living under oppression to find their freedom. I can assure the Burmese people of one thing: No dictatorship, no military regime, no authoritarian government can stand against the collective will of a people determined to be free.

Tonight, as darkness settles across Mongolia, I will light a candle and place it in the front window of my residence as a symbol of hope and support for the Burmese people and Aung San Suu Kyi—Prime Minister Elbegdorj Tskahiagiin.

STATEMENT BY PRESIDENT MIKHEIL SAAKASHVILI IN COMMEMORATION OF AUNG SAN SUU KYI AND DEMOCRACY IN BURMA

On behalf of the Georgian people I want to extend our collective greetings to the Senators, Congressmen, and freedom activists gathered here in support of Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Aung San Suu Kyi. Her continued arrest by Burma's military junta is an outrage, her courage in the face of terror and intimidation serves as an inspiration to those throughout the world who cherish freedom and democracy.

In 1990 the Burmese people voted overwhelmingly in parliamentary elections for Aung San Suu Kyi and her National League for Democracy (NLD) to lead them into a new era based on democratic governance. The junta has refused to recognize the results of this election. Each day they must wage war on the Burmese people, using murder, terror and intimidation, to keep their hold on power. This is a war they are destined to lose.

We in Georgia understand first-hand what it is like to live under tyranny and the sacrifices necessary to gain liberty. Following

the collapse of Soviet rule, Georgians embraced democracy and set about building a new society dedicated to human rights and the rule of law. When our democracy was hijacked by corruption, the Georgian people went to the streets and took it back in what is now known as the Rose Revolution. Today, individual freedoms are guaranteed, religious and ethnic groups celebrated, and we are working out at the peace table differences that once threatened our territorial integrity. I am proud to say that democracy is alive and well in Georgia, but our work is far from finished.

It is up to those who are free to join the fight of the oppressed. I know that the winds of freedom that have blown across Georgia, touched off an Orange Revolution in Ukraine, spawned a Tulip Revolution in Kyrgyzstan, and shook the cedars of Lebanon will someday soon reach Burma. To the millions of Burmese who are imprisoned with Aung San Suu Kyi in their own country, I say this: Doi Yea (Our Cause)! Because your cause is our cause. Wherever freedom-loving people rise up to carry on the legacy of the Rose Revolution, the spirit and support of the Georgian people stand with you.

RECOGNIZING DAW AUNG SAN SUU KYI

Mr. SALAZAR. Madam. President, I rise today to take a moment to recognize a woman on the occasion of her 60 birthday, a woman whose leadership and courage in her home country of Burma inspires the people of that country and the world to continue to fight for democracy and human rights.

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi has devoted her life to fighting for peace in a country whose people live under an oppressive one-party socialist government known as the State Law and Restoration Council, SLORC. This government is responsible for the deaths of thousands of its own people and the unjust imprisonment of untold more. Suu Kyi remains the only detained Nobel Peace Laureate in the world.

Suu Kyi was born in Burma in 1945 to General Aung San, the leader of the Burmese movement for independence from Great Britain. After his group achieved Burmese independence and took control of the government, he was assassinated for his democratic beliefs and practices. Suu Kyi left Burma and moved to India with her mother after she became the Burmese Ambassador to India in 1960. Although Suu Kyi was only 2 when her father was killed, it was his legacy that inspired her to head the National League for Democracy, NLD when she returned to Myanmar after graduating from Oxford University many years later.

Under her leadership, the NLD won the general election in 1990 with a landslide victory. However, the SLORC refused to acknowledge their win and put the elected pro-democracy leaders under house arrest, including Suu Kyi.

Although no longer in prison, Suu Kyi is not allowed to travel freely due to restrictions by the Burmese Government. As a result, she will not leave the country out of fear of being permanently exiled from her homeland. Her commitment to her people is so endur-

ing that she is willing to forsake seeing her children who live abroad ever again.

Suu Kyi has inspired countless other Burmese supporters and the world to focus global attention on this conflict. In my State of Colorado, for example, many people from that country have relocated to Boulder. One such person is former Burmese princess Inge Sargent who founded the Burma Lifeline. This organization funds refugee camps along the Thai border and works in conjunction with other groups such as the Shan Women Action Network. Inge Sargent was awarded the United Nations International Human Rights Award in 2000.

In an effort to lend my voice to the efforts of Senator McCONNELL and Inge Sargent, I am happy have joined with 42 other Senators as a cosponsor of a joint resolution approving the renewal of import restrictions contained in the Burmese Freedom and Democracy Act of 2003.

It is because of brave women like Suu Kyi and the hundreds of people from Burma who have made Colorado their home that Burma has a bright future. Yet the struggle is far from over; these brave leaders will not be free until Suu Kyi's call for democracy is answered.

Mr. FRIST. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 174) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 174

Whereas June 19, 2005 marks the 60th birthday of Burmese democracy activist and Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Aung San Suu Kyi;

Whereas Burma is misruled by the State Peace and Development Council, an illegitimate, repressive military junta led by General Than Shwe;

Whereas although the main opposition party in Burma, the National League for Democracy, won a landslide victory in national elections in 1990, the State Peace and Development Council has refused to honor the results of that election and peacefully transfer power in Burma;

Whereas the State Peace and Development Council as a matter of policy carries out a campaign of violence and intimidation against the people of Burma and ethnic minorities that includes the use of rape, torture, and terror;

Whereas hundreds of democracy activists, including Aung San Suu Kyi who is the leader of the National League for Democracy, remain imprisoned by the repressive State Peace and Development Council; and

Whereas the United States and other democratic countries recognize and applaud the dedication and commitment to freedom demonstrated by Aung San Suu Kyi and the people of Burma: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes Burmese democracy activist and Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Aung San Suu Kyi as a symbol of the spirit and dedication of the people of Burma who are courageously and nonviolently struggling for freedom, human rights, and justice;

(2) calls for the immediate and unconditional release of Aung San Suu Kyi and all other prisoners of conscience who are held by the State Peace and Development Council, the illegitimate, repressive military junta in power in Burma; and

(3) strongly urges Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice to initiate a discussion of the repressive practices of the State Peace and Development Council during the 12th Association of Southeast Asian Nations regional forum and post-ministerial meeting scheduled to take place in Vientiane, Laos on July 29, 2005.

COMMENDING UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN'S SOFTBALL TEAM

Mr. FRIST. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 175 submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 175) commending the University of Michigan's softball team for winning the National Collegiate Athletic Association Division I Championship on June 8, 2005.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. LEVIN. Madam President, it is with great pride that I congratulate the University of Michigan Softball Team on winning the 2005 National Championship. The Wolverines completed an impressive season by defeating the two-time defending champion University of California-Los Angeles Bruins two games to one in thrilling fashion capped by a three run home run in the tenth inning of the final game of the 2005 College World Series. This victory marks the first time a team east of the Mississippi River has won this title and cements the University of Michigan program as a true national powerhouse in college softball. The Wolverines played with superb skill and dogged determination throughout the season and in the World Series to clinch their first championship, the second National Championship ever for a women's athletic program at the University of Michigan.

The top ranked Wolverines entered Wednesday night's game hungry for the final win that would secure their first National Championship trophy. The Wolverines and Bruins split the first two games of the best of three series and were locked in a fierce battle in the third and final game to determine the ultimate victor. The Wolverines and Bruins ended regulation with the score tied at one run each. The tenth inning would prove pivotal as Samantha Findlay seized this opportunity and hit a three run homer to provide the boost necessary to secure this extra innings win. This grand display of athleticism, coupled with her play throughout the postseason, helped earn Findlay the Women's College World Series Most Valuable Player Award.

That victory provided the perfect ending to a remarkable season for the