

Three of these suspects have been detained by the Palestinian Authority. One of those imprisoned, Imjad Hinawi, confessed in a Palestinian court to the murder of David Boim. The confession was witnessed by a U.S. embassy official present at the trial. If there is a good reason why the Administration has not indicted Mr. Hinawi, it is the time for a clear explanation.

Another suspect, Ibrahim Ghanimat, linked to the shooting deaths of Yaron Unger and his wife Efrat, spends his nights in prison but is free to come and go during the day. Adnan al-Ghul, Yusuf Samiri, and Mohammad Dief, three other suspects involved in the killings of Americans, are all at large. Nafez Sabi'h was implicated in a bombing that killed three Americans, but was believed to be serving in the Palestinian police force until several months ago.

In recent years, other suspects implicated in the murder of American citizens have served in the Palestinian police force. In July 1998, the Israeli Government released a report stating that four terrorist suspects involved in the February 1996 Jerusalem bus bombing, in which three American citizens were killed, were serving in Palestinian security forces.

A climate conducive to terrorism is the most serious threat to a lasting peace settlement in the Middle East. When Abul Abbas, the hijacker of the Achille Lauro, lives freely in Gaza and is a close associate of Yasser Arafat; when the Palestinian Authority's official media arm, the Palestinian Broadcasting Corporation, airs programming which teaches Palestinian children to hate Israelis; when terrorist suspects are given positions in the Palestinian security forces—genuine peace is undermined and U.S. interests endangered in the Middle East.

It is time for the United States to get serious about defending its own. President Clinton promised that no quarter would be given to terrorists who killed 12 Americans in the Africa embassy bombings in August 1998. But I fear this administration has not been pursuing aggressively terrorist suspects implicated in the murder of a similar number of Americans in Israel.

Recent testimony by top administration officials does not indicate that our resolve to prosecute these cases is strengthening. Martin Indyk, Assistant Secretary of State for the Near East, was called to testify before the Senate Appropriations Committee last March on terrorism against U.S. citizens, but his written testimony did not even discuss these cases or what the State Department is doing to resolve them.

George Washington once said that if we desire to avoid insult, we must be able to repel it. A credible defense deters aggression and war, and a similar principle is at work in meeting the threat of terrorism today. If terrorists

know they will suffer for attacking Americans, they will be less likely to engage in such violence. President Reagan's response to Libyan terrorism quieted that government for over a decade.

While we cannot prevent violence against every American abroad, we can ensure that terrorists who attack U.S. citizens are pursued relentlessly. I call on the administration to wage a more aggressive campaign against terrorists who have killed Americans, and this report will give Congress the ability to review the administration's efforts more effectively. I thank Senator HELMS and Senator BIDEN for their assistance with this amendment.

#### EXPLANATION OF ABSENCE

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, on Thursday, June 17, 1999 and Friday June 18, 1999, I was not present during Senate action on rollcall vote No. 174, a motion to table Senator MCCAIN's amendment No. 685; rollcall vote No. 175, a motion to table Senator MURKOWSKI's amendment No. 686; and rollcall vote No. 176, H.R. 1664, the Emergency Steel, and Oil and Gas Loan Guarantee Act. Yesterday, I was not present during Senate action on rollcall vote No. 177, Senator SARBANE's amendment to S. 886, the State Department reauthorization bill. During these times, I was in Connecticut attending to matters related to my marriage on June 18, 1999, to Jackie M. Clegg.

Had I been present for these votes, I would have voted aye in each case.

#### THE VERY BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, at the close of business yesterday, Monday, June 21, 1999, the federal debt stood at \$5,589,358,011,973.65 (Five trillion, five hundred eighty-nine billion, three hundred fifty-eight million, eleven thousand, nine hundred seventy-three dollars and sixty-five cents).

Five years ago, June 21, 1994, the federal debt stood at \$4,594,505,000,000 (Four trillion, five hundred ninety-four billion, five hundred five million).

Ten years ago, June 21, 1989, the federal debt stood at \$2,782,728,000,000 (Two trillion, seven hundred eighty-two billion, seven hundred twenty-eight million).

Fifteen years ago, June 21, 1984, the federal debt stood at \$1,510,017,000,000 (One trillion, five hundred ten billion, seventeen million).

Twenty-five years ago, June 21, 1974, the federal debt stood at \$470,147,000,000 (Four hundred seventy billion, one hundred forty-seven million) which reflects a debt increase of more than \$5 trillion—\$5,119,211,011,973.65 (Five trillion, one hundred nineteen billion, two hundred eleven million, eleven thousand, nine hundred seventy-three dollars and sixty-five cents) during the past 25 years.

#### MEASURE PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bill was read the second time and placed on the calendar:

S. 1256. A bill entitled "Patients Bill of Rights."

#### 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-3852. A communication from the Director, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Final Rule to Delist the Plant 'Echinocerus lloydii' (Lloyd's Hedgehog Cactus)", received June 18, 1999; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-3853. A communication from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Office of Policy, Planning and Evaluation, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Revised Format for Materials Being Incorporated by Reference for Missouri" (FRL #6364-3), received June 18, 1999; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-3854. A communication from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Office of Policy, Planning and Evaluation, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Technical and Procedural Amendments to TSCA Regulations-Disposal of Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs)" (FRL #6072-4), received June 18, 1999; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-3855. A communication from the Director, Defense Procurement, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Contract Actions for Leased Equipment" (DFARS Case 99-D012), received June 16, 1999; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-3856. A communication from the Assistant Attorney General, Office of Justice Programs, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Timing of Police Corps Reimbursements of Educational Expenses" (RIN1121-AA50) (OJP-1205), received June 18, 1999; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-3857. A communication from the Acting Executive Director, Commodity Futures Trading Commission, transmitting pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Performance of Certain Functions by National Futures Association With Respect to Those Foreign Firms Acting in the Capacity of a Futures Commission Merchant," received June 16, 1999; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-3858. A communication from the Acting Executive Director, Commodity Futures Trading Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fees for Applications for Contract Market Designations", received June 16, 1999; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-3859. A communication from the Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Program to Assess Organic Certifying