

The Cooperative Threat Reduction program also assists the Russians in meeting obligations assumed under the Chemical Weapons Convention we ratified in the Senate two years ago. Under this program, the United States has assisted Russia in planning the construction of a chemical weapons destruction facility needed to destroy the large volume of aging chemical munitions in their inventory. Funds are essential to keep this program moving forward in order to ensure that we can reduce the threat of proliferation of chemical weapons and their use against our security interests. I am aware that some in the Congress believe that Russia has not shouldered its responsibilities under this and other CTR programs, but I prefer to consider such matters from our own selfish security point of view. To the extent that we are able to purchase or finance reductions to Russian military capabilities that directly threaten us, those are funds well spent. When Russians are able and agree to provide funding or support in kind for CTR programs, so much the better.

I would like to point out an additional benefit to the Nunn-Lugar programs that is not often recognized or understood. I am certain that the Members of this body can recall the perceptions shared by many Americans concerning the government and people of the Soviet Union during the Cold War. I need not remind us of the unbridgeable gap that existed between our governments, our political systems, and our cultures. In the wake of the Cold War, however, many of those gaps have been bridged and important bonds have been forged between our two countries and citizens. Thousands of American and Russian technical and support personnel have built a foundation of trust and understanding through their cooperative efforts under the CTR program. I firmly believe that those bonds will pay dividends and serve the long-term interests of peaceful relations between our two countries—particularly if we in the United States continue to hold the course in supporting CTR and other cooperative programs such as the Initiative for Proliferation Prevention, the Nuclear Cities Initiative, and the Russian American Cooperative Satellite program. Key Russian personnel in implementing those programs have come to know Americans with whom they frequently meet and vice versa. I have spoken personally with many Russians and Americans who are directly involved in these programs all of whom share the same conviction that cooperation is the key to a peaceful future.

These are very uncertain times. We are at a crucial juncture in our relations with Russia that could determine the direction of the global political climate for many years to come. No one is certain what the future of Russia

will bring once President Yeltsin leaves office. Everyone is aware that a deep reservoir of distrust and fear exists among Russian citizens, officials, and military personnel concerning the United States and NATO. We have done much in the past couple of years to feed those fears and anxieties, thereby generating hostility that could threaten to reawaken Cold War tensions. On the other hand, we have established critical relationships that could weigh against such a reprise through programs such as CTR. The impending post-Yeltsin debate within Russia regarding its future direction must include the voice of cooperation rather than confrontation as the way to peace and stability. The Cooperative Threat Reduction program has built a constituency in Russia to articulate that voice. I salute its sponsors, Senators Nunn and LUGAR for their visionary contribution, and celebrate its extension into the next millennium. I strongly encourage my colleagues to continue to support CTR and related programs through the ebbs and flows of U.S.-Russian relations. The prospects for long term global peace and stability will be the better for it.

SENATE INACTION ON THE COMPREHENSIVE NUCLEAR TEST BAN TREATY

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, it is the responsibility of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee to consider treaties submitted by the President as soon as possible after their submission. Normally, most treaties are considered within a year of being submitted. The President of the United States transmitted the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty to the Senate on September 23, 1997.

The Senate Foreign Relations Committee has not held a single hearing on this important Treaty in the 639 days since the President sent the CTBT to the Senate for its consideration. In comparison, the START I Treaty was ratified in 11 months, the SALT I Treaty in 3 months, the Conventional Armed Forces in Europe Treaty in 4 months, and the Limited Nuclear Test Ban Treaty in 3 weeks.

As of today, 152 countries have signed the CTBT, including Russia and China, and 37 countries have ratified the Treaty. The world is waiting for the United States to lead on this issue. I hope my colleagues will urge for this Treaty's rapid consideration.

THE VERY BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, at the close of business yesterday, Tuesday, June 22, 1999, the Federal debt stood at \$5,593,512,029,751.90 (Five trillion, five hundred ninety-three billion, five hundred twelve million, twenty-nine thousand, seven hundred fifty-one dollars and ninety cents).

One year ago, June 22, 1998, the Federal debt stood at \$5,496,660,000,000 (Five trillion, four hundred ninety-six billion, six hundred sixty million).

Five years ago, June 22, 1994, the Federal debt stood at \$4,597,075,000,000 (Four trillion, five hundred ninety-seven billion, seventy-five million).

Ten years ago, June 22, 1989, the Federal debt stood at \$2,781,401,000,000 (Two trillion, seven hundred eighty-one billion, four hundred one million) which reflects a debt increase of more than \$2 trillion—\$2,812,111,029,751.90 (Two trillion, eight hundred twelve billion, one hundred eleven million, twenty-nine thousand, seven hundred fifty-one dollars and ninety cents) during the past 10 years.

1997 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT—PM 39

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; which was referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

To the Congress of the United States:

As required by section 307(c) of the Energy Reorganization Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 5877(c)), I transmit herewith the Annual Report of the United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission, which covers activities that occurred in fiscal year 1997.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON.
THE WHITE HOUSE, June 23, 1999.

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 11:51 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by 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. 659. An act to authorize appropriations for the protection of Paoli and Brandywine Battlefields in Pennsylvania, to direct the National Park Service to conduct a special resource study of Paoli and Brandywine Battlefields, to authorize the Valley Forge Museum of the American Revolution at Valley Forge National Historic Park, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1175. An act to locate and secure the return of Zachary Baumel, a United States citizen, and other Israeli soldiers missing in action.

H.R. 1501. An act to amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to provide grants to ensure increased accountability for juvenile offenders; to amend the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 1974 to provide quality prevention programs and accountability relating to juvenile delinquency; and for other purposes.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bills were read the first and second times by unanimous consent and referred as indicated: