

Sargsian, and other leaders of the Armenian Parliament, and pledges continued alliance between our two countries. Our thoughts are with the families, friends and loved ones of those affected by this tragedy, and we send our hope that those who perpetrated this horrible act will be brought to justice.

Mr. President, I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 64—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF CONGRESS CONCERNING CONTINUED USE OF THE UNITED STATES NAVY TRAINING RANGE ON THE ISLAND OF VIEQUES IN THE COMMONWEALTH OF PUERTO RICO

Mr. INHOFE (for himself, Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. HUTCHINSON, and Mr. KYL) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services:

S. CON. RES. 64

Whereas the success or failure of the Nation's Armed Forces when sent into combat and the risk of loss of life, both to United States military personnel and to civilians, are a direct function of the degree of training received by members of the Armed Forces before combat;

Whereas from World War II through the most recent crisis in Kosovo the Nation's military has been able to meet the call to arms due to training such as that afforded at the United States Navy training range on the island of Vieques in the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico;

Whereas in April 1999, following an accident at that training range that resulted in the death of a Navy civilian employee, training activities at that range were suspended by direction of the Secretary of the Navy pending a safety review;

Whereas officials of the Department of Defense have testified before congressional committees that the Vieques training range is the only range along the Atlantic seaboard that allows critical combined arms live fire training that includes the coordinated use of naval surface fire support training, Navy/Marine amphibious combined arms training, Carrier Battle Group strike training and high altitude tactics, and subsurface training;

Whereas officials of the Department of Defense have testified before congressional committees that the safe conduct of operations on the island of Vieques has been and will remain the primary concern of the Department of the Navy and that the recent death of the civilian Navy employee on the range was the first civilian death on the range since its purchase in 1941;

Whereas the John F. Kennedy carrier battle group, which was unable to continue training at Vieques after the April accident, deployed in September 1999 in degraded readiness condition and the Dwight D. Eisenhower carrier battle group, which is scheduled to deploy in the spring of 2000, will be forced to deploy in a significantly degraded readiness condition if not allowed to conduct training activities at the Vieques training range before departing on that deployment;

Whereas the suspension of training activities at the Vieques training range has re-

sulted in a loss of critical combat training that is essential to the Nation's Navy and Marine forces; and

Whereas, given that recently deploying Navy and Marine Corps battle groups have been sent directly into combat operations in Kosovo and Iraq, thereby placing service personnel immediately in harm's way, it would be unthinkable to knowingly deploy members of the Armed Forces in the future without this essential training, since to do so would place American lives, including the lives of members of the Armed Forces from Puerto Rico, at high risk: Now, therefore, be it

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

(1) calls upon the Secretary of the Navy and the Attorney General of the United States to promptly ensure that the Federal property located at the Vieques training range in the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico is safe and secure and, once the range is safe and secure, for the Secretary of the Navy to resume critical live fire training at that range;

(2) calls upon the President, as Commander-in-Chief, to ensure that United States forces deploy with 100 percent of the combat qualifications needed to meet national security requirements;

(3) strongly urges the Department of Defense and the Government of Puerto Rico to reestablish a mutually supportive relationship, to resolve the issues between the Department of the Navy and the people of Puerto Rico, and to implement a program that addresses the economic and social needs and safety concerns of the residents of Vieques and the citizens of Puerto Rico; and

(4) recognizes the significant contribution by the residents of Vieques and the citizens of Puerto Rico to the Nation's defense.

SENATE RESOLUTION 209—EXPRESSING CONCERN OVER INTERFERENCE WITH FREEDOM OF THE PRESS AND THE INDEPENDENCE OF JUDICIAL AND ELECTORAL INSTITUTIONS IN PERU

Mr. HELMS (for himself, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. COVERDELL, Mr. DODD, Mr. DEWINE, and Mr. JEFFORDS) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 209

Whereas the independence of Peru's legislative and judicial branches has been brought into question by the May 29, 1997, dismissal of 3 Constitutional Tribunal magistrates;

Whereas Peru's National Council of Magistrates and the National Election Board have been manipulated by President Alberto Fujimori and his allies so he can seek a third term in office;

Whereas the Department of State's Country Report on Human Rights Practices for 1998, dated February 26, 1999, concludes, with respect to Peru, that "government intelligence agents allegedly orchestrated a campaign of spurious attacks by the tabloid press against a handful of publishers and investigative journalists in the strongly pro-opposition daily La Republica and the other print outlets and electronic media";

Whereas the Department of State's Country Report on Human Rights Practices for 1997, dated January 30, 1998, states that Channel 2 television station reporters in

Peru "revealed torture by Army Intelligence Service Officers" and "the systematic wire-tapping of journalists, government officials, and opposition politicians";

Whereas on July 13, 1997, Peruvian immigration authorities revoked the Peruvian citizenship of Baruch Ivcher, the Israeli-born owner of the Channel 2 television station; and

Whereas Baruch Ivcher subsequently lost control of Channel 2 under an interpretation of a law that provides that a foreigner may not own a media organization, causing the Department of State's Report on Human Rights Practices for 1998 to report that "threats and harassment continued against Baruch Ivcher and some of his former journalists and administrative staff...In September Ivcher and several of his staff involved in his other nonmedia businesses were charged with customs fraud. The Courts sentenced Ivcher in absentia to 12 years' imprisonment and his secretary to 3 years in prison. Other persons from his former television station, who resigned in protest in 1997 when the station was taken away, also have had various charges leveled against them and complain of telephone threats and surveillance by persons in unmarked cars": Now, therefore, be it

Resolved,

SECTION 1. SENSE OF THE SENATE ON ANTI-DEMOCRATIC MEASURES BY THE GOVERNMENT OF PERU.

It is the sense of the Senate that—

(1) the erosion of the independence of judicial and electoral branches of the Government of Peru and the blatant intimidation of journalists in Peru are matters of serious concern to the United States;

(2) efforts by any person or political movement in Peru to undermine that country's constitutional order for personal or political gain are inconsistent with the standard of representative democracy in the Western Hemisphere;

(3) the Government of the United States supports the effort of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights to report on the pattern of threats to democracy, freedom of the press, and judicial independence by the Government of Peru; and

(4) systematic abuse of the rule of law and threats to democracy in Peru could undermine the confidence of foreign investors in, as well as the credit worthiness of, Peru.

SEC. 2. TRANSMITTAL OF RESOLUTION.

The Secretary of the Senate shall transmit a copy of this resolution to the Secretary of State with the request that the Secretary further transmit such copy to the Secretary General of the Organization of the American States, the President of the Inter-American Development Bank, and the President of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development.

SENATE RESOLUTION 210—RECOGNIZING AND HONORING THE NEW YORK YANKEES

Mr. SCHUMER (for himself, Mr. MOYNIHAN, and Mr. LIEBERMAN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 210

Whereas the New York Yankees are 1 of the greatest sports franchises ever;

Whereas the New York Yankees are the winningest sports franchise in professional sports history;

Whereas the New York Yankees have won 25 World Series, the most by any major league franchise;

Whereas the New York Yankees have played 86 seasons in the city of New York;

Whereas the New York Yankees became a baseball icon in the 1950's by winning 5 World Series in a row;

Whereas the New York Yankees' dominance was ignited in 1920 by the appearance of the indomitable Babe Ruth in pinstripes;

Whereas the New York Yankees have retired 11 numbers for 12 baseball legends;

Whereas the New York Yankees have had a player win the American League batting title 9 times;

Whereas the New York Yankees are represented in the Baseball Hall of Fame by 16 players who were inducted wearing the distinctive New York Yankee cap;

Whereas the New York Yankees have fielded teams such as the 1927 "Murderers' Row"; and

Whereas the New York Yankees have finished the 20th century meeting the standards they set throughout it: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved,

SECTION 1. CONGRATULATION AND COMMENDATION.

The Senate recognizes and honors the New York Yankees—

(1) for their storied history;

(2) for their many contributions to the national pastime; and

(3) for continuing to carry the standards of character, commitment, and achievement for baseball and for the State of New York.

SEC. 2. TRANSMITTAL OF RESOLUTION.

The Senate directs the Secretary of the Senate to transmit an enrolled copy of this resolution to the New York Yankees owner, George Steinbrenner, and to the New York Yankees manager, Joe Torre.

SENATE RESOLUTION 211—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE REGARDING THE FEBRUARY 2000 DEPLOYMENT OF THE U.S.S. EISENHOWER BATTLE GROUP AND THE 24TH MARINE EXPEDITIONARY UNIT TO AN AREA OF POTENTIAL HOSTILITIES AND THE ESSENTIAL REQUIREMENTS THAT THE BATTLE GROUP AND EXPEDITIONARY UNIT HAVE RECEIVED THE ESSENTIAL TRAINING NEEDED TO CERTIFY THE WARFIGHTING PROFICIENCY OF THE FORCES COMPRISING THE BATTLE GROUP AND EXPEDITIONARY UNIT

Mr. WARNER submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services:

S. RES. 211

Whereas the President, as Commander-in-Chief of all of the Armed Forces of the United States, makes the final decision to order a deployment of those forces into harm's way;

Whereas the President, in making that decision, relies upon the recommendations of the civilian and military leaders tasked by law with the responsibility of training those forces, including the Commander of the Second Fleet of the Navy and the Commander of the Marine Forces in the Atlantic;

Whereas the Atlantic Fleet Weapons Training Facility has been since World War II, and continues to be, an essential part of the training infrastructure that is necessary to

ensure that maritime forces deploying from the east coast of the United States are prepared and ready to execute their assigned missions;

Whereas according to the testimony of the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the Chief of Naval Operations, and the Commandant of the Marine Corps, the Island of Vieques is a vital part of the Atlantic Fleet Weapons Training Facility and makes an essential contribution to the national security of the United States by providing integrated live-fire combined arms training opportunities to Navy and Marine Corps forces deploying from the east coast of the United States;

Whereas according to testimony before the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate and the report of the Special Panel on Military Operations on Vieques, a suitable alternative to Vieques cannot now be identified;

Whereas during the course of its hearings on September 22 and October 19, 1999, the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate acknowledged and expressed its sympathy for the tragic death and injuries that resulted from the training accident that occurred at Vieques in April 1999;

Whereas the Navy has failed to take those actions necessary to develop sound relations with the people of Puerto Rico;

Whereas the Navy should implement fully the terms of the 1983 Memorandum of Understanding between the Navy and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico regarding Vieques and work to increase its efforts to improve the economic conditions for and the safety of the people on Vieques;

Whereas in February 2000, the U.S.S. Eisenhower Battle Group and the 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit are scheduled to deploy to the Mediterranean Sea and the Persian Gulf where the battle group and expeditionary unit will face the possibility of combat, as experienced by predecessor deploying units, during operations over Iraq and during other unexpected contingencies;

Whereas in a September 22, 1999, letter to the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate, the President stated that the rigorous, realistic training undergone by military forces "is essential for success in combat and for protecting our national security";

Whereas in that letter the President also stated that he would not permit Navy or Marine Corps forces to deploy "unless they are at a satisfactory level of combat readiness";

Whereas Richard Danzig, the Secretary of the Navy, recently testified before the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate that "only by providing this preparation can we fairly ask our service members to put their lives at risk";

Whereas according to the testimony of the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the Chief of Naval Operations, and the Commandant of the Marine Corps, Vieques provides integrated live-fire training "critical to our readiness", and the failure to provide for adequate live-fire training for our naval forces before deployment will place those forces at unacceptably high risk during deployment;

Whereas Admiral Johnson, the Chief of Naval Operations, and General Jones, the Commandant of the Marine Corps, recently testified before the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate that without the ability to train on Vieques, the U.S.S. Eisenhower Battle Group and the 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit scheduled for deployment in February 2000 would not be ready for such deployment "without greatly increasing the risk to those men and women who we ask to go in harm's way";

Whereas Vice Admiral Murphy, Commander of the Sixth Fleet of the Navy, recently testified before the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate that the loss of training on Vieques would "cost American lives"; and

Whereas the Navy is currently prevented as a consequence of unrestrained civil disobedience from using the training facilities on Vieques which are required to accomplish the training necessary to achieve a satisfactory level of combat readiness: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the Senate that the President should not deploy the U.S.S. Eisenhower Battle Group or the 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit until—

(1) the President, in consultation with the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary of the Navy, the Chief of Naval Operations, and the Commandant of the Marine Corps, reviews the certifications regarding the readiness of the battle group and the expeditionary unit made by the Commander of the Second Fleet of the Navy and the Commander of the Marine Forces in the Atlantic, as the case may be; and

(2) the President determines and so notifies Congress that the battle group and the expeditionary unit are free of serious deficiencies in major warfare areas.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD, a letter from the President of the United States to this Senator.

There being no objection, the letter was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

THE WHITE HOUSE,

Washington, September 22, 1999.

Hon. JOHN WARNER,
Chairman, Committee on Armed Services, U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you for your letter on the United States Navy's training facilities on Vieques.

I share your concern for the combat readiness of deploying Navy and Marine Corps forces. Military readiness is one of my top defense priorities. I have ordered our forces into action several times, most recently in Kosovo, and every time have seen that the rigorous, realistic training they undergo is essential for success in combat and for protecting our national security. As Commander in Chief I will not permit Navy or Marine Corps units to deploy unless they are at a satisfactory level of combat readiness.

I believe that we can meet Navy and Marine Corps combat readiness requirements will ensuring the safety and well being of the people of Vieques. The U.S. Armed Forces work hard to ensure that their training activities throughout the United States, and abroad as well, do not adversely impact the safety and livelihood of nearby civilian residents. The Defense Department is also required by law to be conscientious guardians of the environment. I am sure you would agree that these requirements apply no less on Vieques than in any other location where our forces train.

As you know, Secretary Bill Cohen established a special panel to conduct an independent review of our training operations at Vieques. I understand that Bill recently was briefed by the panel members and that he is considering next steps in the process. At the conclusion of the panel's efforts, I expect to receive a recommendation from Bill on the future of Navy training facilities on Vieques. In reaching a decision, I will review carefully