

far from perfect, but it forces a country to explain actions that other members believe violate the global rules. And, when a violation is found, it puts pressure on that country to comply with the rules. In addition, there is a little known feature of the WTO called the Trade Policy Review Mechanism, the TPRM. Every few years, a country's entire trade system is reviewed by all other members. Again, this type of scrutiny of China is virtually unprecedented.

Third, the agreement will help strengthen the economic reformers in China, especially Premier Zhu Rongji who has clearly been in a weakened position this year. Economic reform, moving to a market economy, transparency—that is, opening up, less secrecy—direct foreign investment, listing of companies on overseas markets—progress in all these areas is of vital importance to the United States as they relate to stability in China, as they relate to accountability, and as they relate to a growing middle class.

Fourth, Taiwan, the 12th-largest economy in the world, has almost completed its WTO accession process. Yet it is a political reality internationally that Taiwan cannot join the WTO before China. So, with China's admission to the WTO, Taiwan will follow very quickly. All of us should welcome that.

The Congress has been concerned about many aspects of the U.S.-China relationship: espionage allegations, nuclear proliferation, human rights, and Taiwan. These are all serious issues, and we must confront each one head on.

But, I, and I believe most Members of Congress, are able to look at each issue on its own merits. When Congress examines closely the arrangement for Chinese accession to the WTO, I am confident that Members will conclude that extending permanent normal trade relations status to China is now in the best interest of the United States.

I don't want to sound pollyannaish about this. Once China is a member of the WTO and the United States has granted permanent NTR status, the real work of implementation begins. We have learned over the years that implementation of trade agreements takes as much effort, or even more effort, than the negotiations themselves. The administration will have to provide us with a plan about implementation. We in the Congress will have to devote additional resources and energy to ensuring full Chinese implementation.

Earlier this year, I introduced a bill to establish a Congressional Trade Office to provide the Congress with additional resources to do exactly that. I hope my colleagues will look at that proposal and give it their support. In addition, I will be introducing some measures to help ensure that the ad-

ministration—this one as well as future administrations—never deviates from the task of full implementation of agreements with China.

In conclusion, this is a good agreement. It serves American interests.

We have a lot of work ahead of us to help implement it and to follow up next year to make sure it is implemented. It deserves our support.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, what is the situation? Are we still in morning business or is this a matter of some dispute?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business has expired, but the Senator is certainly free to proceed.

Mr. LEAHY. Once morning business has expired, do we go back on the bankruptcy bill?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. That is the understanding, yes.

EXTENSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. MACK. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the period for morning business be extended until 2 p.m. under the same terms as previously ordered.

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

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak for 10 minutes.

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

THE WORLD FOOD PROGRAM

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, last week there was a terrible tragedy affecting the United Nations' World Food Program. This occurred when one of their planes crashed in Kosovo on an errand of mercy.

Since its inception in 1963, the World Food Program has been the United Nations' front line for fighting hunger throughout the world. It is the world's largest food aid organization.

Last year, the World Food Program assisted 75 million people in 80 countries around the world. This summer I observed their operations in Kosovo. In fact, at one point I was invited to fly on the same plane that crashed, to go and see what they were doing.

The World Food Program's mission is to eradicate hunger. I think that in the last seven years it has moved closer and closer to accomplishing this goal under the leadership of Executive Director Catherine Bertini. I was very proud to support Catherine when she was appointed to be executive director in 1992, during the administration of President Bush. She became the first woman to head the World Food Program. I have been a strong supporter for her ever since. She has done a great

job as executive director, and I am glad that she continues to lead the World Food Program today.

For many, the World Food Program is known for its emergency response efforts. It was one of the first organizations to move into the Balkan region when the conflict in Kosovo began.

As I mentioned earlier, during the August recess I visited the World Food Program and met with Catherine Bertini and talked to her about how their efforts were going. I believe they are doing a great job. Areas which had previously been empty fields have been transformed into makeshift cities where thousands of people seeking safety, food and shelter have found relief, thanks to the efforts of the World Food Program, Catholic Relief Services and other international organizations.

But emergency relief efforts such as this reflect only a portion of the World Food Program's responsibilities. The World Food Program's Food for Work programs feed millions of chronically hungry people worldwide. They contribute more grants to developing countries than any other United Nations agency. That is why so many people around the world felt the same degree of sadness that I and others in the Senate did when we learned of the plane crash on Friday in which a World Food Program plane, en route from Rome to Pristina, crashed into a mountain ridge just miles from their destination, killing all 24 people aboard the plane.

The passengers aboard this plane were an international group of aid workers. They were all headed to Kosovo to become part of the humanitarian mission there. In a war-torn area, these were 24 people going to bring solace, aid, and help to people who have seen so little of it over the years. They were people who were motivated by the greatest sense of charity and giving to their fellow human beings. They worked for U.N. agencies, nongovernmental organizations, and government agencies, all united by a sense of humanitarianism.

The loss of these individuals is going to be felt throughout the world. They were people who demonstrated over and over again that their fellow human beings were the most important things in their lives. Their deaths are a major loss to their families, as well as the organizations, including the World Food Program, for which they worked.

I send my sincere condolences to the families of those killed in this tragic crash, and I hope the world will understand they have lost 24 of their finest people.

(The remarks of Mr. LEAHY pertaining to the introduction of S. 1924 are printed in today's RECORD under "Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.")