

SENATE—Wednesday, May 26, 1999

The Senate met at 9:32 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore [Mr. THURMOND].

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Lloyd John Ogilvie, offered the following prayer:

Our loving, heavenly Father, as we approach the Memorial Day recess, we pause gratefully to remember those who gave their lives for our Nation. "Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends."—John 15:13. Help us never to forget their sacrifice in defense of our Nation and democracy. May we be a nation worthy of their dedication to the cause of freedom which cost them their lives.

Along with the heroes of the past we also remember our loved ones and friends who have graduated to heaven. Thank You for overcoming our fear of death with the sure conviction that this life is but a small part of the whole of eternity and death is a transition and not an ending. Help us to know You and love You in this life so that worry over death will be past. Thank You for the gift of eternal hope. Through our Lord and Savior. Amen.

RECOGNITION OF THE ACTING MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The able acting majority leader is recognized.

ORDER FOR MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. ALLARD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that there be a period of morning business until 10:15 this morning with Senators to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SCHEDULE

Mr. ALLARD. This morning, at 10:15, the Senate will resume consideration of the Department of Defense authorization bill and begin debate on amendments to the bill. Senator BROWNBACK is expected to offer an amendment regarding Pakistan, which will be followed by an amendment by Senator KERREY of Nebraska regarding strategic nuclear development systems. Under a previous consent, at 11:45 the Senate will resume consideration of the BRAC amendment. At least one vote will occur in relation to the BRAC amendment at 1:45 p.m. Therefore, Senators can expect the first vote for

today to occur at approximately 1:45 p.m. Senators who have amendments to S. 1059 should contact the bill managers so action on this bill can be completed prior to the scheduled Memorial Day recess.

MEASURE PLACED ON CALENDAR

Mr. ALLARD. I understand there is a joint resolution at the desk due for its second reading.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will read the measure for the second time.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A joint resolution (S.J. Res. 26) expressing the sense of the Congress with respect to the court-martial conviction of the late Rear Admiral Charles Butler McVay III, and calling upon the President to award a Presidential Unit Citation to the final crew of the U.S.S. *Indianapolis*.

Mr. ALLARD. I object to further proceedings on this matter at this time.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The measure will be placed on the calendar.

Mr. ALLARD. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BROWNBACK. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. ALLARD). Without objection, it is so ordered.

MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There will now be a period of morning business until 10:15. The Senator from Kansas is recognized.

LIFTING OF ECONOMIC SANCTIONS ON INDIA AND PAKISTAN

Mr. BROWNBACK. Mr. President, today we had this time reserved to discuss an amendment that I was planning to offer dealing with the lifting of economic sanctions on India and Pakistan. I did so in the belief, actually in the hope, that the bilateral relationship between India and Pakistan had improved in the wake of the Lahore summit. The summit seemed to imply that. Unfortunately, I was wrong.

According to Indian news agencies Indian helicopter gun ships, backed by MiG-17 fighter aircraft from India's air force bombed the troubled state of Kashmir, marking the most serious escalation of tensions on the Indo-Paki-

stani border in the last several years. As a result, I have reconsidered the wisdom of offering my amendment on India and Pakistan at this time.

It is important that I note here today that I strongly believe in the long term importance of easing economic sanctions on both of these nations. I also believe that the United States ignores at its peril these two vital countries. That reality is highlighted all the more by yesterday's release of the Cox report on China which, if nothing else, has clearly shown that China is a serious threat in South Asia—not to speak of a threat to our fundamental values around the world—and that we need to broaden our relationship with India in the South Asian subcontinent.

I hope to revisit this issue in the near future. Let me emphasize that I will not feel comfortable doing so until there is a serious de-escalation of tension on the subcontinent.

I just wanted to point this out and to enter into the RECORD an Associated Press story about India launching airstrikes into Kashmir against infiltrators. I think we have a lot to learn yet about what specifically took place. Those details are sketchy and not coming in at the present time.

I ask unanimous consent that this article be printed in the RECORD.

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

INDIA LAUNCHES AIR STRIKES IN KASHMIR
AGAINST INFILTRATORS
(By Arthur Max)

DRAS, INDIA (AP).—Indian air force jets and helicopters fired on suspected guerrillas in the disputed Kashmir province today, marking the most serious escalation of fighting in the region since India and Pakistan tested nuclear weapons last year. Pakistan charged that Indian aircraft bombed its territory in the raids today and an army spokesman said the country is ready for "all eventualities."

"We think it is a very grave escalation and Pakistan armed forces reserves the right to respond," said Brigadier Rashid Quereshi, a military spokesman told The Associated Press. India said the attacks occurred solely on its own territory and that they were aimed at what it called Afghan mercenaries supported by Pakistani forces. The forces had moved into the Indian-controlled Himalayan region earlier this month and posed a threat to Indian supply lines in the Himalayan state, Indian officials said.

"This is the start of operations and they will continue until our defense forces recapture our territories. Any escalation of this conflict will be entirely the responsibility of Pakistan," the Defense Ministry said in a statement in New Delhi.

Pakistani Foreign Minister Sartaj Aziz said that Pakistan knew nothing about the infiltrators. "No one knows where they come from and who they are," he said.

Quereshi said the army rejected Indian claims. He said the Pakistan army suspects India wants to occupy Pakistan territory in that area.

India and Pakistan have fought two of their three wars over Kashmir, which is divided between them by a U.N.-monitored cease-fire line. More than 15,000 people have been killed in fighting between rebels and security forces in Indian-held Kashmir in the last 10 years.

Pakistan and India, which were partitioned when they gained independence from Britain in 1947, tested nuclear weapons in May 1998, prompting fears of a nuclear arms race in the subcontinent. Both countries claim all of Kashmir. India accuses Pakistan of sending militants across the border.

A Pakistani army spokesman said the Indian allegations that elite troops were aiding militants was "complete rubbish."

Indian Maj. Gen Joginder Jaswant Singh told reporters in New Delhi that the infiltrators have taken up positions four miles inside India in the Dras, Batalik, Kaksar and Mashkok mountains of northern Kashmir.

Intelligence reports, backed by photos taken by Indian satellites, showed at least 600 infiltrators, Singh said. The reports also said they have anti-aircraft missiles, radar, snowmobiles and sophisticated communications equipment.

The air force joined the operation because the infiltrators had occupied positions at altitudes of up to 16,000 feet, said Air Commodore Subash Bhojwani, director of offensive operations.

In Dras, 100 miles from the state capital of Srinagar, Indian army officers said the target of today's attack was some 70 infiltrators who had entrenched themselves on the slopes of the snowcapped hills, looking down at Indian army convoys, 2,700 feet below.

Their command of the heights handicapped Indian soldiers trying to evict them, officers told The Associated Press.

Army officers in the area said the infiltrators must have taken months to occupy the posts. They said Indian forces could take three to six months to clear them.

The attacks were carried out within Indian-occupied regions, Indian Brig. Mohan Bhandari said. Troops were expected to take over the intruders' positions once they retreat, officials said.

The exchange of mortar and heavy artillery fire in the Kargil and Dras regions has left at least 160 people dead, Bhandari said. Thousands of residents of the region have fled to safe villages along the Suru River.

The attack came a day after Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee said all steps including airstrikes would be taken to push back the infiltrators. Vajpayee said he warned his Pakistani counterpart, Nawaz Sharif, to withdraw the intruders in a telephone conversation Monday.

Mr. BROWNBACK. Mr. President, I want to simply note again that we held a hearing yesterday on what is taking place in India and on military and political issues. The United States needs to broaden its relationship with India. We have a broad-based relationship with China which has been strained and stressed. China is an authoritarian country. India is a democracy. There are a number of places that we are sanctioning India where we don't sanction China at all. Yet these are comparable-sized countries. One has a democratic tradition, the other an au-

thoritarian. There are a number of problems in China that we aren't experiencing with India.

We need to broaden this relationship with India and with Pakistan. It is just that at the present time, given what has just taken place in the escalating of tension in this subcontinent by Indian military forces, I don't feel comfortable offering this amendment.

I look forward to working in good faith with all of my colleagues to address the United States-South Asian relationship. I note to Members of the Senate that we will be holding hearings in the Foreign Relations Committee to look further into what we need to do in building this stronger relationship.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Hawaii.

Mr. AKAKA. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that I have 10 minutes in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered. The Senator may proceed.

HUMAN TRAFFICKING FOR FORCED LABOR IN AN AMERICAN COMMONWEALTH

Mr. AKAKA. Mr. President, I rise today to call your attention to a scandal in an American commonwealth. It is a scandal that involves forced labor and sex trade workers. It's not a pretty picture. It is a picture of a tropical paradise destroyed by greed and corruption.

In the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, foreign workers have been imported in mass to assemble goods for export to the United States. Taking advantage of loopholes in our immigration and labor laws, foreign businessmen use the Mariana Islands as a base to export garments to the United States. These foreign businessmen pay no export taxes, and their goods are not subject to textile quotas. Their workers are paid below minimum wage levels, if paid at all, and often live in deplorable conditions.

Women from Asia and Russia are imported with the promise of high paying jobs in the United States only to find themselves marooned with no means of escape, forced to work as prostitutes in the booming Mariana sex trade.

This long-running scandal has been exposed once again by the Global Survival Network. This American-based nongovernmental organization which uncovers human rights violations sent an undercover team to the CNMI to gather evidence on the continued use of forced labor in the commonwealth. They have just issued their report which was the subject of an ABC News segment on "20/20." If you did not see the television broadcast, please read the report which I am sending to every Senator.

Entitled "Trapped: Human Trafficking for Forced Labor in The Com-

monwealth of The Northern Mariana Islands (a U.S. Territory)," the report demonstrates in disturbing detail the continued trafficking of humans for indentured labor in factories and sex trade emporiums in the Marianas. Implicating organized crime groups from the People's Republic of China, South Asia, and Japan, the report estimates that there are about 40,000 indentured workers in the CNMI, earning about \$160 million in profits for criminal syndicates.

Indentured workers are being used to manufacture ostensibly as "Made in the USA" garments for export to the United States. None of these goods are required to be shipped to the U.S. on U.S.-flag ships in accordance with the Jones Act. This duty-free, quota-free zone in which foreign workers produce high value goods at below minimum wage is an entirely legal scheme for Chinese and other foreign manufacturers to bypass American textile quotas.

The report also graphically details the increasing use of CNMI's loose immigration standards to make this former tropical paradise a major center for the booming Asian sex trade. Women from Asia and Russia are being lured to the Northern Marianas with promises of work opportunities in the United States only to find themselves imprisoned on islands from which there is no escape unless they agree to their employer's demands that they become prostitutes and sex hostesses. This sick trade in prostitution must be stopped.

Loopholes in the Immigration and Nationality Act and the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 need to be plugged as soon as possible. I hope you will join me in ending this deplorable situation in which men and women are being used virtually as slaves on an American commonwealth.

Their report makes many important recommendations. Let me call your attention to four key issues which the Congress could and should act upon this year:

Extend the Immigration and Nationality Act to the CNMI;

Extend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to the CNMI;

Revoke the CNMI's ability to use the "Made in the USA label" unless more than 75 percent of the labor that goes into the manufacture of the garment comes from U.S. citizens and/or aliens lawfully admitted to the U.S. for permanent residence, and other appropriately legal individuals; and

Revoke the CNMI's ability to transport textile goods to the United States free of duties and quotas unless the garments meet the above criteria.

This week's report prepared by the Global Survival Network is not the first analysis raising concerns about conditions in the CNMI. In recent years, a chorus of criticism has surfaced about the Commonwealth.

For example, the Immigration and Naturalization Service reports that the