

1999, and Panama assumed full control of the Panama Canal and all former U.S. military installations.

A 1977 protocol to the Treaties provides that the United States and Panama may agree to a U.S. presence in Panama after 1999. For three years, U.S. and Panamanian negotiators sought to reach just such an agreement. On September 24, 1998, however, it was announced that these negotiations had failed and that the U.S. military would withdraw from Panama as scheduled.

This was a regrettable turn of events for both of our countries. The United States and Panama both benefited in many ways from the U.S. presence in Panama. For the United States, that presence provided a forward platform from which to combat narcotrafficking and interdict the flow of drugs, which threatens all countries in this hemisphere. These benefits to the United States cannot be duplicated at the so-called "forward operating locations" that the Administration is seeking to set up in several countries in Latin America and the Caribbean.

For Panama, the U.S. presence added an estimated \$300 million per year to the local economy, fostered economic growth by contributing to a stable investment climate, and helped deter narcoterrorism from spilling over into Panama.

In retrospect, the Clinton Administration acted precipitously in 1995 when it rejected Panama's offer to negotiate an extension of our traditional presence in exchange for a package of benefits to be mutually agreed upon. In the wake of that decision, the effort to establish a Multinational Counternarcotics Center failed to gain broad support across Panama's political spectrum.

My legislation returns to, and builds upon, the concept proposed by Panama in 1995 of permitting a U.S. presence in Panama beyond 1999 in exchange for a package of benefits. The legislation also accepts the idea first proposed by Panama of permitting counternarcotics operations from Panama to take under multinational auspices.

The legislation includes four specific provisions of benefit to Panama.

First, and most importantly, the bill offers to bring Panama into the first rank of U.S. trade partners by giving Panama the same preferential access to the U.S. market that Canada and Mexico currently enjoy. The economic value of this benefit for Panama is difficult to quantify today, but over time it should lead to significantly increased investment and employment there, which would directly benefit all Panamanians.

Second, it offers a scholarship program for deserving Panamanian students to study in the United States.

Third, it offers assistance in preparing for the construction of a new bridge across the Panama Canal.

Fourth, it offers assistance in preparing for the construction of a new sewage treatment plant for Panama City.

Taken together, these specific provisions give substance to the larger promise of this legislation, which is to renew and reinvigorate the special relationship between our two peoples as we enter the 21st century, provided the people of Panama decide they want to remain our partner.

Under Article I, section 7 of the U.S. Constitution, this bill can only originate in the House of Representatives. The list of original cosponsors of the version of this bill that I introduced in 1998, H.R. 4858, makes clear that, if brought to a vote on the House floor, this legislation would pass the House of Representatives. I am confident that the Senate would join the House in approving this measure, provided that the people of Panama indicate that they too wish to strengthen relations between our two countries along the lines proposed in the bill.

It is my sincere hope that Panama will accept this invitation to reinvigorate the special relationship between our two peoples. I recognize, however, that the right to make this choice rests with the people of Panama, and naturally our nation will respect their decision.

SUMMARY OF UNITED STATES-PANAMA
PARTNERSHIP ACT OF 2000

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 16, 2000

Offers trade and other benefits to Panama if the President certifies to Congress that the United States and Panama have reached an agreement permitting the United States to maintain a presence at four installations in Panama (Howard Air Force Base, Fort Kobbe, Rodman Naval Station, and Fort Sherman), alone or in conjunction with other friendly countries, sufficient to carry out necessary counternarcotics, search and rescue, logistical, training, and related missions for a period of not less than 15 years.

The benefits that would be made available to Panama include:

1. NAFTA-equivalent treatment under U.S. trade laws for exports from Panama.

2. Assistance from the U.S. Trade and Development Agency for design, planning, and training in connection with construction of a new bridge across the Panama Canal.

3. Assistance from the U.S. Trade and Development Agency for design, planning, and training in connection with construction of a new sewage treatment plant for Panama City.

4. \$2 million per year in scholarships for deserving students from Panama to study in the United States.

The NAFTA-equivalent treatment for exports from Panama would be made available unilaterally by the United States during a three-year transition period. Prior to the conclusion of the transition period, the United States and Panama would negotiate and enter into an agreement providing either for Panama's accession to NAFTA, or for the establishment of a bilateral free trade arrangement comparable to NAFTA. Free trade benefits under this agreement would be guaranteed for a period at least as long as the period during which the U.S. is permitted to maintain a military presence in Panama.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate on February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules committee—of the time, place, and purpose

of the meetings, when scheduled, and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, February 17, 2000 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

FEBRUARY 22

9:30 a.m.

Appropriations

Legislative Branch Subcommittee

To hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2001 for the Capitol Police Board, Library of Congress, Government Printing Office, Congressional Research Service, and the Joint Committee on Taxation.

SD-116

10 a.m.

Foreign Relations

Near Eastern and South Asian Affairs Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine the international trafficking in women and children.

SD-419

United States Senate Caucus on International Narcotics Control

Finance

International Trade Subcommittee

To hold joint hearings to examine U.S. assistance options for the Andes.

SD-215

2 p.m.

Intelligence

To hold closed hearings on pending intelligence matters.

SH-219

Foreign Relations

East Asian and Pacific Affairs Subcommittee

To hold hearings on East Asia in 2000, focusing on problems and prospects in the year of the dragon.

SD-419

Judiciary

To hold hearings on pending judicial nominations.

SD-226

2:30 p.m.

Energy and Natural Resources

Forests and Public Land Management Subcommittee

To hold oversight hearings on the Administration's effort to review approximately 40 million acres of national forest lands for increased protection.

SD-366

FEBRUARY 23

9:30 a.m.

Indian Affairs

To hold oversight hearings on the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2001 for Indian programs.

SR-485

- 10 a.m.
Commerce, Science, and Transportation
Surface Transportation and Merchant Marine Subcommittee
To hold oversight hearings on activities of the National Railroad Passenger Corporation (AMTRAK).
SR-253
- Energy and Natural Resources
Business meeting to consider pending calendar business.
SD-366
- Judiciary
To hold hearings on the proposed Unborn Victims of Violence Act.
SD-226
- 10:30 a.m.
Environment and Public Works
To hold hearings on proposed legislation authorizing funds for fiscal year 2001 for the Environmental Protection Agency.
SD-406
- 2 p.m.
Intelligence
To hold closed hearings on pending intelligence matters.
SH-219
- 2:30 p.m.
Energy and Natural Resources
Forests and Public Land Management Subcommittee
To hold oversight hearings on the White River National Forest Plan.
SD-366
- FEBRUARY 24
- 9 a.m.
Small Business
To hold hearings on the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2001 for the Small Business Administration.
SR-428A
- 9:30 a.m.
Energy and Natural Resources
To hold hearings on the nomination of Thomas A. Fry, III, of Texas, to be Director of the Bureau of Land Management, Department of the Interior.
SD-366
- Governmental Affairs
Investigations Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine the day trading industry and its practices.
SD-342
- 10 a.m.
Environment and Public Works
Transportation and Infrastructure Subcommittee
To hold hearings on proposed legislation authorizing funds for fiscal year 2001 for the Army Corps of Engineers.
SD-406
- Appropriations
Commerce, Justice, State, and the Judiciary Subcommittee
To hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2001 for the Department of Commerce.
SD-138
- 2 p.m.
Intelligence
To hold closed hearings on pending intelligence matters.
SH-219
- 2:30 p.m.
Energy and Natural Resources
Forests and Public Land Management Subcommittee
To hold hearings on S. 1722, to amend the Mineral Leasing Act to increase the maximum acreage of Federal leases for sodium that may be held by an entity
- in any 1 State; H.R. 3063, to amend the Mineral Leasing Act to increase the maximum acreage of Federal leases for sodium that may be held by an entity in any one State; and S. 1950, to amend the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920 to ensure the orderly development of coal, coalbed methane, natural gas, and oil in the Powder River Basin, Wyoming and Montana.
SD-366
- FEBRUARY 25
- 9:30 a.m.
Governmental Affairs
Investigations Subcommittee
To continue hearings to examine the day trading industry and its practices.
SD-342
- FEBRUARY 29
- 9:30 a.m.
Energy and Natural Resources
National Parks, Historic Preservation, and Recreation Subcommittee
To hold hearings on the President's proposed budget estimate for fiscal year 2001 for the operation of the National Park Service system.
SD-366
- 10 a.m.
Appropriations
Commerce, Justice, State, and the Judiciary Subcommittee
To hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2001 for the Department of Justice.
SD-192
- 2:30 p.m.
Indian Affairs
Business meeting to consider pending committee business.
SR-485
- Energy and Natural Resources
To hold oversight hearings to examine the President's proposed budget for fy2001, focusing on the U.S. Forest Service.
SD-366
- MARCH 1
- 9:30 a.m.
Indian Affairs
To hold oversight hearings on the National Association of Public Administrators' Report on Bureau of Indian Affairs Management Reform.
SR-485
- Energy and Natural Resources
To hold oversight hearings to examine the President's proposed budget for fy2001, focusing on the Department of the Interior.
SD-366
- MARCH 7
- 9:30 a.m.
Veterans' Affairs
To hold joint hearings with the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs on the legislative recommendations of the Retired Enlisted Association, Gold Star Wives of America, Military Order of the Purple Heart, Air Force Sergeants Association, and the Fleet Reserve Association.
345 Cannon Building
- Appropriations
Legislative Branch Subcommittee
To hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2001 for the Secretary of the Senate, and the Sergeant at Arms.
SD-124
- 10 a.m.
Appropriations
Commerce, Justice, State, and the Judiciary Subcommittee
To hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2001 for the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Drug Enforcement Administration, and Immigration and Naturalization Service, all of the Department of Justice.
SD-192
- MARCH 15
- 10 a.m.
Veterans' Affairs
To hold joint hearings with the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs on the legislative recommendation of the Veterans of Foreign Wars.
345 Cannon Building
- MARCH 21
- 10 a.m.
Appropriations
Commerce, Justice, State, and the Judiciary Subcommittee
To hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2001 for the Federal Communications Commission and the Securities and Exchange Commission.
S-146, Capitol
- MARCH 22
- 10 a.m.
Veterans' Affairs
To hold joint hearings with the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs on the legislative recommendation of the

February 16, 2000

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EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

MARCH 29

9:30 a.m.

Indian Affairs

Business meeting to consider pending calendar business; to be followed by hearings on S. 1967, to make technical corrections to the status of certain land held in trust for the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians, to take certain land into trust for that Band.

SR-485

APRIL 5

9:30 a.m.

Indian Affairs

To hold hearings on S. 612, to provide for periodic Indian needs assessments, to require Federal Indian program evaluations.

SR-485

SEPTEMBER 26

9:30 a.m.

Veterans' Affairs

To hold joint hearings with the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs on the

legislative recommendation of the American Legion.

345 Cannon Building

POSTPONEMENTS

MARCH 15

9:30 a.m.

Indian Affairs

Business meeting to consider pending calendar business; to be followed by hearings on the proposed Indian Health Care Improvement Act.

SR-485

APRIL 19

9:30 a.m.

Indian Affairs

Business meeting to consider pending calendar business; to be followed by hearings on S. 611, to provide for administrative procedures to extend Federal recognition to certain Indian groups.

SR-485

Vietnam Veterans of America, the Retired Officers Association, American Ex-Prisoners of War, AMVETS, and the National Association of State Directors of Veterans Affairs.

345 Cannon Building

MARCH 23

10 a.m.

Appropriations

Commerce, Justice, State, and the Judiciary Subcommittee

To hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2001 for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration of the Department of Commerce, and the Securities and Exchange Commission.

S-146, Capitol

Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

To hold oversight hearings on the Monetary Policy Report to Congress pursuant to the Full Employment and Balanced Growth Act of 1978.

SH-216