

assistance for children who are struggling to perform. Implementing a policy to end social promotion before ensuring appropriate school accountability and the opportunity for all students to learn in well equipped schools with high quality teachers is fundamentally unfair and must be stopped.

In closing, I would again like to thank my esteemed colleague from Connecticut. Because of his leadership and insight, this bill promises to bring about great change in public education. It is a bold step in the right direction. A step I am happy to join him in making.●

RECOGNITION OF PALADIN DATA SYSTEMS' SUPPORT OF THE WESTSOUND CONSORTIUM

● Mr. GORTON. Mr. President, when I travel across Washington state, one of the first topics I hear about from local businesses and high-tech companies is their need for people with high-tech skills. A Poulsbo company, Paladin Data, has taken their efforts to find skilled employees to a new level by donating is time and resources to train teachers in some of Washington state's public schools. For its commitment to working with teachers, improving student learning and expanding their skills, I am pleased to present Paladin Data with one of my 'Innovation in Education' Awards.

Several years ago, seven school districts in Kitsap, Mason, and Pierce Counties developed the West Sound School-to-Career Consortium which provides approximately 14,000 students with high-tech classes. This year Paladin Data will begin its first year of a three-year project that provides high-tech training to teachers involved with the West Sound School-to-Career program. Paladin data is also contributing \$50,000 in matching funds to a state grant of \$100,000 to provide needed curriculum materials and onsite teacher training in either a Paladin facility in Poulsbo or at a designated school district site. Moreover, each school district will determine what training their teachers will receive based on the needs of their district and their students.

Paladin is giving our teachers more information and skills that they can take back to their classrooms and shows teachers what skills employers are looking for in perspective employees, giving their students a leg up on the competition. Paladin's involvement is not only improving the education of our students, but also giving them an accurate picture of what skills they need well-before they enter the job market.

The Washington Software Alliance reports that over 64,000 computer-related jobs are currently unfilled in the State of Washington—all for lack of

properly trained workers. I find it encouraging to see companies like Paladin Data, that are contributing to our booming economy, are taking an active role in ensuring the quality education of our children. I am proud to acknowledge Paladin Data System Systems Corporation's commitment to education and I look forward to hearing about more companies making a contribution to our children's future.●

THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY'S UNDERGROUND NUCLEAR WEAPONS TESTING ORIENTATION PROGRAM CELEBRATES ANNIVERSARY

● Mr. BRYAN. Mr. President, as Vice Chairman of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence, it is my great pleasure to congratulate the men and women of the U.S. Department of Energy, Nevada Operations Office, the National Laboratories, and affiliated contractors who celebrate the 20th anniversary of the Underground Nuclear Weapons Testing Orientation Program this year. This proliferation training course based at the Nevada Test Site has trained over 500 U.S. Government policy makers and analysts from the arms control, intelligence, and defense communities since its inception in 1980.

This course provides briefings by subject matter experts from DOE and the Labs, to include an overview of how the U.S. historically conducted atmospheric tests and effects tests, the basis for diagnostic experiments, the challenges of stockpile stewardship, and the process for executing subcritical experiments. Through lectures, discussion, and orientation visits to underground facilities, control rooms, former ground zeros, equipment yards, and nuclear test artifacts, the course provides hands-on experience that goes to the core of nuclear weapons testing. The course also provides essential information suitable to contrast with foreign nuclear weapons testing programs.

The efforts of the DOE staff in Nevada are to be commended. It is their dedication in the planning and execution of this course that will train the next generation of intelligence analysts, collectors, managers, consumers and policy officials with responsibility for nuclear programs, proliferation, arms control, and related disciplines. It is my hope that they will continue this essential training course for many years to come.●

FILING OF ARTICLE 84 WITH ICAO

● Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, I am pleased that the State Department has filed an Article 84 petition with the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO). This will provide the basis for the United States to demonstrate that the European Union's (EU)

hushkit regulation is not in accordance with international noise standards set by ICAO and is essentially targeting U.S. aerospace. Already this unfair regulation has hurt U.S. aerospace companies and workers because of the uncertainty it has introduced into the marketplace. Accordingly, it is imperative that the Administration pursue this Article 84 forcefully to show that we will not stand for discriminatory rules that hurt U.S. interests. If we do not make this point clearly, strongly, and now, we will have done nothing to prevent future efforts by the EU to act without regard to international standards and in ways designed to harm the United States' longstanding primacy in aerospace.

Filing an Article 84 is the beginning of what may be a long process. The mere fact that it may take a period of time should not serve as an inducement to the Administration to seek to shortcut the ICAO process by entering into a negotiated settlement that does not fully protect our aerospace industry and workforce. Further, we must make clear that the principle of adhering to international standards is essential in an industry as global as aviation. If we fail to demonstrate the seriousness with which we take this matter, we will inevitably have done nothing more than encourage the EU to try such incursions in the future.

I can assure you that I and many others will be working to see that the right message is delivered on this critical matter.●

44TH ANNIVERSARY OF TUNISIA'S INDEPENDENCE

● Mr. INOUE. Mr. President, I rise today in recognition of Tunisia, an old and devout friend and ally to the United States. March 20, 2000 marked Tunisia's 44th anniversary of Independence.

In 1797, Tunisia and the newly independent United States signed a "treaty of Amity, Commerce and Navigation." The pact provided for "perpetual and constant peace" between the parties. For more than 200 years, our two nations have enjoyed such a relationship. During World War II, Tunisia suppressed nationalistic sentiment to join the ranks of the Allied Forces and then supported western democratic ideals during the Cold War proving the U.S. could count on Tunisia. If all our foreign relationships were as faithfully observed as this one, our foreign relations would be more serene.

In the face of the ever-present strife that surrounds Tunisia, with its location between Algeria and Libya, the country has managed to maintain internal stability. With its steadily increasing economic growth, Tunisia has built a stable middle class society. This growth has allowed Tunisia to become a strategic partner in the growing African market.