

the government of the Russian Federation and enjoyed the privilege of attending President Vladimir Putin's inauguration ceremonies.

As Slobodan Milosevic's military Chief of Staff during the Kosovo war, General Ojdanic was directly responsible for the Serbian military's ethnic cleansing campaign in Kosovo. For this, the General was indicted by the ICTY for crimes against humanity and violations of the laws and customs of war for alleged atrocities against Albanians in Kosovo.

Mr. President, the ICTY has issued international warrants for General Ojdanic's arrest and extradition to The Hague. The Russian Federation, a permanent member of the United Nations Security Council which established the ICTY, has an obligation to arrest General Ojdanic and extradite him to The Hague if and when they have the opportunity.

But what did President Putin and his regime do when Ojdanic was in Moscow? Instead of arresting and sending him to The Hague, they provided a week of fine food and camaraderie and a privileged seat at the Putin inauguration!

What truly disturbs me, Mr. President, is that General Ojdanic's visit was not just for fun. He was there to work—to reestablish the links between the Milosevic regime and the Kremlin. While in Moscow, he held official talks with Defense Minister Sergeyev, Army Chief of Staff Anatoly Kvashnin, and Foreign Minister Ivanov.

On May 16, four days after General Ojdanic's visit to Moscow, Russia announced that it has provided the Serbian regime of Slobodan Milosevic with \$102 million of a \$150 million loan. The Russian government also announced that it will facilitate the sale to Serbia of \$32 million worth of oil, despite the fact that the international community has imposed economic sanctions against the Milosevic regime.

I confess that I am impressed by the audacity of Russian President Putin. Here he is, providing the Milosevic regime with over \$150 million in economic support while seeking debt relief from the international community and loans from the International Monetary Fund. He is doing this while his country seeks and receives food aid from the United States.

What should we conclude from all this?

First, President Putin seems comfortable ignoring the requirement to arrest and transfer indicted war criminals to The Hague. I suppose we can just add this to the long list of international obligations Mr. Putin sees fit to disregard.

Second, Russia does not share NATO's goals and objectives in bringing peace and stability to the Balkans. If it did, its leaders would not be so brazenly and warmly supporting senior officials of the Milosevic regime.

Third, the Kremlin must regard Western, and particularly, U.S. economic assistance and aid to be unconditional. He has evidently concluded that he can conduct his foreign policy with impunity and still count on the West's economic largesse. The fact that the hospitality and support provided to these Serbian war criminals occurs just one month before President Clinton's visit to Moscow shows how little respect Putin has for the policies of the United States.

Mr. President, what concerns me most about the relationship between the Kremlin and the Milosevic regime is the threat it poses to our men and women in uniform serving in the Balkans—and those of our allies. The political support the Kremlin provides Slobodan Milosevic directly jeopardizes the safety and security of American and allied forces deployed in the Balkans. This outreach by Putin to the Milosevic regime only encourages that brutal dictator to continue his policies of destruction in the Balkans.

While we are trying to force the Milosevic regime to step down and to turn power over to Serbia's democratic opposition, Russia is signaling to Milosevic that he can survive and even outlast the Alliance—and that Russia will help him prevail.

It is for these reasons, that I plan to introduce an amendment to the foreign operations appropriations bill that will restrict material and economic assistance the United States provides to the Russian Federation. There is no reason why the United States should be providing Russia loan forgiveness and economic assistance when the Kremlin continues to support a regime in Serbia whose forces directly threaten our troops and those of our allies trying to bring peace to the Balkans.

This amendment does four things:

First, it reduces assistance obligated to the Russian Federation by an amount equal in value to the loans, financial assistance, and energy sales the Government of the Russian Federation has provided and intends to provide to the Milosevic regime.

Second, it ensures U.S. opposition to the extension of financial assistance to Russia from the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank and other international financial institutions.

Third, it suspends existing programs to Russia provided by the Export-Import Bank and the Overseas Private Investment Corporation.

Fourth, it ensures the United States will oppose proposals to provide Russia further forgiveness, restructuring, and rescheduling of its international debt.

Mr. President, I sincerely believe that a partnership with Russia is possible and indeed, would serve the interests of both countries. A strategy of engagement, however, cannot and must not ignore reality. Partnership cannot occur when Russia blatantly supports a

regime that continues to threaten stability in the Balkans, whose calling cards are ethnic cleansing and political repression, and that continues to threaten U.S. soldiers in the field.

I will be pleased to treat Russia as a responsible partner when it behaves as one.●

BIRTHDAY OF KATHERINE "KITTY" WILKA

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, "Mother's Day"—that special day when children the world over celebrate and honor their mothers—falls during the month of May. Appropriately, the month of May is also the month when one of the most selfless and dedicated mothers I know celebrates her birthday. Today, I would like to share the story of that remarkable woman from my home State of South Dakota.

I have known and admired Katherine "Kitty" Wilka for more than two decades. Today, as she celebrates her 70th birthday, she will be surrounded by numerous family members and friends. Kitty Wilka is the mother of 12, the grandmother of 29 and, as of last week, the great-grandmother of 3. But it is not just the size of the Wilka family that is noteworthy. It is also the quality of their character and the diversity of their accomplishments.

Kitty Wilka and her late husband, Bill, led by example and instilled admirable values in all their children. Widowed for over a decade, Kitty is the heart and soul of her extended family. She is a role model for her children and grandchildren. Her life example epitomizes both the love of family and commitment to community.

Kitty has raised public servants, community and church leaders and business owners. After working for 18 years at McKennan Hospital in Sioux Falls, she continues to contribute to her community, volunteering at St. Lambert's Catholic Church and its school.

I must confess that I have personally benefitted from the Wilka family's belief in public service. Kitty's son, Jeff, has volunteered in my Sioux Falls office since my first election to the U.S. House of Representatives in 1978.

Born with cerebral palsy, Jeff grew up with a positive attitude and a determination to be involved in his community. He has been a loyal, dedicated and valued member of my Sioux Falls staff for over two decades. In fact, Jeff has become a fixture of sorts, having the second longest running tenure on my staff.

With the help of his loving mother and close-knit family, Jeff has overcome many obstacles in his life, including physical ailments that required surgery and therapy, and a dependency on alcohol. He has been sober for 11 years and is an ardent worker on behalf of many civic causes, including the

Children's Care Hospital and School, the March of Dimes and Easter Seals. He also has a deeply held faith in our electoral process, working in the political trenches for many years for a variety of local, State and Federal candidates in whose philosophy he believes.

I am proud of what Jeff has accomplished and the significant challenges he has overcome. I think he would be the first to tell you that his successes have been based upon the solid Midwestern values that Kitty and Bill Wilka instilled in him and his siblings. They taught their children to work hard, to never give up and to do their part to improve the communities in which they live. It is clear that Jeff has taken those lessons to heart.

Kitty Wilka has much to be proud of in her life. And I know that her loving family is extremely proud of her. I want to join her 12 children, 29 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren in wishing Kitty the very best on her birthday. She deserves it.

Happy 70th birthday, Kitty!

THE VERY BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, at the close of business yesterday, Wednesday, May 24, 2000, the Federal debt stood at \$5,676,761,996,112.82 (Five trillion, six hundred seventy-six billion, seven hundred sixty-one million, nine hundred ninety-six thousand, one hundred twelve dollars and eighty-two cents).

One year ago, May 24, 1999, the Federal debt stood at \$5,597,943,000,000 (Five trillion, five hundred ninety-seven billion, nine hundred forty-three million).

Five years ago, May 24, 1995, the Federal debt stood at \$4,887,785,000,000 (Four trillion, eight hundred eighty-seven billion, seven hundred eighty-five million).

Ten years ago, May 24, 1990, the Federal debt stood at \$3,094,795,000,000 (Three trillion, ninety-four billion, seven hundred ninety-five million).

Fifteen years ago, May 24, 1985, the Federal debt stood at \$1,751,794,000,000 (One trillion, seven hundred fifty-one billion, seven hundred ninety-four million) which reflects a debt increase of almost \$4 trillion—\$3,924,967,996,112.82 (Three trillion, nine hundred twenty-four billion, nine hundred sixty-seven million, nine hundred ninety-six thousand, one hundred twelve dollars and eighty-two cents) during the past 15 years.

LEBANON

Mr. BROWNBACK. Mr. President, earlier this week, the Senate passed Concurrent Resolution 116, commending Israel's withdrawal from Lebanon. The resolution notes the original reason Israel was forced to occupy a

narrow security strip in southern Lebanon—constant attacks on Israeli civilians from Lebanon-based terror groups. Israel had no designs on Lebanese territory; the Jerusalem government was forced to do the job that the central Lebanese authorities were unable or unwilling to perform.

Lebanon is in a sad situation. It is a nation torn by sectarian strife, occupied by tens of thousands of Syrian troops, and overrun with terrorists. In the final analysis, however, the government of Lebanon must be called to account. For more than two decades, the international community has bemoaned Lebanon's fate without demanding responsible leadership. That era is now over.

There are Christians and Muslims in southern Lebanon whose fate hangs in the balance. They have been under the protection of Israel for more than two decades. What will happen to them? Will they be subject to the whims of yet another Lebanese militia, a Hezbollah state within a state? Will Christians be forced to flee, as they have from the West Bank and from so many other states? Or will the Lebanese central government and the Lebanese Army, as required under United Nations Security Council resolutions, take control of southern Lebanon and ensure safety and security for all?

Will the Lebanese government allow the United Nations and UNIFIL to do its job and deployment throughout the South? Or will Lebanon remain a pawn in the hands of terrorists, a puppet state in the hands of Syria and Iran? This is the test. The President and the Congress have demanded that Lebanon secure its southern border and reintegrate southern Lebanese into the country. Hezbollah must be disarmed. The Syrian military must be evicted. The world is watching and the time is now.

The citizens of northern Israel—indeed all Israelis—deserve to live within secure borders in peace. If they cannot, it is the solemn obligation of the Israeli government to secure those borders and to hunt down those who violate it and eliminate them. For my part as a United States Senator, I intend to do all that I can to support Israel in that aim, and to ensure that the means and the political, diplomatic and material support are at hand for the Israeli government to do just that.

This month could be a turning point for Lebanon, for Syria and for Israel. Or it could be the beginning of a new cycle of conflict. I pray that the Lebanese and the Syrians will be smart enough to seize the opportunity for real peace in the Middle East.

COMMEMORATING FREE ELECTIONS IN CROATIA

Mr. GORTON. Mr. President, today I rise with my colleagues, Senators

FEINGOLD, HUTCHINSON, ABRAHAM, and LIEBERMAN, to introduce a resolution congratulating the people of Croatia on their successful parliamentary and presidential elections, the peaceful transition of power, and new initiatives for reform. In addition to congratulating the people of Croatia, the resolution solidifies U.S. support for their progress and encourages Croatian participation in the NATO Partnership for Peace program. One day, I hope that we will be expressing our support for Croatia, and other nations with similar democratic inclination, in NATO itself.

Mr. President, the Balkan nations that are embracing democracy must be supported at every opportunity available because the government could so easily have taken the other path. The leaders of Croatia could have chosen to repress popular involvement and other fundamental rights of democracy, but instead they have chosen the harder but correct path of working through discourse, debate, and democracy. Because we have also been through these trials as a nation, it is my hope that the American people will watch closely the progress of the Croatian people and will support their path to freedom, stability, and peace.

The most important benefit to come out of this election will hopefully be the resolution of Croatia's domestic difficulties. Through the successful election, the Croatian people have taken the reins of control. In addition to the power instilled by this self-determination, the Croatian people are hopefully now spurred to take up the mission of reform that might further improve their government. Among the stated goals of President Mesic are the reintroduction of Serbian refugees to the homes they left behind, reform of the privatization system that has faced serious corruption allegations, and support for the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia. These improvements would certainly go far to legitimize the new Administration in the view of the international community but more importantly, in the eyes of the Croatian people. President Mesic's continued efforts on these fronts will show its people that their new government takes seriously the need for honesty and accountability.

As the government wins the support of its people, I am also encouraged by the efforts of the new Administration to get involved with the European community. In such a volatile region, a nation uniting the many groups will be the key to fostering a stable political and economic atmosphere. Part of the victory of democracy in Croatia has been the new spirit of regional harmony that I hope will spread to its neighbors. Peace in the Balkan nations will only come with honest attempts to live with difference, and Croatia will be a leader in the efforts for peace there.

In addition to better conditions in the Balkans, democracy will encourage