ORDERS FOR WEDNESDAY, JUNE 21, 2000

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate adjourns today, it stand in adjournment until 9:30 a.m. on Wednesday, June 21. I further ask unanimous consent that on Wednesday immediately following the prayer, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the morning hour be deemed expired, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and Senator Graham of Florida be recognized in morning business for up to 40 minutes, to be followed by Senator Voinovich for 40 minutes, and the Senate then resume consideration of the foreign operations appropriations bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, in light of that, there will be no further rollcall votes this evening.

We have the Senator from Alabama on the floor ready to offer an amendment and to talk about that some tonight. I believe the occupant of the Chair is also interested in discussing an amendment of his own tonight.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, before we go to the Senator from Alabama, as I understand it, anything we may do tonight would be simply in the form of discussing amendments and then laid aside.

I see the distinguished Senator from Alabama on the floor. I don’t want to delay that any further.

I yield the floor.

FOREIGN OPERATIONS, EXPORT FINANCING, AND RELATED PROGRAMS APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2001—Resumed

AMENDMENT NO. 3492

(Purpose: To provide an additional condition on assistance for Colombia)

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I send an amendment to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The President is ordered to strike line 22 and insert the following: aiding and abetting these groups; and

(D) the United States Government publicly supports the military and political efforts of the Government of Colombia, consistent with human rights, that are necessary to resolve effectively the conflicts with the guerrilla elements that threaten the territorial integrity, economic prosperity, and rule of law in Colombia.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I would like to talk a little about this amendment tonight, in general terms, and talk a little more precisely about it in the morning. Therefore, I ask unanimous consent that there be time tomorrow for me to have approximately 30 minutes sometime during the day to speak on the amendment, unless some other Senator would want more time on the other side.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, will the 30 minutes for the Senator from Alabama come after the consideration of the Wellstone amendment, which we have already locked in?

Mr. SESSIONS. Yes. That would be satisfactory to me, and such other accommodations we can make to make it better for the managers.

Mr. LEAHY. Will the Senator from Alabama amend the Wellstone amendment that I requested that this side have an equal amount of time on his amendment tomorrow, which we may or may not use?

Mr. SESSIONS. I will.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I am troubled by our efforts, which I support, to help the nation of Colombia.

I serve on the Narcotics Committee. I serve on the Intelligence Committee. Over quite a number of months, we have had testimony and hearings involving this issue. I have become quite concerned about the stability of the nation of Colombia. I believe it is a democracy, and it is one of the oldest in the Western Hemisphere. It is worthy of our support.

I believe Colombia is in a critical point in its history with over 50 percent of its territory—or at least over 40 or perhaps 50 percent of its territory—under the hands of insurgent forces. This great nation is in trouble.

I hope we can devise a way to effectively assist them in their efforts to preserve democracy and freedom, economic growth and prosperity, and safety and freedom for their people.

That is the intent of my amendment. It goes to an issue that I think is important.

This is the problem we are dealing with. The President, his State Department, and his representatives have testified and said repeatedly that our goal here is to reduce drugs in America and to save lives in America.

Our goal is to fight drug dealers in Colombia. Our goal is to help demilitarize which they can operate in Colombia. The administration has steadfastly avoided and refused to say that this nation, the United States of America, stands with the democratically-elected Government of Panama against two Marxist organizations that seek to overthrow the Government of Colombia, and have actually occupied large portions of that nation.

It is baffling to me why this is so. I do not understand what it is. Maybe it is an effort to appease the hard left in this country. Maybe it is an effort to appease certain liberal Members of this Senate who just can’t see giving money to fight a left-wing guerrilla group anywhere in the world. Indeed, I can’t recall an instance in which the administration has ever given any money to support democratically-elected governments, or other kinds of governments, for that matter, against left-wing Marxist guerrillas.

These guerrilla groups have been involved in Colombia for many years. They have destabilized the country. They have undermined economic progress. They have provided cover and protection for drug dealers. They have in fact damaged Colombia substantially.

I believe it is time for us to encourage Colombia to stand up to these organizations, to retake the country, and to preserve democracy in the country. It is a serious matter, in my view. Colombia has been an ally. We have encouraged them to enter into peace negotiations, and President Pastrana has tried his best to negotiate with these guerrilla groups. In fact, Colombia has given a piece of their territory, and I informed, the size of Senator Leahy’s State of Vermont to the guerrillas as a cease-fire zone, a safe zone in which they can operate for a year, and that the duly constituted Government of Colombia would not enter there and do something about it while they attempt to establish peace. But this concession, this appeasement to the guerrilla groups, has not appeased them. It has not caused them to be less violent or aggressive. But in fact it appears it has encouraged them in some ways.

I believe Colombia is at the point where they can achieve stability. I believe they can drive home, through a combination of diplomacy and military efforts to these insurgent forces, that war is not going to pay off, that war is a dead-end street for everyone, that war is not going to pay off, that war is going to produce an army capable of putting these guerrillas on the