

ORDERS FOR MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, AND WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2001

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 10 a.m. Monday, September 17, for a pro forma session only; further, that when the Senate adjourns on Monday, it stand in adjournment until 10 a.m. Wednesday, September 19. I further ask unanimous consent that on Wednesday, immediately following the prayer and the pledge, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the morning hour be deemed to have expired, and the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PROGRAM

Mr. REID. Monday, the Senate will convene at 10 a.m. for a pro forma session and adjourn until Wednesday at 10 a.m. On Wednesday, the Senate may consider any available appropriations bills or the Department of Defense authorization bill. No rollcall votes will occur prior to 10 a.m., Thursday, September 20.

ORDER FOR ADJOURNMENT

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate stand in adjournment under the previous order following the remarks of Senator HARKIN.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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 President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

NOMINATION OF JOHN NEGROPONTE TO REPRESENT THE U.S. AT THE UNITED NATIONS

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I rise this afternoon at this late hour on Friday at the close of a terrible week—a week which has seared itself into our very being for the rest of our lives—to object to the approval of John Negroponte to serve as U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations.

I understand an agreement was reached that this nomination be passed on a voice vote today. It has been made, and certainly I will honor and respect the agreement. However, I be-

lieve this nomination deserves a full debate on the Senate floor and a full look into the record of this individual who is about to represent all of us in the United Nations.

I understand and I agree that America needs a U.N. ambassador. We do need someone there, especially given the terrorist attacks on our Nation this week, in terms of an international dialog and international response to this terrorist attack. But I believe it is also important that all Senators be given an opportunity to vote on this controversial nomination and to debate it.

Why is Mr. Negroponte's nomination so controversial? Why did the Baltimore Sun, in April of this year, devote a five-part series just on this one nominee? Well, I think there are two considerations that stand out in my mind, and I will explain why I oppose his nomination.

First of all, Mr. Negroponte showed a callous disregard for human rights abuses throughout his tenure as U.S. Ambassador to Honduras between 1981 and 1985, during which time I traveled to Honduras and, in fact, went out to one of the contra camps with the Ambassador at that time. Quite frankly, in my conversations at that time in Honduras, and with the later revelations of what was going on with Battalion 316, which was supervised and basically trained by our CIA and our military personnel—when a lot of these issues came to light, it became clear to me that during my trip there I was misled and, quite frankly, not given the correct information that I sought. Secondly, I believe Mr. Negroponte knowingly misinformed the U.S. State Department about gross human rights violations in Honduras and throughout Central America during the height of the so-called contra war in Central America in the 1980s.

That action, in turn, resulted in the Congress being misled as to the scope and nature of gross human rights violations that were being committed by the contras and by the Honduran military and, in particular, Battalion 316 in the Honduran military.

In a letter to *The Economist* in 1982, then-Ambassador Negroponte wrote:

It is simply untrue that death squads have made appearances in Honduras.

Yet from 1981 to 1984 over 150 people disappeared, including one American priest, Father James Carney, whose body has never been recovered.

All indications are it was Battalion 316 that took custody of and had control over Father Carney. There had been reports that they interrogated him, that he was severely tortured and killed—he was an American citizen, an American priest—during the time of Mr. Negroponte's ambassadorship.

I am not saying in any way he was responsible. I do not want anyone to get that wrong. All I am saying is as

Ambassador at that time, there is a lot of evidence to show he just turned a blind eye and a deaf ear to the human rights abuses at that time in Honduras.

The 1997 CIA Inspector General's report and other official records, as well as extensive research published in numerous books and articles, have implicated Mr. Negroponte personally in condoning and covering up egregious human rights violations during his service in Honduras in the 1980s. Read the five-part series that was in the *Baltimore Sun* in 1995 and later amplified this year. That lays out the case quite clearly.

Is he really the best nominee President Bush could find to represent our Nation at the United Nations? I think not. I guess what bothers me more than anything else is, as we move ahead seeking to get other nations to support us in our efforts to uphold human rights around the world, he does not bring clean hands to this critically important and senior diplomatic post.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the following articles be printed in the RECORD at the end of my remarks: An April 16, 2001, *Los Angeles Times* editorial headlined "Hard Questions for U.N. Nominee"; a Sunday, April 8, 2001, editorial written by Frank Del Olmo, associate editor of the *Los Angeles Times*; a Thursday, April 19, 2001, editorial written by Father Joseph Mulligan, a Jesuit priest from Detroit who has been working in Central America since 1986; an April 2, 2001, editorial from *In These Times* of the Institute for Public Affairs, and a list of 150 people who disappeared in Honduras from October 29, 1981, to May 30, 1985.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

(See Exhibit 1.)

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I understand agreements were made. I wish we had a fuller debate on this nominee. I want the record to show if, in fact, there was a record vote on this nominee, this Senator from Iowa would have voted no.

I thank the President, and I yield the floor.

EXHIBIT 1

[From the *Los Angeles Times*, Apr. 16, 2001]

HARD QUESTIONS FOR U.N. NOMINEE

Under normal circumstances, President Bush's nomination of a veteran U.S. diplomat like John D. Negroponte to be ambassador to the United Nations would be a routine matter. Negroponte is well regarded in the State Department and close to Secretary of State Colin L. Powell. Senate approval would be all but certain.

But while Negroponte's 37-year career in the foreign service has admittedly been an impressive upward arc of increasingly important ambassadorships, it was not routine. It would be a mistake for the Senate, and particularly for the Committee on Foreign Relations, to treat Negroponte with kid gloves.

To be sure, Negroponte's diplomatic career has been marked by noteworthy accomplishments. He handled sensitive embassy posts quite effectively, most notably Mexico City