

address a principal threat to the United States and to our friends in the region, South Korea chief among them.

We urge the President to work with President Kim and our South Korean friends—with our strong support—to test North Korea's commitment to peace through a comprehensive and verifiable agreement on its nuclear and missile activity. The stakes are too high and the issues too urgent to do otherwise.

I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD a letter dated March 6, 2001.

There being no objection, the letter was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,  
Washington, DC, March 6, 2001.

The PRESIDENT,

*The White House, Washington, DC.*

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT: We are writing in regard to your upcoming meeting with Republic of Korea President Kim Dae Jung. Korea is a steadfast ally in a strategic part of the world, and we are pleased you will meet with President Kim early in your administration.

We understand that President Kim's efforts toward rapprochement with North Korea will be a subject of your meeting. In the context of those efforts, late last year North Korea suggested it may be ready to permanently address U.S. and allied concerns regarding its nuclear and missile capability—a major destabilizing force in East Asia and a principal threat to the security of the U.S. and its allies in the region.

Your meeting with President Kim offers an opportunity to stand with our South Korean friends to test whether North Korea is indeed committed to peace. Given North Korea's often far-reaching demands and record of disregarding international norms, we are under no illusions about the difficulty of getting comprehensive and verifiable agreements with North Korea that address our concerns about its current and future nuclear and ballistic missile activities. We believe, however, the stakes are high and the issues involved demand urgent attention, and it is evident to us that the continued engagement of the U.S. Government on this matter could serve to reduce a serious potential threat to our national security.

We therefore hope you thoroughly explore the possibility of reaching agreements that are in our national interest, and ask that you clearly demonstrate to President Kim our government's ongoing commitment to working constructively with the Republic of Korea to confront this major strategic challenge.

Should you choose this path to work with the Republic of Korea to address these critical concerns, we stand ready to support you.

Sincerely,

SEN. TOM DASCHLE,  
*Senate Democratic  
Leader.*

REP. RICHARD GEPHARDT,  
*House Democratic  
Leader.*

SEN. JOSEPH R. BIDEN, JR.,  
*Ranking Member Sen-  
ate Foreign Rela-  
tions Committee.*

REP. TOM LANTOS,  
*Ranking Member  
House International  
Relations Committee.*

SEN. CARL LEVIN,

*Ranking Member Sen-  
ate Armed Services  
Committee.*

REP. IKE SKELTON,  
*Ranking Member  
House Armed Serv-  
ices Committee.*

#### SUPPORT FOR VICTIMS OF INDIAN EARTHQUAKE

Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, I would like to extend my deepest sympathy to the Indian people for the recent loss of life and property due to the recent earthquake in their country. On January 26, the people of Gujarat in western India were hit with an earthquake the size and devastation of that which hit San Francisco in 1906. The earthquake in Gujarat killed more than 30,000, injured more than 100,000, and displaced more than a half million men, women, and children. My thoughts and prayers, and those of many Americans, are with them at this difficult time.

The people of India have been valuable friends to America, and a number of Indians call this country their home. Unfortunately, tragic events like these show how quickly loved ones and friends can be taken from us. However, it is also through despair and tears that people often find humanity and caring.

The damage to the region is expected to exceed \$5.5 billion. In the face of such a catastrophe, it is imperative that the global community actively respond. I am heartened to see the outpouring of assistance that nations around the globe, and countless non-governmental organizations, have offered to India. Our own government will continue to offer our support to the victims of this earthquake, and I encourage President Bush to offer any needed additional assistance as they begin the process of rebuilding shattered homes and lives.

#### THE DEPARTURE OF A DEAR FRIEND, KRISTINE "IVO" IVERSON

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, one of my very dear staffers is about to leave the Senate, a wonderful woman who has given a great deal of her time and love—indeed, a great deal of her life—to me, my office, the citizens of Utah, the county, and indeed, to this grand and honored institution, the Senate of the United States.

It is almost impossible for me to believe, but, after nearly a quarter of a century, Kristine Iverson's last working day in my office has now come upon us.

I can still remember that day in 1976, when a young Illinois native—just two years out of DePauw University—when that young lady came to my office, résumé in hand, seeking a position as a legislative correspondent. Kris got that

job, and it was one of the best moves I made.

Kris joined my staff in 1977 as a legislative correspondent. But her intelligence, dedication, warm heart and incredible ability to grasp all the intricacies of the legislative process quickly propelled her to a series of top positions in my office and on the Labor Committee.

And for the past 24 years, day in and day out, we have always been able to count on Kris Iverson. Night after night, year after year, she was the first one in and the last one to leave.

In short, we have grown gray together.

Over the years, Kris has worn many hats: Legislative Assistant, Labor Committee Policy Director, Labor Committee Minority Staff Director, and now Legislative Director.

In every position she served admirably and won the utmost respect from her colleagues on both sides of the aisle.

Most recently, Kris has served without peer in one of the most difficult and challenging positions in the office of any Senator—legislative director. In that position, she has served with an unmatched commitment to the Senate and indeed the very Congress of the United States.

We all know how important it is to have a Legislative Director who we can trust to take our legislative priorities and help us direct them through the Byzantine maze of the legislative process.

Kris has been responsible for shepherding every piece of legislation that I sponsored. Beyond that, she was also responsible for helping to direct the legislative activities of both my personal staff and the Judiciary Committee staff.

Not only has Kris—or "Ivo" as we endearingly refer to her—earned my undying respect and admiration, but she is also highly admired by many in this body for her honesty, her work-ethic and her analytical skills.

When I think of many of the great laws in this nation the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 1990, the Women in Science Act, the Americans with Disabilities Act, the Job Training Partnership Act or JTPA, the Children's Health Insurance Program or CHIP all of these great laws reflect Kris Iverson's substantial mark.

Kris was there—in fact, Ivo was the lead staffer—on my first law, the National Ski Patrol Federal Charter, signed by Carter in 1980.

We often joke that she has files older than many of our staffers, and I'm sorry to say, it's true!

Unfortunately for us, her reputation has carried all the way to the White House where President George W. Bush has announced his intent to nominate her to one of the highest positions in the Department of Labor.