CONGRESSIONAL RECORD—SENATE

June 29, 2001

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, Senator LEAHY and I welcome the news of the transfer yesterday of Slobodan Milosevic and other indictees from the International Criminal Tribunal for Yugoslavia, ICTY. Last year, we worked to include language in the fiscal year 2001 Foreign Operations Appropriations bill to condition assistance to Serbia on, among other issues, certification by the President that the government is cooperating with the ICTY on the “surrender and transfer” of war criminals to The Hague.

While our efforts to secure justice for the victims of Milosevic’s atrocities through Section 594 of P.L. 106–429 contributed to dramatic events in early April, when Milosevic was first arrested, and again yesterday, the real credit for facilitating the transfer belongs to economic reconstruction in Serbia, in particular Prime Minister Zoran Djindjic. I am pleased that they recognize the importance of forward progress on the issue of war crimes, and I think it bodes well for the country’s overall prospects for successful economic, political, and legal reforms.

The resolution we submit today recognizes the courage of Serbian democrats and reaffirms our commitment to providing U.S. foreign assistance to support much needed reforms in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (FRY). We hope that Prime Minister Djindjic, and other reformers, continue to demonstrate courageous leadership, such as they did yesterday. Other indicated war criminals should be transferred to The Hague and all political prisoners in Serbian jails should be immediately released.

There is no victory sweeter than justice. It is now up to the ICTY to deliver justice to the victims and the survivors of atrocities committed in Kosovo, Bosnia, and Croatia.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, last year, when Senator MCCONNELL and I included language in the fiscal year 2001 Foreign Operations bill to condition United States assistance in Serbia on the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia’s cooperation with the War Crimes Tribunal, we could not predict what the effect of our provision would be. While we both wanted to support democracy and economic reconstruction in Serbia, we also felt strongly that if Serbia’s leaders wanted our assistance they should fulfill their international responsibility to apprehend and surrender indicted war criminals to The Hague.

I am very grateful for the way Senator MCCONNELL, and his staff have worked closely with me and my staff on this. It has been a classic case of how conditioning our assistance and our policy on the administration, can achieve a result that significantly advances the cause of international justice. Milosevic’s transfer to the War Crimes Tribunal should bring...
hope to millions of people throughout the former Yugoslavia.

Above all, as Senator MCCONNELL has already noted, we should congratulate Prime Minister Djindjic and other Serb leaders who have risked their lives and their careers for their country’s future. It is a legacy that few people in history can claim. Those who have criticized Prime Minister Djindjic for surrendering Milosevic should be aware that for the United States there is no alternative. We will not support a Serb Government that does not cooperate with the War Crimes Tribunal. We expect the apprehension and transfer to The Hague of the other publicly indicted war criminals who remain at large in Serb territory, and the release of the remaining political prisoners in Serbia’s jails.

I also want to recognize the Serb people who suffered terribly under Milosevic’s disastrous policies, and who increasingly saw that in order to rebuild their country and establish democracy and the rule of law on a solid footing, it was necessary to bring to justice the people who devastated the former Yugoslavia in their names. We submit this resolution on their behalf, and on behalf of Milosevic’s other victims, dead and alive, in Kosovo, Bosnia, and Croatia.

SENATE RESOLUTION 123—AMENDING THE STANDING RULES OF THE SENATE TO CHANGE THE NAME OF THE COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS TO THE “COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP”

Mr. KERRY (for himself and Mr. BOND) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 123

Resolved, That the Standing Rules of the Senate are amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)(a) of rule XXV—

(A) by striking “Business,” and inserting “Business and Entrepreneurship,” and;

(B) by inserting “and Entrepreneurship” after “Committee on Small Business” each place that term appears;

(2) in paragraph (3)(a) of rule XXV, by inserting “and Entrepreneurship” after “Small Business,” and;

(3) by inserting “and Entrepreneurship” after “Committee on Small Business” each place that term appears.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 58—RECOGNIZING THE HEbrew IMMIGRANT AID SOCIETY

Mr. KENNEDY (for himself and Mr. BROWNBACK) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. CON. RES. 58

Whereas the United States has always been a country of immigrants and was built on the hard work and dedication of generations of those immigrants who have gathered on our shores;

Whereas, over the past 120 years, the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society (HIAS), the oldest international migration and refugee resettlement agency of the United States, has assisted more than 4,500,000 migrants of all faiths to immigrate to the United States, Israel, and other safe havens around the world;

Whereas, since the 1970s, HIAS has resettled more than 400,000 refugees from more than 50 countries around the world and has provided high quality resettlement services through a network of local Jewish community social service agencies;

Whereas HIAS has helped bring to the United States such outstanding individuals as former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger, artist Marc Chagall, Olympic gold-medalist Lenny Kravitz, poet and Nobel Laureate Joseph Brodsky, and author and restaurateur George Lang;

Whereas HIAS has assisted with United States refugee processing overseas, often through joint voluntary agency, providing refugee processing, cultural orientation, and other services in Moscow, Vienna, Kiev, Tel Aviv, Rome, and Guatemala;

Whereas through publications, public meetings, and radio and television broadcasts, HIAS is a crucial provider of information, counseling, legal assistance, and other services, including outreach programs for the Russian-speaking immigrant community, to immigrants and asylum seekers in the United States;

Whereas HIAS plays a vital role in serving the needs of refugees, immigrants, and asylum seekers, and continues to work in areas of conflict and instability, seeking to rescue those who are fleeing from danger and persecution; and

Whereas on September 9, 2001, HIAS will celebrate the 120th anniversary of its founding: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That—

(1) recognizes the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society (HIAS), and the immigrants and refugees that HIAS has served, for the contributions they have made to the United States; and

(2) congratulates HIAS on the 120th anniversary of its founding.

(b) It is the sense of Congress that the President should issue a proclamation recognizing September 9, 2001, as the 120th anniversary of the founding of the United States and celebrating the contributions made by HIAS to the United States.

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I am proud to submit a resolution honoring the 120th anniversary of the founding of the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society. During its distinguished history, the Society has helped more than 4.5 million immigrants of all faiths, who have come to the United States, Israel, and other safe havens around the world. Since 1970, the Society has assisted more than 400,000 refugees from more than 55 countries in resettling in the United States, and these individuals have provided indispensable contributions to this country.

I also commend the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society for its continuing efforts to remind this country of the importance of a wise policy on refugees. As situations occur throughout the world, the Society has helped ensure that the United States has an effective and humane response to each human tragedy. By maintaining a vigorous refugee resettlement program, we set an example for other nations to follow.

The Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society continues to have a vital role in serving the needs of refugees, immigrants, and asylum seekers. Our country owes it an enormous debt of gratitude, and I urge the Senate to agree to this well-deserved tribute.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 58—EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE TENTH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE ASIA PACIFIC PARLIAMENTARY FORUM

Mr. AKAKA (for himself and Mr. INOUYE) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. CON. RES. 58

Whereas the Asia Pacific Parliamentary Forum was founded by former Japanese Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone in 1993, the Tokyo Declaration, signed by 59 parliamentarians from 15 countries, entered into force as the founding charter of the forum on January 14 and 15, 1993, establishing the basic structure of the forum as an inter-parliamentary organization; whereas the original 15 members, one of which was the United States, have increased to 27 member countries; whereas the forum serves to promote regional identification and cooperation through discussion of matters of common concern to all member states and serves, to a great extent, as the legislative branch of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation; whereas the focus of the forum lies in resolving political, economic, environmental, security, law and order, human rights, education, and cultural issues; whereas the forum will hold its tenth annual meeting on January 6 through 9, 2002, which will be the first meeting of the forum hosted by the United States; whereas approximately 270 parliamentarians from 27 countries in the Asia Pacific region will attend this meeting; whereas the Secretary of the meeting will be the Center for Cultural and Technical Exchange Between East and West in Honolulu, Hawaii;

Whereas the East-West Center is an internationally recognized education and research organization established by the United States Congress in 1960 largely through the efforts of the Eisenhower administration and the Congress; whereas it is the mission of the East-West Center to strengthen understanding and relations between the United States and the countries of the Asia Pacific region and to help promote the establishment of a stable, peaceful and prosperous Asia Pacific community in which the United States is a natural, valued and leading partner; whereas it is the agenda of this meeting to advance democracy, peace, and prosperity in the Asia Pacific region; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That the Congress—