

## NAYS—61

Alexander	Crapo	McCain
Allard	DeMint	McConnell
Allen	DeWine	Murkowski
Baucus	Dole	Nelson (NE)
Bennett	Domenici	Roberts
Biden	Ensign	Santorum
Bingaman	Enzi	Sessions
Bond	Frist	Shelby
Brownback	Graham	Smith
Bunning	Grassley	Snowe
Burns	Gregg	Specter
Burr	Hagel	Stevens
Carper	Hatch	Sununu
Chafee	Hutchison	Talent
Chambliss	Inhofe	Thomas
Coburn	Isakson	Thune
Cochran	Johnson	Vitter
Coleman	Kyl	Voinovich
Collins	Lott	Warner
Cornyn	Lugar	
Craig	Martinez	

## NOT VOTING—1

Clinton

The amendment (No. 105) was rejected.

Mr. BOND. Mr. President, I move to reconsider the vote.

Mr. TALENT. I move to lay that motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

## MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. BOND. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the Senate now stand in a period for morning business until 2 p.m., with the time equally divided between the two leaders or their designees.

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

Mr. BOND. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to be permitted to speak in morning business up to 25 minutes.

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

## SOUTHEAST ASIA

Mr. BOND. Mr. President, in past weeks I have come to the floor to report on the tremendous job that America and other allies did in assisting relief from the devastating tsunami that struck in Indonesia, Malaysia, and Thailand last December. Later I spoke about the very promising development of broad-based support for moderate Islam among leaders in Southeast Asia. The constructive work being done there is an extremely important counter to the Wahabiism strain of Islam teaching which subverts the teaching of a peaceful religion to promote terrorist attacks on any and all who are regarded as infidels. In addition, Hadhari, or "civilization" Islam, preaches fair and equal treatment for women and tolerance of views of other religions.

As former President Richard Nixon detailed in one of his last books before his death, developing strong and supportive relationships with moderate Islamic countries is of critical interest to the United States. He had warned of

the dangers of radical Islam teachings even before we experienced the overseas terrorist attacks against Americans in the 1990s, culminating in the massive attacks of September 11, 2001, on our homeland.

In this area, former President Nixon was prescient, and laid out an important principle for us to follow today. With Southeast Asia and its large Muslim population as the second front in the war on terror, we have the opportunity through constructive engagement to help those countries win their wars on terrorism without the need for massive military actions such as we have undertaken in Afghanistan and Iraq to root out governments that harbor terrorists.

As President Bush said in his State of the Union speech, fostering and encouraging the development of democratic, free societies throughout the world is not only a humanitarian imperative for us, it is also in our own security interest because free governments, democratically elected, as much less likely to engage in aggressive military action against their neighbors, and threaten peace and security in the world. In addition, with the proper diplomatic, economic, and strategic support, we can help those governments as they fight to eliminate the threat of terrorist activities within their borders.

In a region previously dominated by monarchies, communist rule, and autocratic governments, democracy is making strides in Southeast Asia. As in all evolutions of democratic societies, the progress is not without its stumbles, its reverses, and occasionally undesirable results from the democratic process. Southeast Asia still has significant problem areas where democracy and human rights are not flourishing. As Natan Sharansky has said in his book *The Case for Democracy*, and in his presentation to Senators here in the Capitol on February 9th, the difference between a free society and a fear society can be measured by the town square test. Can a citizen go to the town square and express opposition and criticism of the government without fear of reprisal?

Southeast Asia has glaring examples of the fear society, which is the opposite of the free society in Sharansky's terms. Communist North Vietnam has shown some interest in economic development and some tolerance of free markets, but it is far from a free society. According to the measurements of Freedom House—which views political and civil freedoms—other countries regarded as not free are Laos, Cambodia, and Brunei. The worst offender in the Freedom House rankings, and in my own view, is the state of Myanmar, which we previously knew as Burma. That country has gained international attention for its arrest, imprisonment, and abuse of Aung San Suu Kyi, that

country's leading political opposition leader.

Most recently, Thailand—among the most free and open societies in all of Asia—overwhelmingly re-elected the government of Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra, a very successful business man with strong managerial skills. Personally, I was relieved to see that apparently there was no weight given to his opponent's charges that I personally had lobbied Thaksin and convinced him to allow the introduction of biotechnology through genetically modified food products into Thailand. In truth, on my visits to Thailand with world renowned plant biotechnology leader, Dr. Roger Beachy of the Danforth Plant Science Center in Saint Louis, Missouri, we and our Ambassador discussed with the Prime Minister making available the resources of our bio-technology regulatory agencies in the U.S. so that Thai scientists and officials would have the technical capacity to make judgments for themselves about the safety of proposed biotechnology plantings and GMO food products, which hold tremendous promise to cure crop and plant disease in Southeast Asia, to feed the countries throughout the world and perhaps deliver vital vaccines to less developed countries.

In Indonesia, the voters have elected a new President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono who is committed to operating a corruption-free government, dedicated to recognition of human rights, free markets, and civilian control of the military with full protections for the civilian population. It is worth noting that the President, popularly known as SBY, participated in the last International Military Education and Training program—IMET—with our military at Fort Leavenworth, KS before Congress effectively cut off IMET participation for Indonesia military leaders. He also received a Masters' Degree from Webster University in Kansas City, MO. In Malaysia, the newly-elected Prime Minister Abdullah Badawi—of whom I spoke previously—noting his support for Hadhari Islam, has taken steps to rid his government of the favoritism and corruption of the previous administration, which sapped the economic growth potential of that very prosperous country.

In the Philippines, popularly-elected President Gloria Arroyo is facing challenges within her own government, but she has been democratically elected and brought major change in the life of that country following the corruption and abuses of Ferdinand Marcos.

Singapore has a new Prime Minister, Lee Hsien-Long, who is the son of the long-time ruling figure in Singapore, Lee Kuan Yew, now known as the Minister Mentor. Although some have charged that it is highly unlikely that the people of Singapore could choose a