The problems related to malaria are often linked to the devastation of two other terrible diseases—Acquired Immunodeficiency Disease, that is AIDS, and tuberculosis. One of the unfortunate commonalities of these diseases is that they all ravage sub-Saharan Africa and other parts of the underdeveloped world.

In addition to the one million malaria-related deaths per year, about 2.5 million persons die from AIDS and another 1.5 million people per year die from tuberculosis.

The measure I introduce today centers on malaria control and calls for close cooperation among federal agencies that are charged with fighting malaria, AIDS, and TB worldwide.

According to the National Institutes of Health, about 40 percent of the world’s population is at risk of becoming infected. About half of those who die each year from malaria are children under nine years of age. Malaria kills child each 30 seconds.

Although malaria is a public health problem in more than 90 countries, more than 90 percent of all malaria cases are in sub-Saharan Africa. In addition to Africa, large areas of Central and South America, Haiti and the Dominican Republic, the Indian subcontinent, Southeast Asia, and the Middle East are high risk malaria areas.

These high risk areas represent many of the world’s poorest nations which exacerbates the battle against malaria as well as AIDS and TB.

Malaria is particularly dangerous during pregnancy. The disease causes severe anemia and is a major factor contributing to maternal deaths in malaria endemic regions. Research has found that pregnant mothers who are HIV-positive and have malaria are more likely to pass on HIV to their children.

“Airport malaria,” the importing of malaria by international aircraft and other conveyances is becoming more common as is the importation of the disease by international travelers themselves; the United Kingdom reported 2,394 cases of malaria in 1997, all of them imported by travelers.

In the United States, of the 1,400 cases of malaria reported to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in 1998, the vast majority were imported. Between 1970 and 1997, the malaria rate in the United States increased by about 40 percent.

In Africa, the projected economic impact of malaria in 2000 exceeds $3.6 billion. Malaria accounts for 20 to 40 percent of outpatient physician visits and 10 to 15 percent of hospital visits in Africa.

Malaria is caused by a single-cell parasite that is spread to humans by mosquitoes. No vaccine is available and treatment is hampered by development of drug-resistant parasites and insecticide-resistant mosquitoes.

Our nation must play a leadership role in the development of a vaccine for malaria as well as vaccines for TB and for the causal agent of AIDS, the human immunodeficiency virus—HIV. In this regard I must commend the President for his leadership in directing, back on March 2nd, that a renewed effort be made to form new partnerships to develop and deliver vaccines to developing countries. I also commend the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation for pledging a substantial $750 million in financial support for this new vaccine initiative.

The private sector appears to be prepared to help take this challenge as the four largest vaccine manufacturers, Merck, American Home Products, Glaxo SmithKline Beecham, and Aventis Pharma, have all stepped to the plate in the quest for vaccines for HIV/AIDS, TB and malaria. We must all recognize that the private sector pharmaceutical industry, in close partnership with academic and government scientists, will play a key role in the development of any vaccines for these diseases.

Among the promising developments in recent months has been Secretary Shalala directing the National Institutes of Health to convene a meeting of experts from government, academia, and the private sector to address impediments to vaccine development in the private sector. Another goal of this first in a series of conferences on Vaccines for HIV/AIDS, Malaria, and Tuberculosis, held on May 22nd and 23rd, was to foster public-private partnerships.

These ongoing NIH Conferences on Vaccines for HIV/AIDS, Malaria, and Tuberculosis will address three basic questions: what are the scientific barriers to developing vaccines for malaria, TB and HIV/AIDS? What administrative, logistical and legal barriers limit vaccine development in the private sector. Another goal of this first in a series of conferences on Vaccines for HIV/AIDS, Malaria, and Tuberculosis, held on May 22nd and 23rd, was to foster public-private partnerships.

Additional Conferences will address the following two questions: what are the scientific barriers to developing vaccines for malaria, TB and HIV/AIDS vaccines? And, finally, if vaccines are developed how can they best be produced and distributed around the world?

Of these questions will be difficult to answer. Developing vaccines for malaria, TB, and HIV/AIDS will be a difficult task. While each vaccine will be different, there are commonalities such as the fact that the legal impediments and distributional issues may be very similar. Also, there is an unfortunate geographical overlap with respect to the epidemics of malaria, TB, and HIV/AIDS. Ground zero is sub-Saharan Africa.

So while the ultimate goal is to end up with three vaccines, we must be mindful that there is a close societal and scientific linkage between the tasks of developing and delivering vaccines and therapeutic treatments for those at risk of malaria, TB and HIV/AIDS worldwide.

While the greatest immediate need is clearly in Africa and in other parts of the developing world, the United States and my constituents in Utah stand to benefit from progress in the area of vaccine development.
At the request of Mr. Breaux, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. Mack) was added as a cosponsor of S. 191, a bill to conserve Atlantic highly migratory species of fish, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. Grassley, the names of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. Bayh), the Senator from Nevada (Mr. Reid), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. Cleland), the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. Lieberman), and the Senator from Washington (Mr. Gorton) were added as cosponsors of S. 2274, a bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to provide families and disabled children with the opportunity to purchase coverage under the Medicaid program for such children.

At the request of Mr. Bingaman, the names of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. Sarbanes), the Senator from Alabama (Mr. Sessions), the Senator from Arizona (Mr. McCain), and the Senator from Oregon (Mr. Smith) were added as cosponsors of S. 2408, a bill to authorize the President to award a gold medal on behalf of the Congress to the Navajo Code Talkers in recognition of their contributions to the Nation.

At the request of Mr. Thurmond, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. Leahy) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2516, a bill to fund task forces to locate and apprehend fugitives in Federal, State, and local felony criminal cases and give administrative subpoena authority to the United States Marshals Service.

At the request of Mr. Gregg, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. Grams) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2554, a bill to amend title XI of the Social Security Act to prohibit the display of an individual’s social security number for commercial purposes without the consent of the individual.

At the request of Mr. Chafee, the names of the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. Landrieu), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. Torricelli), the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. Dorgan), the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. Bunning), the Senator from New Hampshire (Mr. Gregg), the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. Frist), and the Senator from California (Mrs. Boxer) were added as cosponsors of S. 2700, a bill to amend the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 to promote the cleanup and reuse of brownfields, to provide financial assistance for brownfields revitalization, to enhance State response programs, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. Akaka, the names of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. Johnson), the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. Kerry), and the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. Grams) were added as cosponsors of S. 2703, a bill to amend the provisions of title 39, United States Code, relating to the manner in which pay policies and schedules and fringe benefit programs for postmasters are established.

At the request of Mr. Smith, of New Hampshire, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. Kerry) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2718, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide incentives to introduce new technologies to reduce energy consumption in buildings.

At the request of Mr. Santorum, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. Durbin) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2733, a bill to provide for the preservation of assisted housing for low income elderly persons, disabled persons, and other families.

At the request of Mr. Hollings, the names of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. Harkin) and the Senator from Oregon (Mr. Wyden) were added as cosponsors of S. 2793, a bill to amend the communications Act of 1934 to strengthen the limitation on holding and transfer of broadcast licenses to foreign persons, and to apply a similar limitation to holding and transfer of other telecommunications media by or to foreign governments.

At the request of Mr. Feist, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. Warner) was added as cosponsor of S. 2807, a bill to amend the Social Security Act to establish a Medicare Prescription Drug and Supplemental Benefit Program and to stabilize and improve the Medicare+Choice program, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. Hutchinson, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. Jeffords) was added as cosponsor of S. 2829, a bill to provide of an investigation and audit at the Department of Education.

At the request of Mr. Hatch, the name of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. Crapo) was added as cosponsor of S. 2869, a bill to protect religious liberty, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. Campbell, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. Domenici) was added as cosponsor of S. 2872, a bill to improve the cause of action for misrepresentation of Indian arts and crafts.

At the request of Mr. Reid, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. Campbell) was added as cosponsor of S. 2891, a bill to establish a national policy of basic consumer fair treatment for airline passengers.

At the request of Mr. Kennedy, the names of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. Leahy), the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. Wellstone), and the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. Daschle) were added as cosponsors of S. 2912, a bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to remove certain limitations on the eligibility of aliens residing in the United States to obtain lawful permanent residency status.

At the request of Mr. Lautenberg, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. Feinstein) was added as cosponsor of S. Con. Res. 123, a concurrent resolution expressing the sense of the Congress regarding manipulation of the mass and intimidation of the independent press in the Russian Federation, expressing support for freedom of speech and the independent media in the Russian Federation, and calling on the President of the United States to express his strong concern for freedom of speech and the independent media in the Russian Federation.

At the request of Mr. Abraham, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. Byrd) was added as cosponsor of S. J. Res. 48, a joint resolution calling upon the President to issue a proclamation recognizing the 25th anniversary of the Helsinki Final Act.

At the request of Mr. Biden, the names of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. Kerry), the Senator from Maryland (Ms. Mikulski), the Senator from Virginia (Mr. Robb), and the Senator from Kansas (Mr. Roberts) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 304, a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate regarding the development of educational programs on veterans’ contributions to the country and the designation of the week that includes Veterans Day as “National Veterans Awareness Week” for the presentation of such educational programs.
Resolved, That—

(1) the International Committee on the Red Cross should immediately recognize the Magen David Adom Society and the Magen David Adom Society should be granted full membership in the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement;

(2) the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies should grant full membership to the Magen David Adom Society; and the Red Shield of David should be accorded the same recognition under international law as the Red Cross and the Red Crescent.

Mr. FITZGERALD. Mr. President, today I am introducing a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement should recognize and admit to full membership Israel’s Magen David Adom Society with its emblem, the Red Shield of David. I thank Senators LIEBERMAN, HAGEL, HELMS, and LUGAR for joining me as original cosponsors of this important resolution.

The International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement is the largest humanitarian network in the world. The Movement has many components, including the International Committee of the Red Cross—the Swiss-based founding institution of the Movement that serves as a neutral intermediary in armed conflict areas—and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (the Federation, which groups together the Movement’s 176 recognized national societies and organizes international disaster relief and refugee assistance in non-conflict areas).

The Red Shield of David has been in use and recognized de facto since 1930 as the distinctive emblem of the medical and first aid services of the Jewish population in Palestine and, after 1948, the state of Israel. Israel signed the Geneva Conventions in 1949. The new state of Israel therefore attempted to have the Red Shield of David recognized in the Geneva Conventions as an alternative to the red cross, the red crescent, and the red lion and sun. Once again, the United States supported the recognition of MDA and its emblem.

The resolution I am introducing today would help facilitate the negotiating process by putting the Senate on record in support of MDA recognition at a critical time in these negotiations. The House of Representatives passed a similar resolution on May 3, 2000. The Senate, however, last announced its support of recognition of MDA and its emblem over 12 years ago.

Over the last six years, the United States Government has provided the ICRC and the Federation with $713 million. Once again, the United States Senate should urge the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement to recognize the Red Shield of David emblem and admit MDA for full membership in the Movement.

I urge my colleagues to support this resolution to encourage the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement to recognize Israel’s Magen David Adom Society and its emblem, the Red Shield of David.