

Pakistan and by selling equipment for manufacturing chemical weapons to Iran. This is the same China that stands accused of operating an island-like chain of slave-labor camps and of dealing with unwanted orphans by allowing them to starve to death.

Beijing needs to understand that the American eagle offers a choice. The first, an olive branch, promises peaceful intercourse and free trade. But the other claw holds the mightiest quiver of arrows the world has ever known, and America is ready to use them.●

FAIRBANKS, THE ICE CAPITAL OF THE WORLD

● Mr. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, On March 17, 1996, the great Alaskan city of Fairbanks, my hometown, is hosting the World Ice Sculpting Championships as part of the annual Fairbanks Winter Carnival. The organizers of the event have discovered that Alaska has the best ice in the world for ice sculpting. In 1988 they invited ice sculpting teams from Chicago and China to come to Fairbanks in hopes of reviving the art of ice sculpting. At the time, they were unaware of the fine quality of Alaskan ice, so to make sure they had the right ice for the guest instructors they brought in blocks of ice from Seattle, WA. In addition, however, they harvested some local ice for comparison. As a surprise result, they discovered that Alaskan ice is superior to any other ice found in the world. They now export Alaskan ice to such far away places as Frankenmuth, MI, for ice sculpting.

The organizers of this event believe that because of the superiority of Alaskan ice and other favorable conditions, they have been able to attract a growing number of artisans to participate in the Fairbanks ice art ice sculpting championships. This year, Fairbanks is proudly hosting 67 teams from countries around the world including China, Korea, Holland, Belgium, Brazil, Chile, Japan, France, Russia, Canada, and the contiguous United States.

Fairbanks is able to successfully host this event through the hard work of volunteers. The organizers hope to continue to host the world championships every year except during years when the Winter Olympics are held. I am confident that this year Fairbanks, AK, will hold one of the biggest and best Winter Carnival's ever. My congratulations to the organizers and volunteers for all their effort and hard work.●

IS WEST SLIGHTING AFRICA'S HOT SPOTS LIKE LIBERIA?

● Mr. SIMON. Mr. President, I am concerned about the deterioration in Liberia, Burundi, and a few other nations.

The pattern in Bosnia is for the United States and other nations to wait until the situation deteriorates very, very badly—until hundreds of thousands of people are killed—and then the United States and the community of nations move in.

I applaud what we are finally doing in Bosnia.

In no country in Africa do we have greater responsibility than in Liberia, where it was sometimes viewed as an American colony because it was founded by former American slaves.

Their ties to the United States have been long.

And when there was a dictatorship in Liberia, we did not hesitate to cooperate with that dictatorship. An article by Howard W. French recently appeared in the New York Times which I asked to be printed in the RECORD.

Now that the dictatorship is gone and chaos has followed, our concerns appear to be minimal.

The article follows.

[From the New York Times, Jan. 23, 1996]

IS WEST SLIGHTING AFRICA'S HOT SPOTS LIKE LIBERIA?

(By Howard W. French)

MONROVIA, LIBERIA, January 22.—When the American delegate to the United Nations, Madeleine K. Albright, stopped here briefly on Wednesday during a tour of several African countries, there were the predictable pledges of assistance from Washington to war-torn Liberia.

But along with the promise of helicopters and trucks to help in the disarming of combatants in a devastating six-year civil war, there was also a stern warning that the international community had little patience for crisis-ridden African countries that failed to settle their own problems.

"We have no intention of our logistical support being squandered by anyone's failure of political will," Mrs. Albright said at an airport news conference, straining at times to be heard over a Nigerian transport plane ferrying in new peacekeepers. "Delay," she said, can "no longer be in the vocabulary" of Liberia's political actors.

But for many African leaders and diplomats, the trip of Mrs. Albright—the highest-ranking American to visit Liberia since Secretary of State George Shultz came here before the war that killed more than 150,000 people—inadvertently underscored another point: by the time African crises receive this level of outside attention, the moment for averting catastrophe or sealing the peace has all too often passed.

The most critical obstacle to fulfilling the Liberian peace agreement reached last August, these African officials say, has been the delay in getting the kind of international response needed to carry out a disarmament program and remark this country's shattered economy.

In this regard, African officials argue, the handling of the Liberian crisis by the outside world strongly resembles the ambivalent or tardy international response to past crises in other stops on Mrs. Albright's itinerary: Angola, Rwanda and Burundi.

In Liberia, despite widespread skepticism about its prospects, a cease-fire has largely held for months. But recent days have seen the first serious signs of an unraveling of the country's settlement, as unruly fighters of one of the country's several armed factions have killed as many as 50 West African peacekeepers.

Diplomats say the fighting began because of the economic desperation of the militia members, who are often unschooled boys, and add that the conflict nearly flared out of control because of the limited means available to a short-handed and poorly equipped peacekeeping force.

"Last fall, the American Government pledged \$75 million to help us," said Wilton

S. Sankawulo, the former schoolteacher who is chairman of Liberia's governing Council of State. "But they said go home first and prove that you are serious."

Liberia has been the first instance in which a regional organization, namely the Economic Community of West African States, or Ecomog, has acted with the official sanction of the United Nations to end a civil war. Nigeria has led this effort from the start, spending an estimated \$4 billion. But with major political and economic crises at home, diplomats say Nigeria cannot now carry out Liberia's peace agreement without substantially more outside help.

Foreign diplomats say the most critical immediate element is giving the 7,500-man Nigerian-led peacekeeping force—known as Ecomog, for the Ecomog monitoring group—the means to deploy throughout the country; the trucks and helicopters pledged but not yet delivered by the Americans, and more troops from poor West African countries, which would require financing from the outside world.

Unlike other crises in which the United Nations send its own peacekeepers and directly assess contributions from members, international fund-raiding for Liberia has been conducted through voluntary donor conferences that have garnered sparse contributions.

On top of the outside world's reluctance to contribute to an African-led peacekeeping effort, which has embittered many of this region's leaders, there is the additional complication of deeply strained relations between the United States and Nigeria over the latter's human rights situation.

Rather than being turned over to the Nigerian-led peacekeepers, as is the practice in most international efforts of this sort, the troop trucks promised by the United States are leased vehicles that, at Washington's insistence, will be operated only by private contractors to keep them out of Nigerian hands.

"The resources of Ecomog have been stretched to the limit, and it would be wrong and unfair for the international community to expect it to proceed further without getting it more help," said Anthony Nyaki, the United Nations special representative to Liberia. "Because of the unique mandate given by the U.N. to the West Africans whatever happens here will be precedent-setting."

"In five days as much is spent in Bosnia as was spent in a whole year on Liberia," he said. "If this is allowed to fail, the question will become more pertinent than ever why the outside world cares so little for Africa."

The comparison with Bosnia is one that comes up again and again in conversations with African officials throughout this region, and it is one that inspires cynicism among many.

The international community was slow to act and committed far too few resources to managing crises like the transition to democracy in war-torn Angola or the prevention of a genocidal civil war in Rwanda, African diplomats say. And in Burundi today, where the signs of a possible Rwanda-style civil war are multiplying, the same reluctance to act seems apparent to many.

"Since Somalia ended, I have attended three major conferences on the lessons of that crisis, but these lessons never seem to be learned," said Victor Gbeho, a Ghanaian diplomat who represents the West African economic community here and was the United Nations special envoy to Somalia at the height of that country's crisis.

"For some reason it still takes far too long to get the international community to react to African crises, to realize their pledges of support and work through their bureaucratic mazes," Mr. Gbeho said. "It took the Americans one week to raise \$1.8 billion for Bosnia."

If I were paranoid, I would say the delays we always face here are due to the fact that we are dealing with Africa."•

THE HEZBALLAH CONFESSION

• Mr. D'AMATO. Mr. President, I rise today to discuss something that most people who follow the subject, I am sure already knew, but is nevertheless an interesting admission. In a Reuters interview, yesterday, Sheik Hassan Nasrallah, Secretary General of Hezbollah in Lebanon, flatly admitted to Iranian funding when he said:

We are not shy and they (Iranians) are not afraid about it . . . we don't hide Iranian support. There is no need to deny that we receive financial and political support from Iran.

Moreover, he admitted that Syrian forces in Lebanon's Bekkah valley help greatly in getting weapons to his forces, when he stated:

Syrian forces are stationed in the Bekaa [sic] (valley) and the north. These two areas constituted the background of support for resistance fighters in (Israeli)-occupied areas.

These admissions, especially that of implicit Syrian support for Iranian terrorism are vital to understanding the relationship of these terrorist organizations and how they operate in the region. If we are going to support Israel while it wages peace, are we going to ignore Syria and Iran while they wage war against Israel?

We cannot ignore what is going on for mere political expediency. We must confront the facts as they exist and this means that we must question the Syrians on this admission. With Iran, I am sure that there is no disagreement. But Syria is another question altogether.

Mr. President, I ask that the text of this important interview be printed in the RECORD.

The text follows:

[From Reuters, Mar. 11, 1996]

HEZBOLLAH CHIEF ADMITS IRAN IS FINANCING GROUP WITH BC-IRAN-PRESIDENT

BEIRUT, LEBANON.—For the first time, the leader of Hezbollah acknowledged publicly in an interview published Monday that Iran is financing the group.

"We don't hide Iranian support. There is no need to deny that we receive financial and political support from Iran" said Sheik Hassan Nasrallah, Secretary-General of the Shiite Muslim Militant Group.

"We are not shy and they (Iranians) are not afraid about it," he said in an interview with the London-based Arabic Language Weekly Al Wasat.

It was the first public admission of Iranian financial support by a senior leader of Hezbollah, or Party of God.

The group has vociferously denounced the planned counter-terrorism summit at Egypt's Red Sea resort of Sharm El-Sheik Wednesday.

Why doesn't one wonder why the United States is paying 3 billion dollars to the Zionist entity, which is attacking the entire region while condemnation is voiced over Iran's financial support for Hezbollah or any Islamic resistance faction fighting to liberate its land?" Nasrallah said.

Hezbollah guerrillas are fighting to oust the 1,200 Israeli soldiers and 2,500 Israeli-

backed South Lebanon Army militiamen from an occupied border enclave in South Lebanon.

Israel established the enclave, known as a "security zone," in 1985 as a buffer against cross-border guerrilla attacks on its northern towns.

Hezbollah guerrillas mounted a string of attacks on Israeli troops in the "security zone" Sunday, killing one and wounding five.

Nasrallah also said that Syria, the main power broker in Lebanon, was facilitating Hezbollah's arms supplies through routes in northern and eastern Lebanon.

Syria maintains an estimated 40,000 troops in Lebanon, ostensibly as peacekeepers to prevent a rekindling of the 1975-90 civil war.

Nasrallah said since Hezbollah was founded in 1982 following the Israeli invasion of Lebanon that year, Syria has provided the party with "a political cover, moral support and field facilities."

"Syrian forces are stationed in the Bekaa (Valley) and the north. These two areas constituted the background of support for resistance fighters in (Israeli)-occupied areas," he said.

"Of course, Syria didn't give us money. It has supported us and facilitated" arms supplies, Nasrallah added.

Like its sponsor, Iran, Hezbollah opposes the U.S.-sponsored Middle East peace process and has vowed to torpedo it through intensified attacks in South Lebanon, the last active Arab-Israeli war front.

The Sharm El-Sheik Summit, which will be attended by U.S. President Clinton and more than 30 other world leaders, was called to bolster Israel following a wave of suicide bombings which killed 61 people.

Hezbollah has hailed the bombings, which have been claimed by the Palestinian militant Hamas group, as an "Act of Heroic Jihad (holy war) against occupation."•

UNANIMOUS-CONSENT REQUEST— S. 942

Mr. BURNS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that on Thursday, March 14, at 10 a.m., the Senate proceed to the consideration of Calendar No. 342, S. 942, the small business regulatory reform bill, to be considered under the following limitation: 90 minutes of total debate equally divided between the two managers; that the only amendments in order to the bill be the following: the managers' amendment to be offered by Senators BOND and BUMPERS, an amendment to be offered by Senator NICKLES regarding congressional review, one additional amendment, if agreed to by both leaders after consultation with the two managers; further, that following the disposition of all amendments, the bill be read a third time, the Senate then proceed to vote on final passage of the bill, all without any intervening debate or action.

Mr. REID addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. REID. Yes. I have two things I wish to correct. One would be the Nickles-Reid amendment in the body of the text, and if the Senator from Montana wishes an explanation, I would be happy to give one, but I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

Mr. BURNS. Mr. President, I helped craft this legislation, and if there is

one thing that we hear going down the road every day from the people who live in my State of Montana it is the way we write our rules and regulations here in Washington. This regulatory reform bill addresses those fears. This bill was reported out of the Small Business Committee with strong bipartisan support for the work that was done by Senator BUMPERS, who was chairman of that committee and has worked on this issue for so long, and I am sorry that it will not be allowed to come to the floor.

Mr. REID. Will my friend yield?

Mr. BURNS. Yes.

Mr. REID. I say to my friend, I personally feel as if the unanimous-consent request is excellent. I think the content of the unanimous-consent request would allow us to go forward with regulatory reform which is badly needed. It especially directs attention to the small business community which has been hammered with regulations with which they have difficulty complying.

I say to my friend from Montana that we have a Member on this side of the aisle who has worked very long and hard, in his own words, not hours or days but weeks with Members on the Senator's side, and his objection relates to a much bigger piece of regulatory reform that I think frankly will kill all regulatory reform, but that is what he wants. And so in the next few hours, maybe days, we are going to work with him to see if we can get him to agree to our unanimous consent request.

Mr. BURNS. I think my friend from Nevada understands the problems small business is going through right now and the margin they have to worry about. This gives them a great deal of flexibility. But it also allows Congress to take a look to see how the rules are really written with regard to legislation that we pass. It is fairly simple for us to pass legislation. We beat ourselves on the chest, and we say what a good thing we have done, but then when the law goes down and the administrative rules are written, sometimes those rules do not even look like the legislation, let alone the intent of the legislation. So I think this addresses that, and I hope we can work out something. Knowing my friend from Nevada, I understand the possibility is very good.

Mr. REID. Will my friend yield again?

The Senator is absolutely correct. This unanimous-consent request contains a provision that was passed in this body by a vote of 100 to nothing, the Nickles-Reid amendment, which would allow the Congress to look at regulations promulgated by Federal agencies. If it has a financial impact of \$100 million, it would not go into effect until a reasonable period of time. This calls for 60 days, which I think is appropriate. It was originally 45 days. If it has a financial impact of less than \$100 million, it goes into effect immediately but we can rescind it within 60