

During the debate on the Exon-Hatfield legislation which prohibits nuclear testing, I voiced my concerns for the safety and reliability of the nuclear stockpile without the ability to test. So long as our defense relies on nuclear weapons, we must ensure the safety and reliability of the stockpile. That requires the authority to conduct underground nuclear tests. I urge my colleagues to adopt the amendment.

Mr. KYL addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Arizona.

#### MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. KYL. Mr. President, on behalf of the leader, I ask unanimous consent that there now be a period for the transaction of morning business with Senators permitted to speak for up to 5 minutes each.

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

#### REPORT OF SENATE DELEGATION VISIT TO BOSNIA

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, during the April recess, the Senator from Utah [Mr. HATCH], the Senator from Nevada [Mr. REID], and I traveled to Bosnia and other countries of the former Yugoslavia as well as Albania and Hungary to monitor developments related to implementation of the Dayton peace accord and to visit United States troops stationed in Bosnia and the surrounding area. We have prepared a report of our trip and submit it for our colleagues' and the public's consideration. It should be noted that the situation in Bosnia is constantly evolving and that the report reflects our findings based on developments through the period of our visit, which ended on April 12, 1996. I ask unanimous consent that the full report be printed in the RECORD.

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

##### REPORT OF SENATE DELEGATION VISIT TO BOSNIA, APRIL 3-12, 1996

##### INTRODUCTION

A delegation from the United States Senate, consisting of Democratic Leader Tom Daschle (D-SD), Senator Orrin G. Hatch (R-UT), and Senator Harry Reid (D-NV), met with leading officials in Bosnia and the other countries of the former Yugoslavia—Croatia, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM), Serbia, Slovenia—as well as Albania and Hungary from April 3 to April 12, 1996. The delegation was authorized by the joint leadership of the Senate to explore outstanding issues related to implementation of the Dayton Peace Accord formally signed on December 14, 1995, by President Alija Izetbegovic of Bosnia and Herzegovina, President Slobodan Milosevic of Serbia and Montenegro, and President Franjo Tudjman of Croatia in Dayton, OH.

The accord is based upon the tenet that Bosnia will remain a single state within its internationally recognized borders, but that the state will be comprised of two entities—the Bosnian Muslim-Croat Federation and the Republika Srpska—with substantial au-

thority. In an effort to create the conditions for peace in Bosnia, the Dayton agreement provides for a peace implementation force (IFOR) under NATO command and calls for civilian implementation through elections and economic reconstruction.

In the period between the signing of the accord and the delegation's departure, the ceasefire had held, elections were being scheduled, and problems related to implementation of the civilian aspects of the peace agreement were reported.

On the day the delegation left for the region, Americans received the tragic news that the plane carrying Commerce Secretary Ron Brown, 32 other Americans, and two Croatians had crashed near Dubrovnik, Croatia. Secretary Brown had been traveling in and around Bosnia with U.S. business leaders and Commerce Department officials as part of the American effort to help build democratic and economic institutions in the region so that a lasting peace might take hold in the Balkans. After making schedule adjustments, the delegation chose to go forward with its planned visit to the region to honor Ron Brown's vision and to send a clear signal to those struggling for peace in Bosnia that the United States remains committed to that mission.

TOM DASCHLE.  
ORRIN G. HATCH.  
HARRY REID.

##### SUMMARY

Senators Daschle, Hatch, and Reid met with leading officials in Bosnia, Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Serbia, Slovenia, Albania, and Hungary. In each country, the delegation gathered perspectives on: (1) military implementation of the Dayton Peace Accord; (2) civilian implementation of the Dayton Peace Accord; (3) that country's progress toward democratization; and (4) that country's progress toward privatization and development of a market economy. In Bosnia, the FYROM, and Hungary, the delegation visited U.S. military installations and met with troops stationed in the region.

While perspectives on progress toward peace in Bosnia and the Balkans varied from country to country, the delegation found there was general consensus around two basic points: first, that NATO's Implementation Force (IFOR), led by the United States, has been an unqualified success in terms of stopping the war in Bosnia; and, second, that, while moving forward, implementation of the civilian and economic aspects of the Dayton accord has met with significant delay and difficulty.

U.S. military and diplomatic leadership were credited by virtually everyone in the region for progress that has been made in Bosnia. Still, concerns persist about the prospects for full implementation of the Dayton accord within the timeframes laid out in the plan. Officials stressed that key to successful implementation will be the efforts of Serbian and Croatian leaders to garner the commitment of Serbs and Croats within Bosnia to the borders agreed to in the Dayton accord as well as human rights for all ethnic groups within those borders.

Morale among U.S. troops appeared to be high, despite the fact that they are living and working under extremely difficult conditions. The servicemen and women with whom the delegation spoke understood and believed in the importance of their mission. They also spoke highly of the cooperative spirit that has exemplified their relationship with forces from Russia, Britain, France, and the other countries represented in IFOR.

The delegation's goals were to promote, and assess progress with respect to, full implementation of the Dayton Peace Accord; to

express support for U.S. troops participating in the NATO and UN peacekeeping efforts; to promote democracy, economic growth, and respect for human rights in the region; and to reflect the United States' commitment to those working for a lasting peace in Bosnia.

##### FINDINGS

The delegation returned to the United States confident that U.S. military and diplomatic leadership has been the driving force behind the current peace in Bosnia—that the peace could not have been accomplished, and probably cannot be sustained, without our efforts. The delegation returned convinced of the value of that mission, for, as fragile as the peace in Bosnia may be, the promise of peace, freedom and democracy for all the people of the former Yugoslavia—and the regional stability that would follow from that achievement—justify their pursuit.

Several major findings—some of them confirmations of past ones—resulted from this visit.

NATO military action, U.S. diplomacy, and military implementation supporting that diplomacy stopped the war in Bosnia and have been the primary deterrents to resumption of the war.

U.S. military and foreign service personnel serve as models for the rest of the world; their professionalism under extraordinary circumstances should make every American proud.

Landmines pose a serious threat to U.S. and other peacekeeping forces as well as the civilian population in Bosnia. The United States should actively seek an international ban on the use of anti-personnel landmines.

Regarding the military aspect of the Dayton Peace Accord, IFOR has successfully carried out its mandate thus far.

Conditions for free and fair elections in Bosnia have not yet been established. Numerous concerns were heard regarding the willingness of the dominant parties in the three regions to allow free elections.

People throughout the Balkan region are concerned about the timing of IFOR's departure in light of problems related to implementation of the civilian aspects of the Dayton accord and economic reconstruction.

While these concerns should be taken seriously, the ultimate success or failure of the Dayton accord—and the chance for sustained peace in the region—will depend on the political will of its signatories.

The United States must continue to pressure those signatories to commit themselves fully to that effort.

##### HUNGARY

The delegation began its investigations in Hungary, host to 7000 American troops at three U.S. military installations, including Taszar Airbase, the primary logistics center and staging area for U.S. troops deployed in Bosnia. In meetings with the Deputy Foreign Minister, American troops at Taszar, business leaders in Budapest, and U.S. Embassy officials, the delegation explored issues related to implementation of the Dayton Peace Accord, Hungary's role in supporting the military aspects of the accord, NATO expansion, and Hungary's progress toward fulfillment of the country's political and economic goals.

Deputy Foreign Minister Istvan Szent-Ivanyi told the delegation that, while implementation of the military aspects of the Dayton Peace Accord was proceeding in the right direction, he remained concerned about implementation of the political aspects of the accord. He expressed the view that the American and European military presence in Bosnia has been essential to the restoration of peace in the region and that continued U.S. support of the peace effort will be essential to maintenance of that peace and the

safe resettlement of war refugees, including ethnic Hungarians. He reported that Hungary is fully cooperating with the War Crimes Tribunal's efforts to identify, locate, and prosecute perpetrators of war crimes in Bosnia.

Szent-Ivanyi also stressed Hungary's desire to be included in the first round of candidates for NATO expansion and called for a "normal integration process." He also discussed with the delegation the upcoming official opening of the International Law Enforcement Academy in Budapest to combat organized crime.

During a visit to the United States' Intermediate Staging Base in Taszar, Hungary, the delegation was briefed on the massive effort to deploy U.S. forces to Bosnia. Seventy-five to 80 percent of the 18,000 U.S. troops stationed in Bosnia have entered the country through the staging area in Taszar since the deployment began last December.

Major General Walter H. Yates, Jr., Deputy Commanding General, V Corps, United States Army, Europe, advised the delegation that the size and configuration of the U.S. deployment in Bosnia would be assessed again in early summer and that any minor adjustments that might be needed would be made at that time. He also reported that, from a military perspective, all sides have been in general compliance with the Dayton Peace Accord. He concluded that the greatest challenge facing the multinational force in Bosnia is the existence of 3 to 8 million landmines in that country. He added that U.S. forces are encouraging, training, and monitoring the work of various factions to deactivate the mines. Finally, the group was told that the Hungarian government has been especially helpful to U.S. military efforts and that U.S. personnel at Taszar is seeking to further its cooperation with Hungary and the local community at the military, political, and civic levels.

Senator Daschle addressed the troops in attendance at the briefing, thanking them for their role in the mission and expressing the support of the Senate. He and the entire delegation also had a chance to visit with individual servicemembers.

#### SERBIA AND MONTENEGRO

In Belgrade, the delegation met with President Slobodan Milosevic, opposition leaders, union leaders, members of the independent press, and U.S. Embassy officials. Discussions focused on Serbia's compliance with the Dayton agreement, cooperation with the War Crimes Tribunal, relations with other republics of the former Yugoslavia, movement toward democratization and privatization, the situation in Eastern Slavonia, resettlement of the Krajina Serbs, and progress toward a peaceful solution to the disputes between the government and ethnic Albanians in Kosovo.

In its meeting with President Slobodan Milosevic, the delegation reiterated and expressed strong support for U.S. policy concerning normalization of relations with Serbia—that the "outer wall" of UN sanctions will remain in place until the Dayton agreement is fully and successfully implemented, Serbia has fully cooperated with the War Crimes Tribunal's effort to arrest and prosecute war criminals, and there is significant progress in Kosovo. The delegation also pressed Milosevic on the need for progress toward the development of democratic institutions, including a free and independent media. The delegation stressed the importance of normalization of Serbian-FYROM relations.

Milosevic characterized developments since the signing of the Dayton accord as "pretty positive," concluding that the military aspects of the agreement have been "ab-

solutely successful" and that civilian implementation of the agreement has slowed somewhat. Although he said he questions the objectivity of the War Crimes Tribunal, Milosevic stated that Serbia has cooperated with the Tribunal and "will not protect war criminals." While acknowledging that respect for human rights is a "global issue," he called the situation in Kosovo "an internal matter." Milosevic suggested that the independent press in Serbia is thriving and that Serbian-FYROM relations would be normalized in the near future.

#### BOSNIA

##### SARAJEVO

The flight over Bosnia and into Sarajevo gave the delegation its first sense of the magnitude of the devastation in that country, and the drives from the Sarajevo airport through the city and through the Sarajevo suburbs revealed the reality of "ethnic cleansing" in a way that news reports can only suggest. Burned and bombed buildings lined the main street running through Sarajevo. The delegation's visit to the ruins of the Sarajevo library, which was known as one of the most magnificent buildings in the country was graphic evidence of the war's devastating impact on Bosnia. Some have proposed to leave the library as it currently stands—if it can be stabilized structurally—and turn it into a war memorial.

Make-shift cemeteries in what were formerly soccer fields and other public spaces served as sad reminders of the 200,000 Bosnians, including 10,000 Sarajevans, who died in the 4½ year war. Still, the resumption of activity all over Sarajevo served as evidence that peace is both hoped for and possible if all sides commit themselves to it.

At the U.S. Embassy, the delegation was briefed by Admiral Leighton W. Smith, Jr., Commander in Chief, IFOR (Smith also serves as Commander-in-Chief, Allied Forces Southern Europe and Commander-in-Chief, U.S. Naval Forces), and by Embassy officials accompanied by various U.S. and international representatives charged with implementation of various aspects of the Dayton accord. The delegation also met with President Alija Izetbegovic.

Again, the delegation heard that the military aspects of the Dayton agreement had been very successful, but that civilian implementation of the agreement has proven more complex. Of particular concern were efforts to ensure the Muslim-Croat Federation in Bosnia remains viable, ensure that the Bosnian elections—at the municipality, canton, entity, and republic levels—are free, fair, and in full compliance with the Dayton guidelines, and ensure the safe resettlement of refugees from all ethnic groups as well as general freedom of movement.

The delegation was told by international representatives at the Embassy briefing that Serb, Croat, and Muslim factions within Bosnia all have been accused of varying degrees of authoritarianism and violations of human and civil rights and that concerns about Serbian President Milosevic's and Croatian President Tudjman's interests in pursuing a "Greater Serbia" and a "Greater Croatia" persist. Nevertheless, most analysts reported that Milosevic and Tudjman appeared to be complying with the Dayton accord, though limits on Serbian cooperation on the release of prisoners continues to pose a serious challenge, and greater cooperation in turning over war criminals remains wanting from both leaders. Furthermore, many are concerned that Bosnian Serb Army Commander Ratko Mladic and Bosnian Serb President Radovan Karadzic are still in control of the Bosnian Serbs, and that Tudjman has been reluctant to disassociate himself from troubling actions by the Bosnian Croats. It is

clear that close monitoring of these factors and continued pressure on all sides to comply with the Accord, including the removal of all indicted war criminals from political power and their submission to the Hague, will be important to the long-term viability of the Muslim-Croat Federation and peace in general.

The delegation was briefed on efforts to build the civilian police and criminal justice systems in Bosnia. The importance of having these systems in working order by the time the NATO implementation force departs was stressed.

In its meeting with President Izetbegovic, the delegation discussed the President Izetbegovic's perspective on the military and civilian implementation of the Dayton Peace Accord; ways to strengthen the Muslim-Croat Federation; progress toward free and fair elections; the importance of freedom of the press; and efforts to ensure that borders in the Dayton Accord, as well as the human rights of all ethnic groups within those borders, are respected. The senators stressed the importance of ensuring that all Iranian and other foreign forces leave Bosnia. The delegation congratulated Izetbegovic for his efforts to release prisoners under Muslim control and reiterated the United States' commitment to a lasting peace and a multi-ethnic Bosnia.

#### Tuzla Airbase

After an aerial tour of the devastation of countless Bosnian villages, the delegation was briefed by U.S. military personnel, led by Major General William L. Nash, Commanding General, First Armored Division, Operation Joint Endeavor, and Colonel John R. S. Batiste, Commander, Second Brigade, First Armored Division, Operation Joint Endeavor. They described a combat team evenly distributed between the Republika Srpska and the Muslim-Croat Federation and stressed the importance of operating within both entities in an even-handed, impartial way and always reflecting the competence and discipline that have given NATO the legitimacy to make this operation a success. Batiste stated that IFOR operates on the premise that any violation of the peace accord demands an appropriate response.

Colonel Batiste reported that contact between the Muslim, Croat, and Serb factions in Bosnia has become less confrontational over time, but that civilian freedom of movement has been restricted by all factions and that this is a key area of concern. He stated that exemplary U.S.-Russian troop cooperation has led to combined patrols and that the U.S. military's relationships with both NATO and non-NATO countries involved in the mission has been excellent.

Reiterating what the delegation had heard in Hungary, Colonel Batiste reported that one of the greatest challenges facing IFOR is the threat posed by remaining landmines. He said there had been good cooperation in clearing the minefields for which there are records but that only 30 to 40 percent of the mines are included in that category. He reported that, on the previous day, 68 mines in the area had been cleared through the Mine Action Center in Tuzla. Only minutes after the delegation was given that information, Colonel Batiste's briefing was interrupted by a report that a Russian soldier had just lost his foot in a mine explosion.

Colonel Batiste stressed the importance of the effort to ensure that the political and civilian aspects of the Dayton accord are fully implemented and to keep the economic reconstruction effort on track. He discussed the difficulties related to the election process, since many, particularly Serbs, are uninformed about where they must vote (under the Dayton agreement, all Bosnians' voting

eligibility is based on where they lived in the spring of 1990 before the war began). The economic impact of Serb, Muslim, and Croat army downsizing was also discussed, as were the ongoing effort at arms control within Bosnia and the importance of the development of a professional, civilian police force.

The delegation was briefed on the medical facilities serving U.S. forces (every lodgement has a medic and a surgeon) and advised that environmental data collection that might be needed in any follow-up health investigations has been vigorous.

Senators Daschle, Hatch, and Reid addressed the servicemen and women at the briefing, acknowledging their personal sacrifices and praising and thanking them for the professionalism with which they are carrying out their mission. Members of the delegation also had an opportunity to share a lunch of soup and MREs (meals ready to eat) with personnel from their respective states.

#### ALBANIA

The delegation's visit to Albania was marked by visual impressions as much as verbal reports. As soon as the plane made its descent, the American mental image of one of the world's most closed societies was overshadowed by the reality of a green, mountainous countryside and a capital filled with activity. Reminders of Albania's past, including 600,000 to 750,000 seven-ton concrete-and-steel bunkers built to respond to the perceived threat of simultaneous attacks from NATO and the Warsaw Pact, remain, but the future is clearly Albania's focus.

In Tirana, in addition to sessions with the President and opposition leaders, the delegation met with U.S. Embassy officials joined by representatives of the U.S. Information Agency and the U.S. Peace Corps mission in Albania. They were briefed on the repression suffered by the Albanians for 40 years at the hands of dictator Enver Hoxha. It is estimated that 25 to 30 percent of Albanian families experienced that repression—imprisonment, exile, torture, or execution—firsthand. Albania had been a bankrupted economy that for decades had outlawed private ownership of cars, monitored the direction of people's television antennas, and declared itself atheist, turning its largest Catholic cathedral into a basketball court to prove it. In April 1992, Albania elected a new president and was on its way to filling its streets with cars and every other form of transportation, tuning in to "CNN International," erecting coffeehouses on every city curb, privatizing its economy, and reducing inflation from 400 percent to single digits.

Certainly Albania faces serious challenges. According to the briefing team, reports of discrimination against the ethnic Greek minority continue; criminal justice and judicial reforms are needed; the state controls Albania's electronic media; the civilian police force is ill-trained; opposition parties complain the country's "Lustration" law, which bars certain former communist officials and others from seeking political office until 2002, is too broad; the military is severely underfunded; and the country's economy and infrastructure have a long way to go. Still, they report that Albania has made significant progress toward the establishment of democracy.

In a meeting with the delegation, Albanian President Sali Berisha reported that his administration has focused on efforts to promote fast growth, make possible integration into NATO and the European Union, and improve educational opportunities within the country. He thanked the delegation for U.S. support for progress in Albania and reported that U.S.-Albanian military cooperation has been especially good. He also expressed thanks for U.S.A.I.D.'s reforestation pro-

gram in Albania, adding that the construction of the ubiquitous bunkers had caused serious damage to Albania's forests.

President Berisha added his voice to those who rate the military implementation of the Dayton accord as successful and the political progress slow. He also provided an Albanian perspective on the situation in Kosovo, saying that Albania wants a peaceful solution with Serbia. He defended Albania's Lustration law, arguing that Albania faced a true "cultural genocide" at the hands of its former rulers and that those barred from political candidacy may appeal that ruling if they can show that documents linking them to abuses have been falsified. He addressed concerns about state-controlled media outlets by saying that private entities are forming and that state-controlled outlets will be privatized as independent outlets develop.

President Berisha expressed optimism about Greek-Albanian relations and discussed the process in place for Albania's upcoming elections. He concluded by saying that Albania's greatest challenges are to maintain the country's fast economic growth and continue to build its democratic institutions.

#### FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA (FYROM)

The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia is the only former republic to make a completely peaceful transition to independence, and, in virtually every discussion the delegation had with political leaders in that country, a pragmatic and democratic attitude about how to approach problems and resolve disputes was reflected. The delegation met with Tito Petkovski, President of the Macedonian Parliament, Prime Minister Branko Crvenkovski, and President Kiro Gligorov, as well as U.S. Embassy officials. The discussions focused on implementation of the Dayton accord, the impact of potential instability in Bosnia and Kosovo on the FYROM, the FYROM's political process, efforts to fully privatize the country's economy, and the FYROM's relations with its neighbors. The delegation also visited two U.N. Preventative Deployment Force (UNPREDEP) observation posts along the Serbian border.

Parliament President Tito Petkovski advised the delegation that Serbia and the FYROM had agreed within the previous 24 hours to establish full diplomatic relations, though the details of the agreement were not fully available at the time of the meeting. He said he was hopeful that the issue of his country's name could be resolved with Greece in the near future and noted that his country has no other open problems with Greece. Petkovski stressed the importance of a lasting peace in Bosnia, saying that failure to fully implement the Dayton accord would threaten the FYROM's stability. He thanked the delegation for the United States' military cooperation and support of FYROM's efforts to develop democratic institutions and a stronger economy. Petkovski also briefed the delegation on the parliament's preparation of a new electoral law and the current situation with respect to political parties in the FYROM.

Prime Minister Branko Crvenkovski declared the UN military presence, led by a force of 550 Americans, to be an overwhelming success, arguing that such preventive efforts are much more cost-effective than war, and predicted that the deployment would serve as a prototype for other deployments. He discussed the impact on the FYROM's economy of past UN sanctions against Serbia and stressed the importance of turning around the negative economic trends that have been suffered by the Macedonian people. Crvenkovski acknowledged

the difficulties the FYROM has faced in the area of the schooling for ethnic Albanians and outlined the FYROM's plan to increase the percentage of classes taught in the Albanian language. He also noted the importance of stabilizing the situation in Kosovo.

The delegation met with President Kiro Gligorov and was pleased to learn both that he had recovered well from his injuries resulting from an assassination attempt several months earlier, and that, during his absence from office, the FYROM government adhered strictly to its constitutional precepts. President Gligorov spoke of the resiliency of the Macedonian people and their willingness to accept great personal sacrifices to achieve independence and democracy. He expressed his commitment to a peaceful, fair resolution of the Kosovo issue and, like Petkovski and Crvenkovski, noted that Albanians are active participants in FYROM's government. Gligorov spoke of his country's two most basic challenges and obligations during the war in Bosnia were: to do nothing to cause the expansion of the war to the south and to care for the FYROM's internal stability. He noted that he had substantial support from the United States in these efforts. Gligorov expressed the hope that continued US-FYROM cooperation would lead to his country's integration into NATO and the European Union.

The delegation traveled by helicopter to two U.S.-operated UNPREDEP observation posts along the Serbian border, meeting with servicemembers at each post. Five hundred fifty U.S. troops are stationed in the FYROM as part of this effort, first proposed by President Bush and later implemented by President Clinton, to monitor the FYROM-Serbia border and prevent the Bosnian conflict from spreading to the south.

#### SLOVENIA

In addition to a briefing from U.S. Embassy officials, the delegation's visit to Slovenia, the most economically advanced country of the former Yugoslavia, was marked by meetings with President Milan Kucan, State Secretary Ignac Golob, and Prime Minister Janez Drnovsek.

In the meeting with President Kucan, the delegation discussed the historic roots of Slovenia, which he described as a traditional identification with Austria-Hungary that has manifested itself in the Slovenian people through individualism, realism, a strong work ethic, and tolerance of different peoples. He stated that Tito interrupted that tradition but that Slovenia has maintained its Central European, rather than Balkan, orientation.

With respect to the break-up of Yugoslavia, Kucan argued that, while Islam and socialism had served as integrating elements beginning in 1918, there had been no "new idea" to keep Yugoslavia unified beyond those periods. He called that explanation an oversimplification, but said he believed it was a major factor in the former Yugoslav republics' declarations of independence.

Kucan called the Dayton agreement "a decisive point," stating that the United States had successfully interrupted the cycle of violence and ignorance. He reiterated what many others had said about the roots of the conflict—that the war was not a civil or religious one, but an attempt to use ultranationalism to create a "Greater Serbia" and, later, a "Greater Croatia" by exporting the war to Bosnia-Herzegovina. Kucan stated that the U.S. presence has been critical to the effort to prevent resumption of the war, he believes the ultimate success of the Dayton accord will depend on a commitment to that peace reflected in Belgrade and Zagreb, and he called for continued U.S. and European pressure on Serbia and Croatia toward that end.

Kucan also discussed Slovenia's current dispute with Italy over Slovene land that was owned by Italians before 1945. The Slovene parliament was to consider a law to ease restrictions on foreign ownership of property later that day. (The parliament did later approve a proposal by the Spanish presidency of the European Union to resolve the dispute. The Italians foreign ministry has responded positively, but the final outcome of the issue, which rests in the Italian parliament, remains uncertain.)

With State Secretary Golob of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the delegation discussed the Kosovo issue. Golob shared the view of many others—that war in Kosovo would destabilize the entire region and that the foreign presence in the area—particularly that of the United States—is “extremely important.” He described the situation in the former Yugoslavia as “complicated, but not hopeless,” and argued that the price the international community is paying for the IFOR deployment is small compared to the costs that would be associated with failure in Bosnia and a spread of the war.

Prime Minister Drnovsek also argued the legitimacy and importance of the U.S. role in Bosnia. He acknowledged the challenges the involvement poses for the United States in the short term, but expressed its long-term value in terms of the cost-effectiveness of prevention as well as the benefit of helping small democracies develop in Central Europe and the Balkans. He said, “You who espouse democracy, and have enjoyed it for 200 years, have the opportunity to see people who have lived for generations under tyranny, dictatorship, and communism now breathe freely under democracy. We, the small struggling republics, could be like you.”

#### CROATIA

In addition to a briefing from the Ambassador and other U.S. Embassy officials in Zagreb, the delegation met with Croatian President Franjo Tudjman to discuss progress related to implementation of the Dayton Peace Accord, the prospects for long-term peace in the region, and the investigation of the crash of Secretary Brown's plane in Dubrovnik.

The delegation thanked President Tudjman for Croatia's assistance in the aftermath of the plane crash and expressed the delegation's and the United States' interest in continuing the mission that Secretary Brown started. The senators pressed Tudjman on the importance to U.S.-Croatian relations of continued progress toward democratization and privatization. The delegation also indicated that the United States would be monitoring the following issues over the next 6 to 18 months: continued support for the Muslim-Croat Federation, including respect for Bosnia's borders and protection of human rights within those borders, and for peaceful resolutions of regional disputes; fair treatment and resettlement of Serbs who lived in Croatia before the war; continued progress in Eastern Slavonia; and cooperation with the War Crimes Tribunal. The delegation stated that the United States is looking to Croatia for leadership toward a lasting peace in the region.

Tudjman reported that good progress is being made in Eastern Slavonia, and supported the idea of Serb family reunification, but said that it “would not be realistic” to expect the return of all Serbs from that region. He argued that Bosnian Croats have been more cooperative than Bosnian Muslims with respect to implementation of the Dayton agreement and pointed to recent problems in Mostar to support that claim. Still, Tudjman called himself “an optimist,”

saying that optimism is based on peace being in Croatia's strategic interest and the Bosnians having no other option. He summarily dismissed rumors of his willingness to enter into an agreement with Serbian President Milosevic to divide Bosnia.

#### GOOD SAMARITAN CENTER'S 50 YEARS OF SERVICE

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, I would like to take this time to congratulate the staff of the Good Samaritan Center as they celebrate 50 years of service to the Tyndall community. The center has provided quality care to senior citizens in the Tyndall area, and its management and staff are to be commended for their hard work and dedication.

During my travels throughout South Dakota, I am continually reminded of the importance of health care institutions in our rural communities. They provide important services to local residents and help preserve our tight-knit communities.

The Good Samaritan Center in Tyndall is one of those institutions, and it gives me great pride to be able to point to such an exemplary South Dakota facility. For half a century, the center has been an integral part of the Tyndall community, serving the elderly with respect and compassion. Most importantly, the Good Samaritan Center ensures that its residents can continue to live close to their friends and loved ones, and in the towns in which many of them have spent their entire lives. The center can be very proud of its role in the Tyndall community.

Once again, I applaud the management and staff of the Good Samaritan Center on this important milestone. I know their next 50 years will be just as successful and rewarding.

#### TRIBUTE TO MINISTER GABRIEL LEWIS

Mr. THURMOND. Mr. President, the United States and the Republic of Panama enjoy a long and strong relationship between our two nations, one that stretches back to the 1904 founding of Panama. Since that time, these two great American nations have worked together to build partnerships for peace and prosperity that have not only greatly benefited our respective countries, but all the states of the American continents. During these 92 years, Panamanian and American officials and citizens have built countless friendships, and I rise today to share with my colleagues the unfortunate news that a man most of us know and like very much, Foreign Minister of the Republic of Panama Gabriel Lewis, is resigning his position due to illness.

Minister Lewis' contributions to his nation are well known and well respected. He has served Panama faithfully and selflessly during his career, and through his service, he has worked to make his nation a better and stronger place for its citizens. Perhaps Min-

ister Lewis' greatest legacy and contribution to his countrymen, though, is the leading role he took in opposing the dictatorial and criminal regime of the former Panamanian strongman, Manuel Noriega.

Bringing Noriega to justice and holding him accountable for his illegal and immoral behavior took thousands of individuals to commit acts of great courage. It took courage for Panamanian citizens to take to the streets and protest the regime of Noriega and to face his riot police and organized thugs dubiously titled “Dignity Battalions”; and, it took courage for the young soldiers of the 82d Airborne and the 7th Infantry Divisions to engage in combat with the well trained and equipped Panamanian Defense Force. It took great courage for Minister Lewis to openly defy and condemn the government of his nation, and to take Noriega and his puppet advisers to task for attempting to quash democracy and ignore the basic civil rights of their citizens. Minister Lewis' leadership in the international community during that time of crisis was just as critical to the successful outcome of Operation Just Cause, and the arrest and conviction of Noriega as were the contributions made by the people of Panama or the military personnel of the United States.

Mr. President, though I am sure that those who know Minister Lewis are sorry to see him leave his post as Foreign Minister of the Republic of Panama, I am pleased to note that our friend is not leaving public service. Recognizing an individual of unusual characteristics and qualities, the President of Panama has appointed Gabriel Lewis to be his senior counsel, with cabinet rank. I am confident that Minister Lewis will continue to make many valuable contributions to the people and nation of Panama through this new position, and that he will also continue to work to maintain and further strengthen the friendship between our nations, as well as to further the march of democracy throughout Latin America. I wish him success in his work as senior counsel, and for a speedy and complete recovery to his full health.

#### THE VERY BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, as of the close of business yesterday, Monday, June 17, the Federal debt stood at \$5,137,826,225,531.03, which amounts to \$19,306.97 per man, woman, and child on a per capita basis.

#### SETTING THE RECORD STRAIGHT

Mr. FORD. Mr. President, I am sure that we all have high standards for accuracy on this floor, and therefore I wish to comment on certain statements which have been made in recent days.

On June 7, the junior Senator from Oklahoma mistakenly represented that