

no independently verified evidence today to support legislation to direct the initiation of a pilot program.

Mr. President, this legislation is fraught with requirements that will detrimentally impact the current destruction program.

The administration is pushing the Senate to ratify the Chemical Weapons Convention. If this amendment were to pass, we would be unable to meet the requirements in the CWC to begin destruction of the stockpile within 2 years of entry into force of the treaty. We would also not be able to complete destruction of the stockpile within the 10-year timeframe.

Mr. FORD. Mr. President, I understand, after the modifications, that both sides have agreed to this amendment. I am grateful.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I wish to advise the Senate, in view of the modifications submitted by the Senator from Kentucky, that this amendment is acceptable on this side.

Mr. NUNN. Mr. President, I urge adoption of the amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, the amendment is agreed to.

The amendment (No. 4419) was agreed to.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I move to reconsider the vote by which the amendment was agreed to.

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

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

Mr. FORD. I thank my friends.

AMENDMENT NO. 4415

Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, on the previous Conrad amendment on the B-52's, we need to move to reconsider that amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There was no motion to reconsider that amendment.

Mr. CONRAD. That is correct. Would it be appropriate to reconsider the amendment?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Yes, it would.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, could the Chair advise the Senate once again as to the request by the Senator from North Dakota and what the response was?

Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, the previous Conrad amendment on B-52's that had been agreed to on both sides was not reconsidered and laid on the table. I was just going through that formality now.

I have made the motion to reconsider. Mr. President, I move to reconsider the vote by which the amendment was agreed to.

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

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, this bill is moving along very speedily, and the managers anticipate that following the presentation by the distinguished majority leader and the Democratic leader of the unanimous-consent request that this bill will conclude today.

Seeing no Senator seeking recognition, I ask unanimous consent that the Senator from Utah be recognized to make a statement not to exceed 10 minutes.

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

THE ELECTION IN RUSSIA

Mr. BENNETT. Mr. President, I thank the managers of the bill.

Normally, I would not intrude upon the legislative session for a matter that belongs in morning business. But this morning's newspaper carries a story that has some urgency connected with it, and I think some connection with the bill we are discussing.

We are talking about America's defenses, and in the course of the debate, we talked about the situation in Russia and the election in Russia.

In this morning's Washington Post there is a headline "New Yeltsin Aide Rails at Foreign Religions."

Then the subheadline, which is what has caused me to come to the floor in protest, says "Lebed Calls Mormonism 'Mold and Scum.'"

In the story coming from Moscow, the date line of June 27,

Alexander Lebed, the tough-talking retired general who has become President Boris Yeltsin's unofficial running mate, railed against Western cultural influences in Russia today and vowed to rid the country of foreign religious and cults—including Mormonism, which he called "mold and scum."

Speaking to an assembly of patriotic organizations, he declared that Russia has three "established, traditional religions"—Orthodox Christianity, Islam and Buddhism—pointedly excluding the faith of the country's 650,000 Jews, who have endured fierce antisemitism here for centuries.

He then lumped Mormons with Aum Supreme Truth—the Japanese cult implicated in last year's poison gas attack on the Tokyo subway system—saying they pose a "direct threat to Russia's security" because they are bent on "perverting, corrupting and ultimately breaking up out state."

Mr. President, there are several reactions to this outburst on the part of Mr. Lebed, all of them disturbing.

First, we should note that he is reciting and repeating the general political posture taken by the Communist candidate in the race for the Presidency. This man, who is now viewed as the strongest man behind President Yeltsin and possibly President Yeltsin's replacement in that part of the Russian politics, has reached out to take the most virulent antireligious positions of their Communist opponent, Mr. Zyuganov, and has adopted them into his political platform.

One would assume, therefore, that we might dismiss this phrase as simply a political ploy on Mr. Lebed's part in an effort to steal a political position from the opponents. It is far more serious than that. Mr. Lebed has the reputation of being the kind of man who does in fact speak at the drop of a hat and sometimes without thinking but who, once having made a statement of this kind, would use his official position to

follow it up with a serious religious repression of any who do not fall into the three religions he has declared to be acceptable—Orthodox Christianity, Islam, and Buddhism. I would think that Catholics, Protestants, Western Christians of any kind, and certainly Jews, would be chilled by this kind of statement coming from the man who is so close to President Yeltsin.

It is very interesting to me as a side comment that he has chosen to speak of the Buddhists as one of the three acceptable religions in Russia when, in fact, there is not a significant presence of Buddhism in Russia. If you are going to choose religions on the basis of their representation there, there are far more Jews in Russia than there are Buddhists, and yet he has chosen to include the Buddhists and very pointedly exclude the Jews. This is an outrageous statement from a nation that has been the source of some of the most virulent anti-Semitism the world has ever seen, and it clearly needs to be challenged.

The other point that needs to be made here with respect to what is being said in this Presidential campaign in Russia has to do not with religion but with democracy. We are being told continually that the Russians have finally crossed over the hump, and they have gone from the totalitarianism of the Communist years now into the open sunshine of free debate and free dissension. We know from history that the first casualty of tolerance for a regime moving in the direction of totalitarianism is always religious tolerance, and then immediately following after that comes an attempt to destroy any political dissension.

We are seeing a signal here from the man closest to President Yeltsin that the Yeltsin regime, if they listen to this man, will move in the direction of destroying dissent and differing opinions throughout all of Russian society. They will start with religion, but surely they will then move to repress all other dissenting opinions and we will see Russia move back into the shadows of totalitarianism under which the Russian people have, unfortunately, lived for centuries, if not millennia. Indeed, if you go past the Communist period into the years of the czarist rule, we found that the czars and the then State church worked hand in hand to see that there was no dissension of any kind in either religious or political debate in czarist Russia. These are the specters that are being raised by this kind of statement from this man in a Presidential election.

Mr. President, I am working on the language of a letter that will be sent to Secretary Christopher, a letter that will be sent to Brian Atwood, the Director of AID, and that probably will be sent also to Boris Yeltsin himself. Senator HATCH is working with me. We will coordinate the language of this letter. Senator REID has joined and indicated his outrage at these statements, as have Senators LIEBERMAN and SPECTER.

The Presiding Officer will recognize that three of us in this group are members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, the Mormons to which Mr. Lebed pointedly refers, and the other two are Jews: Mr. LIEBERMAN, who practices an orthodox fashion of his religion as faithfully as anyone ever has, and Mr. SPECTER, whose father was born in Russia and forced out of Russia because of the anti-Semitism in that country. And Senator SPECTER continues to practice his Jewish religion.

Senator SPECTER and I have been to Russia together, and we have visited with high officials in the Russian Government and Russian regime. At the time, we were both welcomed, and we both felt we were contributing to a greater degree of understanding of the two nations.

Now, with this kind of statement, I would realize that if I went back to Russia, I would be labeled "mold and scum" because of my religious position, and Senator SPECTER would have every reason to raise the question of what would happen to him in a modern Russia if this kind of thing is allowed to go unchallenged.

One final comment. For many, many years, the Mormons were excluded from Russia and had no contact there. It was during the time when Mikhail Gorbachev was the head of the Soviet Union that the Government reached out and recognized Mormonism as a religion and invited Mormons to come to Russia. From that time until this, the Mormons have been in Russia and have had a very welcomed response on the part of the Russian people. There are now over 5,000 native Russians who have joined with the Mormon Church in Russia who have reason to feel very, very much threatened by this kind of formal statement.

So, Mr. President, as I said, Senators HATCH, LIEBERMAN, REID, and SPECTER will be joining with me in putting forth an official protest in this matter, but I wanted to bring it to the attention of the Senate in this Chamber this afternoon.

Mr. NUNN addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SMITH). The time of the Senator has expired. The Senator from Georgia is recognized.

Mr. NUNN. I am pleased by the statement of the Senator from Utah today because I found the comments that I read in the paper attributed to Mr. Lebed both disturbing and very dangerous. I'm hoping that President Yeltsin and others will denounce this kind of rhetoric, which, no matter what its purpose, if it was simply posturing for political purposes leading up to the election, is inexcusable language. It can set up very dangerous kinds of activities in Russia against Mormons, against Jews, and against others.

I think it is very timely for the Senator to make this announcement. I identify with his statement, and I hope

there will be corrective action taken by the Russian officials in terms of making it clear that this kind of rhetoric is unacceptable.

Mr. BENNETT. Mr. President, I thank the Senator.

Mr. CONRAD addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Dakota.

Mr. CONRAD. I thank the Senator from Utah [Mr. BENNETT] as well for his statement. I read the statement that was attributed to General Lebed this morning in the paper, and I must say I was surprised by it. It is an obnoxious statement. It should not be allowed to stand without a reaction from those of us in this country who feel strongly about that kind of statement from wherever it emanates. I salute the Senator from Utah for his strong statement on the floor today.

Mr. President, when I was in high school, I played on a Mormon softball team. I do not know how they let somebody raised in the Presbyterian Church, later a Unitarian, play on the Mormon team, but I had a great association with Mormons. We do not have many in North Dakota, but we had a close association built up through that activity. We had a pretty good softball team as well. They were some of the finest people with whom I have ever been associated.

I think the statement by General Lebed is one that requires condemnation, and I am pleased to join my voice to those that have already been raised in objection to the really outrageous language that was used at least in the statement attributed to General Lebed. If those are not his words, he ought to quickly correct the record. If those are his words, he ought to apologize.

I thank the Chair and yield the floor.

Mr. BENNETT. Mr. President, I thank the Senator from Georgia and the Senator from North Dakota for their expressions of support. I am very grateful for that, as I am sure are all other individuals who have been outraged by the statements attributed to General Lebed.

I might say to the Senator from North Dakota, I am sure he hit the ball pretty well, which is why they had him on the team, in addition to his good personality and friendship. These teams are open to everybody, but they are open more to people who can play well and not people like myself who get in the way.

Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 1997

The Senate continued with the consideration of the bill.

AMENDMENT NO. 4420

Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, at this time I would like to send an amendment to the desk and ask for its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, the pending amendment is laid aside. The clerk will report.

The assistant clerk read as follows:

The Senator from North Dakota [Mr. CONRAD] proposes an amendment numbered 4420.

Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

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

The amendment is as follows:

At the end of Subtitle C of Title II, insert the following:

SEC. . AIR FORCE NATIONAL MISSILE DEFENSE PLAN.

(a) SENSE OF THE SENATE.—It is the sense of the Senate that—

(1) the Air Force proposal for a Minuteman based national missile defense system is an important national missile defense option and is worthy of serious consideration; and

(2) the Secretary of Defense should give the Air Force national missile defense proposal full consideration.

(b) REPORT.—Not later than 120 days after the enactment of this act, the Secretary of Defense shall provide the Congressional Defense Committees a report on the following matters in relation to the Air Force National Missile Defense Proposal:

(1) The cost and operational effectiveness of a system that could be developed pursuant to the Air Forces' plan.

(2) The Arms Control implications of such system.

(3) Growth potential to meet future threats.

(4) The Secretary's recommendation for improvements to the Air Force's plan.

Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, this is the amendment we discussed earlier that says the Air Force plan for national missile defense is an important option and is worthy of serious consideration, and that the Secretary of Defense should give the Air Force national missile defense proposal full consideration.

It further calls on the Secretary of Defense to produce a report within 120 days on the following matters in relation to the Air Force national missile defense proposal:

First, the cost and operational effectiveness of a system that could be developed pursuant to the Air Force plan;

Second, the arms control implications of such a system;

Third, the growth potential to meet future threats;

And finally, fourth, the Secretary's recommendation for improvements to the Air Force's plan.

I do not think too much more needs to be said. I outlined at some length earlier what I think are the great strengths of the Air Force plan: First, it is treaty compliant; second, it is affordable; third, it uses existing technology.

I ask for support from my colleagues for this amendment and ask for its consideration at this point.