

2. Take the necessary legislative and administrative actions to make TDA, OPIC and EXIM programs available to our companies in the Caucasus, Central Asia, Afghanistan and Pakistan.

Since U.S. companies will frequently not be participating as majority owners in pipeline and consortia agreement, we need to find creative ways in which we can assure their access to these programs within existing requirements on U.S. content and equity participation. Our competitors, as noted below, are already operating in the area with government-backed credit lines. Repealing Section 907 of the FREEDOM Support Act would make it easier for these programs to operate effectively throughout the Caspian region. We recognize that opening these programs in individual countries is contingent upon decisions from respective Boards of Directors taking into account legal strictures and country risk assessment.

3. Encourage high-level visits to and from the region.

Many observers point to high-level visible government support as major factor in the successful involvement of British, French, and Japanese firms throughout the Caspian region—support which gives these companies a significant competitive edge against American companies. This support typically takes two forms—high level, high visibility trade missions and export credits. The Caspian Basin is new to many political and business leaders in the U.S. High-level congressional, administration, and business travel to the region—for example cabinet-level participation in the oil and gas shows in Baku, Ashgabat, and Almaty, and in support of companies' bids for contracts—would be particularly useful. These visits should be reinforced by invitations to decision-makers from the region to come to the U.S.

4. Continue active U.S. support for international and regional efforts to achieve balanced and lasting political settlement of conflicts in Nagorno-Karabakh, Abkhazia, and elsewhere in the region (e.g. Chechnya, Tajikistan). Be prepared to contribute a fair share to reconstruction and development costs of war-torn zones following achievement of peace agreements.

5. Make available USG resources to support a UN-led peace process in Afghanistan if/when the Afghan parties agree on terms for these elements.

A lasting Afghanistan peace settlement is not only in the interests of the Afghan people but would promote regional stability and development. U.S. companies are eager to participate in exporting Caspian energy via Afghanistan.

6. Encourage installation of upgraded navigation systems in the Bosphorus.

This issue should be kept separate from consideration of a main export pipeline through Turkey: it stands on its own merits. As noted earlier, the capacity of the Bosphorus to carry Caspian oil safely and efficiently will eventually be exceeded. The present system is inadequate and needs replacement regardless of the additional volume of oil which transits this area. Turkish concerns for the safety of the 13 million people who live along the straits are valid and we should work through the International Maritime Organization (IMO) to set reasonable standards for safe and secure transit through the Straits. The adoption of more advanced technology would further improve the flow of traffic in the Straits and increase safety for shippers and reduce the risk of an environmentally devastating oil spill. Currently, while there are some aids to navigation, there is no continuous tracking of ships. The USG should continue to urge and work with the Turkish government to install a state-of-the-art Vessel Tracking System

(VTS) for the Turkish Straits, preferably from an American supplier, which would provide complete radar coverage throughout the Straits and would have the ability to communicate with ships by radio. The U.S. Coast Guard is currently working on installing 17 such systems across the United States. The Coast Guard estimates that complete coverage of the Straits would cost \$60 million to install, and up to \$1 million annually to operate. The Turkish government has prepared a tender to install a world class VTS three times. The USG should support efforts to secure international financing for such a system.

7. Encourage the development of new markets in the Black Sea Region.

All current oil export routes from the Caspian Basin terminate at the Black Sea. Given the limitations on the volume of oil which can be exported through the Bosphorus as outlined above, alternatives to the Straits must be identified and developed. One possibility is to develop the oil, gas, and power markets in the Black Sea Region and to develop the infrastructure to transport Caspian energy to other markets. Additional sources of energy for the countries of this region and increased transit fees would stimulate economic development, reduce existing monopolies over supplies, and provide lucrative markets for the producing countries.

8. Structure assistance to the region to encourage economic reform and the development of appropriate investment climates in the region.

Continued USG support through technical assistance is essential in assisting these countries to establish strong market economies and encourage the emergence of a financially vibrant energy sector. Transparent legal and regulatory environment, and restructured and privatized energy sectors in these countries will ensure the commercial viability of new investments and expand opportunities for U.S. industry. To a great extent, the Clinton Administration's ability to tailor assistance strategies to address U.S. interests is hampered by restrictions on how assistance money can be spent. Besides the restrictions imposed by Section 907 of the FSA on USG funded assistance to the Government of Azerbaijan, Congressional earmarks limit assistance flexibility and often channel money away from projects and programs which might further U.S. interests more rapidly. We recommend that earmarks and other restrictions be kept as low as possible, if not completely eliminated.

#### TRIBUTE TO THOMAS SALMON

Mr. JEFFORDS. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to Tom Salmon, president of the University of Vermont, who will be retiring later this month.

Tom and I have worked together for nearly three decades. First as young lawyers in our hometown of Rutland, VT, and then in the general assembly. While he went on to serve as Governor for two terms, I went to Washington to serve in Congress. Although we represented different political parties, we shared a love for Vermont which enabled us to work together and put politics aside.

More recently, during Tom Salmon's tenure as president of the University of Vermont, we have had the opportunity to work closely again. His commitment to improving the quality of education has been outstanding, and I have watched with admiration as the univer-

sity has flourished under his guidance. His capacity to make tough decisions while also connecting with students at the university has contributed to his success. No one could ever question Tom Salmon's dedication after hearing about the time he had to excuse himself from an important meeting of the Governor's council of economic advisors because it conflicted with his graduate school seminar. This has been a job that Tom has loved, and one that he has done well.

As I think back over the years, one thing is very clear, Tom Salmon is a man who cares about the State of Vermont and its citizens. Be it as Governor, teacher, chairman of the board, or adviser, his outstanding ability always shines through making him one of Vermont's most successful leaders.

#### COMMENDATION FOR LINDA ESPINOSA

Mr. CAMPBELL. Mr. President, I would like to take the time today to commend an amazing young woman from my home State of Colorado.

Linda Espinosa is a very special person. Not only has she been named the valedictorian of her school in Colorado Springs, but she is also one of only six people each year to be awarded the Junior Achievement Award by Amway Corp. This achievement is even more significant because the award is given to outstanding individuals who have excelled in a particular area, despite suffering from hardship or disability. Linda's triumph has been overcoming deafness to lead her class at the Colorado School for the Deaf and Blind.

I admire Linda's determination and scholarship, and ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing her accomplishment. I wish Linda the best of luck in her future endeavors. We can all learn a lesson in perseverance from this courageous young woman.

Thank you, Mr. President. I yield the floor.

#### SUMMARY OF A REPORT OF THE SENATE DELEGATION VISIT TO ASIA

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to insert in today's RECORD a summary of a longer report on a November 1996 trip taken by a congressional delegation consisting of Senators GLENN, LEAHY, DORGAN, KEMPTHORNE, and myself. The delegation traveled to Vietnam, China, Hong Kong, and Taiwan, meeting with senior government officials in each location. The summary discusses the highlights of the trip. The full report is also available. As the trip report summary highlights, members of the delegation raised important U.S. national priorities in each country and gained valuable insight into the leaders' views.

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

REPORT OF THE SENATE DELEGATION VISIT TO  
ASIA, NOVEMBER 8-17, 1996

SUMMARY AND FINDINGS

A delegation from the United States Senate, consisting of Democratic Leader Tom Daschle (D-SD), Senator John Glenn (D-OH), Senator Patrick Leahy (D-VT), Senator Byron Dorgan (D-ND) and Senator Dirk Kempthorne (R-ID), met with leading officials in Vietnam, China, Hong Kong and Taiwan during a trip to that region from November 8-17, 1996. The delegation's mission was to explore firsthand U.S. policy issues in this part of the world where the United States has important national security, humanitarian and economic interests.

In each country, the delegation discussed various aspects of U.S. policy with high level government officials. In meetings in Vietnam, they raised a variety of important U.S. policy interests, beginning with the high priority the United States places on resolving remaining cases of U.S. service members reported missing in action (MIA). They also discussed the need for a comprehensive trade agreement and the issues that must be addressed before one can be completed. They raised a number of other issues, including urging greater cooperation on Agent Orange research issues; pressing the need or improvements in Vietnam's human rights practices; requesting that the U.S. Embassy in Hanoi be relocated to a more central location in the city closer to most of the organizations with which it works; and encouraging the Vietnamese to resolve remaining immigration issues and remove existing obstacles to trade.

In these meetings, the Vietnamese expressed a willingness to work with the U.S. to resolve problems in U.S.-Vietnamese bilateral relations. They clearly understood the importance of the MIA issue and pledged cooperation. They appeared to welcome the trade that has taken place in the absence of a comprehensive trade agreement and looked forward to expanding trade with such an agreement. The Vietnamese acknowledged that they had a way to go in modifying their laws and practices to enter fully the international marketplace. In addition, they were eager to have the National Assembly, their legislative branch, host a congressional delegation for the first time. They expressed strong interest in expanding contracts between our respective legislative branches in the future.

The Chinese leaders with whom the delegation met appeared very interested in moving U.S.-Chinese relations in a more positive direction. The delegation had a good exchange of views with the Chinese in a number of areas, including expressing the importance to the United States of human rights practices; the need for improvements in China's trade policies to open its markets and increase opportunities for U.S. exports; and the need for additional attention in the area of nuclear proliferation. They heard varying levels of acknowledgment of U.S. positions and willingness to work with us.

The delegation also discussed with the Chinese the upcoming July 1, 1997 transition in which Hong Kong reverts to Chinese sovereignty. The delegation indicated that it is very important to the U.S. that the transition go smoothly, and the Chinese said that they wished to see that outcome as well. The delegation also met with a wide range of Hong Kong residents to assess their views on the transition. Some were quite optimistic, as were the U.S. businesses with whom the delegation met. Others were more cautious and pointed out the potential for conflict.

The delegation had a number of discussions with leaders in China and Taiwan about the relations between Taiwan and the Mainland.

Both sides indicated that tensions had diminished since the U.S. sent carriers to the Taiwan Straits shortly before Taiwan's March 1996 election. However, the delegation observed a wide gulf between each side's interpretation of the relations between them and the prospects for reunification.

TOM DASCHLE,  
JOHN GLENN,  
PATRICK LEAHY,  
BYRON DORGAN,  
DIRK KEMPTHORNE.

THE VERY BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, at the close of business yesterday, Wednesday, May 7, 1997, the Federal debt stood at \$5,336,081,916,565.07 (five trillion, three hundred thirty-six billion, eighty-one million, nine hundred sixteen thousand, five hundred sixty-five dollars and seven cents).

One year ago, May 7, 1996, the Federal debt stood at \$5,093,910,000,000 (five trillion, ninety-three billion, nine hundred ten million).

Five years ago, May 7, 1992, the federal debt stood at \$3,883,035,000,000 (three trillion, eight hundred eighty-three billion, thirty-five million).

Ten years ago, May 7, 1987, the Federal debt stood at \$2,272,537,000,000 (two trillion, two hundred seventy-two billion, five hundred thirty-seven million).

Fifteen years ago, May 7, 1982, the Federal debt stood at \$1,057,931,000,000 (one trillion, fifty-seven billion, nine hundred thirty-one million) which reflects a debt increase of more than \$4 trillion—\$4,278,150,916,565.07 (four trillion, two hundred seventy-eight billion, one hundred fifty million, nine hundred sixteen thousand, five hundred sixty-five dollars and seven cents) during the past 15 years.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I observe the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

WE CAN SAY WE WERE PART OF  
SOMETHING

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, the tragic days of the Dirty Thirties are still remembered by many in my State. As an unbreakable drought settled over our region, the fields dried and the crops withered. Hot, dry winds whipped the dust into dark clouds that blew over the land and settled in great drifts on the ground. It was a desperate time for our State. Destitute and facing foreclosure, many South Dakotans had no choice but to abandon the farms in which they had invested countless years of labor. These losses rippled through our economy with a devastating effect, stripping businesses of their livelihood and farmworkers of

their jobs. As the lines of the unemployed grew, so did a feeling of hopelessness among our people.

It was in the midst of this terrible Depression that one of our Nation's greatest Presidents, Franklin Delano Roosevelt, offered hope to the people of South Dakota. Through the Civilian Conservation Corps and the Works Progress Administration [WPA], he provided jobs for South Dakotans, and gave us back the dignity that comes with earning your keep. Roosevelt's mark can still be seen across the State, where the thousands of people he put to work left stadiums, sewer systems, and miles of highways and sidewalks as their legacy.

In Milbank, a quiet, friendly town in the northeast corner of my State, the WPA-built municipal water system still ingeniously delivers water from springs outside of town without the work of a single pump. And only recently was the stretch of Highway 12 that runs through Milbank, built by WPA workers and nearly six decades old, finally repaved.

After all Franklin Roosevelt gave to South Dakota and the people of Milbank, I am pleased to say that we have had the rare and wonderful opportunity to give something back to him. Mr. President, last week the long-awaited memorial to Franklin Roosevelt was unveiled. Over 800 feet long, its rough-hewn granite walls form outdoor rooms that honor each of Roosevelt's four terms as President.

I am proud to say that the stone for this memorial was quarried by workers in Milbank. Nearly 60 years after Roosevelt put the citizens of Milbank to work in the WPA, they have again been hard at work for him, cutting and hammering the granite for our memorial to the man who led our Nation through its worst depression and most terrible war.

Quarrying this granite has been a source of deep inspiration and pride for the workers of the Cold Springs Granite Co., which owns the quarry. Often working in the bitter cold, their fierce dedication ensured that the 4,500 hundred tons of stone they cut reached Washington safely and on schedule.

This was no mean feat—to meet the needs of the memorial, the 3-billion-year-old layer of granite that runs beneath Milbank was cut in pieces weighing up to 100 tons. These monstrous stones then had to be carefully raised, without cracking or falling, from the base of a pit 140 feet beneath the ground. Once they reached the surface, the stones were sent by flatbed truck to Cold Springs, MN, where workers shaped them according to the models of Lawrence Halprin, the designer of the monument. According to workers like Frank Hermans, who has worked in the quarry his entire adult life, the job gave him and his coworkers the chance to leave their mark in history. "We can say we were part of something," he said. "Not many get the chance to say that."