

their history. The Baltics were occupied and oppressed by the Soviet Union during all of the cold war, but are now on a quick path to full democracy and free market economies.

As we meet in Madrid this July with our NATO partners to discuss expansion of the alliance, we should also consider extending an invitation to our friends in the Baltics. Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania have all made significant progress toward the NATO requirements of irreversible democracy, free market economies, and civilian-controlled militaries. They have participated in NATO's Partnership for Peace initiative by supplying troops to NATO peacekeeping efforts. The Baltic nations have requested, and deserve, consideration for full NATO membership. That is why I am introducing legislation today recommending the integration of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania into NATO at the earliest possible date.

Having traveled to Estonia recently, I have a very personal interest in its entry into NATO. Estonia is a beautiful nation on the Baltic Sea, inhabited by brave men and women dedicated to democracy and freedom from foreign domination. The people of Estonia have been under foreign rule throughout almost their entire history. They were ruled by Germans in the 13th century, Swedes in the 16th and 17th centuries, and by Tsarist Russia in the 19th century. Finally, after World War I, Estonia fought for independence for 2 years and won. The people of Estonia established a parliamentary democracy and their republic flourished for nearly two decades until the Soviet Union, and then Nazi Germany invaded during World War II. With the end of Soviet domination, Estonia and their Baltic neighbors look to the West for protection of their right to independence.

Unfortunately, the subject of NATO expansion to Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania has become taboo. Many in the U.S. national security community believe the Baltics, lying so close to Russia and within the area Yeltsin considers to be Russia's sphere of influence, should not be considered for NATO membership. In fact, in February, Russian President Boris Yeltsin stated that Baltic membership in NATO would have an "extremely negative impact" on stability in the region and that the preservation of the Baltic nations' status outside blocs could dispel "still lingering fears for their security." We should not allow these threatening comments to influence our efforts to expand NATO.

Out of fear of isolating Russia, the United States and our European allies may forsake three tiny nations that did so much to promote the collapse of the Soviet Union and the eradication of communism throughout Eastern Europe.

Cold war history is replete with tragedy. The expansion of the Soviet Union across Eastern Europe is one of his-

tory's darkest moments. Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania, all independent nations since 1918, fell victim to secret negotiations between Hitler and Stalin during World War II. Under the auspices of the Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact of 1939, the Soviet Union laid claim to the Baltics, invaded, and ruled them with an iron fist from 1945 until 1991. Now it is time for NATO to take decisive action to rectify the past and protect the nations of Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union from any future foreign irredentism.

Future NATO membership for Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania is essential to their safety and prosperity. Democracy and economic reform and expansion may be at risk to security if the Baltics continue to exist, unprotected, in the shadow of an increasingly nationalistic Russia. The United States must ensure that the Baltic nations are invited to the NATO summit in Madrid and must work toward eventual membership in our security alliance for Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation and thank Senators D'AMATO and DURBIN for joining me as a original cosponsors.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 30—RELATIVE TO THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA ON TAIWAN

Mr. HELMS (for himself and Mr. LIEBERMAN) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. CON. RES. 30

Whereas the Republic of China on Taiwan (hereafter referred to as "Taiwan") possesses a free economy with the 19th largest gross domestic product in the world;

Whereas Taiwan has the 14th largest trading economy in the world and the 7th largest amount of foreign investment in the world and holds one of the largest amounts of foreign exchange reserves in the world;

Whereas Taiwan is a democracy committed to the economic and political norms of the international community;

Whereas the purpose of the International Monetary Fund (hereafter referred to as "IMF") is to promote exchange stability, to establish a multilateral system of payments, to facilitate the expansion of world trade, and to provide capital to assist developing nations;

Whereas the membership of Taiwan in the IMF would benefit the world economy, especially those developing countries in need of capital, and would contribute to the purposes of the IMF;

Whereas the IMF aims to further economic liberalization and globalization and conducts conferences, exchanges, and training programs in international monetary management which would be beneficial to Taiwan;

Whereas the IMF aims to further worldwide economic relationships and is not a political entity, as evidenced by the fact that Taiwan remained a member of the IMF from 1972 until 1980 after it had been forced to give up its membership in the United Nations; and

Whereas membership in the IMF is a prerequisite for accession to the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development and to regional banks in which the member-

ship of Taiwan would be beneficial and fully justified: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That it is the sense of the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring) that it should be United States policy to support—

(1) the admission of the Republic of China on Taiwan (hereafter referred to as "Taiwan") to membership in the International Monetary Fund;

(2) the admission of Taiwan to membership in the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development; and

(3) the admission of Taiwan to membership in all appropriate regional multilateral economic institutions.

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, Senator LIEBERMAN and I are submitting today a Senate concurrent resolution in support of Taiwan's admission to the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank.

There is simply no reason that Taiwan should be excluded from these multilateral economic institutions. Taiwan has one of the largest trading economies in the world. In fact, in the time it took me to draft this concurrent resolution, Taiwan went from the 20th largest gross domestic product, to the 19th largest.

Moreover, Taiwan is a democracy and a responsible member of the international community. This is more than one can say about many other nations who are currently members of these multilateral institutions.

Mr. President, the purpose of this resolution is straightforward. It expresses the sense of the Senate that Taiwan deserves to belong to these organizations. This resolution is not directed against any other nation. It simply puts the Senate on record in favor of justice for Taiwan.

SENATE RESOLUTION 90—AUTHORIZING THE PRINTING OF A PUBLICATION

Mr. BYRD (for himself, Mr. COVERDELL, and Mr. CLELAND) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 90

Resolved,

SECTION 1. PRINTING OF THE PUBLICATION ENTITLED "DEDICATION AND UNVEILING OF THE STATUE OF RICHARD BREVARD RUSSELL, JR."

(a) IN GENERAL.—There shall be printed as a Senate document the publication entitled "Dedication and Unveiling of the Statue of Richard Brevard Russell, Jr.", prepared by the Office of Senate Curator under the supervision of the Secretary of the Senate, with the concurrence of the United States Senate Commission on Art.

(b) SPECIFICATIONS.—The Senate document described in subsection (a) shall include illustrations and shall be in the style, form, manner, and binding as directed by the Joint Committee on Printing after consultation with the Secretary of the Senate.

(c) NUMBER OF COPIES.—In addition to the usual number of copies, there shall be printed with suitable binding the lesser of—

(1) 1,000 copies for the use of the Senate, to be allocated as determined by the Secretary of the Senate; or

(2) a number of copies that does not have a total production and printing cost of more than \$1,200.

SENATE RESOLUTION 91—TO AUTHORIZE THE PRODUCTION OF RECORDS

Mr. LOTT (for himself and Mr. DASCHLE) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 91

Whereas, the Office of the Inspector General of the United States Department of Justice has requested that the Select Committee on Intelligence provide it with copies of committee records relevant to the Office's pending review of matters related to allegations of Central Intelligence Agency involvement in crack cocaine trafficking with supporters of the Nicaraguan Contras;

Whereas, by the privileges of the Senate of the United States and Rule XI of the Standing Rules of the Senate, no evidence under the control or in the possession of the Senate can, by administrative or judicial process, be taken from such control or possession but by permission of the Senate;

Whereas, when it appears that documents, papers, and records under the control or in the possession of the Senate may promote the administration of justice, the Senate will take such action as will promote the ends of justice consistently with the privileges of the Senate: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence, acting jointly, we authorized to provide to the Office of Inspector General of the United States Department of Justice or to other government investigators, under appropriate security procedures, copies of committee records related to allegations of Central Intelligence Agency involvement in crack cocaine trafficking with supporters of the Nicaraguan Contras.

SEC. 2. That the Chairman and Ranking Minority Member of any other committee of the Senate, acting jointly, are authorized to provide to the Office of Inspector General of the United States Department of Justice or to other government investigators, under appropriate security procedures, copies of records held by their committee related to allegations of Central Intelligence Agency involvement in crack cocaine trafficking with supporters of the Nicaraguan Contras.

SENATE RESOLUTION 92—RELATIVE TO NATIONAL LITERACY DAY

Mr. LAUTENBERG submitted a resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 92

Whereas 44,000,000 United States citizens today read at a level that is less than the level necessary for full survival needs;

Whereas there are 40,000,000 adults in the United States who cannot read, whose resources are left untapped, and who are unable to make a full contribution to society;

Whereas illiteracy is growing rapidly, as 2,500,000 persons, including as many as 1,300,000 immigrants, 1,500,000 high school dropouts, and 100,000 refugees, are added to the pool of illiterate persons annually;

Whereas the annual cost of illiteracy to the United States in terms of welfare expenditures, crime, prison expenses, lost revenues, and industrial and military accidents has been estimated at \$230,000,000,000;

Whereas the competitiveness of the United States is eroded by the presence in the workplace of millions of Americans who are functionally or technologically illiterate;

Whereas there is a direct correlation between the number of illiterate adults who

are unable to perform at the standard necessary for available employment and the money allocated to child welfare and unemployment compensation;

Whereas the percentage of illiterate persons in proportion to population percentage is higher for African Americans and Hispanics, resulting in increased economic and social discrimination against these minorities;

Whereas the prison population represents the highest concentration of adult illiteracy;

Whereas 1,000,000 children in the United States between the ages of 12 and 17 years old cannot read above a third grade level, 13 percent of all 17-year-olds are functionally illiterate, and 15 percent of graduates of urban high schools read at less than a sixth grade level;

Whereas 85 percent of the juveniles who appear in criminal court are functionally illiterate;

Whereas the 47 percent illiteracy rate among African American youths is expected to increase;

Whereas ½ of all heads of households cannot read above an eighth grade level and ½ of all mothers on welfare are functionally illiterate;

Whereas the cycle of illiteracy continues because the children of illiterate parents are often illiterate themselves due to the lack of support the children receive from their home environment;

Whereas Federal, State, municipal, and private literacy programs have been able to reach only 5 percent of the total illiterate population;

Whereas it is vital to call attention to the problem of illiteracy, to understand the severity of the illiteracy problem and the detrimental effects of illiteracy on our society, and to reach those who are illiterate and unaware of the free services and help available to them; and

Whereas it is necessary to recognize and thank the thousands of volunteers who are working to promote literacy and provide support to the millions of illiterate persons in need of assistance: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates July 2, 1997, and July 2, 1998, as "National Literacy Day"; and

(2) requests that the President issue a proclamation calling on the people of the United States to observe "National Literacy Day" with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

Mr. LAUTENBERG. Mr. President, today I rise to submit a resolution establishing July 2 of this year and the next as National Literacy Day.

Mr. President, the ability to read is something most of us often take for granted. For most of us, it is difficult to imagine not being able to read a menu, street sign, magazine or phone book. But for many of our citizens, these seemingly simple activities are impossible. This is so because they are illiterate. I am submitting this resolution to draw attention to the issue of illiteracy by establishing July 2, 1997 and the following year as National Literacy Day. I hope my colleagues will cosponsor this resolution.

All of us should be more aware of the problem of illiteracy. A recent study found that over 44 million adults cannot read. An additional 35 million read below the level needed to function successfully in society. These numbers alone are alarming and warrant our special attention. But even more dis-

turbing are the personal hardships people must face each day due to their inability to read. The embarrassment parents face when they cannot read to their children. The discouragement able workers feel when they cannot fill out a basic job application. The disappointment we all endure as the ranks of the illiterate grow annually by over 2 million adults.

Mr. President, the 18th Century writer, Joseph Addison, once wrote "Reading is to the mind what exercise is to the body." I could not agree more. Reading enriches our lives in countless ways. But there are far too many of our citizens who cannot read the instructions on a doctor's prescription bottle, let alone share the experience of reading one of Addison's great poems. This needs to change.

Therefore, we must focus our attention on the problem of illiteracy. All of us should make sure we do our part to ensure that citizens who need help know where services are available. We need to recognize the detrimental effects illiteracy has on our society. Most important, more of us need to enlist in the battle to close the book on illiteracy.

Mr. President, for these reasons, I am submitting a resolution to designate July 2, 1997 and July 2, 1998 as National Literacy Day. I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

SENATE RESOLUTION 93—RELATIVE TO NATIONAL FAMILY WEEK

Mr. GRASSLEY submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 93

Whereas the family is the basic strength of any free and orderly society;

Whereas it is appropriate to honor the family unit as essential to the continued well-being of the United States; and

Whereas it is fitting that official recognition be given to the importance of family loyalties and ties: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate designates the week beginning on November 23, 1997 and the week beginning on November 24, 1997, as "National Family Week". The Senate requests the President to issue a proclamation calling on the people of the United States to observe each week with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I come before you today to submit a resolution which would designate the week beginning November 23, 1997, and the week beginning November 22, 1998, as "National Family Week." This legislation has been passed in each Congress and signed into public law every year since 1976. I am pleased to be able to contribute to this longstanding tradition, of recognizing the importance of family, by again introducing this legislation.

As we all know, the family is the most basic element of our society, and the tie that binds us to one another. It is the strength of any free and orderly society and it is appropriate to honor