

States travel policy. I was advised that there are large numbers of Americans in Lebanon at all times and that they are safe. Frequent reference was made to the recent visit of the Pope to Lebanon. Finally, I was told that the U.S. travel policy was keeping relatives apart and was preventing needed U.S. private investment in Lebanon. General Lahoud pointed out that members of the Hizballah Party, which is the primary security concern of the United States, were elected to and participating in the Lebanese parliament and that there had not been an incident against an American in five years.

Significantly, our representatives in Beirut favored a lifting of the travel restriction.

Based upon my personal observations during my visit, it is clear to me that perceptions about the security situation in Lebanon are outdated. There is no substitute for an on-the-scene assessment.

Later on the trip I visited Bosnia and I had an opportunity in Sarajevo to meet with Secretary of State Madeleine Albright. I urged her to send a team to Lebanon to assess the security situation there and was pleased when she advised me that she was doing so. I am confident that such an assessment will provide a sound basis for the revision of the current policy and I have written to Secretary Albright urging her to change the current U.S. policy. Senator ABRAHAM has joined me in writing to Secretary Albright.

While I strongly favor a lifting of the travel restriction, I realize that the situation in Lebanon is not normal. Accordingly, in our letter to Secretary Albright, we also urged that a travel warning for Lebanon be issued in lieu of the current travel restriction. In addition to citing the always possible Hizballah terrorist attacks, I believe that the travel warning should note that as long as foreign military forces are present in Lebanon, the situation there is not normalized.

I ask unanimous consent that our letter to Secretary Albright be printed in the RECORD at the conclusion of my remarks.

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

(See exhibit 1.)

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, the Secretary of State bears a heavy responsibility when assessing the security situation in a country to determine if travel restrictions should be applied. The imposition of a travel restriction is rare, as it should be. For example, in the case of travel to Somalia, the State Department issued a travel warning on June 28, 1996, which is still in effect, that states that:

The Department of State warns U.S. citizens against all travel to Somalia. Sporadic fighting among local militias continues in parts of the country. Kidnappings and other threats to foreigners occur unpredictably in virtually all regions. There is no national government in Somalia to offer security or police protection for travelers. There is no U.S. diplomatic presence in Somalia to pro-

vide consular assistance to U.S. citizens. United Nations peacekeeping forces were withdrawn from Somalia in March 1995 and all U.S. citizens were advised to depart the country.

In another example, the Department of State travel warning that was issued on September 2, 1996 regarding Iraq, states:

The U.S. Government views with grave concern the latest reports of spreading violence in northern Iraq. Given the government of Iraq's renewed repression, we are strongly recommending that all U.S. citizens leave Iraq.

Mr. President, based upon my visit to Lebanon, I see no reason to treat Lebanon more restrictively than countries like Somalia and Iraq. I strongly believe that the time has come to substitute a travel warning for the current travel restriction with regard to Lebanon.

EXHIBIT 1

U.S. SENATE,
COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES,
Washington, DC, June 9, 1997.

Hon. MADELEINE K. ALBRIGHT,
Secretary of State, Department of State, Washington, DC

DEAR MADAM SECRETARY: I am writing to you to request a change in the State Department's policy prohibiting the use of a U.S. passport for travel to, in or through Lebanon.

My colleague, Senator Spencer Abraham, who is very familiar with these matters and who has received numerous briefings from Administration officials on this policy, joins me in this request.

As you know, I visited Beirut, Lebanon from May 29 to May 30 via the Beirut Air Bridge that operates out of Cyprus. During my visit to Beirut, I met at length with Ambassador Richard Jones. I also met with Nasrallah Sfeir, 76th Maronite Patriarch of Antioch and all of the East, Mohamed Rashid Qabbani, Grand Mufti of the Republic, IMAM Mohamed Mahdi Shamseddine, President, Higher Islamic Shi'a Council, Prime Minister Rafiq Hariri, President Elias Hrawi, and General Emile Lahoud, Commander of the Lebanese Armed Force. In each instance, the meeting was held at the place where the religious figure or government official was located, requiring travel throughout the city of Beirut and its environs. Additionally, I met with a number of government officials, members of the Lebanese Parliament, and Lebanese businessmen at a dinner at the American Embassy hosted by Ambassador Jones.

I made it a point to ask each individual with whom I met about the United States travel policy. I was advised that there are large numbers of Americans in Lebanon at all times and that they are safe. Frequent reference was made to the recent visit of the Pope to Lebanon. Finally, I was told that the U.S. travel policy was preventing needed U.S. private investment in Lebanon and was keeping relatives apart. General Lahoud pointed out that members of the Hizballah Party, which is the primary security concern of the United States, were elected to and are participating in the Lebanese parliament and that there had not been an incident against an American in five years.

Significantly, Ambassador Jones, the Embassy staff, and the representatives of other U.S. government agencies in Beirut favored a lifting of the travel restriction.

During the course of my visit, I learned that a number of U.S. businessmen and, to a lesser extent, U.S. citizens with relatives in

Lebanon travel there by obtaining a Lebanese visa which is issued on a piece of paper separate from the visitor's U.S. passport. Unfortunately, as I understand it, that practice avoids problems when the traveler returns to the United States but they still may be violating U.S. law. I have been contacted by a number of my constituents who want to visit their relatives in Lebanon, but are unwilling to violate U.S. policy.

Prior to my departure from Washington, I was urged by a high-level U.S. official not to travel to Lebanon because I would not be safe there. Based upon my personal observations during my visit, it is clear to me that perceptions about the security situation in Lebanon are outdated. I was pleased to learn during our meeting in Sarajevo that you are sending people to Lebanon to assess the security situation there. There is no substitute for an on-the-scene assessment. I am confident that such an assessment will provide a sound basis for the revision of the current policy.

Finally, we would urge that a travel warning for Lebanon be issued in lieu of the current travel restriction. In addition to citing the threat from Hizballah terrorists, the travel warning should note that as long as foreign military forces are present in Lebanon, that the situation there is not normalized.

Sincerely,

SPENCER ABRAHAM.
CARL LEVIN.

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 11:39 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Hays, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following joint resolution, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.J. Res. 54. Joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States authorizing the Congress to prohibit the physical desecration of the flag of the United States.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following joint resolution was read the first and second times by unanimous consent and referred as indicated:

H.J. Res. 54. Joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States authorizing the Congress to prohibit the physical desecration of the flag of the United States; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. THURMOND. Mr. President, pursuant to section 3(b) of Senate Resolution 400 of the 94th Congress, I request that the bill, S. 858, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 1998 for intelligence and intelligence-related activities of the U.S. Government, the Community Management Account, and the Central Intelligence Agency Retirement and Disability System, and for other purposes, reported by the Select Committee on Intelligence on June 9, be referred to the Committee on Armed Services for a period not to exceed 30 days.

S. 858. An original bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 1998 for intelligence and intelligence-related activities of the United States Government, the Community Management Account, and the Central Intelligence Agency Retirement and Disability

System, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, which were referred as indicated:

EC-2180. A communication from the General Counsel, Office of National Drug Control Policy, Executive Office of the President, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report under the Freedom of Information Act from March 1, 1996 to February 28, 1997; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-2181. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of Legislative Affairs, U.S. Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a notice of a proposed export license; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-2182. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of Legislative Affairs, U.S. Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, certification of a proposed export license; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-2183. A communication from the Director of Administration and Management, Office of the Secretary of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, a rule entitled "Revitalizing Base Closure Communities and Community Assistance—Community Redevelopment and Homeless Assistance", received on June 10, 1997; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-2184. A communication from the Secretary of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Cooperative Threat Reduction Multi-Year Program Plan; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-2185. A communication from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, three rules entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; California State Implementation Plan Revision; San Diego County Air Pollution Control District; Yolo-Solano Air Quality Management District", received on June 12, 1997; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2186. A communication from the Director, Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, a rule entitled "Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Threatened Status for the Southern Oregon/Northern California Coast Evolutionarily Significant Unit of Coho Salmon" (RIN1018-AE28), received on June 13, 1997; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2187. A communication from the Acting Director, Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, a rule entitled "Endangered Status for Four Plants From Vernal Pools and Mesic Areas in California" (RIN1018-AC96), received on June 13, 1997; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2188. A communication from the Acting Director, Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, a rule entitled "Endangered Status for the Plant *Lessingia germanorum*" (RIN1018-AC96), received on June 13, 1997; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2189. A communication from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, seven rules entitled "Approval and Promulgation of State Implementation Plan, South

Carolina: Adoption of General Conformity Regulations", received on June 11, 1997; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2190. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works), Department of the Army, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a navigation project at Cook Inlet, Alaska; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2191. A communication from the Comptroller of the Currency of the Administrator of National Banks, transmitting, pursuant to law, the annual report for the calendar year 1996; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-2192. A communication from the Secretary, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Portfolio Re-engineering Demonstration Program for fiscal years 1996 and 1997; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-2193. A communication from the Secretary of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Federal Energy Efficiency and Water Conservation Funding Study"; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-2194. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks, Office of the Secretary, U.S. Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, a rule entitled "General Provisions, Definitions: Change in Organizational Title from Field Director and Field Area to Regional Director and Region" (RIN1024-AC60), received on June 11, 1997; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-2195. A communication from the Chair, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, a rule relative to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's program to review its filing and reporting requirements and reduce unnecessary burdens, received on June 9, 1997; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-2196. A communication from the Director of Regulations Policy Management Staff, Office of Policy Food and Drug Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report of rule entitled "Neurological Devices: Effective Date of Requirement for PreMarket Approval of Cranial Electrotherapy Stimulators, received on June 11, 1997; to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources.

EC-2197. A communication from the Deputy Executive Director and Chief Operating Officer, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, a rule relative to the Corporation's regulation on Allocation of Assets in Single-Employer Plans, received on June 10, 1997; to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources.

EC-2198. A communication from the Secretary of Labor, transmitting, a draft of proposed legislation entitled "Pension Security Act of 1997"; to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources.

EC-2199. A communication from the Secretary of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report for fiscal years 1993 through 1994; to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources.

EC-2200. A communication from the Deputy Director, Regulations Policy Management Staff, Office of Policy Food and Drug Administration, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report of a rule entitled "Indirect Food Additives: Adjuvants, Production Aids, and Sanitizers", received on June 11, 1997; to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources.

EC-2201. A communication from the Chair of the Social Security Advisory Board, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of the

Supplemental Security Income Program for 1997; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-2202. A communication from the Chief of the Regulations Branch, U.S. Customs Service, Department of the Treasury, a rule entitled "Archaeological and Ethnological Material from Peru" (RIN1515-AC17) received on June 9, 1997; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-2203. A communication from the Chairman of the Prospective Payment Assessment Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report entitled "Medicare and the American Health Care System"; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-2204. A communication from the Chair of the Physician Payment Review Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, four reports; to the Committee on Finance.

PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS

The following petitions and memorials were laid before the Senate and were referred or ordered to lie on the table as indicated:

POM-140. A resolution adopted by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Spring Lake Heights, County of Monmouth, New Jersey relative to the Mud Dump Site; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

POM-141. A resolution adopted by the New Jersey State Federation of Women's Clubs relative to the Violence Against Women Act; to the Committee on Finance.

POM-142. A resolution adopted by the New Jersey State Federation of Women's Clubs relative to the proposed Child Labor Deterrence Act; to the Committee on Finance.

POM-143. A resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Alaska; to the Committee on Armed Services.

RESOLUTION

Whereas the nation's military strategy has shifted from its focus during the Cold War on deterrence and containment to support for the nation's new policies of global leadership in preventive diplomacy and promotion of democratic values; and

Whereas our armed forces, in the face of budget and force reductions and increasingly limited resources, are now called upon to conduct operations ranging from enforcing peace to preventing conflict and providing humanitarian assistance, while at all times remaining fully trained and prepared to accomplish their ultimate mission: to fight our nation's wars and win; and

Whereas the United States Department of Defense is now conducting its quadrennial review to evaluate the roles, missions, force structure, and base structure required to meet the challenges of the changing world situation; and

Whereas Alaska's military bases offer the armed forces an unmatched military value as a global power projection platform, as well as incomparable joint training areas that combine world class airspace and air-to-surface target ranges with state-of-the-art electronic arrays and capabilities and a wide range of terrain that is similar to the terrain of many worldwide contingency operations areas; and

Whereas the State of Alaska and its citizens have always extended a warm welcome to members of the armed forces and their families and supported them with state and local programs and educational opportunities that recognize the contributions that members of the armed forces and their families have made to our nation as well as to our local communities;

Be it resolved, That the Alaska State Legislature invites the United States Department of Defense to make use of Alaska's unique