

infrastructures. It provides a forum for negotiating multilateral agreements on arms control, protecting the environment, and other matters that affect all nations.

The U.N. specialized agencies also address problems that know no political borders. The World Health Organization fights diseases like AIDS that destroy the lives of those they afflict, and, if left unchecked, threaten countless others. The International Labor Organization helps keep track of forced labor and child labor, leading to multilateral efforts to improve working conditions around the world.

Perhaps most importantly, the United Nations helps promote peace and security in trouble spots around the world. The United Nations is probably best known for peacekeeping. While Americans often remember the debacles of Bosnia and Somalia, few realize that U.N. peacekeepers are helping maintain peaceful borders and facilitate peaceful transitions in such places as the Golan Heights, Macedonia, Angola, and Kuwait.

The United Nations also enables the United States to cooperate with our allies to carry out missions that are important to U.S. and international security. With U.N. approval, the United States led the nations of the world to expel Saddam from Iraq in Operation Desert Storm. The United Nations continues to enforce sanctions on Iraq and monitor Iraqi weapons programs.

Because all of these operations require the approval of the U.N. Security Council, the United States, which has a veto on that Council, must approve them. These operations are never forced down our throats. To the contrary, our leadership role and our veto allow us to leverage the United Nations to conduct operations that are in our interests, but with the burden shared among our allies.

For all of these reasons, I value the United Nations and believe it is imperative that we help it regain a sound financial footing. The United Nations' current financial difficulties are threatening to render it unable to implement many of its most important programs. And the biggest portion of the United Nations' shortfall is directly attributable to the United States' failure to pay its arrears.

So the payment of these arrears is no trivial matter. It is the best—perhaps the only—way to ensure the United Nations' survival as a force for international peace and security in the post-cold-war era.

Now, I share the view of the Senator from Indiana, who rightly pointed out that our payment of these arrears is not voluntary. It is an obligation under treaty commitments, signed and ratified according to our Constitution.

But I also recognize something else. The political reality dictates that if we are to pay any arrears to the United Nations, they must be accompanied by a package of reform benchmarks.

Over 4 months ago, the majority leader convened a working group of

House and Senate authorizers and appropriators, Republicans and Democrats, to work with the administration on resolving the arrears question.

As the ranking member of the International Operations Subcommittee, I was involved in this task force from the beginning, and my staff attended virtually all of the subsequent meetings, until Senator HELMS and Senator BIDEN began the detailed endgame negotiations.

In the very first meeting of this task force, Secretary of State Albright came to discuss the administration's proposal, which was essentially for Congress to appropriate all of the arrears—\$1.021 billion—up front, and to attach no conditions to their payment.

In the room were a number of leading Republican authorizers and appropriators, as well as the majority leader. As I recall, the only Democrats in the room for much of the meeting were the distinguished ranking member of the House International Relations Committee, LEE HAMILTON of Indiana, and myself.

Even then, Mr. HAMILTON and I—two strong supporters of the U.S. role in the United Nations—told the Secretary of State that, as sympathetic as we were to the need to pay these arrears, the administration's proposal did not stand a chance. We said it then, and I say it here today: The votes are not there for repaying our arrears without reform benchmarks.

So the negotiations commenced, and they continued through literally hundreds of hours. Both sides have made significant concessions. The administration, which wanted to pay all the arrears up front, certainly has. Anyone who saw the early Republican proposals, which called for payment of only a portion of the arrears, over 5 years, and with many more, potentially unachievable benchmarks, knows that the distinguished Senator from North Carolina has given a lot.

But the final result of these talks is a package that calls for a tough, but achievable, series of reforms to be implemented by the United Nations over the next 3 years, while the United States pays off \$819 million in U.N. arrears, a figure that is the Administration's bottom line. These reforms include greater oversight of budgets and personnel, phasing out obsolete programs, and, perhaps most importantly, a reduction in the U.S. share of the assessed budget from 25 to 20 percent.

From the beginning, I felt that 3 years was about the right length of time for this package, and I argued that in the task force. It is long enough to give us some leverage to ensure the reforms are enacted, but not so long that the other member States do not believe it is credible that we will pay our debts.

Make no mistake, achieving these reforms will take a great deal of work. Some of them, such as the reduction of the U.S. share of the budget, which the other member States must agree to,

will require our U.N. Ambassador to employ all of his negotiating skills. Others will require the committed effort of the Secretary General, Kofi Annan—a man I believe is genuine in his desire for real reform.

I acknowledge that this process is not perfect, and that there will be resentment among other nations who feel that Congress is unilaterally dictating what should be multilateral decisions. I understand that.

But these arrears must be paid. And the political reality is that our choice is either to pay these bills in this fashion, over 3 years, while working with the United Nations for reforms, or not to pay them at all. That, to me, is an easy choice. I want to pay our arrears and strengthen the United Nations.

In addition to the two major achievements of U.N. reform and State Department reorganization, this bill also contributes to furthering American interests in the world in a myriad of smaller, though not less significant, ways. Let me provide three such examples.

This bill authorizes funds which will go to the International War Crimes Tribunal, and which will help assure that those who committed genocide and rape in Rwanda and Bosnia are brought to justice.

It lends our support to the work of the Asia Foundation, which, through innovative public-private partnerships is able to leverage Federal resources to effectively promote U.S. political, economic, cultural, and security interests throughout the Pacific rim.

And this bill authorizes funds which will go to support vitally needed infrastructure and new information technology at our embassies and missions.

I have been to many of the crumbling and inadequate State Department facilities throughout the world, and can attest from first-hand experience the importance of these efforts.

As I stated earlier, it is my belief that this bill, with its United Nations and reorganization provisions, takes a significant step in the right direction on several critical issues which Congress has been wrestling with for the past several years. Moreover, the cooperation and hard work of the distinguished chairman and ranking member of the Foreign Relations Committee on this bill, also marks, I believe, a return to a spirit of bipartisan cooperation on foreign policy. I am proud to have been able to cast my vote in support of this bill. ●

SALVE REGINA UNIVERSITY'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY

● Mr. CHAFEE. Mr. President, I am pleased to announce the 50th anniversary of Salve Regina University, in Newport, RI. Salve Regina University is a private coeducational university of the arts and sciences, administered by the Sisters of Mercy. In commemoration of this milestone, the U.S. flag will be flown over the Capitol Building on September 2, 1997.

As part of its 50th anniversary celebration, Salve Regina will host year-long activities, open to all, centered around the theme "The Enduring Power of Vision: Tradition, Achievement, Challenge." These activities, including a conference on cultural and historical preservation, will take place on the university's 60-acre campus, bordering on the famed Cliff Walk in Newport.

Mr. President, you may be interested to know that since the enrollment of its first class on September 24, 1947, the university has expanded to offer 29 undergraduate majors in the arts and sciences and 16 graduate programs, including a Ph.D. in Humanities.

I am particularly pleased that the continued success and achievement of Salve Regina will be celebrated this year. And I am very proud to congratulate Salve Regina University for its 50 years of dedication and excellence in education.●

ANNOUNCEMENT OF POSITION ON VOTE—AMENDMENT NO. 382

● Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, on Tuesday, June 17, I was unable to vote. I would have voted "yes" on the Lugar amendment No. 382 to S. 903, the Foreign Affairs Reform and Restructuring Act of 1997.

I believe that the United States should pay our debt to the United Nations. However, I also believe that change and reform in the United Nations are essential if the United Nations is to be revitalized. The U.S. dues for the regular U.N. budget and for international peacekeeping should be reduced. These cost-saving goals can be achieved but we will have to convince our allies and friends, who will have to bear a larger portion of the costs as our contributions decline, that we are serious about our leadership and our compliance with our obligations. That is why I believe that Senator LUGAR offered a reasonable solution to wipe the slate clean of our arrears and clear the way to pursue the U.N. reforms that will make it a more viable institution.

I am hopeful that when this bill emerges from the conference committee the 38 benchmarks mandated in title XXII of the bill as pre-conditions for our payment will be addressed and corrected.●

FAIRNESS IN AMERICA'S DAIRY INDUSTRY

● Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, I rise today to speak once again of one of the greatest impediments to a free market system for U.S. dairy: the Northeast Interstate Dairy Compact.

The compact as approved by Secretary Glickman permits six States in the New England area to set the minimum price paid to dairy producers above the minimum price guaranteed by the federal milk marketing order system. I believe this type of artificial price increase will inevitably lead to

an overproduction of milk in the New England area. Unfortunately, this may serve to further reduce milk prices paid to dairy farmers in Michigan and in other regions of the country. Subsidizing an already subsidized industry is totally unnecessary and, in my opinion, creates a dangerous precedent in allowing regions or States to set up artificial trade barriers. This seems to contradict the intention of last year's freedom to farm bill: removing price controls and taking Government out of farming.

I supported the freedom to farm bill because it eliminates agriculture subsidies and gives American farmers the ability to choose which crops to grow. This bill was of paramount importance to the promotion of free markets in the global economy for this Nation's agriculture producers. I was disheartened when the Northeast interstate dairy compact slipped into the farm bill conference report at the last moment. It is my hope that Congress will correct this flaw and move U.S. agriculture one step closer to establishing a true market economy.●

THE 70TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY OF THE DAVISES

● Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the 70th wedding anniversary of Gerald and Billie Davis Jones of West Monroe, LA. They celebrate their anniversary today with a large gathering of family and friends. The Joneses have been model citizens and contributed to their church and community in both large and small ways. We salute them for their impressive stability and wish them continued happiness together.●

BISMARCK RECEIVES ALL- AMERICAN CITY AWARD

● Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I rise today to congratulate the city of Bismarck, ND, for recently being named an "All-America City."

This honor comes as no surprise to those of us who have been proud to call Bismarck home. But for many years, weather reports of blowing snow and subzero temperatures enabled us to keep what we call the good life in Bismarck a well-guarded secret. With this award and new national prominence, residents of Bismarck, ND, can no longer be modest.

Bismarck is a place where the quality of life is good, the economy is growing, and the threat of crime is practically nonexistent. Our kids can go to good schools without worrying about carrying knives or guns and they can play outside on their streets after dark. It is a place where people still get to know their neighbors and where hard-working people can make a decent wage. Unemployment for the city is a mere 2.7 percent, well below the national average of 4.8 percent.

But now our secret's out—and I'm pleased it has been done with such

honor. Only 10 cities receive the All America City designation each year from the National Civic League. This year, 120 cities applied and only 30 were chosen as finalists. By surpassing the 20 other cities nationwide to win the award, Bismarck gained a title and prominence that will surely attract new businesses, increase population, and provide new opportunities for growth in our State.

Bismarck currently has a population of close to 50,000 residents—most of whom are very hard-working, civic minded people who get involved in the decisions that affect their community—which is one of the main reasons the city was chosen for this award. While Bismarck received recognition from the judges for three of its projects, the city was singled out for its unique city sales tax allocation. In Bismarck, citizens have a share in the decision of where their city sales tax is spent. The judges applauded this unique approach to local government that gives taxpayers input for city projects. What a remarkable idea.

Bismarck was also recognized for its Suicide Prevention Task Force and some local programs produced at the Anne Frank exhibit, including a 10-minute script that pokes fun of images that some people have of Bismarck and North Dakota.

Again, I want to congratulate the city of Bismarck for receiving this prestigious All-America City Award. It is exemplary of the good people and good quality of life that we've always enjoyed in our State.●

MR. PATRICK BISTRAN, JR.

● Mr. MOYNIHAN. Mr. President, I rise to pay tribute to Mr. Patrick Bistran, Jr., of Amagansett, NY, on the occasion of his retirement from the board of education of the Amagansett Union Free School District after 30 years of service.

As a student, Pat Bistran earned recognition in both academic and athletic pursuits. He held almost all the high school track and field records. Local legend has it that some of them still stand today. His leadership in school evolved into a devotion to community service.

Throughout his 30 years on the board, he never wavered in his commitment to the children of the Amagansett School District. Guided by common sense and an admirable dose of doggedness, his can-do attitude was always applied for the good of the children. After a fire destroyed the school gymnasium in 1975, Patrick Bistran fastidiously saw to every detail regarding the replacement of the building. To his credit, the facility exceeded even the grandest expectations and came in under budget.

While voluntarism has now become fashionable throughout the land, the concept is not new to Patrick Bistran; for him, it is a way of life. I am certain the Members of the Senate join me in saluting Patrick Bistran for his 30