

Although DOE has already helped secure hundreds of tons of nuclear weapons materials, the overwhelming majority of material is still poorly secured. Consequently, the administration is requesting that the MPC&A Program be increased by \$25 million in fiscal year 1998. This funding request is necessary for U.S. plans to continue implementing this program. Before the Lugar-Bingaman amendment was accepted, however, the fiscal year 1998 Defense Authorization bill had called for the MPC&A Program to continue to be funded only at fiscal year 1997 levels.

The administration's budget request also includes \$50 million for the International Nuclear Safety Program. This program, which is also operated by DOE, helps to make improvements to Soviet-designed nuclear powerplants in Russia and the New Independent States. By helping these countries implement desperately needed safety measures, this program helps reduce the risk of another Chernobyl nuclear power reactor disaster. Again, full funding is critical to U.S. plans to continue implementing these initiatives. Again, before the Lugar-Bingaman amendment was accepted, the fiscal year 1998 Defense Authorization bill would have prevented the Pentagon from providing any funds to the International Nuclear Safety Program in fiscal year 1998.

The fiscal year 1998 DOD Authorization bill before the Senate provides \$268.2 billion in budget authority for the DOD and the national security programs at DOE. This is \$2.6 billion beyond the level the President initially requested. In addition, the bill includes \$3.6 billion for ballistic missile defense purposes and more than \$5 billion for weapons systems not originally requested by the Pentagon. Considering those facts, it is inconceivable to me that the Senate would cut the CTR Program, the MPC&A Program and the International Safety Program by \$135 million.

Mr. President, these three programs are critical to our efforts to protect the United States from weapons of mass destruction. Unlike ballistic missile defense, the CTR Program, the MPC&A Program and the International Safety Program have already produced results and caused the destruction of Russian nuclear weapons. Simply put, they make our world safer. I am pleased that the Senate adopted the Lugar-Bingaman amendment last night, and I commend my colleagues on the Senate Armed Services Committee for rectifying what would have been a tragic mistake.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Virginia.

Mr. WARNER. I think the time has come now that the distinguished ranking member and myself clear what amendments are cleared on both sides. Then I am prepared to proceed to wrap up, and we can close the Senate down.

Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum. I hope this quorum will not exceed 2 to 3 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that there now be a period for the transaction of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 5 minutes each.

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

URGENT CALL FOR RESTORATION OF DEMOCRACY IN CAMBODIA

Mr. BIDEN. Mr. President, I rise to express my deep concern about the brutal subversion of democracy underway in Cambodia. I urge the administration to condemn the action for what it is: A bloody coup d'etat perpetrated by co-Prime Minister Hun Sen and his Cambodian People's Party.

The administration today announced it was suspending for 30 days all assistance provided to the Cambodian Government. All such assistance, including loans provided by the World Bank and other international financial institutions, should remain suspended until the democratically elected Government of Cambodia is restored.

Programs implemented through non-governmental organizations—efforts supporting the rule of law, public health, prosthetics for mine victims, et cetera—should be reviewed to determine which ones can continue in light of recent events.

I applaud the decision taken by the Association of Southeast Asian Nations [ASEAN] to delay Cambodia's membership in that organization. Cambodia's neighbors are under no illusions that Cambodia today is prepared to be a responsible member of the international community.

BACKGROUND

A few weeks ago, Cambodia seemed poised to close the book on a bloody chapter of its history by bringing the genocidal Khmer Rouge Leader Pol Pot to justice. But now Hun Sen threatens to plunge the country back into darkness and civil war.

Dozens of people have been killed. There are reports of mass arrests and looting in the Capital of Phnom Penh. Prince Ranariddh's supporters have been expelled from the legislative assembly. Interior Minister, and Ranariddh loyalist, Ho Sok reportedly has been executed while in the custody of government troops.

For the long-suffering people of Cambodia—victims of "the killing fields"—

Hun Sen's unconstitutional action is a painful blow to their quest for democracy, reconciliation, and national reconstruction. That quest seemed achievable in October 1991 when—after 12 years of civil war—Cambodia's warring factions and all of the foreign parties who had played a role in the Cambodian conflict signed the Paris peace accords. Vietnam withdrew its army from Cambodia and the United Nations established the U.N. Transitional Authority for Cambodia [UNTAC].

UNTAC's primary goal was to oversee the creation of a democratic, internationally recognized government in Phnom Penh. UNTAC was the largest, most comprehensive, and most expensive peacekeeping operation in the history of the United Nations. More than 12,000 troops, 4,000 civil police, and 20,000 civilian workers and volunteers from more than 50 countries poured into Cambodia.

UNTAC supervised the return of more than 400,000 refugees from Thailand and the registration of 5 million eligible voters. The operation cost more than \$1.7 billion, with an additional \$2 billion pledged by international donors to fund reconstruction of the war-torn country.

In May 1993, Cambodia experienced its first free and fair multiparty election. Despite terrorist threats from the Khmer Rouge—who refused to participate in the election and shelled some polling places—90 percent of registered voters came to the polls.

The incredible turnout was a testimony to the enthusiasm of the Cambodian people for democracy and their desire for peace.

Prince Ranariddh's party won those elections. Hun Sen's party came in second. But when Hun Sen disputed the results and threatened to plunge the country back into civil war, King Sihanouk, with the blessing of the international community, fashioned a compromise.

A coalition government was established, with Prince Ranariddh and Hun Sen serving as co-Prime Ministers. They jointly administered Cambodia until Hun Sen's coup d'etat last weekend.

The coalition was never an easy one. In recent months, relations between the two Prime Ministers had become increasingly strained as both began jockeying for position in the runup to national elections scheduled for 1998.

The disintegration of the Khmer Rouge actually exacerbated the tension between the two major parties, as each sought the political and military support of the breakaway Khmer Rouge elements.

Now the tensions have flared into open conflict. The question for the friends of democracy in Cambodia is how to respond.

Our first priority must be to ensure the safety of more than 1,000 American citizens—including our diplomatic and military personnel.

Our very able Ambassador in Phnom Penh, Ken Quinn, has acted with courage and professionalism to provide a

safe haven for Americans and to assist those seeking to leave the country. Thailand has been enormously helpful by providing aircraft to transport Americans and other foreigners out of Cambodia, and I want to express my personal thanks to the Royal Thai Government and the people of Thailand for their assistance.

RESTORING DEMOCRACY

Mr. President, I fear that putting Cambodia back on the democratic path will prove difficult. The international community is not likely to fund a second UNTAC. The future of Cambodia is largely in the hands of the Cambodian people.

But the world must not turn its back on Cambodia.

At a time when pluralism and democracy are generally expanding in Asia, we should not condone the unconstitutional use of force to oust a legitimately elected government. As the world knows from recent history, political instability in Cambodia threatens the peace and security of all of Southeast Asia.

It is in the interest of the United States and all of our friends and allies in the region to seek a peaceful resolution of the conflict consistent with the spirit of the Paris peace accords. As my colleague, Senator MCCAIN urged this body yesterday, we must remain engaged and stand ready to do our part.

The tragic political violence occurring today in Cambodia is proof that one election does not make a democracy. In many respects, it is the second election—the peaceful transfer of power from one administration to the next—that is the miracle of democratic governance.

In the United States, we have the opportunity to experience that miracle every 4 years. In Cambodia, the second election, scheduled for 1998, is in jeopardy. The quest of the Cambodian people is endangered.

I urge Hun Sen to abandon the path of violence and subordinate his own ambitions to the will of the Cambodian people and their dream of peace. I hope and pray that Hun Sen and Prince Ranariddh will heed King Sihanouk's call and find a way to settle their differences through the ballot box rather than the barrel of a gun.

NOMINATION OF ERIC H. HOLDER JR. TO BE DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, it was with concerted effort that Senator HATCH and I worked to ensure that Eric Holder was reported by the Judiciary Committee and ready for Senate confirmation to the important position of Deputy Attorney General of the United States before the Senate adjourned 2 weeks ago. The President's nomination of Mr. Holder to the second highest position at the Department of Justice was reported to the Senate without a single dissent on June 24. This nomination could and should have been ap-

proved by the Senate before it adjourned for the last extended recess. It is strongly supported by Senator HATCH, the chairman of the Judiciary Committee.

There was and is no Democratic hold on this nomination. The delay on the Republican side in considering this nomination remains unexplained.

Eric Holder has proven his dedication to effective law enforcement. As a former prosecutor myself, I appreciate Mr. Holder's distinguished career in law enforcement.

Shortly after his graduation from Columbia Law School, Mr. Holder joined the Department of Justice as part of the Attorney General's Honors Program. He was assigned to the newly formed Public Integrity Section in 1976, where he worked for 12 years investigating and prosecuting corruption.

While at the Public Integrity Section, Mr. Holder participated in a number of prosecutions and appeals involving such defendants as the State treasurer of Florida, a former Ambassador to the Dominican Republic, a local judge in Philadelphia, an assistant U.S. attorney in New York City, an FBI agent, and a capo in an organized crime family. He received a number of awards for outstanding performance and special achievement from the Department of Justice.

In 1988, President Reagan nominated and the Senate confirmed Mr. Holder to be an Associate Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia, where he served for the next 5 years. In his 5 years on the bench, Judge Holder presided over hundreds of criminal trials.

In 1993, President Clinton nominated and the Senate confirmed Eric Holder to the important post of U.S. Attorney for the District of Columbia. As U.S. attorney for one of the largest U.S. Attorney's offices in the Nation, Mr. Holder has supervised 300 lawyers involved in criminal, civil and appellate cases. He has functioned as both the local district attorney and the Federal prosecutor.

He has been active in community affairs. For more than a decade, he has been a member of Concerned Black Men, an organization seeking to help young people in the District of Columbia. He is involved in a number of the group's activities, including the Efficacy Program and the pregnancy prevention effort. He has participated in the D.C. Street Law Program and is active in the See Forever Foundation and the National Foundation for Teaching Entrepreneurship. He is cochair of Project PACT to reduce youth violence and has been instrumental in the U.S. attorney's office's outreach efforts to the D.C. community.

In 1994, he received the Pioneer Award from the National Black Prosecutors Association. In 1995, his contributions were recognized when he received awards from the District of Columbia Bar Association, the Greater

Washington Urban League, the American Jewish Congress, and Phi Beta Sigma fraternity. Last year, he received awards from the D.C. Chapter of the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives, George Washington University, Columbia College, the Federation of Citizens Associations of the District of Columbia, Omega Psi Phi fraternity, the Brotherhood of Shiloh Men, McDonald's, and the Asian Pacific Bar Association.

I urge the Republican leadership to move forward without further delay and confirm the nomination of Eric Holder to be Deputy Attorney General.

JUDICIAL VACANCIES

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I last spoke to the Senate about the crisis being created by our failure to move forward expeditiously to fill longstanding judicial vacancies on June 26, the day before we left on our most recent recess. I pointed out then that we had the opportunity literally to double judicial confirmations for the year from 5 to 10 by taking up and approving the five judicial nominees on the Senate Executive Calendar. In spite of the noncontroversial nature of these nominees and their likely confirmation, the Republican leadership refused to consider them.

As the Senate returns from another extended recess we enter July having found time to confirm only 6 Federal judges of the 39 nominees the President has sent to us. That remains a confirmation rate of less than one judge per month. We continue to fall farther and farther behind the pace established by Senator DOLE and Senator HATCH in the last Congress. By this time 2 years ago, Senator HATCH had held six confirmation hearings involving 26 judicial nominees and the Senate had proceeded to confirm 26 Federal judges by the end of June—during one of the busiest periods ever, during the first 100 days of the Republicans' "Contract with America."

I have spoken often about the crisis being created by the 100 vacancies that are being perpetuated on the Federal courts around the country, as has the Chief Justice of the United States. At the rate that we are currently going more and more vacancies are continuing to mount over longer and longer times to the detriment of greater numbers of Americans and the national cause of prompt justice.

There are four highly-qualified judicial nominees on the Senate calendar, another five district court nominees who were the subject of a confirmation hearing on June 25 but who have yet to receive attention from the Judiciary Committee, and another 24 nominees for whom the committee has yet to schedule a hearing or consideration.

That judges were held hostage to the resolution of other nomination disputes was a shame. I had urged the Republican leadership not to use the judiciary as a political pressure point or to