

good entertaining programs and objective, fair news presentations, would be very helpful. Only a small minority of people who have satellite dishes receive objective news. It is only through a free and independent media that Muslims, Croats and Serbs can understand the atrocities that were committed. Such an understanding would be the first step towards reconciliation and ultimate survival of a multi-ethnic Bosnia and Herzegovina.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF NATO-LED FORCE

Mr. President, as I have already noted, the NATO-led implementation force and its successor, the stabilization force, have been extraordinarily successful in implementing the military tasks of the Dayton agreement. This first ever NATO peace enforcement mission is an unqualified success so far. It is a particularly important achievement because it also involves the forces of non-NATO nations.

During our stay at Multinational Division North, the United States sector headquarters in Tuzla, we were able to travel to Simin Han where the Russian airborne battalion is located. It was wonderful to observe the excellent relationship between the U.S. commander, Maj. Gen. Monty Meigs, and his Russian counterpart. The Russian commander, his subordinate officers and troops were extremely proud of their role in the U.S. sector. I spoke to a number of U.S. soldiers who have been conducting joint patrols with the Russian troops and they were unanimously upbeat about the Russians whom they described as excellent soldiers.

In our visit to the French sector headquarters of the Multinational Division Southeast in Mostar, we were briefed by the French Commander, his German Chief of Staff, and his Spanish, French, Italian, and German staff officers. It was encouraging to see how easily these NATO allies work together. It was one of the best military briefings I have ever received and the graphics they used were among the best I have seen. The ability of our European NATO allies to work together so professionally, in this case under a French commander, gives me hope for the success of NATO's European Security and Defense Identity initiative, particularly once France returns to NATO's integrated military structure.

The participation of the forces of members of NATO's Partnership for Peace and their smooth integration into the NATO-led IFOR and SFOR mission are testament to the success of Partnership for Peace. Despite early criticisms of that program as a stalling tactic to gain time while NATO enlargement could be worked out, Partnership for Peace, with its emphasis on peacekeeping, has been a major success in leading the way to the participation of a host of nations in international peace operations.

The success of the NATO-led multinational peace enforcement mission, both during IFOR and now SFOR, is ex-

traordinarily important for the future. The United States cannot be the world's policeman but the world needs a trained, equipped, and ready force to respond at the early stages of a crisis that threatens international peace and security. Events might have been very different in former Yugoslavia if such a force could have been deployed to Croatia in the summer of 1991 when the fighting between the Croatian Army and the Croatian Serbs backed by the Yugoslav People's Army first began. Such a deployment could have served to nip the crisis in the bud, saved tens of thousands of lives, and set the stage for a negotiated settlement before nationalist fervors were fanned beyond control.

FOLLOW-ON FORCE FOR BOSNIA

Mr. President, I am convinced that the SFOR mission duration of 18 months will not be sufficient for peace to gain a firm enough foothold in Bosnia and I fear that, in the absence of an outside armed force, the conflict will reignite.

I believe that the participation of United States combat troops on the ground in Bosnia should terminate with the end of SFOR's 18 month mandate. The United States is the only nation in the world with global commitments and the capability to meet those commitments. Only the United States can defeat aggression in the Persian Gulf or on the Korean peninsula or wherever it might threaten our vital interests. But the United States cannot afford to have its forces tied down indefinitely in Bosnia where our interests are real but not as vital as for the Europeans. The United States had to take the lead in negotiating and implementing the Dayton peace agreement because our European allies and friends were not ready to do so. Our participation in IFOR and now SFOR will have given our European allies 2½ years to become ready. It is time for them to start preparations now to fulfill that role to ensure that peace does not unravel in their neighborhood after SFOR's mandate ends 18 months after December 1996. The United States can and should still remain involved with logistic, intelligence, and other support activities.

Fortuitously, NATO is now developing a European Security and Defense Identity [ESDI] within the Alliance to permit the European NATO nations, with NATO consent, to carry out operations under the political control and strategic direction of the Western European Union [WEU] using NATO assets and capabilities. This initiative is tailor-made for a follow-on force to SFOR. And there is no reason why the Partnership for Peace nations should not be included as they have been in IFOR and SFOR. It will not happen, however, without firm pressure from the U.S. Congress and the administration and notice of our intent now to give our European friends plenty of time to prepare to take over leadership of the follow-on force to SFOR after 18

months, should such a force be needed as I predict it will be.

CONCLUSION

Mr. President, the end of the cold war has unleashed the forces of nationalism, ethnic hatred, and religious fanaticism. In Bosnia, this has led to the death of approximately 210,000 people, including about 150,000 civilians. More than 2.5 million Bosnians out of a pre-war population of 4.4 million were forced to flee their homes, 2.1 million Bosnians are still refugees or displaced persons.

The NATO-led IFOR and SFOR have done and are doing an extraordinary job in implementing the military tasks of the Dayton peace agreement. Civilian implementation and reconstruction lag behind, however. While there are encouraging signs with the formation of central government institutions, they are still fragile and reconciliation among the Bosnian Muslims, Croats, and Serbs has barely begun.

There will be a need for a follow-on outside armed force in Bosnia once SFOR's 18-month mandate is finished. United States combat forces should not remain on the ground in Bosnia beyond that time. The European Security and Defense Identity initiative within NATO provides a mechanism for a follow-on force to sustain the peace there. Our European NATO allies and European friends, particularly those participating in NATO's Partnership for Peace Program, need to begin planning now to provide the follow-on force.

IFOR and SFOR have been extremely successful multinational peace enforcement missions. The international community needs to be able to field trained, equipped, and ready forces to nip crises in the bud. Hopefully, IFOR and SFOR and a Western European Union follow-on force for Bosnia can provide the model for the international community in other regions of the world.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

UNANIMOUS-CONSENT AGREEMENT—NOMINATION OF ANDREW CUOMO

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, as in executive session, I ask unanimous consent that at 9:30 a.m., on Wednesday, January 29, the Senate proceed to executive session to consider the nomination of Andrew Cuomo to be Secretary of the Department of Housing and Urban Development; further, that there be 30 minutes of debate on the nomination, equally divided between the chairman and ranking member, with a vote to occur on the nomination at the expiration or yielding back of that time; further, immediately following the vote

the President be notified of the Senate's action and the Senate then return to legislative session.

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

ORDER FOR STAR PRINT—S. 3 AND S. 10

Mr. LOTT. I ask unanimous consent, Mr. President, that S. 3 and S. 10 be star printed with the changes that I understand are at the desk.

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

REMOVAL OF INJUNCTION OF SECRECY—TREATY DOCUMENT NO. 105-2

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, as in executive session, I ask unanimous consent that the injunction of secrecy be removed from the following treaty transmitted to the Senate on January 28, 1997, by the President of the United States: Taxation Treaty with Thailand, Treaty Document No. 105-2; I further ask unanimous consent the treaty be considered as having been read the first time; that it be referred, with accompanying papers, to the Committee on Foreign Relations and ordered to be printed; and that the President's message be printed in the RECORD.

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

The message of the President is as follows:

To the Senate of the United States:

I transmit herewith for Senate advice and consent to ratification the Convention Between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Kingdom of Thailand for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with Respect to Taxes on Income, signed at Bangkok, November 26, 1996. An enclosed exchange of notes, transmitted for the information of the Senate, provides clarification with respect to the application of the Convention in specified cases. Also transmitted is the report of the Department of State concerning the Convention.

This Convention, which is similar to other tax treaties between the United States and developing nations, provides maximum rates of tax to be applied to various types of income and protection from double taxation of income. The Convention also provides for the exchange of information to prevent fiscal evasion and sets forth standard rules to limit the benefits of the Convention to persons that are not engaged in treaty shopping.

I recommend that the Senate give early and favorable consideration to this Convention and give its advice and consent to ratification.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON.

THE WHITE HOUSE, January 28, 1997.

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to

the Senate by Mr. Williams, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting a treaty and sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

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-847. A communication from the Administrator of the Agriculture Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule relative to shelled almonds, (FV-95-305) received on January 21, 1997; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-848. A communication from the Congressional Review Coordinator of the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule relative to brucellosis in cattle, (96-005-2) received on January 21, 1997; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-849. A communication from the Secretary of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report on foreign policy export controls and the Bureau of Export Administration's annual report for fiscal year 1996; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-850. A communication from the Secretary of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of the administration of the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972 for calendar year 1993; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-851. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information, transmitting, pursuant to law, a rule concerning the Telecommunications and Information Infrastructure Assistance Program (RIN0660-ZA02) received on January 21, 1997; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-852. A communication from the Office of the Chairman of the Surface Transportation Board, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of the revision of regulations for interlocking rail officers received on January 17, 1997; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-853. A communication from the Chair of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report on Government dam use charges; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-854. A communication from the Director of the Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, six rules including a rule entitled "The Acid Rain Program" (FRL5679-9, 5678-1, 5677-6, 5677-5, 5675-7, 5671-6) received on January 21, 1997; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-855. A communication from the Director of the Fish and Wildlife Service, transmitting, pursuant to law, a rule entitled "Endangered Status For 2CA Insects" (RIN1018-AC50) received on January 22, 1997;

to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-856. A communication from the Chief of the Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule relative to Revenue Ruling 97-7, received on January 22, 1997; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-857. A communication from the Chief of the Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule relative to Foreign Corporations, received on January 22, 1997; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-858. A communication from the Secretary of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule relative to medicaid eligibility, (RIN0938-AH76) received on January 17, 1997; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-859. A communication from the Chief of Staff, Officer of the Commissioner, Social Security Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of rule relative to growth impairment listings, (RIN0960-AE60) received on January 17, 1997; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-860. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report on the Taxation of Social Security and Railroad Retirement Benefits for 1992; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-861. A communication from the Chairman of the Thrift Depositor Protection Oversight Board, transmitting, pursuant to law, the annual report on audit and investigative activities for fiscal year 1996; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-862. A committee from the Executive Director of the Committee for Purchase from People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule relative to the Procurement List, received on January 22, 1997; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-863. A communication from the Chairman of the Board of Governors, United States Postal Service, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report under the Government in the Sunshine Act for calendar year 1996; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-864. A communication from the Postmaster General, Chief Executive Officer, United States Postal Service, transmitting, pursuant to law, the 1996 annual report; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-865. A communication from the Director of the Office of Personnel Management, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule relative to the Presidential Management Intern Program, (RIN 3206-AH53) received on January 22, 1997; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-866. A communication from the Director of Administration and Management, Office of the Secretary of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Pentagon; to the Committee on Appropriations.

EC-867. A communication from the Deputy Under Secretary (Industrial Affairs and Installations) for Acquisition and Technology, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report on the National Defense Stockpile (NDS) for fiscal year 1996; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-868. A communication from the Federal Register Liaison Officer, Office of Thrift Supervision, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled, "Regulatory Citations to Uniform Financial Institutions Rating System" (RIN1550-AA99), received on January 23, 1997; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-869. A communication from the Secretary of Health and Human Services transmitting, pursuant to law, the report on Open