

United States to take action to provide bilateral debt relief, and improve the provision of multilateral debt relief, in order to give a fresh start to poor countries.

S. 1733

At the request of Mr. FITZGERALD, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1733, a bill to amend the Food Stamp Act of 1977 to provide for a national standard of interoperability and portability applicable to electronic food stamp benefit transactions.

S. 1750

At the request of Mr. DEWINE, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. ABRAHAM) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1750, a bill to reduce the incidence of child abuse and neglect, and for other purposes.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 58

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. ASHCROFT) was added as a cosponsor of Senate Concurrent Resolution 58, a concurrent resolution urging the United States to seek a global consensus supporting a moratorium on tariffs and on special, multiple and discriminatory taxation of electronic commerce.

SENATE RESOLUTION 108

At the request of Mr. ROBB, his name was added as a cosponsor of Senate Resolution 108, a resolution designating the month of March each year as "National Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month."

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 62—RECOGNIZING AND HONORING THE HEROIC EFFORTS OF THE AIR NATIONAL GUARD'S 109TH AIRLIFT WING AND ITS RESCUE OF DR. JERRI NIELSEN FROM THE SOUTH POLE

Mr. SCHUMER (for himself and Mr. MOYNIHAN) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services:

S. CON. RES. 62

Whereas the 109th Airlift Wing of the Air National Guard is based at Stratton Air National Guard Base in Glenville, New York;

Whereas the 109th was called upon by the United States Antarctic Program to undertake a medical evacuation mission to the South Pole to rescue Dr. Jerri Nielsen, a physician who diagnosed herself with breast cancer;

Whereas the 109th is the only unit in the world trained and equipped to attempt such a mission;

Whereas the 10 crew members were pilot Maj. George R. McAllister Jr., senior mission commander Col. Marion G. Pritchard, co-pilot Maj. David Koltermann, navigator Lt. Col. Bryan M. Fennessy, engineer Ch. M. Sgt. Michael T. Cristiano, loadmasters Sr. M. Sgt. Kurt A. Garrison and T. Sgt. David M. Vesper, flight nurse Maj. Kimberly Terpening, and medical technicians Ch. M. Sgt. Michael Casatelli and M. Sgt. Kelly McDowell;

Whereas the crew departed Stratton Air Base for McMurdo Station in Antarctica via

Christchurch, New Zealand, on October 6, 1999;

Whereas on October 15, 1999, Aircraft No. 096 departed McMurdo for the South Pole, where the temperature was approximately -53 degrees Celsius;

Whereas Major McAllister piloted a 130,000 pound LC-130 Hercules cargo plane equipped with Teflon-coated skis to a safe landing on an icy runway with visibility barely above minimums established for safe operations;

Whereas less than 25 minutes later, following an emotional goodbye and brief medical evaluation, Dr. Nielsen and the crew headed back to McMurdo Station;

Whereas the mission lasted 9 days and covered 11,410 nautical miles; and

Whereas Major McAllister became the first person ever to land on a polar ice cap at this time of year; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That Congress recognizes and honors the crew of the Air National Guard's 109th Airlift Wing for its heroic efforts in rescuing Dr. Jerri Nielsen from the South Pole.

SENATE RESOLUTION 207—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE REGARDING FAIR ACCESS TO JAPANESE TELECOMMUNICATIONS FACILITIES AND SERVICES

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

S. RES. 207

Whereas the United States has a deep and sustained interest in the promotion of deregulation, competition, and regulatory reform in Japan;

Whereas new and bold measures by the Government of Japan regarding regulatory reform will help remove the regulatory and structural impediments to the effective functioning of market forces in the Japanese economy;

Whereas regulatory reform will increase the efficient allocation of resources of Japan, which is critical to returning Japan to a long-term growth path powered by domestic demand;

Whereas regulatory reform will not only improve market access for United States business and other foreign firms, but will also enhance consumer choice and economic prosperity in Japan;

Whereas a sustained recovery of the Japanese economy is vital to a sustained recovery of Asian economies;

Whereas the Japanese economy must serve as one of the main engines of growth for Asia and for the global economy;

Whereas the Governments of the United States and Japan reconfirmed the critical importance of deregulation, competition, and regulatory reform when the two governments established the Enhanced Initiative on Deregulation and Competition Policy in 1997;

Whereas telecommunications is a critical sector requiring reform in Japan, where the market is hampered by a history of laws, regulations, and monopolistic practices that do not meet the needs of a competitive market;

Whereas as the result of Japan's laws, regulations, and monopolistic practices, Japanese consumers and Japanese industry have been denied the broad benefits of innovative telecommunications services, cutting edge technology, and lower prices that competition would bring to the market;

Whereas Japan's significant lag in developing broadband and Internet services, and Japan's lag in the entire area of electronic commerce, is a direct result of a non-competitive telecommunications regulatory structure;

Whereas Japan's lag in developing broadband and Internet services is evidenced by the following: (1) Japan has only 17,000,000 Internet users, while the United States has 80,000,000 Internet users; (2) Japan hosts fewer than 2,000,000 web sites, while the United States hosts over 30,000,000 web sites; (3) electronic commerce in Japan is valued at less than \$1,000,000,000, while in the United States electronic commerce is valued at over \$30,000,000,000; and (4) 19 percent Japan's schools are connected to the Internet, while in the United States 89 percent of schools are connected; and

Whereas leading edge foreign telecommunications companies, because of their high level of technology and innovation, are the key to building the necessary telecommunications infrastructure in Japan, which will only be able to serve Japanese consumers and industry if there is a fundamental change in Japan's regulatory approach to telecommunications; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved; That it is the sense of the Senate that—

(1) the appropriate officials in the executive branch should implement vigorously the call for Japan to undertake a major regulatory reform in the telecommunications sector, the so called "Telecommunications Big Bang";

(2) a "Telecommunications Big Bang" must address fundamental legislative and regulatory issues within a strictly defined timeframe;

(3) the new telecommunications regulatory framework should put competition first in order to encourage new and innovative businesses to enter the telecommunications market in Japan;

(4) the Government of Japan should ensure that Nippon Telegraph and Telephone Corporation (NTT) and its affiliates (the NTT Group) are prevented from using their dominant position in the wired and wireless market in an anticompetitive manner; and

(5) the Government of Japan should take credible steps to ensure that competitive carriers have reasonable, cost-based, and nondiscriminatory access to the rights-of-way, facilities, and services controlled by NTT, the NTT Group, other utilities, and the Government of Japan, including—

(A) access to interconnection at market-based rates;

(B) unrestricted access to unbundled elements of the network belonging to NTT and the NTT Group; and

(C) access to public roads for the installation of facilities.

Mr. BAUCUS. Mr. President, the history of our Government's effort to promote deregulation and openness in the Japanese telecommunications sector goes back over 20 years. Back to the days when Bob Strauss was the U.S. Trade Representative.

The first agreement involved significant changes in the procurement policies of Nippon Telegraph and Telephone. Known as NTT, it was then the government owned, monopoly, domestic telecommunications provider. This agreement has been revised and renewed seven times—most recently earlier this year.

There has been a plethora of other bilateral telecommunications agreements with Japan over the years. On

interconnection. On cellular phones. And on international value added networks.

We have used Section 301 to pry open the Japanese telecommunications market. We created Section 1377 in the 1988 Omnibus Trade Act to deal with Japanese telecommunications practices. We have had the MOSS talks with Japan in the 1980s. And we have also pursued multilateral efforts through the GATT, the WTO, and the Information Technology Agreement—the ITA.

I don't think the United States has negotiated more in one sector with any nation than we have done with Japan over telecommunications.

And we have made progress, from virtually zero sales by Americans to Japan in this sector twenty years ago to several billion dollars today.

But there is still a long way to go. Japan is the second largest economy in the world. It is at the cutting edge of most high technology. Yet its consumption of telecommunications goods and services fits more closely the model of a second tier economy.

It is true that penetration of cellular phones in Japan is among the highest in the world. But, Japan has only 17 million Internet users, while the United States has almost five times as many—80 million users. Japan hosts fewer than two million web sites, while the United States hosts over 30 million. Electronic commerce in Japan is valued at less than one billion dollars, versus at least thirty times as much in the United States. And only 19 percent of Japan's schools are connected to the Internet, versus in the United States where 89 percent of schools are connected.

Why is this?

The answer is simple. Japan maintains a non-competitive regulatory system that prevents market forces from fully operating in the telecommunications sector. American telecom service and equipment providers are still limited in their ability to do business in Japan.

But the system also hurts the Japanese consumer. They can't obtain the highest quality telecommunications technology at the lowest price. They are not able to choose from the incredible array of services and products available around the world. And they pay higher prices than they should.

Japanese firms also suffer for the same reasons in their telecommunications purchases. They cannot get the best. And they overpay for what they can buy. Many modern services are simply unavailable in Japan.

Earlier this month, the United States Government presented Japan with its annual deregulation requests in a number of sectors. If the Japanese government implemented this whole list, they would be on a path leading to economic growth. To better choice and lower prices for its consumers. And to increased efficiency for its industry.

I am not naive enough to think that will happen. However, I do know that

Japan's adoption of the USTR requests, a so-called "Telecommunications Big Bang", would open the telecommunications sector to global competition with all the attendant benefits.

Senator GRASSLEY and I are submitting a sense-of-the-Senate resolution. It simply stresses the need for this significant regulatory reform in Japan. It calls on USTR vigorously to implement their call for this change. And it sends the message to Japan that the Senate is strongly behind this effort.

Such deregulation serves American and International business. It serves the Japanese economy. It serves the Japanese consumer. It serves Japanese industry. And it serves the original and global economy which need so desperately a growing Japan. In the long-run, everyone would win.

I urge my colleagues to support this resolution when it is called up.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, this resolution I am offering with Senator BAUCUS calls for fair access to Japan's \$35 billion telecommunications equipment market. Telecommunications is one of our most important exports and one of our most significant areas for future export growth.

Recently, the United States and Japan reached a new telecommunications procurement agreement covering procurement by the successor companies of the Nippon Telegraph and Telephone Company. This agreement replaced the 1997 agreement that expired when the Nippon Telegraph and Telephone Company was restructured.

We have had many difficulties gaining access to Japan's telecommunications market in the past, probably not too different from a lot of sectors as we try to enter our products into Japan. It may be nothing new in that respect, but this is a new agreement that will be in effect for 2 years, and we should give it a chance to work. But history shows we have not made much progress when it comes to implementing fair bilateral market access agreements with Japan.

You know the usual story: We are always overjoyed, after several months or even years of negotiating an agreement with the Japanese, that it has been some major breakthrough; and then down the road a few months or years, when you expect the agreement to be carried out—not only according to its word but also according to its spirit—you find the victory you anticipated and were thankful for at the time it was signed comes out to be a half a loaf or a quarter of a loaf in practice. I think that is what we are finding out here a little bit with this telecommunications agreement.

The Nippon Telegraph and Telephone Company and the government in Japan, which owns 65 percent of the telecommunications group, have traditionally maintained that Nippon Telegraph and Telephone is a private company which should not be subject to government interference but be allowed to make its own procurement decisions.

Our concern is that we need effective bilateral government oversight so Japan's telecommunications industry does not revert to its traditional reliance upon domestic suppliers and consequently circumvent this agreement. That is because Nippon Telegraph and Telephone's procurement history shows that even nearly two decades after the first bilateral agreement on this company's procurement, Japan still tends to make a large portion of its procurement from the "NTT family" of Japanese equipment makers; thus, not opening their markets to products from overseas, including U.S. products. Often, NTT over-engineers specifications, which in the past were very Japan-specific or company-specific—another nontariff trade barrier to keep out products from the United States and other countries.

World telecommunications trade is growing very rapidly, but global market access is not keeping pace with the fast pace of technology development. The Baucus-Grassley resolution expresses the sense of the Senate that the only effective way for the United States to achieve significant market access in Japan is through Japan staying with serious and sustained deregulation and consequently having market opportunities for imports from other countries, including the United States.

This resolution carries a message that ought to be heard loud and clear in the runup to the World Trade Organization Ministerial Conference that will take place in Seattle at the end of November. So I strongly urge my colleagues to approve this resolution.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED

AFRICAN GROWTH AND OPPORTUNITY ACT

LAUTENBERG AMENDMENT NO. 2331

(Ordered to lie on the table.)

Mr. LAUTENBERG submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill (H.R. 434) to authorize a new trade and investment policy for sub-Saharan Africa; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following new section:

SEC. _____. NORMAL TRADE RELATIONS FOR ALBANIA.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following findings:

(1) Albania has been found to be in full compliance with the freedom of emigration requirements under title IV of the Trade Act of 1974.

(2) Since its emergence from communism, Albania has made progress toward democratic rule and the creation of a free-market economy.

(3) Albania has concluded a bilateral investment treaty with the United States.

(4) Albania has demonstrated a strong desire to build a friendly relationship with the United States and has been very cooperative with NATO and the international community during and after the Kosova crisis.