

of Alaska. The Government of Iceland has already approved a silver 1000 Kroner Icelandic coin to be produced by the U.S. Mint that will be packaged and issued simultaneously with the U.S. Leif Ericson Commemorative Coin. We believe jointly issuing these coins will help further relations between our nations.

The United States Congress strengthened U.S.-Icelandic relations in 1930 by presenting a statue of Leif Ericson as a gift to Iceland memorializing Ericson's Voyage of Discovery. In 1964, President Lyndon B. Johnson made October 9 "Leif Ericson Day" in commemoration of the famous Viking explorer. The Leif Ericson Commemorative Coin in the year 2000 would commemorate the millennial anniversary of Ericson's voyage and would display our commitment to continuing this relationship for the coming millennium.

H.R. 3373 allows a simultaneous issuance of a commemorative U.S. silver dollar coin and a silver 1000 Kroner Icelandic coin. Both coins are to be produced in limited mintages, with U.S. Mint issuing a boxed set. Mint and surcharge proceeds from the coins will fund scholarships and student exchange programs between Iceland and United States. The U.S. Mint has read and approved the identical House version as meeting all the guidelines contained in the 1995 Congressional House Banking Committee Commemorative Coin Reforms Act, which protects the taxpayer from any costs. We feel such a coin is an important step in recognizing the important role Iceland has played in North American history. H.R. 3373 also provides for a Lewis and Clark Expedition Commemorative Coin which I strongly support and a Capitol Visitor Center Commemorative Coin.

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read a third time and passed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statement relating to the bill be printed in the RECORD.

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

The bill (H.R. 3373) was read the third time and passed.

REAUTHORIZING OVERSEAS PRIVATE INVESTMENT CORPORATION AND TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT AGENCY

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of H.R. 3381, which is at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 3381) to reauthorize the Overseas Private Investment Corporation and the Trade and Development Agency, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read a third time and passed, the mo-

tion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statements relating to the bill be printed in the RECORD.

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

The bill (H.R. 3381) was read the third time and passed.

MIAMI, FLORIDA, AS PERMANENT LOCATION FOR SECRETARIAT OF FTAA

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Finance Committee be discharged from further consideration of S. Con. Res. 71 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 71) expressing the sense of the Congress that Miami, Florida, and not a foreign competing foreign city, should serve as the permanent location for the Secretariat of the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA) beginning in 2005.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the concurrent resolution.

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and any statements relating to the concurrent resolution be printed in the RECORD.

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

The concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 71) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The concurrent resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. CON. RES. 71

Whereas deliberations on establishing a "Free Trade Area of the Americas" (FTAA) will help facilitate greater cooperation and understanding on trade barrier reduction throughout the Americas;

Whereas the trade ministers of 34 countries of the Western Hemisphere agreed in 1998 to create a permanent Secretariat in order to support negotiations on establishing the FTAA;

Whereas the FTAA Secretariat will employ persons to provide logistical, administrative, archival, translation, publication, and distribution support for the negotiations;

Whereas the FTAA Secretariat will be funded by a combination of local resources and institutional resources from a tripartite committee consisting of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), the Organization of American States (OAS), and the United Nations Economic Commission on Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC);

Whereas the temporary site of the FTAA Secretariat will be located in Miami, Florida, from 1999 until February 28, 2001, at which point the Secretariat will rotate to Panama City, Panama, until February 28, 2003, and then rotate to Mexico City, Mexico, until February 28, 2005;

Whereas by 2005 the FTAA Secretariat will have international institution status providing jobs and tremendous economic benefits to its host city;

Whereas a permanent site for the FTAA Secretariat after 2005 will likely be selected from among the 3 temporary host cities;

Whereas the city of Miami, Miami-Dade County, and the State of Florida have long served as the gateway for trade with the Caribbean and Latin America;

Whereas trade between the city of Miami, Florida, and the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean totaled \$36,793,000,000 in 1998;

Whereas the Miami-Dade area and the State of Florida possess the necessary infrastructure, local resources, and culture necessary for the FTAA Secretariat's permanent site;

Whereas the United States possesses the world's largest economy and is the leading proponent of trade liberalization throughout the world; and

Whereas the city of Miami, Florida, the State of Florida, and the United States are uniquely situated among other competing locations to host the "Brussels of the Western Hemisphere"; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That it is the sense of the Congress that the President should direct the United States representative to the "Free Trade Area of the Americas" (FTAA) negotiations to use all available means in order to secure Miami, Florida, as the permanent site of the FTAA Secretariat after February 28, 2005.

CONDEMNING VIOLENCE IN CHECHNYA

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Foreign Relations Committee be discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 223 and that the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 223) condemning the violence in Chechnya.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, a technical amendment to the preamble be agreed to, the preamble, as amended, be agreed to, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statements relating to the resolution be printed in the RECORD.

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

AMENDMENT NO. 2791

(Purpose: To make clerical corrections)

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the amendment.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Maine [Ms. COLLINS], for Mr. HELMS, proposes an amendment numbered 2791.

The amendment is as follows:

In the second whereas clause of the preamble, strike "is" and insert "are".

The amendment (No. 2791) was agreed to.

The resolution (S. Res. 223) was agreed to.

The preamble, as amended, was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, as amended, is as follows:

[The resolution was not available for printing. It will appear in a future edition of the RECORD.]

FREEDOM OF BELIEF, EXPRESSION, AND ASSOCIATION IN THE PEOPLES REPUBLIC OF CHINA

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 404, S. Res. 217.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 217) relating to the freedom of belief, expression, and association in the People's Republic of China.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution which had been reported from the Committee on Foreign Relations with amendments to the preamble, as follows:

(The parts of the preamble intended to be stricken are shown in boldface brackets, and the parts of the preamble intended to be inserted are shown in italic.)

S. RES. 217

Whereas the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights affirm the freedoms of thought, conscience, religion, expression, and assembly as fundamental human rights belonging to all people;

Whereas the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights is a common standard of achievement for all peoples and all nations, including the People's Republic of China, a member of the United Nations;

Whereas the People's Republic of China has signed the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights but has yet to ratify the treaty and thereby make it legally binding;

Whereas the Constitution of the People's Republic of China provides for the freedom of religious belief and the freedom not to believe;

Whereas according to the Department of State and international human rights organizations, the Government of the People's Republic of China does not provide these freedoms but continues to restrict unregistered religious activities and persecutes persons on the basis of their religious practice through measures including harassment, prolonged detention, physical abuse, incarceration, and police closure of places of worship; and

Whereas under the International Religious Freedom Act, the Secretary of State has designated the People's Republic of China as a country of special concern;

Whereas the Government of the People's Republic of China has issued a decree declaring a wide range of activities illegal and subject to prosecution, including distribution of Falun Gong materials, gatherings or silent sit-ins, marches or demonstrations, and other activities to promote Falun Gong and has begun the trials of several Falun Gong practitioners;

Whereas the National People's Congress of the People's Republic of China on October 30, 1999, adopted a new law banning and criminalizing groups labeled by the Government of the People's Republic of China as cults; and

Whereas the Government of the People's Republic of China has officially labeled the Falun Gong meditation group a cult and has formally charged at least four members of the Falun Gong under this new law: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate calls on the Government of the People's Republic of China to—

(1) release all prisoners of conscience and put an immediate end to the harassment, detention, physical abuse, and imprisonment of Chinese citizens exercising their legitimate rights to free belief, expression, and association; and

(2) demonstrate its willingness to abide by internationally accepted norms of freedom of belief, expression, and association by repealing or amending laws and decrees that restrict those freedoms and proceeding promptly to ratify and implement the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

Mr. HUTCHINSON. Mr. President, I rise in support of S. Res. 217, which calls upon the Government of the People's Republic of China to release all prisoners of conscience, to end its persecution of people of faith, and to abide by internationally accepted human rights standards. This resolution is co-sponsored by Senators LOTT, NICKLES, MACK, COVERDELL, COLLINS, FEINGOLD, DURBIN, LEAHY, SNOWE, GORTON, and WELLSTONE.

Mr. President, the crackdown in China is escalating. The most immediate target is Falun Gong—a movement which combines traditional breathing exercises with elements of Buddhism, Taoism and the beliefs of its founder. Since April, when more than 10,000 practitioners of Falun Gong shocked the Chinese government by gathering in front of the leadership compound in Beijing, the Chinese government has tried to systematically eradicate the practice.

The Beijing regime rounded up thousands of practitioners, arrested its leaders, ransacked homes, confiscated and burned Falun Gong materials, and forced adherents to renounce their beliefs. The government then banned the practice of Falun Gong in July and officially labeled it a cult as part of a nationwide propaganda campaign to discredit practitioners. But this was not enough. On October 30, 1999, in a perverse maneuver, the National People's Congress raised the stakes of persecution by adopting a new law banning and criminalizing groups deemed by the Chinese government to be cults—perverse because this is the Chinese government's way of legitimizing their abuses of human rights—perverse because the law is being applied retroactively.

Protestors of this law faced police who beat, kicked, and yanked the hair of several elderly women protestors. Practitioners, mostly middle-aged or senior citizens, sitting or standing in silent meditation were dragged away from Tiananmen square. But they remained peaceful.

The Chinese government has wasted no time in arresting Falun Gong leaders and charging them under this law. As of November 9, 1999, according to Chinese officials, 111 people had been formally arrested on charges ranging from disrupting state security to stealing state secrets. Many more have been detained and sent to re-education programs or labor camps. Now, at least four leaders have been convicted, with

sentences ranging from two to twelve years. Many more will be convicted.

The truth of the matter is that the Chinese government is insecure and cannot tolerate any group that is outside of its control. That is why it is engaged in this crackdown. That is why it sentenced four pro-democracy activists to jail terms ranging from four to 11 years. That is why it continues to persecute people of faith.

In August, police detained a 65-year-old bishop of China's underground Roman Catholic Church in Hebei province and convicted seven lay members of the underground Catholic church in Jiangxi province.

In October, in Guangzhou, some 200 police officers demolished a shelter used by House Church Christians. They detained, brutalized, and warned five House Church Christians against preaching or practicing their faith. I am extremely concerned about the well being of Christians who are suffering in detention for their faith, including Pastor Li Dexian, one of the Guangzhou House Church members, Zhang Ronglian from Henan, and Zheng Xinqi from Anhui.

These incidents are simply anecdotal. They reflect a greater pattern of ongoing religious persecution.

Mr. President, at the same time that the Chinese government is cracking down on its own citizens, at the same time it is authorizing harsher punishments for believing outside of government control, the Beijing regime is flouting international norms, and even tossing aside its own constitution, which supposedly provides for the freedom of religious belief and the freedom not to believe.

The freedoms of thought, conscience, religion, expression, and assembly are not "western values" or "American values" that we are trying to impose on China. These values have been embraced by the international community. And it is up to the international community to uphold them when they are being trampled—to speak out in the face of injustice.

This resolution is part of our responsibility. With this resolution, we urge the Chinese government to step back into the realm of international standards, to end its crackdown, and to release its prisoners of conscience. We urge the Chinese government to end its "campaign for stability," which has only caused far greater instability.

Mr. President, I expect that this resolution will be adopted. I also expect that the Clinton Administration will not offer silence as a hidden concession for the WTO agreement signed with China but will instead use this statement by the Senate to strengthen its hand in advocating an end to persecution in China.

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the amendments to the preamble be agreed to, the preamble, as amended, be agreed to, the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table,