

devastated country, we see one of the worst international crises of the last decade. It is a bloody and brutal conflict, one that has drawn country after country into an un-winnable struggle, one that has cost the lives of thousands of civilians and has displaced hundreds of thousands more, and one about which this body has been strangely quiet.

Congo's conflict is as complex as it is destructive. It is born of the long absence of any semblance of political legitimacy in the government of that battered state, it is fed by the horrifying legacy of the Rwandan genocide, and it is intensified by the constant struggle for resources and wealth in the region. The litany of the causes of the war in Congo is a catalogue of the problems that plague the heart of Africa. Its outcome will likely determine the course of the region's future.

Mr. President, we need to wake up and realize that the U.S. has a stake in that future. Our interests in global peace and stability, the rule of law, and respect for basic human rights are bound up in Congo's future. Africans and their potential American trading partners can have no hope of realizing Africa's vast economic potential until the region's cycles of violence come to an end. And America urgently needs to stop the spread of infectious disease, to address environmental degradation, and to build a global coalition to fight international crime—but these needs cannot be met without stability in central Africa.

And Mr. President, global forces of instability will thrive, and their insidious influence will grow, when parties to the conflict in Congo turn to them, in desperation, for support.

Mr. President, central Africa's leaders know that the region cannot prosper while the war in the D.R.C. continues. For that reason, last summer the parties to the conflict signed a blueprint for ending the conflict—the Lusaka Agreement. That Agreement calls for an end to the fighting, for a free political dialogue within Congo, and lays out the path to the withdrawal of foreign forces.

Mr. President, I traveled to many of the countries involved in the crisis at the end of last year. In Angola, Zimbabwe, and Namibia, in Uganda and Rwanda, and in the D.R.C. itself, I personally heard heads of state acknowledge the importance of making the Lusaka Agreement work. They understand the challenge before them, the precious opportunity embodied by Lusaka.

Last week the parties to the Congo conflict renewed their commitment to the Lusaka Agreement in a series of extraordinary meetings at the United Nations in New York. They have all agreed to a facilitator, former President Masire of Botswana, to move the inter-Congolese dialogue forward. And all parties have called for a strengthening of the Joint Military Commission that is at the heart of the framework for peace.

Mr. President, just as the U.S. has a stake in the outcome, the United States also has a role to play in supporting these efforts. The U.N. has already deployed a small team of liaison officers to the scene. Now, the United Nations Secretary General has issued a report laying out the next phase of U.N. involvement. It calls for the deployment of 500 monitors, with a 5,000-strong force providing security and logistical support to their mission. They will have a robust mandate that ensures their ability to protect themselves.

Mr. President, none of the troops would be American, and that is as it should be. In fact, in my meetings with heads of state in the region, I explicitly asked about their expectations with regard to American troops, and I can report that no one has visions of a large American presence on the ground in Congo. But by creating the breathing room necessary to allow the belligerents to move toward peace, these troops will serve American interests.

The U.N. Secretary-General has endorsed a good plan. Its value comes, in part, from what it does not do. The U.N. does not plan to send tens of thousands of troops into Congo to impose peace on hostile parties. Nor does the U.N. intend to stand by while the most brutal elements in Congo seize power through violence and impose their will on civilians.

Instead, the plan that has emerged in New York harnesses international support to the commitment of the parties to the conflict. It recognizes that the only viable peace to be found in Congo is a peace created by the belligerent parties themselves. It acknowledges African responsibility for this African war, and strengthens the Joint Military Commission created by combatants when they signed the Lusaka accords. At the same time, this plan ensures that the international community does not turn its back on Africa.

There can be no double-standard, whereby African conflicts are measured by a different scale than that used for conflicts in Europe or Asia. The plan for the deployment of the monitors and their supporting team has been vetted as thoroughly as any U.N. project. The stakes—in terms of human life and regional stability—are unquestionably high enough to meet the threshold for international action. Now, the U.N. has an opportunity to get it right in Congo.

Supporting this U.N. mission is the least we should do to secure our interests and fulfill our responsibilities as responsible members of the international community. Should we fail to support it, should we ignore this terrible conflict any longer, we will weaken the international community's mechanisms for burden-sharing at the dawn of this new century. And we will lose an opportunity to reinforce a model for ending conflict and embracing a better future.

I want to say, because obviously this has to be true and I am concerned

about it, that the plan is not guaranteed to succeed.

Little worth attempting ever is. Zambian President Frederick Chiluba was right when he said, last week, that no peacekeeping operation anywhere in the world is risk-free. But Mr. President, this is the best chance for shoring up the Lusaka Agreement and helping African states to end the conflict that we are likely to see.

I strongly urge my colleagues to look at this program that is being suggested and to give it their support.

#### THE VERY BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, at the close of business yesterday, Tuesday, February 1, 2000, the Federal debt stood at \$5,702,651,446,667.03 (Five trillion, seven hundred two billion, six hundred fifty-one million, four hundred forty-six thousand, six hundred sixty-seven dollars and three cents).

One year ago, February 1, 1999, the Federal debt stood at \$5,588,099,000,000 (Five trillion, five hundred eighty-eight billion, ninety-nine million).

Five years ago, February 1, 1995, the Federal debt stood at \$4,810,860,000,000 (Four trillion, eight hundred ten billion, eight hundred sixty million).

Ten years ago, February 1, 1990, the Federal debt stood at \$2,994,932,000,000 (Two trillion, nine hundred ninety-four billion, nine hundred thirty-two million).

Fifteen years ago, February 1, 1985, the Federal debt stood at \$1,672,555,000,000 (One trillion, six hundred seventy-two billion, five hundred fifty-five million) which reflects a debt increase of more than \$4 trillion—\$4,030,096,446,667.03 (Four trillion, thirty billion, ninety-six million, four hundred forty-six thousand, six hundred sixty-seven dollars and three cents) during the past 15 years.

#### 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.)

#### MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 11:09 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Niland, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 1023. An act for the relief of Richard W. Schaffert.

H.R. 1838. An act to assist in the enhancement of the security of Taiwan, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the House has agreed to the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 764) to reduce the incidence of child abuse and neglect, and for other purposes.

The message further announced that, pursuant to section 702(b) of the Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2000 (Public Law 106-120), the Minority Leader has appointed the following Member to the National Commission for the Review of the National Reconnaissance Office: Mr. DICKS of Washington.

#### ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

The message also announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bill:

S. 1733. An act 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.

The enrolled bill was signed subsequently by the Vice President (Mr. GORE).

#### MEASURE REFERRED

The following bill was read the first and second times by unanimous consent and referred as indicated:

H.R. 1023. An act for the relief of Richard W. Schaffert; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

#### ENROLLED BILL PRESENTED

The Secretary of the Senate reported on today, February 2, 2000, he had presented to the President of the United States, the following enrolled bill:

S. 1733. An act 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.

#### 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-7182. A communication from the Program Analyst, Office of the Chief Counsel, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Revocation of Class E and Class D Airspace; El Toro MCAS, CA; Docket No. 99-AWP-19 [11-30/12-2]" (RIN2120-AA66) (1999-0378), received December 3, 1999; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7183. A communication from the Program Analyst, Office of the Chief Counsel, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Modification of Class D Airspace and Establishment of Class E Airspace; Dayton, Wright-Patterson AFB, OH"; Docket No. 99-AGL-50 [12-3/12-9]" (RIN2120-AA66) (1999-0389), received December 9, 1999; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7184. A communication from the Program Analyst, Office of the Chief Counsel, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Revision of Class E Airspace; Del Rio, TX; Direct Final Rule; Request for Comments; Docket No. 99-ASW-31 [12-17/12-20]" (RIN2120-AA66) (1999-0407), received December 21, 1999; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7185. A communication from the Program Analyst, Office of the Chief Counsel, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Revision of Class D Airspace; NAS JRB, Fort Worth, TX; Docket No. 99-ASW-19 [12-17/12-20]" (RIN2120-AA66) (1999-0401), received December 21, 1999; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7186. A communication from the Program Analyst, Office of the Chief Counsel, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Revision of Class D Airspace; Hobbs, NM; Direct Final Rule; Request for Comments; Docket No. 99-ASW-32 [1-18/1-20]" (RIN2120-AA66) (2000-0009), received January 24, 2000; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7187. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Emergency Interim Rule to Implement Major Provisions of the American Fisheries Act" (RIN0648-AM83), received January 31, 2000; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7188. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries off West Coast States and in the Western Pacific; Coastal Pelagic Species Fisheries; Annual Specifications" (RIN0648-AN36), received January 18, 2000; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7189. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Fish and Wildlife and Parks, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Marine Mammals; Incidental Take During Specified Activities" (RIN1018-AF87), received January 31, 2000; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7190. A communication from the Chairman, Merit Systems Protection Board transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to appeals submitted to the Board for fiscal year 1999; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-7191. A communication from the Comptroller General transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of the General Accounting Office reports for November 1999; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-7192. A communication from the Comptroller General transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to bid protests for fiscal year 1999; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-7193. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Policy, Management and Budget, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to its commercial activities inventory; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-7194. A communication from the Director, Office of Surface Mining, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law,

the report of a rule entitled "Pennsylvania Regulatory Program", received January 28, 2000; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-7195. A communication from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Regulatory Analysis and Development, Policy and Program Development, Animal and Health Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Asian Longhorned Beetle; Addition to Quarantined Areas" (Docket # 00-004-1), received January 28, 2000; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-7196. A communication from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Regulatory Analysis and Development, Policy and Program Development, Animal and Health Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Imported Fire Ant; Quarantined Areas and Treatment" (Docket # 98-125-2), received January 31, 2000; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-7197. A communication from the Chief, Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Additional Guidance on Cash or Deferred Arrangements" (Rev. Rul. 2000-8), received January 28, 2000; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-7198. A communication from the Chief, Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Substantiation of Business Expenses" (RIN1545-AV87) (RIN1545-AT97), received January 28, 2000; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-7199. A communication from the Deputy Executive Secretary, Health Care Financing Administration, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Title IV-E Foster Care Eligibility Reviews and Child Care and Services State Plan Reviews" (RIN2970-AA97), received January 31, 2000; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-7200. A communication from the Secretary of Veterans Affairs and the Secretary of Defense transmitting jointly, pursuant to law, a report relative to the implementation of that portion of "The Department of Veterans Affairs and the Department of Defense Health Resources Sharing and Emergency Operations Act" dealing with sharing of healthcare resources between the two departments; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

EC-7201. A communication from the Secretary of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the allotment of emergency funds to eleven states under the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Act of 1981; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-7202. A communication from the Director, Regulations Policy and Management Staff, Food and Drug Administration, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Indirect Food Additives: Polymers" (Docket No. 98F-0569), received January 31, 2000; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-7203. A communication from the Director, Regulations Policy and Management Staff, Food and Drug Administration, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Medical Device Reporting; Manufacturer Reporting, Importer Reporting, User Facility Reporting, Distributor Reporting" (RIN0910-ZA18), received January 31, 2000; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.