

put their faith and trust in the ideals for which our nation stands.

The legislation we are about to pass will establish a National Moment of Remembrance at 3:00 local time on Memorial Day. At that time, I am hopeful all Americans will join together in recognition of those men and women who have died in military service of our nation.

Finally, I thank my colleague from Nebraska, Senator HAGEL, and Carmella LaSpada of No Greater Love for their efforts in making the National Moment of Remembrance a reality.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and finally any statements be printed in the RECORD.

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

The concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 302) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE REGARDING THE CRIMES AND ABUSES COMMITTED AGAINST THE PEOPLE OF SIERRA LEONE

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the Senate now proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 315, submitted earlier by Senator HELMS for himself and others.

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

A resolution (S. Res. 315) expressing the sense of the Senate regarding the crimes and abuses committed against the people of Sierra Leone by the Revolutionary United Front, and for other purposes.

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

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, Sierra Leone is a failed state and merely hoping that a few new Bangladeshi or Indian peacekeepers will turn the situation around is irresponsible. The President should bear this in mind as he decides U.S. policy in Sierra Leone—especially the extent of U.S. military involvement there or support for a U.N. or regional peacekeeping or peace-making operation.

All of us—100 Senators—must remind ourselves that the rebels in Sierra Leone—the Revolutionary United Front (RUF)—cannot be dealt with as if it were a political party. The Revolutionary United Front has terrorized the population of Sierra Leone by mutilating their enemies—and innocent civilians, including women and children—by chopping off their ears, noses, hands, arms, and legs.

At some point the downtrodden people of Sierra Leone must find a way to hold their own leadership responsible. But it's impossible to overlook the fact that Liberian President Charles Taylor provides succor to the sadistic Revolutionary United Front.

Taylor (with enthusiastic participation of regional leaders, including

Maummar Qadhafi) provides leadership, weapons and safe haven while the RUF digs diamonds using slave labor in payment for services rendered.

It's shameful that President Clinton's hand-picked emissary hugs the godfather of the RUF like a brother and contemplates negotiating with his henchmen. Or had it not been for certain Congressional objections, the U.S. Government would be shoveling foreign aid to Charles Taylor.

Mr. President, the Resolution I offer, along with Senators BIDEN, FRIST, and FEINGOLD, speaks for itself. The Administration should take note, as it attempts to formulate U.S. policy, that at this stage of the game there is bipartisan "concern" (and I use that word in the most understated diplomatic fashion) about the policy of the United States and the sorry performance of the United Nations.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, the showdown in Sierra Leone between the Revolutionary United Front (RUF) and the United Nations peacekeepers they have taken hostage, robbed, killed and humiliated has enormous implications for the future of the United Nations. It is a sort of Midway Island for UN peacekeeping: a loss there could doom future operations across the continent, and possibly further afield. However, a frantic effort to salvage the UN operation there by reinstating the unjust peace accord may win the battle for peace keeping operations in the short run, but it could be devastating for the UN and for Sierra Leone in the long run.

The Clinton administration and the United Nations have staked an unusual amount of capital on a successful UN mission in Sierra Leone. After the UN's shocking withdrawal from Rwanda in the days before the genocide began, a success in African peacekeeping became a must for the embattled Kofi Annan, who oversaw that withdrawal and later became Secretary-General.

The Clinton administration's motives for backing a massive UN peacekeeping operation agreement is harder to understand beyond a history of making multilateralization itself a foreign policy goal. With an almost mantra-like regularity, they have touted "African solutions for African problems." Yet two "African solutions" to the conflict in Sierra Leone were abandoned. In 1995-96, 300 South African mercenaries drove rebels from the capital and the major diamond fields, brought them to the negotiating table and set the stage for elections. Predictably, under donor pressure, they were forced to leave and the war resumed. Later, Nigeria led a West African intervention force and again restored peace by aggressively pursuing the sadistic but cowardly RUF.

Both of these "African solutions" were dropped because they conflicted with the dreamy notion that says a UN mission can end a war of unspeakable barbarity without getting its hands dirty. The West African regional force

cost a fraction of the UN mission and actually brought a modicum of peace to Sierra Leone, yet the administration never even requested from Congress the \$25 million needed to continue their presence. Instead, the Nigerians were given blue helmets and impotent rules of engagement then "reinforced" with Kenyan, Indian and Zambian troops that have been robbed of their weapons and taken hostage. The U.S. portion of the price tag for this disaster soared to \$118 million for next fiscal year alone.

The United Nations peacekeeping mission in Sierra Leone and the frantic effort to salvage it now would be defensible if the Lomé accord had ever been a viable peace. The agreement rewarded the rape, mutilation, forced conscription of children and killing campaign of the RUF with the vice-presidency, cabinet positions and exclusive domain over the diamond fields. Literally the only portion of the agreement implemented since it was signed in July of last year is the most outrageous and inexplicable: recognition of the RUF as a political party and a part of the government.

With the Lomé accord the RUF was given the privilege of reaping both the benefits of peace and the benefits of war simultaneously. It was a tragic and shameful contradiction that was obvious from the beginning. Because a successful UN peace agreement and peacekeeping operation had itself become the goal, rather than stability for Sierra Leone and defeat of the RUF, the contradiction was ignored. It was this self-delusion that was the West's greatest disservice to Sierra Leone, far exceeding our refusal to send our own troops.

Because the potential failure of the UN in Sierra Leone has made it high noon for all peacekeeping in Africa, including Congo, we may be in the process of repeating the mistakes of Lomé simply to win a short term battle for multilateralism. Making a deal with the devil once is unwise, making it twice is unforgivable. Trying to force the reality of the brutality and recidivism of the RUF and the failure of the Lomé accord to conform to our sense of order and to our desire for "clean hands" verges on international sociopathy.

I am not suggesting that we end the peace mission in Sierra Leone, but we cannot repeat the mistakes of the Lomé accord by again rewarding the RUF. To do so would set up a repeat of the current tragedy for Sierra Leone and indignity for the UN. Whether under the auspice of the UN or Nigeria, the rules of engagement in Sierra Leone must be realistic and aggressive. Most of all, we must seek accountability for the horrific war crimes committed there. It will be bloody and hard to watch, but not as horrific as the RUF has proven to be. For the sake of the suffering Sierra Leoneans we are supposed to be helping, accountability

for criminals and justice for their victims cannot again be sacrificed to our own intellectual impulses.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent 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 resolution be printed in the RECORD.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 315) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 315

Whereas more than 1,000,000 of Sierra Leone's 5,200,000 population are internally displaced and more than 500,000 are refugees as a direct result of the civil war in Sierra Leone, at least 50,000 people have been killed during the civil war, untold numbers of people have been mutilated and disabled largely by the Revolutionary United Front, and more than 20,000 individuals, including many children, are missing or have been kidnapped by the Revolutionary United Front;

Whereas the Revolutionary United Front continues to terrorize the population of Sierra Leone by mutilating their enemies and innocent civilians, including women and children, by chopping off their ears, noses, hands, arms, and legs;

Whereas the Revolutionary United Front continues to terrorize the population of Sierra Leone by decapitating innocent victims, including children as young as 10 months old and elderly men and women;

Whereas the Revolutionary United Front abducts women and children for use as forced laborers, sex slaves, and as human shields during skirmishes with government forces and the forces of the Economic Community of West African States;

Whereas the Revolutionary United Front has kidnapped boys as young as 6 or 7 years old and used them to kill and steal and to become soldiers, and its forces have routinely raped women and young girls as a terror tactic;

Whereas the Revolutionary United Front has abducted civilians, missionaries, humanitarian aid workers, United Nations peacekeepers, and journalists;

Whereas Charles Taylor, the President of Liberia, has provided and continues to provide significant support and direction to the Revolutionary United Front in exchange for diamonds and other natural resources and is therefore culpable for the abuses in Sierra Leone;

Whereas the Lome Peace Accords did not hold the Revolutionary United Front accountable for their abuses and, in fact, rewarded Foday Sankoh and other Revolutionary United Front leaders with high government offices and control of diamond mining throughout Sierra Leone;

Whereas the Revolutionary United Front in Sierra Leone is not a legitimate political movement, entity, or party;

Whereas all sides in the civil war in Sierra Leone are guilty of serious human rights abuses; and

Whereas the Revolutionary United Front led by Foday Sankoh is responsible for breaking the Lome Peace Accords and for the violent aftermath that has consumed Sierra Leone since May 1, 2000: Now, therefore, be it

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

(1) the United States Government should do all in its power to help ensure that the

Revolutionary United Front and its leaders, as well as other groups committing human rights abuses in Sierra Leone, are held accountable for the crimes and abuses committed against the people of Sierra Leone;

(2) the United States Government should not condone, support, or be a party to, any agreement that provides amnesty to those responsible for the crimes and abuses in Sierra Leone; and

(3) the United States Government should not provide incentives of any kind to regional supporters of the Revolutionary United Front until all support from them to the Revolutionary United Front has ceased.

AUTHORIZING THE PLACEMENT OF A PLAQUE WITHIN THE SITE OF THE VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL

Mr. LOTT. I ask unanimous consent the Energy Committee be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 3293, and that the Senate then proceed to its immediate consideration.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 3293) to amend the law that authorized Vietnam Veterans Memorial to authorize placement within the site of the memorial of a plaque to honor those Vietnam veterans who died after their service in the Vietnam war but as a direct result of that service.

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

Mr. LOTT. I ask unanimous consent the bill be read a third time and passed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and any statements relating to the bill be printed in the RECORD.

The bill (H.R. 3293) was read the third time and passed.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I should note this is legislation that is sponsored in the Senate by Senator BEN CAMPBELL of Colorado, but this is a House bill, originally sponsored by Congressman GALLEGLY of California. I thank Senator WYDEN for helping us work through getting this cleared, since it is an authorization for the Vietnam Veterans Memorial before this Memorial Day weekend. I commend the three Senators and others who were involved in that issue.

IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION SERVICE DATA MANAGEMENT IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2000

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to consideration of H.R. 4489, 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. 4489) to amend section 110 of the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996, and for other purposes.

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

Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, I support the passage of H.R. 4489, the Immi-

gration and Naturalization Service Data Management Improvement Act of 2000, which makes very important revisions to section 110 of the 1996 Immigration Act. I, along with many of my colleagues, introduced an identical Senate companion to this bill, S. 2599, late last week.

As originally enacted, section 110 of the 1996 law mandated that an automated system be established to record the entry and exit of all aliens as a means to provide more information on individuals who "overstay" their visas. In the opinion of many, it became clear that this well-intentioned measure, if implemented, could have an unforeseen impact. Today, when INS or Customs officials inspect people at land borders, they examine papers as necessary and make quick determinations, using their discretion on when to solicit more information. Section 110, however, was being understood to require revisions to that system that would have greatly complicated travel across the land border by mandating that every single passenger of every single vehicle be required to provide detailed information in a form that could be entered into a computer on the spot. According to Dan Stamper, president of the Detroit International Bridge Company, even assuming an incredibly quick 30 seconds per individual, the traffic delays could exceed 20 hours in numerous jurisdictions at the northern border. This would obviously create extraordinary economic and environmental harm. Moreover, it would divert scarce law enforcement resources away from more effective measures.

Out of concern for its harmful impact on Michigan and law enforcement, I passed legislation in 1998 to delay implementation of section 110 from its original start date of September 30, 1998, until March 30, 2001. But it remained clear that a delay could not sufficiently satisfy concerns that the INS might develop a system that would prove harmful to the people of Michigan and other states.

FRED UPTON showed great leadership in the House on this issue and served his constituents extraordinarily well in helping to forge this compromise. LAMAR SMITH deserves great credit for working closely with us and his other House colleagues in making an agreement that meets the economic and security interests of all sides on this issue. And JOHN LAFALCE also provided important assistance in this effort.

This is a great victory for the people of Michigan. This agreement strikes the right balance in enhancing our security and immigration enforcement needs while ensuring that we preserve the jobs and the other economic benefits Michigan receives from our close relationship with Canada.

This product of the agreement with the House replaces the current requirement that by March 30, 2001, a record of arrival and departure be collected for every alien at all ports of entry, with a more achievable requirement that the