

60TH ANNIVERSARY OF SOVIET EXECUTION

Mr. COVERDELL. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar 592, S. Con. Res. 118.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 118) commemorating the 60th anniversary of the execution of the Polish captives by Soviet authorities in April and May 1940.

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

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

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

The resolution (S. Con. Res. 118) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. CON. RES. 118

Whereas 60 years ago, between April 3 and the end of May 1940, more than 22,000 Polish military officers, police officers, judges, other government officials, and civilians were executed by the Soviet secret police, the NKVD;

Whereas Joseph Stalin and other leaders of the Soviet Union, following meeting of the Soviet Politburo on March 5, 1940, signed the decision to execute these Polish captives;

Whereas 14,537 of these Polish victims have been documented at 3 sites, 4,406 in Katyn (now in Belarus), 6,311 in Miednoye (now in Russia), and 3,820 in Kharkiv (now in Ukraine);

Whereas the fate of approximately 7,000 other victims remains unknown and their graves together with the graves of other victims of communism, are scattered around the territory of the former Soviet Union and are now impossible to locate precisely;

Whereas on April 13, 1943, the German army announced the discovery of the massive graves in the Katyn Forest, when that area was under Nazi occupation;

Whereas on April 15, 1943, the Soviet Information Bureau disavowed the executions and attempted to cover up the Soviet Union's responsibility for these executions by declaring that these Polish captives had been engaged in construction work west of Smolensk and had fallen into the hands of the Germans, who executed them;

Whereas on April 28-30, 1943, an international commission of 12 medical experts visited Katyn at the invitation of the German government and later reported unanimously that the Polish officers had been shot three years earlier when the Smolensk area was under Soviet administration;

Whereas until 1990 the Government of the Soviet Union denied any responsibility for the massacres and claimed to possess no information about the fate of the missing Polish victims;

Whereas on April 13, 1990, Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev acknowledged the Soviet responsibility for the Katyn executions;

Whereas this admission confirmed the 1951-52 extensive investigation by the United States House of Representatives Select Com-

mittee to Conduct an Investigation and Study of the Facts, Evidence, and Circumstances of the Katyn Forest Massacre and its Final Report (pursuant to House Resolution H.R. 390 and H.R. 539, 82d Congress);

Whereas that committee's final report of December 22, 1952, unanimously concluded that "beyond any question of reasonable doubt, that the Soviet NKVD (People's Commissariat of Internal Affairs) committed the mass murders of the Polish officers and intellectual leaders in the Katyn Forest near Smolensk" and that the Soviet Union "is directly responsible for the Katyn massacre"; and

Whereas that report also concluded that "approximately 15,000 Polish prisoners were interned in three Soviet camps: Kozielsk, Starobielsk, and Ostashkov in the winter of 1939-40" and, "with the exception of 400 prisoners, these men have not been heard from, seen, or found since the spring of 1940": Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That Congress hereby—

(1) remembers and honors those Polish officers, government officials, and civilians who were murdered in April and May 1940 by the NKVD;

(2) recognizes all those scholars, researchers, and writers from Poland, Russia, the United States and, elsewhere and, particularly, those who worked under Soviet and communist domination and who had the courage to tell the truth about the crimes committed at Katyn, Miednoye, and Kharkiv; and

(3) urges all people to remember and honor these and other victims of communism so that such crimes will never be repeated.

COMMENDING REPUBLIC OF CROATIA

Mr. COVERDELL. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar 593, House concurrent resolution 251.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 251) commending the Republic of Croatia for the conduct of its parliamentary and Presidential election.

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

[The parts of the resolution intended to be stricken are shown in boldface brackets and the parts of the resolution intended to be inserted are shown in italic.]

Whereas the fourth Croatian parliamentary elections, held on January 3, 2000, marked Croatia's progress toward meeting its commitments as a participating state of the Organization on Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and as a member of the Council of Europe;

Whereas Croatia's third presidential elections were conducted smoothly and professionally and concluded on February 7, 2000, with the [landslide] election of Stipe Mesic as the new President of the Republic of Croatia;

Whereas the free and fair elections in Croatia, and the following peaceful and orderly

transfer of power from the old government to the new, is an example of democracy to the people of other nations in the region and a major contribution to the democratic development of southeastern Europe; and

Whereas the people of Croatia have made clear that they want Croatia to take its rightful place in the family of European democracies and to develop a closer and more constructive relationship with the Euro-Atlantic community of democratic nations: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), [That it is the sense of Congress that—

[(1) the people of the Republic of Croatia are to be congratulated on the successful elections and the outgoing Government of Croatia is to be commended for the democratic standards with which it managed the elections;

[(2) the United States should support the efforts of the new Government of Croatia to increase its work on refugee return, privatization reform, media reform, and further cooperation with the International Criminal Tribunal for Former Yugoslavia (ICTY) to set an example to other countries in the region;

[(3) the Congress strongly supports Croatia's commitment to western democratic standards and will give its full support to the new Government of Croatia to fully implement democratic reforms; and

[(4) the United States continues to promote Croatian-American economic, political, and military relations and recognizes Croatia as a loyal partner in south central Europe.

[(5) taking into consideration Croatia's contributions as a committed partner in the region, the Congress recommends establishing strategic partnership with the Republic of Croatia and supports its membership in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization's Partnership for Peace program and its accession into the World Trade Organization.]

That it is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the people of the Republic of Croatia are to be congratulated on the successful elections and the outgoing Government of Croatia is to be commended for the democratic standards with which it managed the elections;

(2) the United States should support the efforts of the new Government of Croatia to increase its work on refugee return, privatization reform, media reform, and further cooperation with the International Criminal Tribunal for Former Yugoslavia (ICTY) to set an example to other countries in the region;

(3) Congress strongly supports Croatia's commitment to western democratic standards and will give its full support to the new Government of Croatia to fully implement democratic reforms; and

(4) the United States continues to promote Croatian-American economic, political, and military relations and recognizes Croatia as a loyal partner in south central Europe.

Mr. COVERDELL. I ask unanimous consent that the committee amendment be agreed to.

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

The committee amendment was agreed to.

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

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

The concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 251), as amended, was agreed to.

The preamble, as amended, was agreed to.

EXPRESSING THE CONDEMNATIONS OF THE CONTINUED EGREGIOUS VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE REPUBLIC OF BELARUS

Mr. COVERDELL. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar 594, House concurrent resolution 304.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 304) expressing the condemnation of the continued egregious violations of human rights in the Republic of Belarus, the lack of progress toward the establishment of democracy and the rule of law in Belarus, calling on President Alyaksandr Lukashenka's regime to engage in negotiations with the representatives of the opposition and to restore the constitutional rights of the Belarusian people, and calling on the Russian Federation to respect the sovereignty of Belarus.

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

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

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

The concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 304) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The distinguished Senator from West Virginia is recognized.

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak out of order for not to exceed 15 minutes.

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

THE PROPER DECORUM OF THE SENATE

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, I think it would be appropriate at this moment for me to say that this Presiding Officer, Senator PAT ROBERTS, is one of the best among the Presiding Officers in the Senate today. He pays attention to what is going on on the floor. Even though there may not be much going on, he is alert to what is happening on the floor.

This is the premier upper Chamber in the world today. There are 61 nations in the world that have bicameral legislative bodies today. All the others have unicameral legislative bodies. But the U.S. Senate and the Italian Senate are the only bicameral legislative bodies in the world today in which the upper Chamber is not dominated by the lower Chamber.

It is so important that this Senate be seen as a model, as a Senate in which there is decorum and order, a Senate which reveres the Chair and respects the Chair. This is one reason why I have been, of late, urging the Chair to maintain order in the well of the Senate. Now, 59 Senators out of 100 Senators today came to this body after I was majority leader of the Senate. Almost 60 percent of the Senators here today were not Members of this body when I was last majority leader of the body.

Now, what I look upon as some disorder in the Senate is when Senators get into the well and mill around. It really looks like the floor of the stock exchange, and it does not bring credit upon the Senate. I am sure that many senates throughout the States of this Nation look at this Senate as the model, look at this Senate as the body from which all senates should learn. But I fear that they see just the opposite.

I have been in the State legislature in my own State, and I have been in both houses. I have to say, frankly, that the decorum, the order within the House of Delegates in West Virginia and in the West Virginia Senate is far more to be desired than we find in that U.S. Senate. This is a situation that has really developed only during the last 10 or 12 years. I am sure that as the 59 out of the 100 Senators who came here following my last turn at the wheel as majority leader see this disorder in the Senate, where so many Senators gather in the well and they talk and they laugh and make a great deal of noise, these newest Senators probably believe that is the way it has always been. They may believe that is just normal for the Senate. But it is not.

I cannot imagine Senator Wallace Bennett, Senator George Aiken, Senator Norris Cotton, Senator Everett Dirksen, Senator Richard Russell, Senator Stuart Symington, Senator John Pastore, or Senator Joseph O'Mahoney going into the well. These were the Senators who were in this body when I came here. Senators didn't go down into the well and mill around in those days. Oh, they walked through the well, or they might walk up to the table and ask something about the vote, or they might walk up to the Parliamentarian and make some inquiry; but they didn't gather in the well and carry on long conversations. They sat in their seats. Most of them knew how they were going to vote before they came to the floor. They had already been advised by their staffs or they studied the legislation. So they didn't go into the well. I think that looks bad upon the Senate.

I don't think the Senate sets a good example when we are so oblivious to how the Senate appears to the people who are watching their televisions sets or to the people in the galleries. Hundreds of thousands of people come to Washington every year, and many of

them sit in the Senate galleries and watch the Senate. I wonder what is going through their minds when they see these Senators come in here and gather in the well and carry on loud conversations. How different it is when Senators, upon occasion, sit in their seats. How very impressive it is when the U.S. Senate acts in accordance with the standing orders and rules of the Senate.

It is the duty of the Chair to maintain order in the Senate and, of course, when there is confusion that arises in the galleries, it is the duty of the Chair—without being asked from the floor, without a point of order being made from the floor—to maintain order and decorum in the Senate.

I am trying to get the Senate to think about this and go back to the old ways, wherein Senators voted and then went to their chairs, or they voted from their desks. There is a standing order of the Senate that requires Senators to vote from their desks. I don't intend to be set-jawed about it, and if Senators want to walk through the well to see what it is we are voting on, or if they want to vote from someplace other than their own desks, I have no quarrel with that. But I think they ought to sit down. There are plenty of places where Senators can converse. We can go to the respective Cloakrooms, or we can walk outside the Chamber. So it isn't that Senators are required to avoid speaking to one another in the Chamber. We ought to be conscious that this Senate is the model—or it should be.

I hope Senators will read what I have said. They see me insist on the well's being cleared and they may think I am trying to run the Senate. Of course, I am not. I want people to revere the Senate and respect the Senate. If they respect this body, they will have more respect for the laws that we enact.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the time I have taken not be charged against my request thus far.

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

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, again, I thank the Senator from Kansas who is a model Presiding Officer, and there are a few others in this body.

HONORING SENATOR DANIEL K. INOUE AS RECIPIENT OF THE CONGRESSIONAL MEDAL OF HONOR

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, the strength of this Nation lies in its people. Throughout our Nation's history, American men and women have been called upon time and time again to serve the Nation in times of peril. These men and women, at great risk to themselves and without regard to their personal safety, have given their all for their Country. These are the true heroes of America.

We have some of such heroes in this body who have given so very much for their country—Senator MAX CLELAND,