

CONGRATULATING PRESIDENT CHANDRIKA BANDARANAIKE KUMARATUNGA AND THE PEOPLE OF THE DEMOCRATIC SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF SRI LANKA

Mr. NICKLES. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of Calendar No. 10, S. Res. 17.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 17) congratulating President Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaratunga and the people of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka on the celebration of 53 years of independence.

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

Mr. NICKLES. 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 resolution be printed in the RECORD.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 17) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 17

Whereas February 4, 2001, is the occasion of the 53rd anniversary of the independence of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka from Britain;

Whereas the present constitution of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka has been in existence since August 16, 1978, and guarantees universal suffrage; and

Whereas the people of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka and the United States share many values, including a common belief in democratic principles, a commitment to international cooperation, and promotion of enhanced trade and cultural ties: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) congratulates President Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaratunga and the people of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka on the celebration of 53 years of independence;

(2) expresses best wishes to the Government and the people of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka as they celebrate their national day of independence on February 4, 2001; and

(3) looks forward to continued cooperation and friendship with the Government and people of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka in the years ahead.

SEC. 2. The Secretary of the Senate shall transmit a copy of this resolution to the President with the request that the President further transmit such copy to the Government of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka.

EXPRESSING SYMPATHY FOR THE VICTIMS OF THE DEVASTATING EARTHQUAKE IN EL SALVADOR

Mr. NICKLES. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of Calendar No. 11, S. Res. 18.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 18) expressing sympathy for the victims of the devastating earthquake that struck El Salvador on January 13, 2001.

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

Mr. NICKLES. 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 resolution be printed in the RECORD.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 18) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 18

Whereas, on the morning of January 13, 2001, a devastating and deadly earthquake of a magnitude of 7.6 on the Richter scale shook the entire nation of El Salvador, killing more than 700 people, injuring more than 3,000, and leaving more than 50,000 homeless;

Whereas the earthquake of January 13, 2001, has left thousands of buildings in ruin, caused deadly landslides, and destroyed highways and other infrastructure;

Whereas the strength, courage, and determination of the people of El Salvador has been displayed since the earthquake;

Whereas El Salvador is still recovering from years of civil war, hurricane damage, and flood damage;

Whereas the people of the United States and El Salvador share strong friendship and mutual interests and respect;

Whereas some United States specialists from Costa Rica and Miami, including specialists from the Miami-Dade Fire Rescue Department, were deployed to assist disaster relief efforts in El Salvador;

Whereas United States military personnel from the United States Southern Command are providing some technical assistance;

Whereas the USAID/Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART) has set up an office in El Salvador's National Emergency Committee (COEN) to assist the office in its coordination efforts and to ensure access to the latest information; and

Whereas the United Nations launched an appeal for humanitarian assistance and initial rehabilitation to address the devastation caused by the powerful earthquake: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) expresses its deepest sympathies to the people of El Salvador and other Central American countries for the tragic losses suffered as a result of the earthquake of January 13, 2001;

(2) expresses its support for the people of El Salvador as they continue their efforts to rebuild their cities and their lives;

(3) expresses support for disaster assistance being provided by the United States Agency for International Development and other relief agencies;

(4) recognizes the important role that is being played by the United States and other countries in providing assistance to alleviate the suffering of the people of El Salvador; and

(5) encourages a continued commitment by the United States and other countries to the long-term, sustainable development of El Salvador.

EXPRESSING SYMPATHY FOR THE VICTIMS OF THE DEVASTATING EARTHQUAKE IN INDIA

Mr. NICKLES. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of Calendar No. 12, S. Con. Res. 6.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 6) expressing sympathy for the victims of the devastating earthquake that struck India on January 26, 2001, and support for ongoing aid efforts.

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

Mr. BIDEN. Mr. President, I am proud to cosponsor S. Con. Res. 6. This concurrent resolution sends a message of sympathy and support to the people of India, who have been struck by one of the worst natural disasters to afflict their nation in the half-century since Independence.

The earthquake which devastated the Western Indian state of Gujarat killed untold thousands. The magnitude of this tragedy is demonstrated by the fact that 30,000 dead is now referred to as an optimistic estimate. Other sources, such as the Indian Minister of Defense, have suggested a worst-case scenario of 100,000 dead.

As President Bush noted, a disaster such as this knows no national boundaries. The victims have been the people of India, but the burden of humanitarian relief rests on the shoulders of the entire world community.

I congratulate the relief workers, from many nations, who have stepped up to the challenge. The most important work, of course, has been done by the Indians themselves tens of thousands of military and civilian personnel who have labored tirelessly to help save the lives of those trapped in the wreckage.

Working alongside them have been search and rescue teams from Britain, Switzerland, Germany, Russia and Turkey. They helped locate victims with state-of-the-art thermal sensors, and with specially-trained canine units.

Following closely after the search and rescue teams have been medical units from France, Japan, Israel, Denmark and NGOs like the International Federation of the Red Cross and Doctors without Borders. These nations and groups have set up field hospitals and shipped in medical supplies to tend to the needs of tens of thousands of wounded.

Many other countries have offered cash donations, food, tents, blankets, or other humanitarian assistance. Of these donor countries I would like to single out Pakistan for particular commendation: in light of recent tensions, and of Pakistan's own losses in the earthquake—at least a dozen dead, with a full reckoning not yet made—the shipment of relief supplies was an important gesture of peace.

The United States, for logistical reasons, has concentrated its efforts on providing potable water, shelter, and food to those rendered homeless by the quake. USAID has already made several airlifts of vital material, and more aid is in the pipeline.

When a disaster occurs at such a great geographical remove, US assets might not always be the first to arrive on the spot. But once the US gears up for a challenge, it is equal to any task. The job of the world community now is to make sure that the earthquake does not claim more victims after the last tremors have ceased.

The basic human-needs infrastructure of Gujarat has, in many areas, been entirely wiped out: hundreds of thousands of people will be effected, to one degree or another. In a situation like this, diseases like cholera or dysentery—easily preventable, with proper medical and nutritional facilities—can spread like wildfire. Simply insuring that the dispossessed people have access to food, shelter, and clean water can save countless lives.

We Americans are a compassionate people. But from the stark figures of relief provided and pledged, the extent of our compassion may not be clear. In the crucial first days following the disaster—when a dozen other countries were actively engaged in rescue and medical support—our financial pledge was one-third that of Great Britain, a million dollars lower than that of Germany, and a sum less than that of the combined pledges of Holland and Italy.

Our contribution has since risen, and I am told that it will continue to rise in the days and weeks to come. I certainly hope that it does. And when the time comes to fund the reconstruction of Western India's basic infrastructure a task that will require more than \$1 billion in loans from international financial organizations I hope that we will demonstrate the full extent of our country's compassionate nature.

Today, as India works to save the lives of its citizens and mourns the lives of those who could not be saved, our thoughts and prayers are with the people of Gujarat. I hope that the United States will accelerate its efforts to put these thoughts and prayers into generous, concrete action.

Mr. NICKLES. 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. 6) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

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

S. CON. RES. 6

Whereas on the morning of January 26, 2001, a devastating and deadly earthquake shook the state of Gujarat in western India, killing untold tens of thousands of people,

injuring countless others, and crippling most of the region;

Whereas the earthquake of January 26, 2001, has left thousands of buildings in ruin, caused widespread fires, and destroyed infrastructure;

Whereas the people of India and people of Indian origin have displayed strength, courage, and determination in the aftermath of the earthquake;

Whereas the people of the United States and India have developed a strong friendship based on mutual interests and respect;

Whereas India has asked the World Bank for \$1,700,000,000 in economic assistance to start rebuilding from the earthquake;

Whereas the United States has offered technical and monetary assistance through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID); and

Whereas offers of assistance have also come from the Governments of Turkey, Switzerland, Taiwan, Russia, Germany, China, Canada, and others, as well as countless nongovernmental organizations: Now, therefore, be it

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

(1) expresses its deepest sympathies to the citizens of the state of Gujarat and to all of India for the tragic losses suffered as a result of the earthquake of January 26, 2001;

(2) expresses its support for—

(A) the people of India as they continue their efforts to rebuild their cities and their lives;

(B) the efforts of the World Bank;

(C) continuing and substantially increasing the amount of disaster assistance being provided by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and other relief agencies; and

(D) providing future economic assistance in order to help rebuild Gujarat; and

(3) recognizes and encourages the important assistance that also could be provided by other nations to alleviate the suffering of the people of India.

PERMITTING USE OF THE ROTUNDA

Mr. NICKLES. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Rules Committee be discharged from further consideration of H. Con. Res. 14 and the Senate then 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 (H. Con. Res. 14) permitting the use of the Rotunda of the Capitol for a ceremony as part of the commemoration of the days of remembrance of victims of the Holocaust.

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

AMENDMENT NO. 11

(Purpose: To change the date)

Mr. NICKLES. Mr. President, there is an amendment at the desk, and I ask for its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Oklahoma [Mr. NICKLES], for Mr. MCCONNELL, proposes an amendment numbered 11.

The first section of the resolution is amended by striking "April 18, 2001" and inserting "April 19, 2001".

Mr. NICKLES. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the amendment be agreed to.

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

The amendment (No. 11) was agreed to.

Mr. NICKLES. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, as amended, and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table.

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

The concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 14), as amended, was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. NICKLES. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session to consider the following nominations on the Executive Calendar: No. 15 and all the nominations on the Secretary's desk in the Foreign Service. I further ask unanimous consent that the nominations be confirmed, the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, any statements relating to the nominations be printed in the RECORD, the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action, and the Senate then return to legislative session.

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

The nominations were considered and confirmed as follows:

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Paul Henry O'Neill, of Pennsylvania, to be United States Governor of the International Monetary Fund for a term of five years; United States Governor of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development for a term of five years; United States Governor of the Inter-American Development Bank for a term of five years; United States Governor of the African Development Bank for a term of five years; United States Governor of the Asian Development Bank; United States Governor of the African Development Fund; United States Governor of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development.

NOMINATIONS PLACED ON THE SECRETARY'S DESK

FOREIGN SERVICE

PN109 Foreign Service nominations (7) beginning James D. Grueff, and ending Ralph Iwamoto, Jr., which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 1, 2001.

PN110 Foreign Service nominations (23) beginning An Thanh Le, and ending Army Wing Schedlbauer, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 1, 2001.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will now return to legislative session.