

where she was witness to her mother's care and generosity for local, poverty-stricken farm worker families;

Whereas after earning a teaching credential from Stockton College, Dolores Huerta was motivated to become a public servant and community leader upon seeing her students suffer from hunger and poverty;

Whereas Dolores Huerta defied cultural and gender stereotypes by becoming a powerful and distinguished champion for farm worker families;

Whereas in addition to her unyielding support for farm workers' rights, Dolores Huerta has been a stalwart advocate for the protection of women and children;

Whereas notwithstanding her intensity of spirit and her willingness to brave challenges, Dolores Huerta has always espoused peaceful, nonviolent tactics to promote her ideals and achieve her goals;

Whereas Dolores Huerta established her career as a social activist in 1955 when she founded the Stockton chapter of the Community Service Organization, a Latino association based in California, and became involved in the association's civic and educational programs;

Whereas in 1962, together with Cesar Chavez, Dolores Huerta founded the National Farm Workers Association, a precursor to the United Farm Workers Organizing Committee, which was formed in 1967;

Whereas Dolores Huerta is the proud mother of 11 children and has 14 grandchildren; and

Whereas Dolores Huerta was inducted into the Women's Hall of Fame in 1993 for her relentless dedication to farm worker issues: Now, therefore, be it

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

(1) it is the sense of the Congress that all workers deserve fair treatment and safe working conditions; and

(2) the Congress honors Dolores Huerta for her commitment to the improvement of working conditions for children, women, and farm worker families.

CENTENNIAL OF ESTABLISHMENT OF CRATER LAKE NATIONAL PARK

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the Energy Committee be discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 273 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. 273) recognizing the centennial of the establishment of the Crater Lake National Park.

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

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

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

The resolution (S. Res. 273) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 273

Whereas Crater Lake, at 1,943 feet deep, is the deepest lake in the United States;

Whereas Crater Lake is a significant natural feature, the creation of which, through the eruption of Mount Mazama 7,700 years ago, dramatically affected the landscape of an area that extends from southern Oregon into Canada;

Whereas legends of the formation of Crater Lake have been passed down through generations of the Klamath Tribe, Umpqua Tribe, and other Indian tribes;

Whereas on June 12, 1853, while in search of the legendary Lost Cabin gold mine, John Wesley Hillman, Henry Klippel, and Isaac Skeeters discovered Crater Lake;

Whereas William Gladstone Steele dedicated 17 years to developing strong local support for the conservation of Crater Lake, of which Steele said, "All ingenuity of nature seems to have been exerted to the fullest capacity to build a grand awe-inspiring temple the likes of which the world has never seen before";

Whereas on May 22, 1902, President Theodore Roosevelt signed into law a bill establishing Crater Lake as the Nation's sixth national park, mandating that Crater Lake National Park be "dedicated and set apart forever as a public park or pleasure ground for the benefit of the people of the United States" (32 Stat. 202);

Whereas Crater Lake National Park is a monument to the beauty of nature and the importance of providing public access to the natural treasures of the United States; and

Whereas May 22, 2002, marks the 100th anniversary of the designation of Crater Lake as a national park: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate recognizes May 22, 2002, as the centennial of the establishment of Crater Lake National Park.

NEXT ROLLCALL VOTE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, the next rollcall vote will occur at approximately 11:30 a.m. tomorrow morning on cloture on the Baucus substitute.

ORDER TO ADJOURN

Mr. REID. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate stand in adjournment following the statements of Senator VOINOVICH and Senator INHOFE. I understand that Senator VOINOVICH's statement will take approximately 30 minutes and Senator INHOFE's statement will take about 15 minutes.

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

The Senator from Ohio is recognized.

NATO ENLARGEMENT

Mr. VOINOVICH. Mr. President, Last week, May 14-15, Secretary of State Colin Powell joined foreign ministers from all 19 members of the NATO Alliance in Reykjavik, Iceland, where they began to lay the groundwork for the Summit of the NATO Alliance in Prague this November.

As many of my colleagues are aware, three themes have emerged to fill the agenda in Prague: first, discussion of NATO's capabilities and the ability to respond to today's most urgent threats; second, the selection of new members; and third, the beginning of new relationships with Russia, Ukraine and

other members of the international community.

During the two-day ministerial meeting in Reykjavik, Secretary Powell and his NATO colleagues addressed each of these issues, beginning with the announcement of a new NATO-Russia Council. As the British foreign minister put it, we saw the end of the cold war—again.

The agreement, which is to be finalized in Rome on May 28th, puts Russia and the 19 members of the NATO Alliance at the same table, as equal partners, to discuss a number of issues, including counterterrorism, military cooperation, nonproliferation and peacekeeping. While establishing new areas in which NATO and Russia will work together, the agreement makes certain that NATO will maintain complete control over enlargement and core military issues.

This news is even more significant when coupled with the recent announcement that President Bush and Russian President Putin will sign a treaty to reduce their nuclear arsenals by nearly two-thirds when they meet in Moscow later this month. As Secretary Powell remarked in Reykjavik, our relationship with Russia seems to be on sound footing as we look toward the 21st century. It is my hope that conversations continue to be productive, and I look forward to further discussion about the implementation of these two agreements. However, I remain a little bit skeptical that this will substantially change our relationship with Russia.

In addition to discussion about NATO's relationship with Russia, the ministerial meeting highlighted the urgent need to address the widening gap in military capabilities between the United States and our NATO allies. As Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs Marc Grossman remarked in testimony before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee on May 1, "The growing capabilities gap between Europe and the United States is the most serious long-term problem facing NATO, and must be addressed."

This message is not new to members of the Alliance. We've talked about it before. NATO developed the Defense Capabilities Initiative, DCI, at the Washington Summit in 1999 to begin to address deficiencies in technology and military equipment. But there has been little progress, and as the events of September 11th have made all too clear, the Alliance must have the ability to respond in times of crisis.

While the United States and our NATO allies have begun to identify new threats in Europe and beyond, as Secretary Grossman remarked, "There has to be lots more done at NATO to meet them."

The United States has identified shortfalls in four key areas of NATO's military capabilities, which Under Secretary of Defense for Policy Doug Feith outlined in Senate testimony earlier this month. These include: first, nuclear, biological and chemical defenses

to protect allied troops and territory; next, the capability to transport troops to the battlefield—in short, we need the right aircraft to get our troops where they need to be; third, communication and information systems to allow allied countries to work together effectively; and finally, modern weapons systems, such as precision-guided munitions and capabilities to suppress enemy air defense.

In a NATO Communiqué released on May 14th, the NATO foreign ministers recognized the need to take steps to improve military capabilities. They note that “To carry out the full range of its missions, NATO must be able to field forces that can move quickly to wherever they are needed, sustain operations over distance and time, and achieve their objectives.” In order to fulfill these objectives, they further note that “This will require the development of new and balanced capabilities within the Alliance, including strategic lift and modern strike capabilities, so that NATO can more effectively respond collectively to any threat of aggression against a member state.”

While this statement is important, I am hopeful that these words will be followed by action and the financial commitments necessary to make this vision a reality. The United States has acted to increase its investment in defense. And as Secretary Powell remarked to reporters last week, “We think that all of our colleagues in NATO should be doing likewise.”

The United States will spend more than 3.5 percent of its GDP on defense in Fiscal Year 2002. While we ask NATO aspirant countries to spend 2 percent of their GDP on defense, nearly half of NATO's current members do not meet this benchmark. Though we sought to address this issue with the Defense Capabilities Initiative in 1999, defense spending in many countries has actually decreased since that time. If NATO is going to stay relevant, members of the Alliance must do better with their defense budgets. At the NATO Parliamentary Assembly meeting in Sofia, Bulgaria next week, I will be asking them why they have not kept commitments on their defense spending.

NATO Secretary General Lord Robertson underscored the importance of making substantial contributions to military capabilities during the meeting in Reykjavik, saying the Alliance must change if it is to be effective. Further, he was clear in his message: NATO must “modernize or be marginalized.”

Without the ability to communicate and work together in the field, NATO cannot be effective. And without the fundamental ability to get forces to the frontline to provide for the defense of NATO interests when the time comes, NATO cannot fulfill its basic mission of collective security. I look forward to continued discussion on this issue in the months leading to Prague, and I am hopeful that as NATO defense

ministers and heads of state discuss viable options for closing the capabilities gap, they come prepared to make financial commitments to finally get the job done.

In addition to driving home the need for improved military capabilities, the events of 9/11 and the U.S.-led military campaign in Afghanistan have raised serious questions about NATO's ability to respond to terrorist threats, which may likely originate outside of the Alliance's traditional area of operations. This has already generated much debate, and I believe this will be an important item on the agenda in Prague. It will also be important in Bulgaria. I am hopeful there will be productive dialogue as NATO considers action in this realm in the future.

Finally, in addition to new capabilities and new relationships, the question of new members will be on the forefront of the agenda this fall. This is a big deal.

I have been a proponent of enlargement of the NATO Alliance to include Europe's new democracies for many years, and I look forward to a robust round of enlargement in Prague.

In March, I spoke to a gathering of individuals with ties to every country aspiring to join the NATO Alliance, including: Albania, Bulgaria, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Macedonia, Romania, Slovakia, and Slovenia, as well as Croatia. They came together to promote the merits of enlargement as a single, unified group—working together to deliver the message that NATO expansion is in the strategic interest of the United States, Europe, and the broader international community of democracies.

As the meeting concluded, the delegation passed a resolution in support of enlargement, reaffirming the importance of NATO to the security and stability of Europe.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that a copy of the Joint Statement prepared at that meeting be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the statement was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

JOINT STATEMENT OF THE REPRESENTATIVES OF ETHNIC COMMUNITIES ON THE ENLARGEMENT OF THE NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANIZATION, WASHINGTON, DC, MARCH 16, 2002

1. We, the Representatives of the American ethnic communities of the Albanian, Bulgarian, Croatian, Czech, Estonian, Hungarian, Latvian, Lithuanian, Macedonian, Polish, Romanian, Slovak and Slovenian descent, have gathered in Washington, D.C. to endorse the vision of a Europe whole and free as presented by President George W. Bush on June 15, 2001 and by former president William J. Clinton on October 22, 1996.

2. We believe that NATO is the backbone of the transatlantic community and has been an effective bulwark in the defense of freedom, democracy and human rights. We further believe that a strong involvement of the United States in Europe serves the vital interest of the United States.

3. We thank the United States House of Representatives for overwhelmingly passing

the Freedom Consolidation Act of 2001 and we urge its expeditious passage by the United States Senate.

4. We believe that the accession of the Czech Republic, Hungary and Poland to NATO has contributed to transatlantic security and strengthened and expanded the zone of peace, stability, democracy and cooperation in Europe.

5. We share President Bush's belief that “All of Europe's new democracies, from the Baltic to the Black Sea and all that lie between, should have the same chance for security and freedom—and the same chance to join the institutions of Europe—as Europe's old democracies have.” Furthermore, we believe that the almost 55 million people who live in Europe's aspirant nations should contribute to and share in the benefits of the family of European nations.

6. We commend Europe's new democracies for their progress in solidifying democracy, establishing market economies and building strong and just civil societies. We believe that the invitation to join NATO will be a major achievement in the struggle for freedom. In this regard, we honor all who have suffered in this cause and we thank the United States for its abiding support.

7. We recognize the significant progress that has been made by Europe's new democracies in their preparation to shoulder the responsibilities that membership in NATO requires.

8. We commend Europe's new democracies for their solidarity with the American people after the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001 and for their willingness to act as de facto allies of the United States and NATO. We recognize the contributions of Europe's new democracies for opening their air and land facilities to the United States and NATO and for sharing their resources in promoting global security and in the fight against terrorism.

9. We applaud Europe's new democracies for their commitment to cooperation which was initiated in Vilnius, Lithuania in May, 2000.

10. We urge Europe's new democracies to accelerate needed reforms to enable their invitations to join NATO at the Prague Summit. We also understand that this continued commitment to shared values is an essential component of such membership.

11. We express our thanks to the Czech Republic, Hungary and Poland for their support of the Vilnius process, to Denmark and Norway for their work in the security of the Baltics and to Greece and Turkey for their support of their closest neighbor nations.

12. We commit ourselves to support and promote the fulfillment of the vision of a Europe whole and free and respectfully urge the President of the United States and the United States Senate to support invitations to all aspirant nations who have demonstrated their preparedness for admission to NATO.

Mr. VOINOVICH. In the resolution, they note: “We believe that NATO is the backbone of the transatlantic community and has been an effective bulwark in the defense of freedom, democracy and human rights. We further believe that a strong involvement of the United States in Europe serves the vital interest of the United States.”

I strongly support that message, and I share the sentiments expressed by President Bush in remarks he delivered in Poland last June, when he said that as the NATO Summit in Prague approaches, “We should not calculate how little we can get away with, but

how much we can do to advance the cause of freedom."

During the cold war, as a public official in the State of Ohio, I remained a strong supporter of the captive nations, who were for so many years denied the right of self-determination by the former Soviet Union.

When I was mayor of Cleveland during the 1980s, we celebrated the independence days of the captive nations at city hall—flying their flags, singing their songs and praying that one day the people in those countries would know freedom.

In August 1991, as communism's grip loosened, I wrote a letter to then-President George H.W. Bush urging him to recognize the independence of the Baltic nations. Now, these countries are among those being considered for membership in the NATO alliance.

Last May, I had the opportunity to visit Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania as part of a Senate delegation traveling to the meeting of the NATO parliamentary assembly, and I—along with my colleagues—was very impressed with what I saw.

Our observations were confirmed when many of us visited with General Ralston. He spoke very eloquently about what he has seen in the Baltic nations—with heavy emphasis on their communication systems. He spoke about BALTnet, and said the communication system in place in the Balts is as good as any system within NATO. So is the network in Slovenia they are ready to plug into NATO immediately.

As I stood with my colleagues in the streets of Lithuania—surrounded by thousands of Lithuanian citizens all rallying in support of NATO enlargement—I remembered the celebrations we had in Cleveland years earlier, when Lithuania was still part of the Soviet empire. It was a remarkable feeling for me to stand in a free Lithuania, and to talk about making the country part of the NATO alliance.

After I returned to the United States, I sent a letter to President Bush conveying my impressions of some of the work done in those countries. I encouraged him to guarantee the freedom of those once subjected to life under Communism by making clear his strong support for NATO enlargement.

I was pleased when the President outlined his vision for NATO enlargement in Warsaw last summer, noting that "All of Europe's new democracies, from the Baltic to the Black Sea and all that lie between, should have the same chance for security and freedom—and the same chance to join the institutions of Europe—as Europe's old democracies have."

During my time in the Senate, I have been privileged to travel to a number of other NATO aspirant countries—Macedonia and Albania during the war in Kosovo in 1999, and Slovenia, Romania, and Croatia in 2000. I will visit Bulgaria over the Memorial Day recess to take part in the meeting of the NATO parliamentary assembly, and I

also hope to visit Slovenia and Slovakia—the only country on the list that I have yet to visit—later this month.

As we approach the Prague summit in November, the NATO alliance finds itself at pivotal point in world history.

More than a decade ago, the fall of the Berlin Wall and the collapse of the Soviet empire marked a moment of profound change for millions of people in Europe and the world at large. It was clear that the global political scene was changed forever.

As we look toward Prague, it is evident that the world is again a changed place. We face new challenges, and we must rise to meet them.

It is clear that the events of September 11 have given all of us a new focus. They have opened our eyes to issues that must not be ignored. I am grateful for the support that the United States has received from our NATO allies and those countries aspiring to join the alliance. This assistance is critical for the international community to be successful in carrying out a comprehensive campaign to fight terrorism, and it is important that these collaborative efforts continue.

NATO's decision to invoke article V—signifying that an attack on one was an attack on all—sent a strong message of solidarity to the people of the United States, and the world at large. The world is different not just for us in America, but for all of Western civilization. NATO has begun to examine the role the alliance will play in efforts to protect the world against threats associated with terrorism and weapons of mass destruction.

Without a doubt, the events of September 11 dramatically impacted the conversations that took place in Iceland last week, and they will certainly influence the agenda in Prague this November. As the United States and other members of NATO consider enlargement of the alliance in the six months leading to Prague, it is within the broader context of a changed world post-9-11.

I believe this debate is still very relevant. In fact, as some have said, discussion about NATO enlargement is perhaps more important now than ever before.

I strongly agree with remarks made by Under Secretary of State Grossman in testimony before the Foreign Relations Committee earlier this month. While acknowledging that some people have argued that after September 11, expansion of the alliance should not remain a priority, Secretary Grossman said he does not agree.

He remarked, "I believe that enlargement should remain a priority . . . The events of September 11th show us that the more allies we have, the better off we're going to be; the more allies we have to prosecute the war on terrorism, the better off we're going to be. And if we're going to meet these new threats to our security, we need to build the broadest and strongest coalition

possible of countries that share our values and are able to act effectively with us. With freedom under attack, we must demonstrate our resolve to do as much as we can to advance our cause."

While NATO is a collective security organization, formed to defend freedom and democracy in Europe, we cannot forget that common values form the foundation of the alliance.

When we consider enlargement to include Europe's new democracies, we must answer a central question: how would each country contribute to the collective security of the NATO alliance? When we answer that question, our response should certainly factor in the military attributes of each aspirant country, which continue to be evaluated by U.S. and NATO military officials. At the same time, as NATO evaluates its needs for the future, we should take into consideration other ways in which aspirant countries can contribute to the collective defense of Europe.

Since September 11, the United States and NATO have called on members of the international community to provide critical assistance in a number of areas outside of the traditional military realm. While these do not outweigh the need for improved defense capabilities, such as strategic airlift capabilities and improved communication systems, they are nonetheless critical to thwarting future terrorist attacks.

Deputy Secretary of State Richard Armitage outlined a number of these areas in remarks to leaders of the NATO aspirant countries at the V-10 summit in Bucharest, Romania 2 months ago. Secretary Armitage said, "The threats we now face have changed the way we think about defending ourselves and broadened the scope of possible contributions to the common defense. Forces in the field remain indispensable, but other contributions are just as important. Law enforcement, intelligence sharing, controlling the flow of terrorist financing are essential weapons in responding to today's threats."

We have seen the benefit of these contributions as the international community continues to engage in a global campaign against terrorism. The nine NATO aspirant countries, as well as Croatia, have reached out to the United States in the aftermath of the September 11 attacks.

They have pledged their solidarity, volunteered their resources, and shared intelligence information with the United States and NATO. They have decided to act not as aspirants, but as allies, and their support is highly important.

As significant as this cooperation has been, the work is not done. It is critical that countries aspiring to join the alliance continue their efforts to make progress in areas outlined in the membership action plan—developing free market economies, promoting democracy and the rule of law, respecting the

rights of minorities, and implementing military reforms. These values are the hallmark of the NATO alliance, and they must not be neglected.

Secretary Armitage underscored this point to NATO aspirant countries at the V-10 summit in Bucharest. He reaffirmed President Bush's commitment to enlargement, which the President made clear in his remarks in Warsaw, Poland last June. Secretary Armitage called on the aspirant countries to continue their work, saying, "We believe that the conditions are better than ever to pursue a robust enlargement. Now it's up to you. You have worked hard on your Membership Action Plans . . . You have pursued political and economic reform programs; and you have continued to restructure your militaries. These efforts must continue."

I was pleased when NATO foreign ministers again confirmed their belief in the importance of NATO enlargement at the ministerial meeting last week, noting "At their Prague Summit in November this year, our Heads of State and Government will launch the next round of NATO enlargement. This will confirm the Alliance's commitment to remain open to new members, and enhance security in the Euro-Atlantic area."

As the U.S. Government has done, NATO foreign ministers called on aspirant countries to continue their work to join the alliance not only in the upcoming months, but in the years beyond November's summit.

As we approach the Prague Summit, I look forward to continued discussion about the key issues facing the NATO Alliance. I am pleased that the Secretary of State's visit to Reykjavik was productive, providing a solid foundation for the ambitious agenda to be tackled in Prague. I am confident that our visit to Bulgaria for the meeting of the NATO parliamentary assembly will also serve as a forum to further discussion on the subjects of new capabilities, new members and new relationships.

I am pleased that the Senate voted overwhelmingly in favor of the Freedom Consolidation Act last week, which passed by a vote of 85 to 6. This bill puts the Senate on record in support of enlargement of the alliance in Prague, expressing the belief that NATO should remain open to Europe's new democracies able to accept the responsibilities that come with membership.

At the same time, as I expressed last week and many of my colleagues made clear during Senate debate of the measure, this does not guarantee Senate support for the extension of invitations to all nine candidate countries in Prague. There is still work to be done, and NATO aspirants should continue to make progress on their membership Action Plans in the months leading to Prague.

As a member of Congress who has long been involved with Euro-Atlantic issues, I understand the importance of

NATO expansion to strengthening security and stability in Europe. I supported enlargement of the alliance in 1997; I will again support enlargement at Prague. And I believe NATO should be open to further expansion in the future.

It is clear that the selection of new members this year will take place in a world vastly different than it was during the last round of enlargement; nonetheless, we should continue to explore questions on enlargement as NATO moves forward to strengthen its ability to provide for the collective defense of Europe in the post September 11th security environment.

I strongly believe that supporting NATO expansion demonstrates our country's commitment to freedom, democracy and peace, and I will continue to promote expansion of the Alliance to include Europe's new democracies which demonstrate the ability to handle the responsibility of NATO membership.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senator from Oklahoma is recognized.

PRESIDENT BUSH'S KNOWLEDGE OF SEPTEMBER 11

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, I take a moment to add my voice to those who were outraged and offended last week at these idle attempts by some Members of Congress to impugn the integrity of our President, George W. Bush. Sure, they all now will deny that was their intent because they have been home and they have heard from their people, and the people do not believe it. They know it is cheap politics.

Let's not kid ourselves. The statements some of our colleagues made on this floor, in the other body, and in the press had one clear inference and insinuation: They were suggesting, even charging, that President Bush had prior knowledge about what was going to happen on September 11, that he could have done something to prevent the terrorist attacks in New York and Washington, and he did not do anything about it.

While they were making these accusations based on leaks from classified intelligence briefings, they were clearly questioning the competence, the truthfulness, and the integrity of our President. As Vice President DICK CHENEY said Sunday, these charges made through these kinds of statements were outrageous and beyond the pale. Anyone who has the slightest understanding of intelligence briefings knows that raw scraps of information, of which there are hundreds and thousands at any given time, cannot be equated with knowing the details of a specific plot.

I have served on the Senate Intelligence Committee since 1994. We get briefings, and the briefings come in sometimes daily, sometimes weekly, sometimes monthly, where they have an assessment of accusations, a threat

assessment, and there is kind of a summary page on top for people who do not want to wade through all of that material. In any given report, there are sometimes over a thousand threats, and the threats having to do with this never made it to the executive summary.

While these people were making these accusations based on leaks about classified intelligence briefings, they were clearly questioning the competency of this President.

I am heartened that the American people have so resoundingly repudiated the suggestion that President Bush is somehow culpable for what happened on September 11. Let's also be clear that any truly thorough investigation of what happened on September 11 must extend back into the actions and inactions of the previous administration and what it did and did not do in addressing terrorism on its watch.

Today's editorial in the Washington Times spells out a few things we need to remember in order to put September 11 in context. In the February 1993 World Trade Center bombing, six people were killed, a thousand wounded; Ramsey Youseff, attack mastermind, connected to Iraq intelligence. In October 1993, during the Somalia firefight, we remember so well the 18 American Rangers who were killed in Mogadishu, their naked bodies dragged through the streets. Militia were trained at that time by the al-Qaida. We know that today.

June 1996, Khobar Towers bombing: 19 U.S. soldiers killed in Saudi Arabia, al-Qaida terrorists among those involved. August of 1998, two U.S. Embassy bombings in Africa: 224 people were killed. Al-Qaida terrorists were involved again. Then-President Clinton launched 75 cruise missiles at an empty Afghan camp and a Sudanese pharmaceutical factory.

October 2000, the U.S.S. *Cole* bombing: 17 U.S. sailors were killed. Again, al-Qaida was involved. All evidence points to the fact that they were involved.

In each case, the Clinton administration sought to avoid taking firm steps against Osama bin Laden and other terrorist groups that have targeted U.S. interests, U.S. soldiers, and U.S. citizens. Certainly, any investigation of failures in the war on terrorism will take these issues into careful consideration.

As the Washington Times editorial says today:

Given the abysmal performance of the Clinton administration in combating terrorism during the 1990s, it would be a huge mistake for Democrats to attempt to gain political mileage by blaming September 11 on President Bush.

I ask unanimous consent that the entire editorial be printed in the RECORD at the conclusion of my remarks.

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

(See Exhibit No. 1.)

Mr. INHOFE. A few of the quotes that came from Senators, and I am