

Authority expired. In my view, that is far too long for the United States to be sitting on the sidelines while other countries are aggressively negotiating trade agreements. With Trade Promotion Authority, the Congress and the President will be speaking with a unified voice during negotiations.

TPA will strengthen the United States' negotiating position in ongoing Doha Round of negotiations in the World Trade Organization and will provide much needed momentum for the Free Trade Area of the Americas negotiations. With TPA, USTR will be able to close negotiations on bilateral agreements with Chile and Singapore with the confidence that Congress will consider the agreements as negotiated.

I am pleased that the conference report retained a number of provisions that will help to ensure that import-sensitive agriculture products, such as citrus from my state, will be given an increased level of attention during trade negotiations. I believe these provisions are necessary to help rebuild consensus in support of trade within the agriculture sector. TPA can also help our citrus growers gain market access in Europe and elsewhere around the world, if we achieve our goals in the WTO agriculture negotiations.

Of course, TPA is only the first step toward trade negotiations. Whether or not we are successful in achieving our negotiating objectives will depend on close cooperation between the Congress and the administration. I look forward to working with the Administration on this effort.

The final comment I will make is on Trade Adjustment Assistance. I am pleased that Members of Congress were able to work together in a truly bipartisan fashion to address the health care needs of American workers adversely affected by foreign trade agreements. This trade legislation will nearly triple the existing Trade Adjustment Assistance program by providing new and more comprehensive coverage options. These new benefits will provide critical assistance to the over 2,000 Floridians who presently receive Trade Adjustment Assistance, particularly those from the apparel and electronics sectors where job losses have been most severe.

For the first time, displaced workers will be eligible for a 65 percent advanceable, refundable tax credit that can be used to pay for COBRA or other state continuation plans. Health benefits will also be available to individuals who work for businesses that supply or contract with firms affected by trade. This comprehensive legislation represents a critical step towards our overall goal of lowering the number of uninsured, and I applaud my colleagues who supported it.

I was pleased to vote for the comprehensive trade legislation encompassed by H.R. 3009. Passage of this bill was a major accomplishment of this Congress and proof that the Congress can work together in a spirit of bipartisanship.

I am excited about the opportunities I believe this legislation brings to not only our country, but to the rest of the world.

THE VISIT OF ASKAR AKAEV, PRESIDENT OF THE KYRGYZ REPUBLIC

Mr. THURMOND. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the visit of the President of the Kyrgyz Republic, Askar Akaev, to the United States from September 19-24, 2002. President Akaev is here at the invitation of President Bush.

While in Washington, the President of the Kyrgyz Republic scheduled meetings with President George W. Bush, Vice President RICHARD CHENEY, Secretary of State Colin Powell, and Secretary of Agriculture Ann Veneman. In addition, meetings at the United States Capitol with the Speaker of the House of Representatives DENNIS HASTERT, Senate Republican Leader TRENT LOTT, and other leaders of the Senate who have expressed an interest in Central Asia affairs were on his calendar.

During his visit to New York, President Akaev addressed the General Assembly of the United Nations and met with Secretary General Kofi Annan. He also participated in a round table discussion with members of the business community.

The tragic events of September 11, 2001 redefined the importance of the Kyrgyz Republic's critical location in Central Asia. It has a major role in the region's political and security framework. As an ally of the United States in central Asia, the Kyrgyz Republic opened its territory to approximately 3000 coalition troops at the height of United States operations in Afghanistan. It is significant that the coalition forces were allowed to deploy military personnel in Manas airport in the capitol city of Bishkek. Kyrgyzstan remains a host to a significant number of troops, as well as aircraft and technical support. The new political landscape created by these deployments has altered the Kyrgyz Republic's relations with its regional powers, Russia and China.

At the same time, the Kyrgyz Republic is pressing ahead with economic reforms. The European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, one of the international financial institutions active in the region, concluded last year that Kyrgyzstan has successfully completed its economic structural reform program. Kyrgyzstan was the region's first nation to secure membership in the World Trade Organization, in 1998, and the first nation of the Commonwealth of Independent States to receive permanent normal trade relations with the United States.

Kyrgyzstan has committed itself to a free trade model and has implemented many new initiatives through a dramatic reform of its trade, tax, and intellectual property laws. The Kyrgyz

Republic was also the first country in the region to introduce a fully convertible currency, and has consistently led the way in market reforms.

As a result of the tragedy on the south of Kyrgyzstan, he has also reconstituted the government to include representatives of several groups previously in opposition and has organized a Constitutional Council, also filled with opposition-minded figures, to provide further opportunities for power changing. The nation now faces its first transition of power since independence. President Akaev and his government are determined to see that this transition occurs through an election process that builds and legitimizes democratic institutions.

President Askar Akaev was born on November 10, 1944 in the village of Kyzyl-Bairak, Kemin district of Kyrgyzstan in a family of farmers. In 1961, he finished secondary school with a Gold Medal. He graduated with honors from Leningrad Fine Mechanics and Optics Institute in 1967 and pursued his studies to become a Doctor of Science.

Dr. Akaev started his career in 1961 as a mechanic worker. He held other positions as an engineer, senior lecturer, professor, and finally the Head of the Computer Sciences Department in Frunze Polytechnical Institute, now Bishkek Technical University.

In 1984, Askar Akaev was elected a correspondent member of the Academy of Sciences of Kyrgyzstan, at the same year he became an academician. In 1986, he was appointed Head of the Department of Science and Higher Academic Institutions, Kyrgyz Communist Party's Central Committee. From 1987 until 1989, he served as the Vice President at the Kyrgyz Academy of Sciences and later became its President. In 1989, Askar Akaev was elected as a Deputy of the Supreme Council of the USSR.

On October 27, 1990, the Parliament of Kyrgyzstan elected Askar Akaev as the President of the Kyrgyz Soviet Socialist Republic. At the nationwide elections on October 12, 1991, he was elected as the First President of independent nation of Kyrgyzstan. The people of Kyrgyzstan confirmed Akaev's powers at the national referendum on January 30, 1994. On December 24, 1995 the President of the Kyrgyz Republic Askar Akaev was re-elected. President Akaev announced that he will not seek reelection when his term ends in 2005.

The President's spouse, Mairam Akeva, is a professor of Science on Machine Dynamics and is the head of the International Charitable Foundation of Childhood and Maternity Support. Established in 1993, this organization assists women and children with different forms of pulmonary and bronchial diseases.

The Kyrgyz Republic is situated in the middle of Central Asia, at the crossroads of culture and civilizations, at the branch of the legendary Silk Road. In 1999, President Akaev authored a report called "The Diplomacy

of the Silk Road.” His article remains timely today, given the changes that have taken place in central Asia since September 11, 2001.

In conclusion, many commodities were traded on the Silk Road which stretched 5000 miles from east to west. One very important “commodity” in this new century is friendship. Today, the United States has a good ally and friend in that region of the world. Kyrgyzstan is indeed a partner for peace and stability in Central Asia. In this regard, I wish to congratulate President Akaev on his successful visit to the United States and wish him well with all future endeavors.

I ask unanimous consent to print the article to which I referred in the RECORD.

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

DIPLOMACY OF THE SILK ROAD

(By Askar Akaev)

THE PAST AND PRESENT OF THE GREAT SILK ROAD

The Great Silk Road, which in ancient times joined East with West, and to some extent North with South, by means of trade and economic, cultural-humanitarian and also political and diplomatic ties, has a history stretching back several thousand years. At various phases of its existence the content and significance, directions and scale of contacts varied, but one thing remained unchanged: throughout that long period, the Great Silk Road played the role of a connecting bridge between countries and civilizations.

It served as a channel for trade, which became the catalyst for the development of crafts. Travelers and explorers studied the countries and peoples of the lands along the entire length of the Road, thus making an enormous contribution to the development of knowledge.

The world became acquainted with the ideas and work of the greatest philosophers, scholars and statesmen. Intensive mutual enrichment of cultures took place, and there was an active exchange of knowledge and of spiritual and philosophical concepts and views. Thanks to the Road, outstanding epics and legends became the property of all mankind.

Via the Great Silk Road, syncretic and monotheistic religious ideas were disseminated. Zoroastrianism, Buddhism, Judaism, Islam and Christianity all found their adherents along the Great Silk Road.

The Great Silk Road was also of immeasurable significance in the establishment and maintenance of diplomatic relations among the centers of political life, the major States of Europe and Asia. Many historical sources bear witness to the active nature and high level of official contacts and the exchange of diplomatic missions, particularly between Byzantium and China, powers which played a significant role in the International life of that era.

The intensive and multidirectional process of Inter-civilizational communication on various levels went on for centuries.

Despite a number of changes of direction, by the will of historical fate the main arteries of the Great Silk Road passed through the territory of Kyrgyzstan.

On the eve of the new third millennium, the idea of a revival of the Great Silk Road has met with broad international support and an extremely warm response, largely as a result of the existence of two inter-

dependent trends that characterize the development of the modern world.

The first of these involves the steady intensification of the processes of interdependence and globalization, the phenomenally rapid development and introduction of the latest technologies, communication systems and computer networks and the acceleration on an unprecedented scale of information and capital flows that “erode” national boundaries.

The second trend reflects the high level of integration at the regional and subregional levels.

The current steady and dynamic development of political, trade and economic relations would be unthinkable without the strengthening of fraternal, trusting and mutually advantageous relations of partnership between all States of the Silk Road region.

The geography of the Great Silk Road has no bounds or limitations. Its expansion by those countries which intend to develop cooperation with the countries in the Great Silk Road region is naturally and objectively determined by the entire course of historical development.

The arms race, local conflicts, extremism and terrorism, the unlawful manufacture, distribution and consumption of narcotic substances, natural disasters and those brought about by technology or by man, and crying social needs are problems that lead to recognition of the natural and objective need for a revival of the Great Silk Road on a qualitatively new basis.

While in the past the Great Silk Road played the role of a connecting bridge, now, in a situation of globalization, the destiny of the Road extends far beyond the framework of this dimension alone. The cosmic and the planetary appear as a single whole, implying an organic combination of present-day progress with the development of human civilization itself.

The renaissance of the Great Silk Road under the new historical circumstances refutes the ideas that were current in the past, which at times artificially contrasted the ways in which the East and the West perceived and viewed the world as totally incompatible with one another. Fortunately, ideas of planet-wide significance and scale are now predominant in the minds and hearts of the peoples, inhabiting the region of the Road.

The ideas of humanism, tolerance and the revival of spirituality are gaining ground in their tenacious struggle against age-old prejudices and intolerance of different ways of thinking.

Kyrgyzstan, lying at the very center of the Eurasian continent, at the junction of several civilizations, having taken in and absorbed a multiplicity of cultures and ways of looking at the world, possesses under present circumstances the necessary prerequisites for becoming a bridge of friendship and cooperation between all the countries within the Great Silk Road.

KYRGYZSTAN—AN INSEPARABLE PART OF THE GREAT SILK ROAD THE COUNTRY KNOWN AS “KYRGYZSTAN”

After regaining its State independence, Kyrgyzstan set out on a qualitatively new road of its development, the road of political and socio-economic transformations.

Such concepts as “democratization”, “civil freedoms” and “supremacy of the law” have become firmly embedded in everyday practice. The principle of separation of powers and the system of “checks and balances” in the interrelations between them have clearly demonstrated their effectiveness.

Favourable conditions have been created for encouraging initiatives and activity by citizens at the local level and for the com-

prehensive development of local self-government as the foundation for the life of the State.

The idea of “Kyrgyzstan—our common home” has become the recognized basis for enhancing and strengthening inter-ethnic harmony and creating the conditions for a life in dignity for all citizens of the country. In Kyrgyzstan, which has absorbed in equal measure the spiritual heritage and rich traditions of the East and the West, representatives of many ethnic groups and religious faiths live together in peace and harmony.

Kyrgyzstan has created the conditions for the establishment of an open society with a developed market economy, successfully solved the problem of macroeconomic stabilization and entered the stage of economic growth.

A national information structure is being created in Kyrgyzstan with access to worldwide computer networks.

Currently, the most important goals facing society as a whole are to intensify the positive trends in the economy and make them stable, to encourage and support national entrepreneurship, especially on the part of small and medium-sized businesses, to attract direct investment and to make extensive use of new technology.

An attractive investment climate has been created in Kyrgyzstan, and a legislative base has been established which affords foreign investors the necessary guarantees and privileges.

The stable political system and the open and democratic nature of Kyrgyzstan’s economy create favorable conditions for the development of mutually advantageous international cooperation.

Kyrgyzstan has entered the era of democracy and renewal.

KYRGYZSTAN AND THE COUNTRIES OF THE GREAT SILK ROAD REGION

The conception of Kyrgyzstan’s foreign policy with regard to bilateral cooperation excludes in principle the use of the prefix “anti-”. This is the outcome of the entire course of Kyrgyzstan’s historical development as an independent State and of the fact that our country pursues a peace-loving foreign policy and builds its relations with the outside world on the basis of the universally accepted principles and norms of international law.

Kyrgyzstan, as a consistent advocate of broad and multifaceted international cooperation for the joint solution of global international problems, takes up “anti-drug”, “anti-extremism” and “anti-terrorism” positions. It is an implacable opponent of unlawful arms trading and distribution of arms and strives to achieve stability, progress and economic stability not only in the region, but throughout the world.

Our country is deeply convinced that along the entire length of the modern-day Great Silk Road, no serious problems or contradictions of an antagonistic nature are to be found between the countries falling within its orbit.

Among the participants in international relations, awareness is growing of the need to resolve chronic problems by peaceful means, at the negotiating table. In this connection, the example of Tajikistan, whose history is inseparable from the history of the Great Silk Road, is instructive. The political will and desire to seek compromise and mutually acceptable solutions that have been demonstrated by the leaders of the parties that were previously in conflict, combined with the mediating efforts and good will of neighbouring countries, including Kyrgyzstan, give grounds for hoping that the processes of peace and national reconciliation in that country are irreversible.

Kyrgyzstan's initiative in relation to the conduct of a peace conference on Afghanistan has been widely acknowledged. The joint efforts and cooperation of all the countries falling within the orbit of the Great Silk Road can and must lead to the long-awaited peace in that long-suffering land and turn forever a somber page in the history of the region.

The creation of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in Central Asia, cessation of the arms race and the conversion of military production, and the creation of conditions for the stable development of all countries of the Great Silk Road without exception afford grounds for assuming that at the beginning of the third millennium the region of the Road, which possesses vast potential and resources, will become one of the most flourishing and prosperous in the world, in that problems affecting the interests of all the countries will be resolved jointly and all obstacles to the free movement of goods, capital, services and manpower along the entire length of the Road will be removed.

Kyrgyzstan is making purposeful efforts to develop cooperation with all the countries of the Great Silk Road region. In view of its geographical location, our country has a favorable opportunity of simultaneously developing fruitful relations in such directions as "Kyrgyzstan—neighbouring countries", "Kyrgyzstan—Europe" and "Kyrgyzstan—East and South-East Asia".

"Kyrgyzstan—neighbouring countries"—our country is working steadily to intensify various forms of cooperation with neighbouring countries and to expand political, trade and economic and cultural and humanitarian relations. The existence of common historical, political, economic and cultural and humanitarian links with countries which in the past formed a single whole necessitates the maintenance and development of relations through bilateral and multilateral cooperation. Kyrgyzstan is attentively following the dynamics of and collectively participating in the multilateral integration processes in countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States, and making its contribution to the strengthening and intensification of regional and subregional integration.

Acknowledging the important role of a favorable external environment for subsequent development, Kyrgyzstan is working consistently and fruitfully to strengthen security along the State borders with all neighbouring countries. Together with other countries of the region, it has signed a number of important agreements aimed at strengthening confidence-building measures in the military sphere and reducing the armed forces in the border region, and this has made it possible to settle almost completely the border disputes that still remain from the past.

Kyrgyzstan is geographically and historically close to the Muslim States of the Great Silk Road region, which possess considerable investment, industrial and raw material potential.

"Kyrgyzstan—Europe"—The significance of this direction for Kyrgyzstan is determined by the following main factors: the need for and benefits of cooperation with developed European countries; the desirability of further developing links with the Eastern European States; and participation in the European affairs of the states bordering on Kyrgyzstan. In developing its relations with European countries, Kyrgyzstan will, alongside efforts on the bilateral level, step up its activity in the field of multilateral diplomacy, taking advantage of the unique opportunity to participate in the work of the European institutions dealing with issues of security (including in the Central Asian re-

gion), economic cooperation and the development of democratic institutions.

"Kyrgyzstan—South and South-East Asia"—Kyrgyzstan's cooperation with the countries of East and South-East Asia is conducted both on the bilateral level and through international organizations. Despite the financial and economic difficulties some Asian countries have recently been experiencing, their economic potential will play a growing role in the international arena.

Taking into account the South-East Asia countries' great wealth of experience of activity, Kyrgyzstan will in future show great interest in participating actively in various regional forums of the Association of South-East Asian Nations, and also in the establishment of cooperation on a regional basis.

States are prompted by their national interests, set in the context of geostrategic and geopolitical realities. In this connection, Kyrgyzstan can succeed in developing relations with all the countries of the Great Silk Road region, bearing in mind the following factors:

(a) In terms of economic indicators, Kyrgyzstan falls into the category of "developing countries" as used in international practice. This enables it to be a full participant in the leading organs of multilateral diplomacy of the countries of the South and defend their international economic and political interests collectively;

(b) Kyrgyzstan, as a country with a transition economy, is entitled to count on the cooperation of the developed countries and international financial and economic organizations in conducting its policy of reforms;

(c) Kyrgyzstan also forms part of the group of land-locked countries. Located at the very center of East-West and North-South transport and communication routes, it feels a natural need to link up with modern communication systems and ensure reliable access to maritime transport, and is also aware of the objective need to become a transit country. It is therefore working actively to develop all forms of communications, in particular transport and information, in the interests of all the Great Silk Road countries.

PRINCIPLES OF COOPERATION AND ESTABLISHMENT OF THE BASIS FOR RELATIONS WITH THE GREAT SILK ROAD COUNTRIES

The conduct of the "Great Silk Road" policy is based on the following principles:

Equitable partnership, friendship and cooperation with:

- All Great Silk Road countries;
- Interdependence;
- Mutual advantage;
- The long-term perspective;
- Multifaceted development of international cooperation.

Equitable partnership, friendship and cooperation with all Great Silk Road countries are the most important components of a principle which is objective and universal in nature, relating equally to the hopes and aspirations of any country interested in creating a favorable environment along its national borders and in the content of bilateral and multilateral diplomacy. This principle is in full conformity with the universally acknowledged principles and norms of international law as laid down in the Charter of the United Nations, including mutual respect for sovereignty, territorial integrity and inviolability of borders, non-interference in internal affairs, non-use of force, settlement of conflicts by peaceful means and equal and mutually advantageous cooperation.

Interdependence has become a completely new phenomenon of the end of the twentieth century. Globalization has led to an awareness of the unarguable fact that no country, however powerful it may be in military and

economic terms, can face alone the challenges that call in question the survival of the whole of mankind.

The principle of mutual advantage is sufficiently obvious. The development of mutually advantageous international cooperation within the Great Silk Road region will allow all countries without exception to find answers to many questions and solve the problems they are at present contending with. The countries of the region are actively striving to create new and diversify existing transportation systems so as to ensure the shortest and best means of access to world communications; they are encouraging and developing international trade, both within the region and outside it; and they are intensifying and stepping up cultural and humanitarian, scientific and educational and tourism contacts between the nationals of all the countries of the region.

The principle of the long-term perspective is inseparably interrelated with the preceding principle. The entire historical experience of the development both of the Great Silk Road itself and of the countries drawn into its orbit over the course of many centuries, has convincingly demonstrated the importance of and vital need for the development of inter-State relations that address the long-term perspective.

Multifaceted development of international cooperation is a necessary condition for the creation of favorable prerequisites and possibilities for the conduct of a balanced, flexible and maneuverable policy on the international arena; it corresponds to Kyrgyzstan's long-term national interests and is determined by the entire complex of problems and issues that need to be solved in the future.

PROSPECTS FOR THE APPLICATION OF THE "GREAT SILK ROAD" FOREIGN POLICY CONCEPT

The application of "Great Silk Road" diplomacy will have favorable long-term consequences for Kyrgyzstan and for all the other countries located in the Great Silk Road region.

The revival of the Great Silk Road at this juncture will make it possible to create all the necessary conditions for the transformation of the region into an area of stability, security, friendship, cooperation and equitable partnership.

The present-day Great Silk Road creates favorable prerequisites for the intensification of international cooperation in the joint solution of the global problems facing mankind on the threshold of the third millennium.

The expansion of the geography of the Great Silk Road will make it possible to make fuller use of the existing opportunities and rich potential for intensifying international trade and economic, cultural and humanitarian, scientific and technical and tourist contacts between all countries and peoples. There are sufficient grounds for thinking that all the Great Silk Road countries will make the maximum efforts to ensure that in the new millennium there emerge from the Road region, which constitutes a vast space crossing the entire Eurasian continent from East to West and uniting a diversity of cultures, traditions and historical fates, only positive impulses of solidarity, peace, progress and prosperity.

Kyrgyzstan is ready and able to act as a binding link between all the Great Silk Road countries.

For Kyrgyzstan, the interests and objectives of its foreign policy consist in ensuring to the fullest possible extent the strengthening, by political and diplomatic means, of international guarantees of its independence, sovereignty, economic self-sufficiency and territorial integrity.

To achieve these goals and objectives, Kyrgyzstan is full of resolve and will to comprehensively encourage and develop friendly, good-neighbourly relations of partnership with all the countries of the Great Silk Road region and to participate consistently and concretely in integration processes.—Askar Akaev, President of Kyrgyzstan.

DECISION ON IRAQ

Mr. KYL. Mr. President, I want to have printed in the RECORD an op-ed by columnist Charles Krauthammer discussing the United Nations and its debate over how to deal with Iraq. Mr. Krauthammer makes the point that nations are driven by their own self-interests; thus, members of the U.N. Security Council—such as France, Russia, and China—all have varied perspectives on a potential confrontation with Iraq.

He argues that it is not “unseemly” for the United States to similarly act in the name of its own interests. And that it is, in his words, an “absurdity” to suggest that the U.S. is suddenly granted “moral legitimacy” by U.N. Security Council approval for its actions, since the Security Council itself is composed of member states acting in their own self interests.

I ask unanimous consent the op-ed by Mr. Krauthammer be printed in the RECORD.

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

IS THIS THE WAY TO DECIDE ON IRAQ?

(By Charles Krauthammer)

There is something deeply deranged about the Iraq debate.

The vice president, followed by the administration A Team and echoing the president, argues that we must remove from power an irrational dictator who has a history of aggression and mass murder, is driven by hatred of America and is developing weapons of mass destruction that could kill millions of Americans in a day. The Democrats respond with public skepticism, a raised eyebrow and the charge that the administration has yet to “make the case.”

Then on Sept. 12, the president goes to the United Nations and argues that this same dictator must be brought to heel to vindicate some Security Council resolutions and thus rescue the United Nations from irrelevance. The Democrats swoon. “Great speech,” they say. “Why didn’t you say that in the first place? Count us in.”

When the case for war is made purely in terms of American national interest—in terms of the safety, security and very lives of American citizens—chins are pulled as the Democrats think it over. But when the case is the abstraction of being the good international citizen and strengthening the House of Kofi, the Democrats are ready to parachute into Baghdad.

This hierarchy of values is bizarre but not new. Liberal internationalism—the foreign policy school of the modern Democratic Party (and of American liberalism more generally)—is deeply suspicious of actions taken for reasons of naked interest. After all, this is the party that in the last decade voted overwhelmingly against the Persian Gulf War, where vital American interests were at stake (among them, keeping the world’s largest reservoir of oil out of the hands of a hostile dictator), while supporting humani-

tarian military interventions in Somalia, Haiti, Bosnia and Kosovo, places with only the remotest connection to American security interests.

This is all sweet and nice. And highly, flat-teringly moral. But is this the way to decide when to risk the lives of brave young Americans?

This fawning over the president’s rescue-the-U.N. rationale is not just sentimental, it is illogical. Assume—big assumption—that the United Nations does act and passes a resolution magnanimously allowing Americans to fight and die in Iraq. How does that rescue the United Nations from irrelevance? Under a feckless U.S. administration that allowed things to drift, the United Nations sat on its hands through the 1990s and did nothing. If not for this American president who threatens to invade on his own if he has to, the United Nations would still be doing nothing. The United Nations is irrelevant one way or the other. It is acting now only because of American pressure. It will go back to sleep tomorrow when America eases that pressure.

And what is the moral logic underlying the Democrats’ demand for U.N. sanctions? The country’s top Democrat, Sen. Tom Daschle, said that U.N. support “will be a central factor in how quickly Congress acts. If the international community supports it, if we can get the information we’ve been seeking, then I think we can move to a [Senate] resolution.”

Daschle’s insistence on the centrality of a U.N. stamp of approval is puzzling. How does this work? In what way does the approval of the Security Council confer moral legitimacy on this enterprise? Perhaps Daschle can explain how the blessing of the butchers of Tiananmen Square, who hold the Chinese seat on the Security Council, lends moral authority to an invasion of Iraq. Or the support of the Kremlin, whose central interest in Iraq is the \$8 billion that it owes Russia.

Or the French. There can be no Security Council approval without them. Does Daschle imagine that their approval will hinge on humanitarian calculations? If the French come on board it will be because they see an Anglo-American train headed for Baghdad and they don’t want to be left at the station. The last time the Middle East was carved up was 1916, when a couple of British and French civil servants, a Mr. Sykes and a Mr. Picot, drew lines on a map of the crumbling Ottoman Empire. Among other goodies, France got Syria and Lebanon. Britain got Iraq. The French might not relish being shut out of Iraq a second time.

My point is not to blame France or China or Russia for acting in their national interests. That’s what nations do. That’s what nations’ leaders are supposed to do. My point is to express wonder at Americans who find it unseemly to act in the name of their own national interests and who cannot see the logical absurdity of granting moral legitimacy to American action only if it earns the approval of the Security Council—approval granted or withheld on the most cynical ground of self-interest.

LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ACT OF 2001

Mr. SMITH of Oregon. Mr. President, I rise today to speak about hate crimes legislation I introduced with Senator KENNEDY in March of last year. The Local Law Enforcement Act of 2001 would add new categories to current hate crimes legislation sending a signal that violence of any kind is unacceptable in our society.

I would like to describe a terrible crime that occurred August 19, 2000 in

Los Altos, CA. A gay man and his friend were assaulted outside a hair salon. The assailant, Peter Ellsworth, used anti-gay epithets during the attack. Mr. Ellsworth has been charged in connection with the incident.

I believe that Government’s first duty is to defend its citizens, to defend them against the harms that come out of hate. The Local Law Enforcement Enhancement Act of 2001 is now a symbol that can become substance. I believe that by passing this legislation and changing current law, we can change hearts and minds as well.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

ANGELS IN ADOPTION

• Mrs. CARNAHAN. Mr. President, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize the individuals, organizations, and families who open their hearts to adoptive children. Children around the world, in Cambodia, in Romania, and in our own country wait desperately for families to care and provide for them. The parents who adopt these needy children turn their lives around and offer them a brighter future filled with love and hope.

As a member of the Congressional Coalition on Adoption, I would like to recognize the efforts of parents, adoption agencies, support groups and other individuals whose dedication to adoption makes a difference in the lives of children. Adoption provides countless children with stable homes, caring families and loving supportive parents. In particular, I would like to honor Dennis and Debbie Sparrow of Saint Louis, Missouri. This year, I have nominated the Sparrows as “Angels in Adoption” for their hard work and dedication to adoptive children from Romania. The “Angels in Adoption” award is presented by the Congressional Coalition on Adoption to recognize those who enrich the lives of adoptive children.

Dennis and Debbie Sparrow adopted their first child from Romania in 1991. During the adoption process, the Sparrows saw firsthand how many of the children in orphanages are destined for a life of poverty and hardship. Upon their return, Dennis and Debbie started two organizations to benefit the children they saw in Romania. S.E.E.K., Save Eastern Europe’s Kids, collects donations for Romanian orphans and their caregivers. S.E.E.K. International, a non-profit adoption agency, assists prospective parents and children through the adoption process. In addition to helping over 100 children find loving homes, the Sparrows have personally adopted five children.

The Sparrows’ exemplary work demonstrates that individuals can make a great difference. They have provided invaluable resources and support to other families wishing to bring Romanian children into their lives. They have raised money to assist in the care