

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 267—DESIGNATING 2004 AS “THE YEAR OF POLIO AWARENESS”

Mr. SPECTER submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

S. RES. 267

Whereas 2004 is the 50th anniversary of the successful nationwide trial of the injectable killed polio vaccine that included “polio pioneer” children;

Whereas the injectable polio vaccines eliminated naturally occurring polio cases in the United States but have not yet eliminated polio in other parts of the world;

Whereas as few as 57 percent of American children receive all doses of necessary vaccines during childhood, including the polio vaccine;

Whereas the success of the polio vaccines has caused people to forget the 1,630,000 Americans born before the development of the vaccines who had polio during the epidemics in the middle of the 20th century;

Whereas at least 70 percent of paralytic polio survivors, and 40 percent of nonparalytic polio survivors, are developing post-polio sequelae, which are unexpected and often disabling symptoms that occur up to 35 years after the poliovirus attack, including overwhelming fatigue, muscle weakness, muscle and joint pain, sleep disorders, heightened sensitivity to anesthesia, cold pain, and difficulty swallowing and breathing;

Whereas 2004 is the 130th anniversary of the diagnosis of the first case of post-polio sequelae and the 20th anniversary of the creation of the International Post-Polio Task Force;

Whereas research and clinical work by members of the International Post-Polio Task Force have discovered that post-polio sequelae can be treated, and even prevented, if polio survivors are taught to conserve energy and use assistive devices to stop damaging and killing the reduced number of overworked, polio virus-damaged neurons in the spinal cord and brain that survived the polio attack;

Whereas many medical professionals, and polio survivors, do not know of the existence of post-polio sequelae, or of the available treatments; and

Whereas the mission of the International Post-Polio Task Force includes educating medical professionals and the 20,000,000 polio survivors in the world about post-polio sequelae through the international post-polio letter campaign, television public service announcements provided by the Columbia Broadcasting System and the National Broadcasting System Company, and a continuing plot about polio and post-polio sequelae on the National Broadcasting Company television series “American Dreams”: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the need for every American child to be vaccinated against polio;

(2) recognizes the 1,630,000 Americans who survived polio, their new battle with post-polio sequelae, and the need for education and appropriate medical care;

(3) requests that every State proclaim 2004 as “The Year of Polio Awareness” to promote vaccination and post-polio sequelae education and treatment; and

(4) requests that the President convene a White House Polio Awareness Summit, with members of the International Post-Polio Task Force and all appropriate departments

and agencies, to take immediate action to educate—

(A) the people of the United States about the need for polio vaccination; and

(B) the polio survivors and the medical professionals in the United States about the cause and treatment of post-polio sequelae.

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, I now turn to another subject; that is, a resolution to designate the year 2004 as the Year of Polio Awareness.

During the 1940s and the early 1950s, between 30,000 and 50,000 cases of polio were recorded annually in the United States, causing widespread fear and panic.

I recall as a youngster a public swimming pool in Wichita, KS, in which there was a total scare, wondering if going to the swimming pool would cause polio.

The polio virus damages nerves that control muscles which results in muscle weakness. In severe illness, the person could lose the ability to move both arms and legs, may be unable to breathe without help and they may die.

Of course, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt was the personal symbol for the incapacitation of someone with polio, although it was only physical. He was a magnificent President and a great leader of the United States during the Depression and World War II. A great physical toll was taken on President Roosevelt.

The year 2004 will mark the 50th anniversary of the successful nationwide trial to administer the injectable polio vaccine to children. The invention of injectable polio vaccines eliminated naturally occurring polio cases in the United States.

However, as few as 57 percent of American children currently receive the full dose of vaccines, including the polio vaccination. The need for continued diligence to protect this country's youth from polio is critical. Unfortunately, those who were stricken with polio before vaccines were developed have not received the proper help they need.

The year 2004 will also mark the 130th anniversary of the first diagnosed case of post-polio sequelae. Post-polio sequelae is a condition that may develop several decades after a person has had polio. It affects the muscles and nerves, causing weakness, fatigue, pain, and other symptoms.

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, I have sought recognition to offer legislation to halt Saudi Arabia's support for institutions that fund, train, incite, encourage, or in any other way aid and abet terrorism, and to secure full Saudi cooperation in the investigation of terrorist incidents. I offer this bill on behalf of Senator COLLINS, Senator SCHUMER, Senator GRAHAM of South Carolina, Senator WYDEN, Senator GRAHAM of Florida, and Senator BAYH.

The activities of al-Qaida have shaken the world. They certainly shook the United States on September 11, 2001. Evidence has come to light that there has been enormous financing of al-Qaida, Hamas, and other organizations by the Saudis.

Hearings have been held by a number of committees, including the Governmental Affairs Committee presided over by the distinguished Senator who is presiding this evening, Ms. COLLINS. We made a detailed examination, in a hearing in which I participated along with Chairman COLLINS, to inquire into what the Saudis had done and to find details of Saudi backing of so-called charitable organizations, recognizing that those charitable organizations were, in large part, a front; that perhaps there was some charitable activity but a tremendous amount of funding went to terrorist activities.

The Saudis are a very wealthy nation. They are reported to have contributed as much as \$4 billion to Hamas over the course of the latest intifada.

We have worked through the Governmental Affairs Committee, and also the Judiciary Committee on which I serve, to establish a basic point that anybody who contributes to an organization knowing it to be a terrorist organization is really an accessory before the fact to murder, and that when people contribute to Hamas knowing Hamas engages in suicide bombing, they are accessories to murder.

The Terrorist Prosecution Act, which I wrote back in 1986, authorizes prosecutions in Federal court of anyone who assaults, maims, or murders an American citizen anywhere in the world.

Many United States citizens have been murdered while visiting in Israel, and I have talked to Attorney General Rubenstein of Israel and Attorney General Ashcroft of the United States, trying to work out arrangements to bring those terrorists to the United States for trial where we have the potential to impose the death penalty.

We have been very lenient with the Saudis, in my judgment, over the years, really out of deference to the importance of Saudi oil. It is really an open scandal that we have not taken action to secure some independence from our reliance on Saudi oil.

In 1996, Khobar Towers was the scene of an attack by terrorists. I chaired the Intelligence Committee that year, during the 104th Congress. I made a trip to Khobar Towers and inspected what went on. A car bomb came very close, there was an enormous blast, and 19 airmen were killed and about 400 injured.

In that situation, the Saudis would not allow Federal investigators to talk to the suspects. I personally met with Crown Prince Abdullah of Saudi Arabia and asked him to allow our investigators—the FBI—to talk to those suspects. Crown Prince Abdullah said the United States should not meddle in Saudi internal affairs.

It was hardly a Saudi internal affair when 400 airmen were wounded and 19 airmen were killed.

Notwithstanding the efforts of FBI Director Louis Freeh, who made several personal trips there, and my efforts in talking to Crown Prince

Abdullah, they refused to allow the United States to have its representative talk to those suspects.

Later indictments were issued. Iran was a named co-conspirator in the Federal indictment.

While there has not been proof, the background circumstances lend some consideration to the thought that those who were involved in Khobar Towers may well have been involved in September 11.

We recently passed the Syria Accountability Act. I believe in the overall scheme of operations in the Mideast that the Saudis are a much greater threat to U.S. interests, and there ought to be a very firm approach as to how we deal with the Saudis.

The bill which I am introducing today has detailed recitation of the findings by organizations which have studied the record of the Saudis. The United Nations Security Council resolution mandates that all states refrain from providing any foreign support, active or passive, to people involved in terrorist acts.

The Council on Foreign Relations concluded in an October 2002 report on terrorist finances:

For years, individuals and charities based in Saudi Arabia have been the most important source of funds for al-Qaida, and, for years, Saudi officials have turned a blind eye.

The Middle East Media Institute concluded in their July 3, 2003, report again characterizing the Saudis' activities as supporting terrorists.

The New York Times cited sources reported on April 17, 2003, that at least 50 percent of the current operating budget of Hamas comes from the people of Saudi Arabia.

This resolution would call on the Government of the United States to prohibit the export to Saudi Arabia of any defense articles or services listed in the Arms Exports Control Act and prohibit import to Saudi Arabia of any items within the Commerce Control List and to restrict travel of Saudi diplomats appropriately.

The President's certification would be present to relieve these sanctions under specified circumstances.

SENATE RESOLUTION 268—TO EXPRESS THE SENSE OF THE SENATE REGARDING THE DEATHS OF 19 CITIZENS OF ITALY IN IRAQ

Mr. GRAHAM of South Carolina (for himself, Mr. FRIST, Mr. LUGAR, Mr. BIDEN, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. PRYOR, Mr. SANTORUM, Mr. DEWINE, Mr. KYL, Mr. WARNER, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. CORZINE, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. CHAMBLISS, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. SPENCER, Mr. REED, Mr. BURNS, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. LEAHY, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. COLEMAN, and Mr. BAUCUS) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 268

Whereas the people of Italy are long-time and resolute allies of the United States;

Whereas the people of Italy sent 2,700 of their finest citizens in contribution to the international effort to stabilize Iraq; and

Whereas on Wednesday November 12, 2003, 19 Italians including 12 Carabinieri, 5 army soldiers, and 2 civilians were brutally murdered through cowardly acts of terrorism while on duty in Nassiriya, Iraq: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) mourns with the people of Italy on their National Day of Mourning for these 19 brave souls;

(2) acknowledges the sacrifices of the Italian people; and

(3) recognizes the significant contributions that Italy continues to make towards stability and democracy around the world.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 82—RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF RALPH BUNCHE AS ONE OF THE GREAT LEADERS OF THE UNITED STATES, THE FIRST AFRICAN-AMERICAN NOBEL PEACE PRIZE WINNER, AN ACCOMPLISHED SCHOLAR, A DISTINGUISHED DIPLOMAT, AND A TIRELESS CAMPAIGNER OF CIVIL RIGHTS FOR PEOPLE THROUGHOUT THE WORLD

Mr. BIDEN submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. CON. RES. 82

Whereas Ralph Bunche's life of achievement made him one of the 20th century's foremost figures and a role model for youth;

Whereas Ralph Bunche graduated valedictorian, summa cum laude, and Phi Beta Kappa from the University of California at Los Angeles in 1927 with a degree in International Relations;

Whereas Ralph Bunche was the first African-American to receive a Ph.D. in Government and International Relations at Harvard University in 1934;

Whereas Ralph Bunche served as a professor and established and chaired the Political Science Department at Howard University from 1928 to 1941;

Whereas, in 1941, Ralph Bunche served as an analyst for the Office of Strategic Services;

Whereas Ralph Bunche joined the Department of State in 1944 as an advisor;

Whereas Ralph Bunche served as an advisor to the United States delegation to the 1945 San Francisco conference charged with establishing the United Nations and drafting the Charter of the organization;

Whereas Ralph Bunche was instrumental in drafting Chapters XI and XII of the United Nations Charter, dealing with non-self-governing territories and the International Trusteeship System, which helped African countries achieve their independence and assisted in their transition to self-governing, sovereign states;

Whereas, in 1946, Ralph Bunche was appointed Director of the Trusteeship Division of the United Nations;

Whereas, in 1948, Ralph Bunche was named acting Chief Mediator in Palestine for the United Nations, and, in 1949, successfully brokered an armistice agreement between Israel, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, and Syria;

Whereas Ralph Bunche was deeply committed to ending colonialism and restoring individual state sovereignty through peaceful means;

Whereas the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People awarded its

highest honor, the Spingarn Medal, to Ralph Bunche in 1949;

Whereas for his many significant contributions and efforts toward achieving a peaceful resolution to seemingly intractable national and international disputes, Ralph Bunche was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1950, the first African-American and the first person of color to be so honored;

Whereas Ralph Bunche was named United Nations Under-Secretary-General in 1955, in charge of directing peacekeeping missions in several countries;

Whereas, in 1963, Ralph Bunche received the United States' highest civilian award, the Medal of Freedom; and

Whereas Ralph Bunche's critical contributions to the attempt to resolve the Arab-Israeli conflict and towards the de-colonization of Africa, and his commitment to and long service in the United Nations and numerous other national and international humanitarian efforts, warrant his commemoration: Now, therefore, be it

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

(1) recognizes and honors Ralph Bunche as a pivotal 20th century figure in the struggle for the realization and attainment of human rights on a global scale; and

(2) urges the President to take appropriate measures to encourage the celebration and remembrance of Ralph Bunche's many significant achievements.

Mr. BIDEN. Mr. President, I rise today in recognition of the centenary celebration of Ralph Bunche's birth

Ralph Bunche was an extraordinary man whose success was a definitive accomplishment in the history of America.

His grandmother was born into slavery.

His father was a barber in a shop for whites only.

His mother was a musician.

When his mother and father died his grandmother took him to California where her influence and the perspective she gave him on life and liberty shaped his future and, to some extent, the history of the Nation.

He was a brilliant man, a musician, debater, athlete, a summa cum laude student and valedictorian. A loving husband to Ruth and father of Joan, Jane and Ralph Jr.

He went to Harvard, taught at Howard University and earned his doctorate comparing French rule in Togoland and Dahomey.

And when the civil rights movement came he spoke out loudly and his message was clear: "Segregation and democracy are incompatible," he said. "Racial prejudice is an unreasoned phenomenon without scientific basis in biology or anthropology."

But Ralph Bunche did not want to be remembered for his race. He wanted to be remembered for his accomplishments and his competence, for his dedication to service and his commitment to the recognition of the fundamental rights of men and women to live in harmony and peace.

He came from a generation of Americans who believed that it was wrong to recognize a man for the color of his skin, that we should, instead, recognize men and women for the power of their ideas and the contribution they make to the community.