

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 309) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 309

Whereas today's youth are vital to the preservation of our country and will be the future bearers of the bright torch of democracy;

Whereas youth need a safe haven from various negative influences such as child abuse, substance abuse and crime, and they need to have resources readily available to assist them when faced with circumstances that compromise their safety;

Whereas the United States needs increased numbers of community volunteers acting as positive influences on the Nation's youth;

Whereas the Safe Place Program is committed to protecting our Nation's most valuable asset, our youth, by offering short term "safe places" at neighborhood locations where trained volunteers are available to counsel and advise youth seeking assistance and guidance;

Whereas the Safe Place Program combines the efforts of the private sector and non-profit organizations uniting to reach youth in the early stages of crisis;

Whereas the Safe Place Program provides a direct way to assist programs in meeting performance standards relative to outreach and community relations, as set forth in the Federal Runaway and Homeless Youth Act guidelines;

Whereas the Safe Place placard displayed at businesses within communities stands as a beacon of safety and refuge to at-risk youth;

Whereas more than 700 communities in 42 States and more than 14,000 locations have established Safe Place Programs;

Whereas more than 68,000 young people have gone to Safe Place locations to get help when faced with crisis situations;

Whereas through the efforts of Safe Place coordinators across the country each year more than one-half million students learn that Safe Place is a resource if abusive or neglectful situations exist; and

Whereas increased awareness of the program's existence will encourage communities to establish Safe Places for the Nation's youth throughout the country: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) proclaims the week of March 14 through March 20, 2004, as "National Safe Place Week"; and

(2) requests that the President issue a proclamation calling upon the people of the United States and interested groups to promote awareness of and volunteer involvement in the Safe Place Programs, and to observe the week with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

STAR PRINT—REPORT 108-225

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Report 108-225 be star printed with the changes at the desk.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

CAMBODIA

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I will close with a short statement on obser-

vations I made based on a recent article in the Boston Globe entitled "Cambodia's Rights Movement Faces Peril." I ask unanimous consent that the article be printed in the RECORD at the conclusion of my remarks.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

(See exhibit 1.)

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, this article describes ongoing political violence and intimidation in Cambodia against democracy and human rights advocates and the oppressive environment in which these courageous individuals work. Kem Sokha, Sam Rainsy, and all champions of freedom, have my respect and my support.

While I recognize their bravery and selflessness, I also hear their concerns for their own safety. Tragically, the body count of peaceful advocates murdered in the line of duty continues to grow. Alliance of Democrats spokesman Sam Ung Bung-Ang is right on the mark in saying:

It's not a bloody step forward when we go from 1 million dead [under the Khmer Rouge regime] to 200. Life is life, and one murder is too many.

Caretaker Prime Minister Hun Sen and the Cambodian People's Party have failed to uphold the rule of law or to create conditions conducive to the growth of democracy and prosperity. I add my voice to those calling for new leadership in Cambodia.

Let me close by recognizing the work of the International Republican Institute in Cambodia. For over a decade, through grenade attacks, a coup d'etat, and several flawed elections, the institute has stood shoulder to shoulder with those struggling for freedom.

In such a hostile environment and witness to countless injustices, the institute's Cambodia director, Jackson Cox, is right to ask of the international community: Where's the outrage?

It is past time the world's democracies stood up to champion liberty in Cambodia. While Cambodia may seem small and unworthy of the world's attention, we should not forget terrorism thrives in lawless and chaotic conditions, the very kind we find in Cambodia today. It is a warning and a plea. I urge my colleagues to support reform in this troubled land.

EXHIBIT 1

[From the Boston Globe, Feb. 29, 2004]

CAMBODIA'S RIGHTS MOVEMENT FACES PERIL;
RECENT SLAYINGS RENEW OLD FEARS

(By Rafael D. Frankel)

PHNOM PENH, CAMBODIA.—On a recent trip to a village along the banks of the Mekong River, Kem Sokha brought along not only his trusted bodyguard but also a private American security specialist.

Kem Sokha is not a politician, a big businessman, or a diplomat, but a leader in Cambodia's fledgling human rights movement. And he believes his life is in danger.

The recent brazen killings of a prominent labor organizer, Chea Vichea, and several others affiliated with an opposition political group have heightened the sense of lawlessness in Cambodia, where murder is seen as a

common political tool—and the rich and powerful seem above the law.

The nation's police, judiciary, and elections institutions are controlled by the ruling party, led by Prime Minister Hun Sen, and many Cambodians and foreign aid workers have little confidence that justice can be served.

"I fear the killing fields in Cambodia are still open," said Kem Sokha, president of the Cambodia Center for Human Rights, referring to the place the genocidal Khmer Rouge regime would kill its victims of torture from 1975 to 1979.

Hun Sen, a former Khmer Rouge member who deserted the regime and joined the resistance, has maintained his grip on power in one form or another for nearly two decades through collaboration with Vietnam, military coups, and elections deemed by international observers as lacking "free and fair" standards.

The most recent elections, in July, saw the ruling Cambodian People's Party win a majority of seats in Parliament, but not the two-thirds required to form a government. Since then, a tense political drama has heated up between the CPP and the Democratic Alliance, made up of two opposition parties. Although both sides talk of reaching a settlement soon, the stalemate persists.

The government crisis has coincided with a wave of high-profile murders the past few months.

Chea Vichea, 36, who was affiliated with the opposition Sam Rainsy Party, was killed Jan. 22 in broad daylight in a drive-by shooting in Phnom Penh. A radio journalist, a famous actress, and her mother—all associated with the Democratic Alliance—were gunned down in a similar fashion.

Human rights workers and opposition leaders have seized on what they called a questionable investigation into Chea Vichea's killing, saying it shows the history of impunity that has plagued Cambodia for decades is still prevalent. Two suspects are being held; one accused police of beating him to force a confession.

Accusations have been leveled by the opposition and democracy organizations that the killings were intended as a warning to opposition leaders to join the prime minister in a government.

A ruling-party spokesman, Khieu Kanharith, rejected any idea that the killings were ordered by members of his party, saying the allegations were political ploys. "If we wanted to use violence, why wouldn't we have hit someone higher up in the party?" he said.

But outside of the government, the killings have raised alarms.

"They certainly appear to be politically motivated," said Jackson Cox, the Cambodia director of the International Republican Institute, an American organization that promotes democracy around the world. "The political situation here is tense, and members of the opposition, both high and low, are being murdered."

The recent killings have foreign relief workers and many Cambodian wondering whether Cambodia's development as a democracy has foundered after making great strides since the United Nations launched a \$2 billion relief effort in 1992.

The government points out that Cambodia was rebuilding from total disaster. While many problems remain, the political situation is much less violent than in the past, Khieu Kanharith said.

The opposition rejects such reasoning. "It's not a bloody step forward when we go from 1 million dead to 200," said Sam Ung Bung-Ang, a spokesman for the Democratic Alliance. "Life is life, and one murder is too many."

Development statistics paint a picture of slow progress. A 2003 UN report said Cambodia is still ranked 130 of 173 countries on the Human Development Index. Other than Laos, Cambodia has the lowest life expectancy and literacy rates in the region, and the highest mortality rates for mothers and young children.

"With the economy now, state assets are war spoils, and what we call 'corruption' . . . is simply [the government] running the country like a family business," said Sam Rainsy, the main opposition party leader. "If we continue like that, we will go down the drain."

Asked about the pace of Cambodia's development and human rights record under the current government, the government spokesman said more time and money were needed. (Cambodia receives about \$500 million annually from foreign donors.) He also said Cambodia was being held to a higher standard of democracy than its neighbors.

"We don't have enough human resources," Khieu Kanharith said. "We've had a lot of assistance from donor countries. If you want to blame someone, blame them."

Many are now looking for the international community to increase the pressure on the government. Although some U.S. senators have criticized the government, reaction from most foreign governments and development institutions, many of whom provide the funding for Cambodia to function, has been muted.

"Where is the outrage?" asked Cox, from the International Republican Institute.

Meanwhile, the political stalemate had delayed the convening of the long-awaited Khmer Rouge war-crimes tribunal. Government and opposition politicians say the tribunal would go forward once a government was formed.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

WOMEN AND HEART DISEASE

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I rise to talk about an issue that is very close to my heart, having spent most of my professional career fighting heart disease. I will start with a couple of facts people may or may not know, and then make several points in terms of the importance of prevention.

Fact No. 1, as I travel around the country and talk, whether it is in the field of medicine or as a policymaker, is that more women will die of heart disease this year than men. I say that and it is surprising to many people because historically people thought because of the difference in gender and hormonal conditions women would be protected from heart disease. But, again, more women will die of heart disease than men. Indeed, each year 500,000 women—half a million people—die of heart disease in this country.

Heart disease is a big spectrum, and heart attack is about one-half of those

deaths, a heart attack where there is blockage of blood flow to a part of a heart. That means more than one-quarter of a million women in the United States each year are struck down by this one disease. In fact, heart disease is the No. 1 killer of women in this country.

Heart disease is at the top of the list—it is No. 1—and kills more women than the next seven causes of death combined. So we have the top eight causes of death, with heart disease as the No. 1 diagnosis, and if we add up all the other seven, we still do not have as many as those who die of heart disease.

As I speak right now, about 8 million women are living with some element of heart disease, a potentially fatal condition. In my home State of Tennessee, nearly 200,000 women suffer with heart disease which has proved that heart disease affects all age groups. Mr. President, 73,000 women in Tennessee are living with heart disease under the age of 64. So it is not just our elderly with heart disease.

This is an area in medicine that can respond to education, to public information, but there are few people today who are aware of how widespread and how devastating heart disease is among women. We know it is among men, and we have seen the old images and the warning signs of a clenched fist, centralized pain as if an elephant is stepping on your chest, and if we look at the old pictures used in public education, health education, programs and posters, almost always it is a man with a clenched fist or grabbing both fists.

That imagery is played over to the point that most people do not realize how serious this disease is in women. It is imperative that we get the word out, and I want to use this pulpit over the next 2 or 3 minutes to do just that.

I encourage people to learn what the causes of heart disease are, what the consequences of heart disease are, and what steps can be taken in order to lower the risk in terms of prevention because we know what the risk factors are. We know there are certain things that can be done, and if they are done, it minimizes the risk either of being debilitated by heart disease or dying of heart disease.

The obvious things—again they need to be stressed because they are simple to do, but you have to do them—are improving one's diet, taking regular, consistent, and moderate exercise. One does not have to overdo it, but it is regular, consistent, moderate exercise.

The addiction of smoking has so many people locked in its grasp. Some of our young people do start smoking, and then if they do start smoking they have to work very hard to break that addiction. I say that again as a heart surgeon.

So many people I operate on—there are hundreds and hundreds of people I speak to and educate who are not in the Senate, but being in the operating room, opening up people's chests, taking veins out of the leg or from under-

neath the breast bone and hooking them on to the heart because of heart disease, that is strongly related to smoking. So if one stops smoking, it is less likely they will have that heart disease, and less likely that they will have the heart surgery.

Preventive screening: There are preventive screening tests, things such as putting a blood pressure cup on the arm. In our recent Medicare bill that we passed 2 months ago, for the first time in Medicare we have a routine physical exam so things such as hypertension can be detected.

It is amazing in Medicare, the great program that we have today—but one that needs to continue to be improved—that we did not have that basic entry level physical exam, where heart disease can be detected, until under President Bush's leadership we passed this recent Medicare bill.

Sometimes heart disease strikes seemingly healthy women who may not have ever had symptoms, who have no history of either being sick or in poor health in some way, who have those risk factors. It attacks people who have not smoked as well.

That is what happened to a Memphis mother of three, Kathy Kastan, who at the age of 42 suffered a heart attack. She tells her story this way:

At 42 years old, I considered myself a healthy, optimistic woman blessed with three healthy boys, a wonderful husband and devoted friends. I have always been less than average weight, a nonsmoker and have exercised my entire life. But then I noticed that during exertion like biking or running or swimming, that I would get strange symptoms like nausea, turning pale, having shortness of breath. On occasion I would get a tingling down my left arm and left sided shoulder pain. But never once did I consider that I could have heart problems. And then one day, in a blink of an eye my life changed forever.

As it turned out, Kathy had a condition known as vasospasm, or vessel spasm, which is exactly what it says, where the vessels go into spasm and they squeeze down; therefore, not as much blood can get through that vessel because of a contraction of coronary arteries. Coronary arteries are the vessels that feed the heart. The heart needs to get that blood, that nutrient, that oxygen because if there is obstruction of the blood flow going to the heart, the heart muscle does not work, and that is what we call a heart attack.

Kathy went through five procedures where stents were inserted in these vessels. They are almost like a straw. If you can imagine, like a straw the vessel is squished down, and the stent is put in to keep the vessel open so it cannot squeeze down even when it goes into vasospasm.

Then she underwent what is called a coronary artery bypass operation which does require opening the chest and taking a vein from the leg or an artery called internal mammary artery and hooking it on to the heart to bypass those vessels which contract down.