

year. One of the arguments he made with reference to reform was that Burma was so ethnically diverse that it simply could not handle democracy. I am sure my friend from Arizona shares my view of the irony of that. What could be a more ethnically diverse country than India?

No one knows this, but India is the second-largest Muslim country in the world, whose President is a Muslim and has had a total democracy by Western standards these many years, going back to independence. India has done a superb job of absorbing all of these different minorities, many of whom do not speak the same language, into a genuine democracy for over 50 years.

India itself is a repudiation of the argument that the head thug was using against any kind of reform in Burma.

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, I know my friend from Kentucky and the Senator from California and all Members will renew our assurance to the people of Burma and their brave leader that we will not rest and we will not stop until they achieve freedom and democracy, which is a God-given right.

I thank my colleague from Kentucky.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I thank, again, the Senator from Arizona for his continuous interest and outspoken involvement in this issue over the years. It has been fun to be in collaboration with him.

I will say a few words on Burma before the Senate votes, and at the end of my remarks I will ask for the yeas and nays on the measure to renew sanctions for another year on Burma.

These sanctions are absolutely necessary. If you do not want to take my word for it, here is what a Thai journalist wrote in a recent opinion piece in that country's newspaper called the Nation:

Whatever momentum was gained from the international calls to free Aung San Suu Kyi and to allow for democracy in Burma on the occasion of the opposition leader's recent 60th birthday must be sustained at all costs. The outpouring of support from presidents, prime ministers, intellectuals, Nobel laureates and activists demonstrated one simple truth—the Lady matters. Contrary to conventional wisdom, perpetuated by junta apologists and other vested interests in the past five years, that the long-suffering opposition leader of the National League for Democracy has been the main stumbling block of progress because of her attitude toward political processes and national reconciliation. Suu Kyi is in fact loved and respected by the Burmese and other people around the world.

He had it right. The Lady matters.

Under the paranoid misrule of Burmese hard-liner Than Shwe, the human rights and dignity of the Burmese people continue to be grossly abused. The litany of atrocities—from the use of rape as a weapon of war to the murder, torture and intimidation of political activists—are well-known and well-documented. It seems as though the only ones denying that a problem ex-

ists in Burma are the very miscreants responsible for creating and propagating that problem.

Second, with the SPDC scheduled to assume chairmanship of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, ASEAN, next year, as Senator MCCAIN and I were just discussing, the time has come for ASEAN to fish or cut bait.

Again, listen to what others from that region are saying, such as former deputy prime minister of Malaysia Anwar Ibrahim who wrote last month in the Asian Wall Street Journal:

... It is now evident that constructive engagement [by ASEAN with the SPDC] has not only failed to bring about democratization, but was never seriously intended to encourage any move in this direction. Instead, as far as ASEAN is concerned, the policy amounts to a subconscious manifestation of collective guilt.

I offer that the absence of Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice at the recent security meeting in Laos portends America's involvement with ASEAN should the SPDC be at the helm. The difference might be that no American official attends ASEAN events in her stead.

In case ASEAN members have not noticed, President Bush is a stalwart supporter of freedom in Burma.

As is Secretary Rice. As is the U.S. Congress.

My colleagues may recall that 14 Nobel laureates wrote an open letter on the occasion of Suu Kyi's 60th birthday, which applauded "those countries that have imposed sanctions to deny the regime the wealth it craves to sustain itself" and reminded the world that "Burma was admitted to ASEAN to lift its people up, not to drag the organization down." ASEAN members should feel similarly—how could they not?

Finally, the world must press for the immediate and unconditional release of Burmese democracy activists Aung San Suu Kyi and all prisoners of conscience.

Suu Kyi, the National League for Democracy and Burma's ethnic minorities have an indisputable role to play in the peaceful reconciliation of that country's myriad problems. This role cannot, and will not, be fulfilled so long as these courageous individuals remain behind prison walls or in the gun sights of SPDC goons.

Earlier today we had an opportunity to hear India's Prime Minister address a joint meeting of Congress.

In my discussion with Senator MCCAIN in the Senate, I just pointed out the Indian Government certainly does not approve of the regime. I questioned the policy of the constructive engagement of India. They are at least thinking about whether that is the appropriate policy in India for the future. It was interesting and noteworthy the Prime Minister of India happened to be here on the very same day we took this measure up.

I particularly thank Senator MCCAIN, Senators FEINSTEIN, REID, FRIST, and LEAHY, to name but a few, who have been involved in this issue from the beginning. This is an important statement of principle for America. I urge my colleagues to support this measure overwhelmingly.

I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second? There is a sufficient second.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The joint resolution having been read the third time, the question is, Shall the joint resolution pass?

The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU), and the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. ROCKFELLER), are necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 97, nays 1, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 191 Leg.]

YEAS—97

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|-----------|------------|-------------|
| Akaka | Dodd | McCain |
| Alexander | Dole | McConnell |
| Allard | Domenici | Mikulski |
| Allen | Dorgan | Murkowski |
| Baucus | Durbin | Murray |
| Bayh | Ensign | Nelson (FL) |
| Bennett | Feingold | Nelson (NE) |
| Biden | Feinstein | Obama |
| Bingaman | Frist | Pryor |
| Bond | Graham | Reed |
| Boxer | Grassley | Reid |
| Brownback | Gregg | Roberts |
| Bunning | Hagel | Salazar |
| Burns | Harkin | Santorum |
| Burr | Hatch | Sarbanes |
| Byrd | Hutchison | Schumer |
| Cantwell | Inhofe | Sessions |
| Carper | Inouye | Shelby |
| Chafee | Isakson | Smith |
| Chambliss | Jeffords | Snowe |
| Clinton | Johnson | Specter |
| Coburn | Kennedy | Stabenow |
| Cochran | Kerry | Stevens |
| Coleman | Kohl | Sununu |
| Collins | Kyl | Talent |
| Conrad | Lautenberg | Thomas |
| Cornyn | Leahy | Thune |
| Corzine | Levin | Vitter |
| Craig | Lieberman | Voinovich |
| Crapo | Lincoln | Warner |
| Dayton | Lott | Wyden |
| DeMint | Lugar | |
| DeWine | Martinez | |

NAYS—1

Enzi

NOT VOTING—2

Landrieu Rockefeller

The joint resolution (H.J. Res. 52) was agreed to.

RECESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the hour of 12:30 p.m. having arrived, the Senate will stand in recess until 2:15 p.m.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 12:53 p.m., recessed until 2:15 p.m. and reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mr. VOINOVICH).

DEPARTMENT OF STATE, FOREIGN OPERATIONS, AND RELATED PROGRAMS APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2006

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will now resume consideration of H.R. 3057, which the clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 3057) making appropriations for foreign operations, export financing, and related programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, and for other purposes.

Pending:

Landrieu amendment No. 1245, to express the sense of Congress regarding the use of funds for orphans, and displaced and abandoned children.

Grassley amendment No. 1250, to prohibit the use of funds to approve or administer a loan or guarantee for certain ethanol dehydration plants.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Illinois is recognized.

Mr. OBAMA. Mr. President, I rise today in support of H.R. 3057, the Foreign Operations appropriation bill. I would also like to highlight one aspect of the bill.

Since coming to the Senate 6 months ago, one of the foreign policy and health issues I have focused on relates to the avian flu. I am pleased that this bill includes \$10 million to combat the spread of this potential pandemic, adding to the \$25 million that the Senate provided in the supplemental appropriations bill in April.

I thank the managers of this bill, Senators MCCONNELL and LEAHY, and their staffs for working with me on this important issue. I know that Senator MCCONNELL has a longstanding interest in Southeast Asia, and Senator LEAHY has always been a champion of international health issues, making the avian flu something I know they both care deeply about.

In the last few weeks, scientists have reported that a deadlier version of the avian flu has now spread to migrant birds that could carry the disease out of Asia and across the world.

While it may not seem that threatening to many Americans at first, this bird flu could easily transform into a human flu. And if it does, it could be one of the deadliest flus mankind has ever known—even worse than the 1918 flu pandemic that killed 675,000 Americans and 50 million worldwide.

Already, there have been 108 human cases of avian flu, resulting in 54 deaths. And while the virus has not yet mutated into a full-blown human flu, recent developments suggest it might be heading in that direction. In recent months, the virus has been detected in mammals that have never previously been infected, including tigers, leopards and cats.

A few weeks ago, the World Health Organization reported that avian flu strains in Vietnam are lasting longer and spreading to more humans. And according to government officials, a few cases of human-to-human spread have already occurred.

Every day, there are new reports about the increasing dangers of the avian flu. Last month, it was revealed that Chinese farmers have tried to suppress outbreaks of the avian flu by using human antiviral drugs on infected animals.

As a result, one strain of the virus has become resistant to these drugs, thus making the drugs ineffective in protecting humans against a possible pandemic. And just this week, researchers found that ducks infected with the virus were contagious for up to 17 days, causing the animals to become—in the researchers' words—"medical Trojan horses" for transmitting the disease to humans.

Simply put, the world is not ready for a potential outbreak of this deadly flu. In fact, we aren't even close.

There is no known vaccine for the avian flu, and producing one could take months once an outbreak occurs. And while the World Health Organization recommends that every nation stockpile enough flu treatment to treat a quarter of its population, the United States has only ordered enough to treat less than 1 percent of ours.

We can't just stand by and hope that this virus doesn't reach our shores when it only takes hours to travel from one side of the world to the other. It is time for America to lead the world in taking decisive action to prevent a potential global tragedy.

We should start by doing what we can to fight the virus while it is still mainly in Southeast Asia. That is why I fought for and obtained \$25 million for prevention efforts by the CDC, the Agency for International Development, the Health and Human Services Department, and other agencies. And that is why I requested another \$10 million in this bill.

In addition, the Senate Foreign Relations Committee approved language that I offered directing President Bush to form a senior-level task force to devise an international strategy to deal with the avian flu and coordinate policy among our government agencies. I hope that the Bush administration forms this task force immediately without waiting for legislation to be passed.

Yet, these are only modest first steps. International health experts believe that Southeast Asia will be an epicenter of influenza for decades. That is why we need to create a permanent framework for curtailing the spread of future infectious diseases—a framework that would increase international disease surveillance, response capacity and public education and coordination, especially in Southeast Asia.

But we must also prepare our own country in the event that a global pandemic reaches America. That is why I recently introduced the AVIAN Act, which helps make sure that Americans are protected from a possible outbreak of the avian flu.

When the threat is this real, we should be increasing research into pos-

sible flu vaccines, and we should be ordering enough doses of flu treatment to cover the recommended 25 percent of our population—just like England and other Western countries have done.

We should also ensure that our Health and Human Services Department and State governments put in place a plan as to how they would address a potential flu pandemic, including the purchasing and distributing of vaccines. A year after a draft of a Federal plan was published, a final version has yet to be finalized. We shouldn't have to wait any longer, because the avian flu certainly won't.

We are extremely fortunate that so far, the avian flu has not been found in the United States. But in an age when you can board planes in Bangkok or Hong Kong and arrive in Chicago, Burlington or Louisville in hours, we must face the reality that these exotic killer diseases are not isolated health problems half a world away, but direct and immediate threats to security and prosperity here at home.

Again, I thank Senators MCCONNELL and LEAHY for including this important funding in the supplemental appropriations bill and now including additional funding in this bill. And I thank the distinguished chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee, Senator LUGAR, for his leadership on this issue.

I ask unanimous consent that several articles and editorials about the avian flu be printed in the RECORD.

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

[From the New York Times, July 18, 2005]

AVIAN FLU VIRUS COULD HIDE IN DUCKS

(By the Associated Press)

WASHINGTON (AP).—Changes in the avian flu virus have made it less deadly to ducks, potentially turning them into medical Trojan horses where the flu can hide while continuing to infect other birds and humans.

Waterfowl such as ducks have been natural hosts of this type of influenza before but rarely became ill from it until 2002, when an evolving strain killed off a large number of the birds.

Since then, however, the virus has continued to change, reverting to a form less dangerous to ducks but still able to cause illness and death in chickens and humans, according to a study in Tuesday's issue of Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

"These results suggest that the duck has become the Trojan horse of Asian H5N1 influenza viruses," reported a research team led by Robert G. Webster of St. Jude Children's Research Hospital in Memphis, Tenn.

"The ducks that are unaffected by these viruses continue to circulate these viruses, presenting a pandemic threat," the team said.

The researchers infected domestic ducks with flu isolated at various times.

They found that ducks infected with H5N1 from 2003 or 2004 were contagious for 11-17 days, a longer transmission time than pre-2002 strains. The researchers also noted that the virus was transmitted primarily through the upper respiratory tract instead of through fecal matter as in older strains.

When flu virus from ducks that had survived the disease was administered to healthy animals, it no longer caused disease