

Council in Burma, to amend the Burmese Freedom and Democracy Act of 2003 to prohibit the importation of gemstones and hardwoods from Burma, to promote a coordinated international effort to restore civilian democratic rule to Burma, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. SMITH (for himself and Mr. BYRD):

S. Res. 358. A resolution expressing the importance of friendship and cooperation between the United States and Turkey; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. KENNEDY (for himself, Mr. KERRY, Mr. REED, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. DODD, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Ms. SNOWE, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. LEAHY, and Mr. SUNUNU):

S. Res. 359. A resolution congratulating the Boston Red Sox on winning the 2007 World Series; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 1200

At the request of Mr. DORGAN, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1200, a bill to amend the Indian Health Care Improvement Act to revise and extend the Act.

S. 1299

At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1299, a bill to establish on behalf of consumers a fiduciary duty and other standards of care for mortgage brokers and originators, and to establish standards to assess a consumer's ability to repay, and for other purposes.

S. 1587

At the request of Ms. SNOWE, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mrs. DOLE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1587, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code to allow a special depreciation allowance for reuse and recycling property and to provide for tax-exempt financing of recycling equipment, and for other purposes.

S. 1731

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Mr. ENSIGN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1731, a bill to provide for the continuing review of unauthorized Federal programs and agencies and to establish a bipartisan commission for the purposes of improving oversight and eliminating wasteful Government spending.

S. 1858

At the request of Mr. DODD, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1858, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to establish grant programs to provide for education and outreach on newborn screening and coordinated follow-up care once newborn screening has been conducted, to reau-

thorize programs under part A of title XI of such Act, and for other purposes.

S. 1871

At the request of Ms. SNOWE, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. SMITH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1871, a bill to provide for special transfers of funds to States to promote certain improvements in State unemployment compensation laws.

S. 1921

At the request of Mr. WEBB, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1921, a bill to amend the American Battlefield Protection Act of 1996 to extend the authorization for that Act, and for other purposes.

S. 1963

At the request of Mr. CRAPO, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. MARTINEZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1963, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow bonds guaranteed by the Federal home loan banks to be treated as tax exempt bonds.

S. 2062

At the request of Mr. DORGAN, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2062, a bill to amend the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996 to reauthorize that Act, and for other purposes.

S. 2119

At the request of Mr. JOHNSON, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mrs. HUTCHISON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2119, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of veterans who became disabled for life while serving in the Armed Forces of the United States.

S. 2125

At the request of Mr. KOHL, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2125, a bill to improve public awareness in the United States among older individuals and their families and caregivers about the impending Digital Television Transition through the establishment of a Federal interagency task force between the Federal Communications Commission, the Administration on Aging, the National Telecommunications and Information Administration, and the outside advice of appropriate members of the aging network and industry groups.

S. 2136

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2136, a bill to address the treatment of primary mortgages in bankruptcy, and for other purposes.

S. 2159

At the request of Mrs. HUTCHISON, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2159, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the 50th

anniversary of the establishment of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

S. 2172

At the request of Mr. MCCAIN, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2172, a bill to impose sanctions on officials of the State Peace and Development Council in Burma, to prohibit the importation of gems and hardwoods from Burma, to support democracy in Burma, and for other purposes.

S.J. RES. 22

At the request of Mr. BAUCUS, the name of the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. HAGEL) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 22, a joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services within the Department of Health and Human Services relating to Medicare coverage for the use of erythropoiesis stimulating agents in cancer and related neoplastic conditions.

S. RES. 356

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the names of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. AKAKA), the Senator from New York (Mrs. CLINTON) and the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. DODD) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 356, a resolution affirming that any offensive military action taken against Iran must be explicitly approved by Congress before such action may be initiated.

S. RES. 357

At the request of Mr. BIDEN, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BAYH) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 357, a bill designating the week of November 11 through November 17, 2007, as "National Veterans Awareness Week" to emphasize the need to develop educational programs regarding the contributions of veterans to the country.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. BIDEN (for himself, Mr. McCONNELL, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. DODD, Mr. LEAHY, and Mrs. FEINSTEIN):

S. 2257. A bill to impose sanctions on officials of the State Peace and Development Council in Burma, to amend the Burmese Freedom and Democracy Act of 2003 to prohibit the importation of gemstones and hardwoods from Burma, to promote a coordinated international effort to restore civilian democratic rule to Burma, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

Mr. BIDEN. Mr. President, today, I rise to introduce a bipartisan bill to promote the restoration of civilian, democratic rule to the troubled state of Burma. The goal of the Burma Democracy Promotion Act is to help create the right conditions for the peaceful, negotiated transfer of power from

the generals who have ruled Burma for almost 2 decades to a newly-constituted civilian, democratic government.

In order to do this, we need to bring pressure to bear on the Burmese generals directly responsible for the bloody crackdown on peaceful protestors last month. This bill imposes new financial sanctions and travel restrictions on the leaders of the junta and their associates and tightens the economic sanctions imposed by the Congress in 2003 by outlawing the importation of Burmese gems and timber to the U.S. Carefully targeted sanctions can support our diplomacy. In this case, the sanctions are designed to provide leverage on the generals, who seem largely indifferent to the suffering of ordinary people. Until now, the generals have managed largely to avoid the bite of existing economic sanctions, enjoying their shopping trips abroad and stashing their riches outside of Burma. We hope to change that.

But unilateral pressure alone will not get the job done. We need a diplomatic offensive. Importantly, this bill creates a new position of Special Representative and Policy Coordinator for Burma. The Special Representative will work with Burma's neighbors and other interested countries, including the members of the EU and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, to develop a comprehensive approach to the problem, including sanctions, dialogue, and support for non-governmental organizations providing humanitarian relief to the Burmese people. We need China, India, and Thailand, among others, to join with us to convince the generals that it is time for change.

While we work for a negotiated solution to the current crisis, we must not forget the Burmese people. This bill authorizes new assistance for the hundreds of thousands of Burmese who have been forced from their homes and are now refugees or who continue to suffer inside the country because of the mismanagement and brutality of the military regime.

It is time for Burma to begin a new day in which all of the people, including Burma's many minority groups, work together to rebuild what nearly 20 years of disastrous military rule have destroyed. With the support of the international community, a new government can build a more prosperous and democratic state, one that is at peace with its neighbors and that respects the human rights of all of its people. The Burmese Army should be, and can be, a part of this new Burma. The sanctions called for in this measure will be lifted provided only that the generals release all of their political prisoners, engage in a substantive dialogue with the advocates of democracy in Burma, and afford non-governmental organizations access to address the humanitarian needs of the Burmese people. These are reasonable, modest, objectives, and if met, would brighten the prospects for Burma's future.

Mr. President, others in this body have a long record of leadership on Burma policy, including the Minority Leader, Senator MCCONNELL, who I am proud to have as a cosponsor on this bill, and Senator McCAIN. This bill was drafted in consultation with the staff of Senator McCAIN, and includes some portions of a bill he introduced earlier this month. I want to thank Senator McCAIN for his initiative and commend him for his strong voice on this issue. I have also relied on the wisdom of my old friend Congressman LANTOS, who has already introduced legislation on Burma in the House. Finally, I want to thank the Senator from California, Senator BOXER, for cosponsoring this legislation and for chairing an important Senate Foreign Relations Committee hearing on Burma that helped to shape this bill.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the Record, as follows:

S. 2257

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Burma Democracy Promotion Act of 2007".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress makes the following findings:

(1) Beginning on August 19, 2007, hundreds of thousands of citizens of Burma, including thousands of Buddhist monks and students, participated in peaceful demonstrations against rapidly deteriorating living conditions and the violent and repressive policies of the State Peace and Development Council, the ruling military regime in Burma—

(A) to demand the release of all political prisoners, including 1991 Nobel Peace Prize winner Aung San Suu Kyi; and

(B) to urge the SPDC to engage in meaningful dialogue to pursue national reconciliation.

(2) The SPDC violently confronted unarmed demonstrators, killing, injuring, and imprisoning citizens, including several thousand Buddhist monks, and continues to forcefully restrict peaceful forms of public expression.

(3) The Department of State's 2006 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices found that the SPDC—

(A) routinely restricts freedoms of speech, press, assembly, association, religion, and movement;

(B) traffics in persons;

(C) discriminates against women and ethnic minorities;

(D) forcibly recruits child soldiers and child labor; and

(E) commits other serious violations of human rights, including extrajudicial killings, custodial deaths, disappearances, rape, torture, abuse of prisoners and detainees, and the imprisonment of citizens arbitrarily for political motives.

(4) Aung San Suu Kyi has been arbitrarily imprisoned or held under house arrest for more than 12 years.

(5) On September 25, 2007, President Bush announced that the United States would—

(A) tighten economic sanctions against Burma, and block property and interests in property of—

(i) certain senior leaders of the SPDC;

(ii) individuals who provide financial backing for the SPDC; and

(iii) individuals responsible for violations of human rights and for impeding the transition to democracy in Burma; and

(B) impose an expanded visa ban on individuals—

(i) responsible for violations of human rights; and

(ii) who aid, abet, or benefit from the efforts of the SPDC to impede the efforts of the people of Burma to transition to democracy and ensure respect for human dignity.

(6) The Burmese regime and its supporters finance their ongoing violations of human rights, undemocratic policies, and military activities through financial transactions, travel, and trade involving the United States, including the sale of gemstones and hardwoods.

(7) The SPDC seeks to evade the sanctions imposed in the Burmese Freedom and Democracy Act of 2003. Millions of dollars in gemstones that are exported from Burma ultimately enter the United States, but the Burmese regime attempts to conceal the origin of the gemstones in an effort to evade sanctions. For example, over 90 percent of the world's ruby supply originates in Burma but only 3 percent of the rubies entering the United States are claimed to be of Burmese origin. The value of Burmese gemstones is predominantly based on their original quality and geological origin, rather than the labor involved in cutting and polishing the gemstones.

(8) Burma is home to approximately 60 percent of the world's native teak reserves. More than ¼ of the world's internationally traded teak originates from Burma, and hardwood sales, mainly of teak, represent more than 11 percent of Burma's official foreign exchange earnings.

(9) Burma officially exports tens of millions of dollars worth of rubies, sapphires, pearls, jade, and other precious stones each year and the SPDC owns a majority stake in all mining operations within the borders of Burma.

(10) On October 11, 2007, the United Nations Security Council, with the consent of the People's Republic of China, issued a statement condemning the violence in Burma, urging the release of all political prisoners, and calling on the SPDC to enter into a United Nations-mediated dialogue with its political opposition.

(11) The United Nations special envoy Ibrahim Gambari traveled to Burma from September 29, 2007 through October 2, 2007, holding meetings with SPDC leader General Than Shwe and democracy advocate Aung San Suu Kyi in an effort to promote dialogue between the SPDC and democracy advocates.

(12) The leaders of the SPDC will have a greater incentive to cooperate with diplomatic efforts by the United Nations, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, and the People's Republic of China if they come under targeted economic pressure that denies them access to personal wealth and sources of revenue.

SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) ACCOUNT; CORRESPONDENT ACCOUNT; PAYABLE-THROUGH ACCOUNT.—The terms "account", "correspondent account", and "payable-through account" have the meanings given the terms in section 5318A(e)(1) of title 31, United States Code.

(2) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—The term "appropriate congressional committees" means the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives.

(3) ASEAN.—The term "ASEAN" means the Association of Southeast Asian Nations.

(4) PERSON.—The term “person” means—

(A) an individual, corporation, company, business association, partnership, society, trust, any other nongovernmental entity, organization, or group; and

(B) any successor, subunit, or subsidiary of any person described in subparagraph (A).

(5) SPDC.—The term “SPDC” means the State Peace and Development Council, the ruling military regime in Burma.

(6) UNITED STATES PERSON.—The term “United States person” means—

(A) an individual who is a citizen of the United States or who owes permanent allegiance to the United States; and

(B) a person that is organized under the laws of the United States, any State or territory thereof, or the District of Columbia, if individuals described in subparagraph (A) own, directly or indirectly, more than 50 percent of the outstanding capital stock or other beneficial interest in such entity.

SEC. 4. STATEMENT OF POLICY.

It is the policy of the United States to—

(1) condemn the continued repression carried out by the SPDC;

(2) work with the international community, especially the People’s Republic of China, India, Thailand, and ASEAN, to foster support for the legitimate democratic aspirations of the people of Burma and to coordinate efforts to impose sanctions on those directly responsible for human rights abuses in Burma;

(3) provide all appropriate support and assistance to aid a peaceful transition to constitutional democracy in Burma;

(4) support international efforts to alleviate the suffering of Burmese refugees and address the urgent humanitarian needs of the Burmese people; and

(5) identify individuals responsible for the repression of peaceful political activity in Burma and hold them accountable for their actions.

SEC. 5. SANCTIONS.

(a) LIST OF OFFICIALS OF THE SPDC.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the President shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a list of—

(A) officials of the SPDC who have played a direct and substantial role in the repression of peaceful political activity in Burma or in the commission of other human rights abuses, including any current or former officials of the security services and judicial institutions of the SPDC; and

(B) any other Burmese persons who provide substantial economic and political support for the SPDC.

(2) UPDATES.—The President shall regularly submit updated versions of the list required under paragraph (1).

(b) SANCTIONS.—

(1) VISA BAN.—A person included on the list required under subsection (a) shall be ineligible for a visa to enter the United States.

(2) WAIVER.—The ban described in subparagraph (1) may be waived only if the President submits written certification to Congress that such waiver is in the national interests of the United States.

(3) FINANCIAL SANCTIONS.—

(A) BLOCKED PROPERTY.—No property or interest in property belonging to a person described in subparagraph (C) may be transferred, paid, exported, withdrawn, or otherwise dealt with if—

(i) the property is located in the United States or within the possession or control of a United States person, including the overseas branch of a United States person; or

(ii) the property comes into the possession or control of a United States person after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(B) FINANCIAL TRANSACTIONS.—No United States person may engage in a financial

transaction with the SPDC or with a person described in subparagraph (C).

(C) PERSON DESCRIBED.—A person is described in this subparagraph if the person is—

(i) an official of the SPDC;

(ii) included on the list required under subsection (a); or

(iii) an immediate family member of a person included on the list required under subsection (a), if the President determines that the person included on the list—

(I) effectively controls the property, for purposes of subparagraph (A); or

(II) would benefit from a financial transaction, for purposes of subparagraph (B).

(c) AUTHORITY FOR ADDITIONAL BANKING SANCTIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the Treasury, in consultation with the Secretary of State, the Attorney General of the United States, and the Chairman of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, may prohibit or impose conditions on the opening or maintaining in the United States of a correspondent account or payable-through account by any financial institution (as that term is defined in section 5312 of title 31, United States Code) or financial agency that is organized under the laws of a State, territory, or possession of the United States, for or on behalf of a foreign banking institution, if the Secretary determines that the account might be used—

(A) by a foreign banking institution that holds property or an interest in property belonging to a person on the list required under subsection (a); or

(B) to conduct a transaction on behalf of a person on the list required under subsection (a).

(2) AUTHORITY TO DEFINE TERMS.—The Secretary of the Treasury may, by regulation, further define the terms used in paragraph (1) for purposes of this section, as the Secretary considers appropriate.

(d) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section may be construed to prohibit any contract or other financial transaction with any nongovernmental humanitarian organization in Burma.

(e) EXCEPTIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The prohibitions and restrictions described in subsections (b) and (c) shall not apply to medicine, medical equipment or supplies, food, or any other form of humanitarian assistance provided to Burma as relief in response to a humanitarian crisis.

(2) ADDITIONAL EXCEPTIONS.—The Secretary of the Treasury may, by regulation, authorize exceptions to the prohibitions and restrictions described in subsection (b) and (c)—

(A) to permit the United States to operate its diplomatic mission;

(B) to permit United States citizens to visit Burma; and

(C) for such other purposes as the Secretary determines to be necessary.

(f) PENALTIES.—Any person who violates any prohibition or restriction described in subsection (b) or (c) shall be subject to the penalties under section 6 of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1705) to the same extent as for a violation under that Act.

(g) TERMINATION OF SANCTIONS.—The sanctions imposed under subsection (b) or (c) shall apply until the President determines and certifies to the appropriate congressional committees that the SPDC has—

(1) unconditionally released all political prisoners, including Aung San Suu Kyi and other members of the National League for Democracy;

(2) entered into a substantive dialogue with democratic forces led by the National

League for Democracy and the ethnic minorities of Burma on transitioning to democratic government under the rule of law; and

(3) allowed humanitarian access to populations affected by armed conflict in all regions of Burma.

(h) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary to carry out this section.

SEC. 6. PROHIBITION ON IMPORTATION OF BURMESE GEMS, HARDWOODS, AND OTHER ITEMS.

Section 3(a)(1) of the Burmese Freedom and Democracy Act of 2003 (50 U.S.C. 1701 note) is amended by striking “a product of Burma.” and inserting “produced, mined, manufactured, grown, or assembled in Burma, including—

“(A) any gemstone or rough unfinished geological material mined or extracted from Burma, whether imported as a loose item or as a component of a finished piece of jewelry; and

“(B) any teak or other hardwood timber, regardless of the country in which such hardwood timber is milled, sawn, or otherwise processed, whether imported in unprocessed form or as a part or component of finished furniture or another wood item.”

SEC. 7. SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE AND POLICY COORDINATOR FOR BURMA.

(a) UNITED STATES SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE AND POLICY COORDINATOR FOR BURMA.—The President shall appoint a Special Representative and Policy Coordinator for Burma, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate.

(b) RANK.—The Special Representative and Policy Coordinator for Burma appointed under subsection (a) shall have the rank of ambassador and shall hold the office at the pleasure of the President.

(c) DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES.—The Special Representative and Policy Coordinator for Burma shall—

(1) promote a comprehensive international effort, including multilateral sanctions, direct dialogue with the SPDC and democracy advocates, and support for nongovernmental organizations operating in Burma and neighboring countries, designed to restore civilian democratic rule to Burma and address the urgent humanitarian needs of the Burmese people;

(2) consult broadly, including with the Governments of the People’s Republic of China, India, Thailand, and Japan, and the members of ASEAN and the European Union to coordinate policies toward Burma;

(3) assist efforts by the United Nations Special Envoy to secure the release of all political prisoners in Burma and to promote dialogue between the SPDC and leaders of Burma’s democracy movement, including Aung San Suu Kyi;

(4) consult with Congress on policies relevant to Burma and the future and welfare of all the Burmese people, including refugees; and

(5) coordinate the imposition of Burma sanctions within the United States Government and with the relevant international financial institutions.

SEC. 8. SENSE OF CONGRESS ON COORDINATION WITH THE ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHEAST ASIAN NATIONS.

It is the sense of Congress that the United States—

(1) joins the foreign ministers of member nations of ASEAN that have expressed concern over the human rights situation in Burma;

(2) encourages ASEAN to take more substantial steps to ensure a peaceful transition to democracy in Burma;

(3) welcomes steps by ASEAN to strengthen its internal governance through the adoption of a formal ASEAN charter;

(4) urges ASEAN to ensure that all members live up to their membership obligations and adhere to the core principles of ASEAN, including respect for, and commitment to, human rights; and

(5) would welcome a decision by ASEAN, consistent with its core documents and its new charter, to review Burma's membership in ASEAN and consider appropriate disciplinary measures, including suspension, until such time as the Government of Burma has demonstrated an improved respect for, and commitment to, human rights.

SEC. 9. SUPPORT FOR CONSTITUTIONAL DEMOCRACY IN BURMA.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The President is authorized to assist Burmese democracy activists who are dedicated to nonviolent opposition to the SPDC in their efforts to promote freedom, democracy, and human rights in Burma.

(b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated \$10,000,000 to the Secretary of State for each of the fiscal years 2008 and 2009 to—

(1) provide aid to democracy activists in Burma;

(2) provide aid to individuals and groups conducting democracy programming outside of Burma targeted at a peaceful transition to constitutional democracy inside Burma; and

(3) expand radio and television broadcasting into Burma.

SEC. 10. SUPPORT FOR NONGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS ADDRESSING THE HUMANITARIAN NEEDS OF THE BURMESE PEOPLE.

(a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that the international community should increase support for nongovernmental organizations attempting to meet the urgent humanitarian needs of the Burmese people.

(b) LICENSES FOR HUMANITARIAN OR RELIGIOUS ACTIVITIES IN BURMA.—Section 5 of the Burmese Freedom and Democracy Act of 2003 (50 U.S.C. 1701) is amended—

(1) by inserting “(a) OPPOSITION TO ASSISTANCE TO BURMA” before “The Secretary”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(b) LICENSES FOR HUMANITARIAN OR RELIGIOUS ACTIVITIES IN BURMA.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary of the Treasury is authorized to issue multi-year licenses for humanitarian or religious activities in Burma. Licenses issued pursuant to this section shall be subject to annual review.”.

(c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated \$20,000,000 to the Secretary of State for each of the fiscal years 2008 and 2009 to support operations by nongovernmental organizations designed to address the humanitarian needs of the Burmese people inside Burma and in refugee camps in neighboring countries.

SEC. 11. REPORT ON MILITARY AID TO BURMA.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State shall submit a report to the appropriate congressional committees that—

(1) contains a list of countries that provide military aid to Burma; and

(2) describes the military aid provided by each of the countries described in paragraph (1).

(b) MILITARY AID DEFINED.—In this section, the term “military aid” includes—

(1) the provision of weapons, military vehicles, and military aircraft;

(2) the provision of military training; and

(3) conducting joint military exercises.

(c) FORM.—The report required under subsection (a) shall be submitted in unclassified form and may include a classified annex.

SEC. 12. SENSE OF CONGRESS ON INTERNATIONAL ARMS SALES TO BURMA.

It is the sense of Congress that the United States should lead efforts in the United Nations Security Council to impose a mandatory international arms embargo on Burma, curtailing all sales of weapons, ammunition, military vehicles, and military aircraft to Burma until the SPDC releases all political prisoners, restores constitutional rule, and holds free and fair elections to establish a new government.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 358—EXPRESSING THE IMPORTANCE OF FRIENDSHIP AND COOPERATION BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND TURKEY

Mr. SMITH (for himself and Mr. BYRD) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 358

Whereas the United States and Turkey share common ideals and a clear vision for the 21st century, in which freedom and democracy are the foundation of peace, prosperity, and security;

Whereas Turkey is a strong example of a predominantly Muslim country with a true representative democratic government;

Whereas for more than 50 years a strategic partnership has existed between the United States and Turkey, both bilaterally and through the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, which has been of enormous political, economic, cultural, and strategic benefit to both countries;

Whereas the Government of Turkey has demonstrated its opposition to terrorism throughout the world, and has called for the international community to unite against this threat;

Whereas Turkey maintains an important bilateral relationship with Israel and seeks to play a constructive role in Middle East peace negotiations;

Whereas Operation Enduring Freedom entered its 6th year on October 7th, 2007;

Whereas Turkey commanded the International Security Assistance Force in Afghanistan twice, from July 2002 to January 2003, and from February 2005 to August 2005;

Whereas Turkey has provided humanitarian and medical assistance in Afghanistan and in Iraq;

Whereas the Government of Turkey has made its base in Incirlik available for United States missions in Iraq and Afghanistan;

Whereas Secretary of Defense Robert Gates credits United States air bases in Turkey with handling 70 percent of all air cargo deployed into Iraq;

Whereas 95 percent of the Mine-Resistant Ambush-Protective vehicles (MRAPs) deployed into Iraq transit through air bases in Turkey;

Whereas MRAPs protect coalition forces from improvised explosive devices and roadside bombs;

Whereas the people of Turkey have been victims of terrorist attacks by Al-Qaeda on November 15, 2003, and November 20, 2003;

Whereas the United States supports Turkey's bid for membership in the European Union; and

Whereas the Secretary of State has listed the Kurdistan Workers' Party, which has taken up arms against Turkey since its founding, as a Foreign Terrorist Organization in accordance with section 219 of the

Immigration and Nationality Act, as amended: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) reiterates its strong support for the strategic alliance between the United States and Turkey;

(2) urges Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan of Turkey to communicate the continuing support of the Senate and of the people of the United States to the people of Turkey;

(3) condemns the violent attacks conducted by the Kurdistan Workers' Party over the last 2 decades;

(4) urges Kurdish leaders in Iraq to deny safe harbor for terrorists and to recognize bilateral agreements between Iraq and Turkey for cooperation against terrorism;

(5) encourages the Government of Turkey and the Government of Iraq to continue to work together to end the threat of terrorism;

(6) thanks Prime Minister Erdogan and the people and Government of Turkey for—

(A) assuming command of the International Security Assistance Force in Kabul, Afghanistan from July 2002 to January 2003, and from February 2005 to August 2005;

(B) providing humanitarian and medical assistance in Afghanistan and in Iraq;

(C) their willingness to contribute to international peace, stability, and prosperity, especially in the greater Middle East region; and

(D) their continued discussions with officials in the United States and Iraq regarding constructive stabilization efforts in northern Iraq.

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, today marks the 84th anniversary of the founding of the Republic of Turkey. It is an auspicious occasion to commemorate the abiding and enduring partnership between two great nations.

In 1923, following the collapse of the 600-year-old Ottoman Empire and a 3-year war of independence, a Turkish World War I hero, Mustafa Kemal, helped found the Republic of Turkey. Kemal, who was later given the name Ataturk, meaning “father of the Turks,” rejected the crumbling structures and outdated modes of empire and embraced instead a platform of reform and modernization, a legacy that continues in Turkey to this day and to this hour.

Today Turkey is the most successful example in the Muslim world of a secular representative democracy. Turkey's economy has grown at a record pace in recent years to become the world's 19th largest. Literacy and education rates continue to climb, as life expectancy has improved and poverty rates have declined. Turkey stands as an inspiration to reformers in the greater Middle East and throughout the world.

Turkey has been a consistent and loyal ally of the people of the United States. From World War II, when Turkey entered the fight on the side of the allies, to the cementing of the United States-Turkish alliance in the 1947 Truman doctrine to Turkey's accession to the North American Treaty Organization in 1952, Turkey has been a friend of the American people.

During the long Cold War, Turkey was a bulwark on the edge of the Iron Curtain, and it was a critical ally. Turkey later helped the United States to