

We appreciate Ukraine's substantial contributions to our common security, including through participation in NATO-led operations and efforts to promote regional cooperation. We encourage Ukraine to continue to contribute to regional security. We are determined to continue to assist, through practical cooperation, in the implementation of far-reaching reform efforts, notably in the fields of national security, defence, reform of the defence-industrial sector and fighting corruption. We welcome the commencement of an Intensified Dialogue with Georgia as well as Georgia's contribution to international peacekeeping and security operations. We will continue to engage actively with Georgia in support of its reform process. We encourage Georgia to continue progress on political, economic and military reforms, including strengthening judicial reform, as well as the peaceful resolution of outstanding conflicts on its territory. We reaffirm that it is of great importance that all parties in the region should engage constructively to promote regional peace and stability.”

(22) Contingent upon their continued implementation of democratic, defense, and economic reform, and their willingness and ability to meet the responsibilities of membership in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and a clear expression of national intent to do so, Congress calls for the timely admission of Albania, Croatia, Georgia, Macedonia (FYROM), and Ukraine to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization to promote security and stability in Europe.

SEC. 3. DECLARATIONS OF POLICY.

Congress—

(1) reaffirms its previous expressions of support for continued enlargement of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization contained in the NATO Participation Act of 1994, the NATO Enlargement Facilitation Act of 1996, the European Security Act of 1998, and the Gerald B. H. Solomon Freedom Consolidation Act of 2002;

(2) supports the commitment to further enlargement of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization to include European democracies that are able and willing to meet the responsibilities of Membership, as expressed by the Alliance in its Madrid Summit Declaration of 1997, its Washington Summit Communiqué of 1999, its Prague Summit Declaration of 2002, its Istanbul Summit Communiqué of 2004, and its Riga Summit Declaration of 2006; and

(3) endorses the vision of further enlargement of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization articulated by President George W. Bush on June 15, 2001, and by former President William J. Clinton on October 22, 1996, and urges our allies in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization to work with the United States to realize a role for the North Atlantic Treaty Organization in promoting global security, including continued support for enlargement to include qualified candidate states, specifically by entering into a Membership Action Plan with Georgia and recognizing the progress toward meeting the responsibilities and obligations of NATO membership by Albania, Croatia, Georgia, Macedonia (FYROM), and Ukraine.

SEC. 4. DESIGNATION OF ALBANIA, CROATIA, GEORGIA, MACEDONIA (FYROM), AND UKRAINE AS ELIGIBLE TO RECEIVE ASSISTANCE UNDER THE NATO PARTICIPATION ACT OF 1994.

(a) DESIGNATION.—

(1) ALBANIA.—The Republic of Albania is designated as eligible to receive assistance under the program established under section 203(a) of the NATO Participation Act of 1994 (title II of Public Law 103-447; 22 U.S.C. 1928 note), and shall be deemed to have been so

designated pursuant to section 203(d)(1) of such Act.

(2) CROATIA.—The Republic of Croatia is designated as eligible to receive assistance under the program established under section 203(a) of the NATO Participation Act of 1994, and shall be deemed to have been so designated pursuant to section 203(d)(1) of such Act.

(3) GEORGIA.—Georgia is designated as eligible to receive assistance under the program established under section 203(a) of the NATO Participation Act of 1994, and shall be deemed to have been so designated pursuant to section 203(d)(1) of such Act.

(4) MACEDONIA (FYROM).—The Republic of Macedonia (FYROM) is designated as eligible to receive assistance under the program established under section 203(a) of the NATO Participation Act of 1994, and shall be deemed to have been so designated pursuant to section 203(d)(1) of such Act.

(5) UKRAINE.—Ukraine is designated as eligible to receive assistance under the program established under section 203(a) of the NATO Participation Act of 1994, and shall be deemed to have been so designated pursuant to section 203(d)(1) of such Act.

(b) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—The designation of the Republic of Albania, the Republic of Croatia, Georgia, the Republic of Macedonia (FYROM), and Ukraine pursuant to subsection (a) as eligible to receive assistance under the program established under section 203(a) of the NATO Participation Act of 1994—

(1) is in addition to the designation of Poland, Hungary, the Czech Republic, and Slovenia pursuant to section 606 of the NATO Enlargement Facilitation Act of 1996 (title VI of section 101(c) of title I of division A of Public Law 104-208; 22 U.S.C. 1928 note), the designation of Romania, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, and Bulgaria pursuant to section 2703(b) of the European Security Act of 1998 (title XXVII of division G of Public Law 105-277; 22 U.S.C. 1928 note), and the designation of Slovakia pursuant to section 4(a) of the Gerald B. H. Solomon Freedom Consolidation Act of 2002 (Public Law 107-187; 22 U.S.C. 1928 note) as eligible to receive assistance under the program established under section 203(a) of the NATO Participation Act of 1994; and

(2) shall not preclude the designation by the President of other countries pursuant to section 203(d)(2) of the NATO Participation Act of 1994 as eligible to receive assistance under the program established under section 203(a) of such Act.

SEC. 5. AUTHORIZATION OF SECURITY ASSISTANCE FOR COUNTRIES DESIGNATED UNDER THE NATO PARTICIPATION ACT OF 1994.

Of the amounts made available for fiscal year 2008 under section 23 of the Arms Export Control Act (22 U.S.C. 2763) such sums as may be necessary are authorized to be appropriated for assistance to the Republic of Albania, the Republic of Croatia, Georgia, the Republic of Macedonia (FYROM), and Ukraine.

PROVIDING THAT THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE INTER-AMERICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK OR THE ALTERNATE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE INTER-AMERICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK MAY SERVE ON THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE INTER-AMERICAN FOUNDATION

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent we now proceed to Calendar No. 75, S. 676.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 676) to provide that the Executive Director of the Inter-American Development Bank or the Alternate Executive Director of the Inter-American Development Bank may serve on the Board of Directors of the Inter-American Foundation.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent the bill be read three times and passed, the motion to reconsider be laid on the table, and any statements be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (S. 676) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed, as follows:

S. 676

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

SECTION 1. AUTHORITY TO APPOINT EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OR ALTERNATE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE INTER-AMERICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE INTER-AMERICAN FOUNDATION.

The third sentence of section 401(g) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1969 (22 U.S.C. 290f(g)) is amended to read as follows: “Three members of the Board shall be appointed from among the following: officers or employees of agencies of the United States concerned with inter-American affairs, the United States Executive Director of the Inter-American Development Bank, or the Alternate Executive Director of the Inter-American Development Bank.”

CALLING ON THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED KINGDOM TO IMMEDIATELY ESTABLISH A FULL, INDEPENDENT, AND PUBLIC JUDICIAL INQUIRY INTO THE MURDER OF NORTHERN IRELAND DEFENSE ATTORNEY PATRICK FINUCANE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I now ask unanimous consent that the Foreign Relations Committee be discharged and the Senate then proceed to consideration of H. Con. Res. 20.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered. The clerk will report the concurrent resolution by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 20) calling on the Government of the United Kingdom to immediately establish a full, independent, and public judicial inquiry into the murder of Northern Ireland defense attorney Patrick Finucane, as recommended by Judge Peter Cory as part of the Weston Park Agreement, in order to move forward on the Northern Ireland peace process.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the joint resolution.

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent the concurrent resolution be agreed to, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, the amendment to the preamble which is at the desk be considered and agreed to, the preamble as

amended be agreed to, and any statements be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment (No. 463) was agreed to, as follows:

In the ninth whereas clause of the preamble, strike "Dial" and insert "Dail".

The concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 20) was agreed to.

The preamble, as amended, was agreed to.

AUTHORIZING BUDGET COMMITTEE REPORTING

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that on Friday, March 16, notwithstanding an adjournment of the Senate, the Senate Budget Committee be permitted to report the concurrent budget resolution during the hours of 10 a.m. to 12 noon.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ORDERS FOR MONDAY, MARCH 19, 2007

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand adjourned until 2 p.m., Monday, March 19; that on Monday, following the prayer and the pledge, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the morning hour be deemed expired, and the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day; that the Senate then proceed to S. 214 as provided for under a previous order.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PROGRAM

Mr. REID. Mr. President, this week has been a week full of a lot of work, a lot of surprises but a lot of results. We finished the 9/11 bill, which is something the Senate should feel very good about. We did that on a bipartisan basis with the leadership of Senator LIEBERMAN and Senator COLLINS.

Today we completed a 2-day debate on Iraq. It was a good, civil debate. Both the majority and minority issued their statements. I thought they did them well. We were able to have some votes. I think it was something that brought dignity to the Senate.

We had three judicial nominations approved—two district court judges, one circuit court judge. We are doing our level best to not have any problems with judicial nominations. The President is doing his share of helping us with this by sending us some good people. We have had agreement on the U.S. attorney bill that has been done with bipartisan support. This is set up for

debate starting Monday. We will complete that on Tuesday morning.

Then, finally, again, using the Lieberman-Collins example, the chairman and ranking member of the Budget Committee, Senator CONRAD and Senator Judd Gregg, did a wonderful job. There is not a more contentious issue that comes before this body than the budget. All 100 Members believe they can do a better job than either Judd Gregg or Kent Conrad can do, but they have the responsibility of coming up with the budget. They worked together for a number of years. They are friends and they set a good example. This matter was completed by 3:30 this afternoon.

Next week is going to be a tough week. There will be a lot of amendments offered, and we look forward to that. But we have a statutory way of proceeding through this. Whoever drew the statute probably had too much to drink the night before. But at least that is the statute we have. It is 50 hours, and unlimited amendments can be offered. But at least we know what we are up against next week because we have done it many times.

In short, this closely divided Senate, at this stage during the final weeks of Senator JOHNSON's incapacitation, is 50 to 49. He will be back with us soon. But even then, it is 51 to 49. It is a very closely divided Senate, and we are getting work done recognizing that there can be no bullies in the Senate, that we have to work together to get things done.

I think we have accomplished a lot this week. All 100 Senators deserve a pat on the back.

If there is no further business to come before the Senate today, I would like to thank the Republican leader to see if he has comments before we adjourn.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The minority leader is recognized.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I would only add my own sentiment with regard to next week. It will be a challenging week; budget week always is. For those who are interested in offering amendments, obviously the earlier in the week, the better.

The majority leader and I have talked about the challenges associated with the so-called vote-arama that occurs at the end of the budget debate every year, which is frustrating to both sides. Some have thought it mutually assured destruction in terms of morale. The only way to have any real impact on that obviously is for Members to offer their amendments earlier in the week, hopefully to be allowed votes earlier in the week, thereby minimizing the multiplicity of votes that frequently occur—in fact, always occur—at the end of a budget resolution when the time expires.

We look forward to a challenging week and will see all of our Members next week.

Mr. REID. I say to my friend, being the great fan of basketball that he is, I thought he would note that Louisville won the first game today.

Mr. McCONNELL. I appreciate the majority leader noting that Louisville won the game today. I might say to my good friend, it is on the DVR, and I expect to watch it at home tonight. I note that UNLV and URI will play tomorrow.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL MONDAY, MARCH 19, 2007, AT 2 P.M.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate today, if the Republican leader has nothing further—I understand that is the case—I now ask unanimous consent that the Senate stand adjourned under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 6:31 p.m., adjourned until Monday, March 19, 2007, at 2:00 p.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate March 15, 2007:

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

DELL L. DAILEY, OF SOUTH DAKOTA, TO BE COORDINATOR FOR COUNTERTERRORISM, WITH THE RANK AND STATUS OF AMBASSADOR AT LARGE, VICE HENRY CRUMPTON.

MARK P. LAGON, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE TO MONITOR AND COMBAT TRAFFICKING, WITH THE RANK OF AMBASSADOR AT LARGE, VICE JOHN RIPIN MILLER, RESIGNED.

HENRY BONILLA, OF TEXAS, TO BE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES, WITH THE RANK OF AMBASSADOR, VICE JOHN F. MAISTO, RESIGNED.

WILLIAM R. BROWNFIELD, OF TEXAS, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF COLOMBIA.

PHILLIP CARTER, III, OF VIRGINIA, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF GUINEA.

HANS G. KLEMM, OF MICHIGAN, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF TIMOR-LESTE.

NATIONAL FOUNDATION ON THE ARTS AND THE HUMANITIES

STEPHEN W. PORTER, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL ON THE ARTS FOR A TERM EXPIRING SEPTEMBER 3, 2012, VICE DAVID GELERNTER, TERM EXPIRED.

CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate Thursday, March 15, 2007:

THE JUDICIARY

JOHN PRESTON BAILEY, OF WEST VIRGINIA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF WEST VIRGINIA.

OTIS D. WRIGHT II, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA.

THOMAS M. HARDIMAN, OF PENNSYLVANIA, TO BE UNITED STATES CIRCUIT JUDGE FOR THE THIRD CIRCUIT.