

On page 6, line 10, insert “United Nations” after “advance”.

On page 6, line 11, insert “and northern Central African Republic” after “Chad”.

On page 6, line 13, strike “(8)” and insert “(9)”.

On page 6, line 15, insert “and northern Central African Republic” after “Chad”.

On page 7, line 24, strike “(9)” and insert “(10)”.

SA 841. Mr. HARKIN (for Mr. LUGAR) proposed an amendment to the resolution S. Res. 76, calling on the United States Government and the international community to promptly develop, fund, and implement a comprehensive regional strategy in Africa to protect civilians, facilitate humanitarian operations, contain and reduce violence, and contribute to conditions for sustainable peace in eastern Chad, northern Central African Republic, and Darfur, Sudan; as follows:

Amend the title so as to read: “Calling on the United States Government and the international community to promptly develop, fund, and implement a comprehensive regional strategy in Africa to protect civilians, facilitate humanitarian operations, contain and reduce violence, and contribute to conditions for sustainable peace in eastern Chad, northern Central African Republic, and Darfur, Sudan.”

NOTICES OF HEARINGS/MEETINGS

SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL PARKS

Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, I would like to announce for the information of the Senate and the public that a hearing has been scheduled before the Subcommittee on National Parks.

The hearing will be held on April 26, 2007, at 2:30 p.m. in room SD-366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

The purpose of the hearing is to receive testimony on the following bills: S. 169, to amend the National Trails System Act to clarify Federal authority relating to land acquisition from willing sellers for the majority of the trails in the System; S. 312/H.R. 497, to authorize the Marion Park Project and Committee of the Palmetto Conservation Foundation to establish a commemorative work on Federal land in the District of Columbia and its environs to honor Brigadier General Francis Marion; S. 580, to amend the National Trails System Act to require the Secretary of the Interior to update the feasibility and suitability studies of four national historic trails; S. 686, to amend the National Trails System Act to designate the Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary Route National Historic Trail; S. 722, to direct the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture to jointly conduct a study of certain land adjacent to the Walnut Canyon National Monument in the State of Arizona; S. 783, to adjust the boundary of the Barataria Preserve Unit of the Jean Lafitte National Historical Park and Preserve in the State of Louisiana; S. 890, to provide for certain administrative and support services for the Dwight D. Eisenhower Memorial Com-

mission; and H.R. 1047, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study to determine the suitability and feasibility of designating the Soldiers’ Memorial Military Museum located in St. Louis, Missouri, as a unit of the National Park System.

Because of the limited time available for the hearing, witnesses may testify by invitation only. However, those wishing to submit written testimony for the hearing record should send it to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, United States Senate, Washington, DC 20510-6150, or by email to rachel_pasternack@energy.senate.gov.

For further information, please contact David Brooks at (202) 224-9863 or Rachel Pasternack at (202) 224-0883.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on April 11, 2007, at 9:30 a.m., to conduct a hearing on “An Examination of the Availability and Affordability of Property and Casualty Insurance in Gulf Coast and Other Coastal Regions.”

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

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Transportation be authorized to hold a hearing during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, April 11, 2007 at 10 a.m., in room 253 of the Russell Senate Office Building. The purpose of this hearing is to examine the property and casualty insurance industry.

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

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation be authorized to hold a hearing during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, April 11, 2007, at 2:30 p.m., in room 253 of the Russell Senate Office Building. The purpose of this hearing is to examine efforts to improve airline passenger service.

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

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, April 11, 2007 at 9:30 a.m. to hold a hearing on genocide in Sudan.

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

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Com-

mittee on Finance be authorized to meet during the Session of the Senate on Wednesday, April 11, 2007, at 10 a.m., in 215 Dirksen Senate Office Building, to hear testimony on “An Examination of the Medicare Advantage Program.”

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

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the committee on the Judiciary be authorized to meet to conduct a hearing on “Judicial Nominations” on Wednesday, April 11, 2007, at 10 a.m., in Dirksen Senate Office Building room 226.

Witness List

Panel I: The Honorable Richard Lugar, United States Senator, R-IN.

Panel II: Debra Ann Livingston to be U.S. Circuit Judge for the Second Circuit; Roslynn Renee Mauskopf to be U.S. District Judge for the Eastern District of New York; Richard Joseph Sullivan to be U.S. District Judge for the Southern District of New York; Joseph S. Van Bokkelen to be U.S. District Judge for the Northern District of Indiana.

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

COMMITTEE ON RULES AND ADMINISTRATION

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Rules and Administration be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, April 11, 2007, at 10 a.m., to conduct an oversight meeting on the Smithsonian Institution.

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

COMMITTEE ON VETERANS’ AFFAIRS

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent for the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, April 11, 2007, to hold a hearing on the Filipino Veterans Equity Act of 2007.

The hearing will take place in room 418 of the Russell Senate Office Building beginning at 9:30 a.m.

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

SUBCOMMITTEE ON THE CONSTITUTION, CIVIL RIGHTS AND PROPERTY RIGHTS

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on The Constitution be authorized to meet on Wednesday, April 11, 2007 at 3:00 p.m. to conduct a hearing on “Responding to The Inspector General’s Findings of Improper Use of National Security Letters by the FBI” in Room 226 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

Witness List: The Honorable Bob Barr, Former Member of Congress, Chairman, Patriots to Restore Checks and Balances Atlanta, GA; George Christian, Executive Director, Library Connection, Inc., Windsor, CT; Suzanne E. Spaulding, Principal, Bingham Consulting Group of Counsel, Bingham McCutchen LLP, Washington, DC; and

Peter Swire, C. William O'Neil, Professor of Law at the Ohio State University, Senior Fellow, Center for American Progress, Washington, DC.

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

SUBCOMMITTEE ON EMERGING THREATS AND CAPABILITIES

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Emerging Threats and Capabilities be authorized to meet in open session during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, April 11, 2007, at 9:30 a.m., to receive testimony on nuclear nonproliferation programs at the National Nuclear Security Administration and the Cooperative Threat Reduction Program and the Proliferation Security Initiative at the Department of Defense in review of the defense authorization request for fiscal year 2008 and the future years defense program.

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

SUBCOMMITTEE ON STRATEGIC FORCES

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Strategic Forces be authorized to meet in open and closed session during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, April 11, 2007, at 3 p.m. to receive testimony on Ballistic Missile Defense Programs in review of the defense authorization request for fiscal year 2008 and the future years defense program.

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

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Matt Castillo and Patrick Fields of my staff be granted the privilege of the floor for the duration of today's session.

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

Mr. SMITH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Lindy Hawkins, an intern in my office, and Clarita Mrena, a detailee with the Aging Committee, be accorded the privilege of the floor.

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

Mr. HARKIN. I ask unanimous consent the privilege of the floor be granted to Eleanore Edson, a fellow in the office of Senator CLINTON, during today's session.

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

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Melanie Roberts, a fellow in Senator BINGAMAN's office, be granted the privileges of the floor for the pendency of S. 5 and S. 30.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa is recognized.

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, there is an appointment at the desk.

APPOINTMENT

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair, on behalf of the President pro tempore, upon the recommendation of the Democratic leader, pursuant to Public Law 105-292, as amended by Public Law 106-55, and as further amended by Public Law 107-228, appoints the following individual to the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom: Dr. Don H. Argue, of Washington, (for a term of May 15, 2007–May 14, 2009).

COMPREHENSIVE REGIONAL STRATEGY TO IMPROVE CONDITIONS IN AFRICA

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of Calendar No. 103, S. Res. 76.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 76) calling on the United States Government and the international community to promptly develop, fund, and implement a comprehensive regional strategy in Africa to protect civilians, facilitate humanitarian operations, contain and reduce violence, and contribute to conditions for sustainable peace in eastern Chad, the Central African Republic, and Darfur, Sudan.

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

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the amendment at the desk be agreed to; the title amendment be agreed to; the resolution, as amended, be agreed to; the preamble be agreed to; and the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table.

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

The amendment (No. 840) was agreed to, as follows:

(Purpose: To urge the Government of the Central African Republic to address human rights abuses in the northwestern region of that country)

On page 5, after line 25, insert the following:

(6) urges the Government of the Central African Republic—

(A) to engage in constructive and inclusive dialogue with rebels in the northwestern region of the country;

(B) to hold accountable security forces engaging in human rights violations; and

(C) to strengthen government services in order to meet the needs of affected populations;

On page 6, line 1, strike "(6)" and insert "(7)".

On page 6, lines 1 and 2, strike "advocate for the appointment of" and insert "urge the United Nations Security Council to appoint".

On page 6, line 8, strike "(7)" and insert "(8)".

On page 6, line 10, insert "United Nations" after "advance".

On page 6, line 11, insert "and northern Central African Republic" after "Chad".

On page 6, line 13, strike "(8)" and insert "(9)".

On page 6, line 15, insert "and northern Central African Republic" after "Chad".

On page 7, line 24 strike "(9)" and insert "(10)".

The amendment (No. 841) was agreed to, as follows:

(Purpose: To amend the title)

Amend the title so as to read: "Calling on the United States Government and the international community to promptly develop, fund, and implement a comprehensive regional strategy in Africa to protect civilians, facilitate humanitarian operations, contain and reduce violence, and contribute to conditions for sustainable peace in eastern Chad, northern Central African Republic, and Darfur, Sudan."

The resolution (S. Res. 76), as amended, was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 76

Whereas armed groups have been moving freely between Sudan, Chad, and the Central African Republic, committing murder and engaging in banditry, forced recruitment of soldiers, and gender-based violence;

Whereas these and other crimes are contributing to insecurity and instability throughout the region, exacerbating the humanitarian crises in these countries and obstructing efforts to end violence in the Darfur region of Sudan and adjacent areas;

Whereas on January 5, 2007, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) reported that crossborder attacks by alleged Arab militias from Sudan and related intercommunal ethnic hostilities in eastern Chad had resulted in the displacement of an estimated 20,000 people from Chad during the previous 2 weeks and posed a direct threat to camps housing refugees from Sudan;

Whereas these new internally displaced Chadians have strained the resources of 12 UNHCR-run camps in eastern Chad that are already serving more than 100,000 internally displaced Chadians and 230,000 refugees from Darfur and providing humanitarian support and protection to more than 46,000 refugees from the Central African Republic in southern Chad;

Whereas Chadian gendarmes responsible for providing security in and around the 12 UNHCR-run camps in eastern Chad are too few in number, too poorly equipped, and too besieged by Chadian rebel actions to carry out critical protection efforts sufficiently;

Whereas on January 16, 2007, the United Nations' Humanitarian Coordinator for the Central African Republic reported that waves of violence across the north have left more than 1,000,000 people in need of humanitarian assistance, including 150,000 who are internally displaced, while some 80,000 have fled to neighboring Chad or Cameroon;

Whereas in a Presidential Statement issued on January 16, 2007 (S/PRST/2007/2), the United Nations Security Council reiterated its "concern about the continuing instability along the borders between the Sudan, Chad and the Central African Republic and about the threat which this poses to the safety of the civilian population and the conduct of humanitarian operations" and requested "that the Secretary-General deploy as soon as possible an advance mission to Chad and the Central African Republic, in consultation with their Governments";

Whereas the Presidential Statement acknowledged "the position taken by the Central African and Chadian authorities in favor in principle of such a presence and looks forward to their continued engagement in preparing for it";

Whereas a December 22, 2006, report of the United Nations Secretary-General (S/2006/