

The ILO global report, “The End of Child Labor: Within Reach,” states that for the first time child labor, especially in its worst forms, is in decline across the globe. Between the years 2000 and 2004, the number of child laborers worldwide fell by 11 percent, from 246 million to 218 million. Even better, the number of children and youth aged 5–17 trapped in hazardous work decreased by 26 percent, declining from 171 million in 2000 to 126 million in 2004. Among younger child laborers, the drop was even sharper at 33 percent.

This is remarkable progress in just 4 years’ time. And looking to the future, the report cautiously predicts that, if the current pace of decline is maintained, and if global efforts to stop child labor continue, we have a real shot at eliminating child labor in its worst forms within 10 years’ time.

Today, 218 million child laborers—many of whom are trapped in the worst forms of child labor, such as prostitution, armed conflicts, and slavery—are still suffering. While the U.S. Government and international organizations such as the World Bank and UNICEF have programs designed to reduce abusive and exploitative child labor, it will require all of these entities and others working together if we are to reach the goal of ending the worst forms of child labor by the year 2016.

Likewise, in the broader fight against child labor, the ILO report verifies that we are on the right track to eliminate abusive and exploitative child labor. The great work of the ILO’s International Program on the Elimination of Child Labor, IPEC, affirms the confidence I placed in this program early on. I secured the first Federal appropriation for the IPEC program back in 1996, and over the last decade, I have secured a total of more than \$323 million for the program. Clearly, that money has made a real difference in the lives of children. It has given millions of children an opportunity to get an education and to break the cycle of poverty.

Although there has been a tremendous amount of progress in ending child labor, now is not the time to become complacent. Economic development alone is not enough. We must also focus on human rights and educational opportunities for those in poverty. Social change must go hand in hand with economic development, which requires workers’ and employers’ organizations. Our keys to success will be mainstreaming child labor efforts with other human rights and development goals, as well as getting national governments, NGOs, and international organizations working cooperatively to end child poverty.

We should not think about these children only on June 12 each year. We should think about this last vestige of slavery 365 days a year. I have remained steadfast in my commitment to eliminating abusive and exploitative child labor. It was in 1992 that I first

introduced a bill to ban all products made by abusive and exploitative child labor from entering the United States. And I am committed to working with the representatives of the cocoa industry and the national governments to implement the Harkin-Engel Protocol by July 1, 2008 deadline.

In my view, we can make significant progress to eliminate this scourge if we all do our part and redouble our efforts. This means that governments must not merely pass laws but enforce them, while also striving to provide quality free education. Businesses must take responsibility, as well, by not hiring children, and by paying adults livable wages so they can provide for their families. Multilateral institutions must also play a robust role. Together, we can eliminate the worst forms of child labor by 2016.

75TH ANNIVERSARY OF JACOB’S PILLOW

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, this month marks the 75th anniversary season of Jacob’s Pillow. Based in Becket, MA, it is the longest running dance festival in the United States. Jacob’s Pillow is renowned in the dance world for its commitment to excellence and beloved by audiences throughout the world for the quality and diversity of its programming.

This prestigious organization is one of the most significant cultural groups in Western Massachusetts and it attracts tens of thousands of visitors to the beautiful Berkshire Mountains each summer. Cultural tourism is the second largest industry in Massachusetts, and cultural jewels such as Jacob’s Pillow are the anchors of the industry. Year after year, surveys demonstrate that arts, culture, and heritage are among the top reasons for visiting Massachusetts.

With its proud heritage, Jacob’s Pillow continues to be one of the most dynamic centers of dance in our State and across the country. As Mikhail Baryshnikov has said, “Jacob’s Pillow is one of America’s most precious cultural assets—a haven for choreographers and dancers and an environment that nurtures the creation of new work.”

The site was originally a family farm settled with extraordinary pioneering spirit in the 1700s, and it became a station on the Underground Railroad in the 19th century for slaves escaping to freedom.

In 1933, Jacob’s Pillow was established as a dance festival and school. Its mission continues today to support dance creation, presentation, education, and preservation. Through this work, it broadens appreciation and understanding for classical and modern dance—and it provides an important opportunity for dancers and choreographers to develop their own work and skills.

In addition to its regular programming, Jacob’s Pillow also offers over

200 free events each season, including performances, workshops, lectures, and discussions with artists. It maintains a preservation program with rare archives open to the public, a training program for arts administrators, year-round community programs, and a creative development residency program.

Jacob’s Pillow also encompasses a professional school training and mentoring program for emerging dancers and is recognized throughout the globe as a center for arts leadership in the world of dance.

It is the first and only dance institution in the United States to be declared a National Historic Landmark for its important part in our country’s cultural heritage. It embodies the very best in cultural achievement and has enhanced the causes of the many talented artists who have performed on its stages and enhanced the lives of countless audiences who have enjoyed their exceptional performances.

As President Kennedy said, “I am certain that after the dust of centuries has passed over our cities, we, too, will be remembered not for victories or defeats in battle or in politics, but for our contribution to the human spirit.”

I commend the many dedicated persons who have made Jacob’s Pillow such a remarkable success over the past 75 years. May this treasure of Berkshire County continue to enrich us all in the years ahead.

EXTRAORDINARY CONFERENCE OF CFE STATES PARTIES

Mr. LUGAR. Mr. President, on May 28, 2007, Russia requested an Extraordinary Conference of States Parties to the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe—the CFE Treaty—to discuss what Russia identified as “exceptional circumstances” that may lead them to suspend implementation of the treaty. Russia complains that most of their former Warsaw Pact allies have now joined NATO, significantly altering, in Russia’s view, the “balance” of forces in Europe. This Extraordinary Conference is now under way in Vienna, Austria. What happens there will have tremendous implications for the security of Europe and for U.S.-Russian relations. Both sides must avoid actions that could lead to the potential unraveling of a treaty that has served as a cornerstone of European security since the end of the Cold War.

In 1990, the CFE was conceived as a mechanism to reduce post-Cold-War arsenals of conventional weapons in Europe and has evolved into a stabilizing influence through its wide range of agreed verification measures. This treaty should not be relegated to the dustbin of history. That is not in the interest of all European States, including Russia, nor of the United States.

The CFE Treaty was originally designed to limit the possibility of a surprise attack on Europe, when the Soviet Union and Warsaw Pact still existed. It imposes numerical limits on

major conventional military weapons—battle tanks, armored combat vehicles, artillery, combat aircraft, and attack helicopters—that can be deployed within Europe. These limits are verifiable through an extensive regime of inspections, transparency measures, and data exchanges. To be sure, since the Cold War ended, most countries, especially in central Europe, have reduced their levels of conventional weapons well below the limits specified by the treaty. Nonetheless, the verification measures that continue in place to the present day provide a level of openness and predictability important to the continued stability of Europe.

The “exceptional circumstances” referred to in Russia’s request for an Extraordinary Conference of the CFE States Parties are of Russia’s own making, and Russia holds the key to their resolution. At the end of the last decade, the CFE Treaty was updated to reflect post-Cold-War realities in Europe. The Adapted CFE Treaty was signed in 1999 at Istanbul, Turkey; however, it has not entered into force. Ratification of the treaty by the United States and its NATO allies will not occur until Russia implements two political commitments it made at the time of the treaty’s signing.

In 1999, Russia pledged that it would fully withdraw its forces from the territories of Georgia and Moldova, which were part of the former Soviet Union. One of the CFE Treaty’s fundamental tenets is that a nation must give its consent for the stationing or deployment of foreign military forces on its territory. NATO nations have insisted that Russia live up to this fundamental principle and abide by its commitments. In the Senate, we have made clear to administration officials that we would give advice and consent to ratification of the Adapted CFE Treaty’s provisions only when and if Russia satisfied these commitments.

Russia has protested that its commitments regarding Georgia and Moldova were not related to the CFE Treaty. However, both the Georgian and Moldovan Governments have said repeatedly that they want Russian forces withdrawn from their territories. This has become a central issue in the CFE Treaty debate. Russia possesses the ability and the means to fulfill these commitments, needing only to close a single, largely abandoned Russian base in Georgia, and to withdraw a few hundred troops and an ammunition storage depot in Moldova. Russia has made progress in Georgia, but very little in Moldova since 2004.

The United States is prepared to find ways to work through its differences with Russia on important security issues in ways that recognize shared interests. Russia’s threatened suspension of the CFE does not demonstrate a reciprocal view and could lead to the unraveling of the CFE Treaty itself. Nonetheless, the Extraordinary Conference can serve as an opportunity to modernize the Cold-War-era CFE Treaty in a direction that reflects the current security environment in Europe and one in which all parties can completely fulfill their commitments.

The administration’s proposal to multilateralize the current Russian peacekeeping forces in Moldova, perhaps under the auspices of the NATO-Russia Council, merits serious consideration. In Georgia, Russia has already taken significant steps to reduce its troop presence the remaining steps are far less demanding but just as important. The Extraordinary Conference should offer a new beginning, rather than the beginning of the end.

The United States and its NATO Allies believe that the Adapted CFE Treaty offers the best path toward ensuring a Europe united and at peace, one in which Russia honors its commitments. If this were to occur, then, and only then, would the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and the United States Senate be likely to begin a careful, expeditious review leading to U.S. ratification of the Adapted CFE Treaty.

HONORING SENATE CHAPLAIN BARRY C. BLACK

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, Maryland is proud to honor its sons and daughters whose accomplishments touch the lives of others. We are particularly elated when an individual’s talents and achievements are recognized throughout the Nation and beyond.

Chaplain Barry C. Black is one such Marylander, born and raised with five sisters and two brothers in Baltimore by a prudent and faithful mother, Pearline Black. He has penned his life story in a recent book titled, “From the Hood to the Hill,” stating that, “in spite of unpromising beginnings, my siblings and I bucked the statistics and turned out fine (O)ne of the boys even became a two-star Navy admiral and the first African-American Navy chief of chaplains. Later, he was selected as the sixty-second chaplain of the United States Senate. I am that child.” These are but a few of the stellar accomplishments in a life that serves as inspiration for us all.

Even though I have only been a Senator for 5 months, I have spent several mornings opening the Senate’s sessions, and I am always inspired by Chaplain Black’s serene manner, the conviction in his voice, the faith present in his life, and the ministry he has accepted. In addition to leading daily prayer before each session of the Senate, Chaplain Black and his dedicated staff conduct Bible studies and attend to the spiritual needs of our Nation’s leaders and the thousands of staff members who work in the Senate. His invaluable leadership and service to our country are worthy of both recognition and celebration.

Mr. President, this afternoon the Senate Black Legislative Staff Caucus will honor the Reverend Barry C.

Black, the Chaplain of the Senate, with a resolution and the presentation of a plaque honoring him for a distinguished career of leadership and service to the Senate and the larger community. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be printed in the RECORD.

SENATE BLACK LEGISLATIVE STAFF CAUCUS RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF CHAPLAIN BARRY C. BLACK, THE FIRST AFRI- CAN-AMERICAN CHAPLAIN OF THE UNITED STATES SENATE

Whereas Chaplain Black is a spiritual leader who, through his faith in GOD, overcame many obstacles that profoundly impacted him, taking his humble beginnings and used them to set his feet on higher ground;

Whereas Barry Black was born the fourth of eight children on All Saints Day, November 1, 1948 to parents Pearline Bull Black and Lester Clayton Black in Baltimore, Maryland;

Whereas Barry Black attended Pine Forge Academy and furthered his education, becoming an alumnus of Oakwood College, Andrews University, North Carolina Central University, Eastern Baptist Seminary, Salve Regina University, and United States International University (now Alliant International University);

Whereas Barry Black received Master’s Degrees in Divinity, Counseling, and Management, a Doctorate degree in Ministry, and a Doctor of Philosophy degree in Psychology;

Whereas Barry Black married Brenda Pearsall on June 17, 1973, whom he met during his junior year at Oakwood College. They would later have three children: Barry II, Brendan, and Bradford;

Whereas Barry Black was commissioned in 1976 as chaplain in the United States Navy, eventually to become the Navy Chaplain Corps’ first African-American Admiral, Deputy Chief of chaplains in 1997, and Chief of Navy Chaplains in 2000;

Whereas Barry Black was responsible for the spiritual care of servicemen from 190 religious traditions, advised and provided ministry to the Chief of Naval Operations, the Secretaries of the Navy and Defense, and the Commandants of the Marine Corps and Coast Guard;

Whereas Barry Black served in the U.S. Navy for 27 years, retiring on August 15, 2003;

Whereas Barry Black’s personal decorations include the Legion of Merit Medal, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medals (two awards), Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medals (two awards), and numerous unit awards, campaign and service medals. He was also selected from one hundred twenty-seven nominees for the 1995 NAACP Renowned Service Award for his contribution to equal opportunity and civil rights;

Whereas on July 7, 2003, Barry Black was appointed as the 62nd Chaplain of the United States Senate by Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist (R-Tenn.), becoming the first African-American and the first Seventh-day Adventist to serve in this position: Now, therefore be it

Resolved, That the United States Senate Black Legislative Staff Caucus recognizes Chaplain Barry C. Black’s exemplary achievements; his leadership and personal integrity in service to the United States Senate and the larger community; and his altruism and commitment to public service, touching the lives of many who bear witness to his spiritual leadership.