

the immediate consideration of S. Res. 682, submitted earlier today by this Senator from Colorado.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 682) recognizing Hispanic Heritage Month and celebrating the heritage and culture of Hispanic Americans and their immense contribution to the Nation.

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

Mr. SALAZAR. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate, and any statements be printed in the RECORD.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 682) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 682

Whereas from September 15, 2008, through October 15, 2008, the country celebrates Hispanic Heritage Month;

Whereas the Census Bureau estimates the Hispanic population in the United States at 45,500,000 people, making Hispanic Americans the largest ethnic minority within the United States;

Whereas 1 in 3 United States public school students is Hispanic, and the total number of Hispanic students enrolled in our Nation's public schools is expected to reach 28,000,000 by 2050;

Whereas the purchasing power of Hispanic Americans has reached \$870,000,000,000 by 2008 and there are more than 1,600,000 Hispanic-owned firms in the United States, supporting 1,536,795 employees nationwide;

Whereas Hispanic Americans serve in all branches of the Armed Forces, bravely fought in every war in United States history, and continue to serve with distinction in Afghanistan and Iraq;

Whereas 140,000 Hispanic soldiers served in the Korean War;

Whereas more than 80,000 Hispanics served in the Vietnam War, representing 5.5 percent of those who made the ultimate sacrifice for their country in that conflict although they comprised only 4.5 percent of the United States population at the time;

Whereas, as of August 2, 2008, approximately 11 percent of the more than 4,122 United States military fatalities in Iraq have been Hispanic;

Whereas there are more than 1,100,000 Hispanic veterans of the United States Armed Forces;

Whereas 43 Hispanic Americans have received the Congressional Medal of Honor, the highest award for valor in action against an enemy force which can be bestowed upon an individual serving in the United States Armed Forces;

Whereas Hispanic Americans are dedicated public servants, holding posts at the highest levels of government, including 3 seats in the United States Senate; and

Whereas Hispanic Americans harbor a deep commitment to family and community, an enduring work ethic, and a perseverance to succeed and contribute to society: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month from September 15, 2008, through October 15, 2008;

(2) honors the heritage and culture of Hispanic Americans and their immense contributions to the life of the Nation; and

(3) urges the people of the United States to observe Hispanic Heritage Month with appropriate programs and activities.

NATIONAL CHILDHOOD LEAD POISONING PREVENTION WEEK

Mr. SALAZAR. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 683, submitted earlier today by Senator REED of Rhode Island.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 683) designating the week of October 19 through October 25, 2008, as "National Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Week."

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

Mr. SALAZAR. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to; the preamble be agreed to; the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate; and any statements related to the resolution be printed in the RECORD.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 683) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 683

Whereas lead poisoning is one of the leading environmental health hazards facing children in the United States;

Whereas approximately 240,000 children in the United States under the age of 6 currently have harmful levels of lead in their blood;

Whereas lead poisoning may cause serious, long-term harm to children, including reduced intelligence and attention span, behavior problems, learning disabilities, and impaired growth;

Whereas children from low-income families are significantly more likely to be poisoned by lead than are children from high-income families;

Whereas children may be poisoned by lead in water, soil, housing, or consumable products;

Whereas children most often are poisoned in their homes through exposure to lead particles when lead-based paint deteriorates or is disturbed during home renovation and repainting; and

Whereas lead poisoning crosses all barriers of race, income, and geography: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates the week of October 19 through October 25, 2008, as "National Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Week"; and

(2) calls upon the people of the United States to observe National Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Week with appropriate programs and activities.

STRATEGY TO ADDRESS CRISIS IN DARFUR, SUDAN

Mr. SALAZAR. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Sen-

ate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 684, introduced earlier today by Senator DURBIN.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 684) calling for a comprehensive strategy to address the crisis in Darfur, Sudan.

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

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, as we wrap up the work of the 110th Congress and look ahead to a new administration, let us take a moment to consider a part of the world that desperately needs our continued attention. I am talking about the tragic situation in Darfur.

The United Nations estimates that more than 300,000 people have died in Darfur since 2003. In that time, another 2.5 million people have been displaced.

Just over 4 years ago the House unanimously passed a resolution calling the situation in Darfur genocide. The resolution urged the President to consider multilateral—even unilateral—intervention to address this crisis.

The legislation spoke of Congress's hope that the United States would not allow what happened in Rwanda to happen again.

Not on our watch.

Since then we have passed legislation increasing economic pressure on Sudan. The U.N. Security Council has passed resolutions and implemented arms embargos. Members of Congress have met with Ambassadors and U.N. Secretary General Ban Ki-moon.

And yet we have failed to bring an end to this nightmare—a nightmare that is now entering its sixth year.

In May, Senator SNOWE and 27 other Senators joined me in a letter to President Bush saying that it was time for definitive U.S. leadership to bring a long-term resolution to the crisis in Sudan. This bipartisan letter from almost a third of the Senate said:

Fourteen years ago the world watched as genocide unfolded in Rwanda. Despite dire warnings and pleas for help, 800,000 people were brutally killed in less than one hundred days. Today the world looks back in painful regret at its failure to take action. Yet, we are likely to face a similarly harsh historical judgment if we do not once and for all take action against the genocide in Darfur.

A rogue regime guilty of killing hundreds of thousands of its own people—guilty of rape, torture, and the creation of millions of refugees—must not be allowed to thumb its nose any further at the international community.

Yet the Sudanese regime continues to stall the deployment of a historic peacekeeping force—a force that is still only one-third deployed more than 1 year after it was approved by the U.N. Security Council.

I and others repeatedly have raised directly with President Bush and with Secretary Rice the need for decisive Presidential leadership.

Senator BIDEN has held hearings in the Senate Foreign Relations Committee to ask why the administration cannot do more to help with the desperately needed deployment of peacekeepers.

President Bush himself said during a visit this year to Kigali Memorial Center, where 250,000 Rwandans are buried in mass graves, that he hoped the world would "once and for all" work to halt the genocide in Darfur.

Today's tragedy in Darfur is of historic proportion. It is our duty to step in and show the world we really care. But it takes Presidential leadership—not in 6 months, not in a year, but now.

The United States is not the only country that needs to act. A recent BBC investigation showed that Chinese military equipment is still being used by the Government of Sudan in Darfur, despite a U.N. arms embargo.

The arms embargo—which my colleague, Senator BILL NELSON, has been arguing should be strengthened—requires foreign nations to ensure that they are not in any way providing military assistance for the conflict in Darfur. Yet, over the years, Amnesty International and now the BBC have documented Chinese and Russian military equipment in Darfur.

China and Russia are members of the U.N. Security Council and have a responsibility to ensure their equipment is not adding to the human suffering in Sudan.

If China wants the world to see it as a modern and responsible global leader, it is time to show real leadership on such issues as Darfur, Burma, and Zimbabwe. It should no longer use its Security Council veto to protect brutal dictatorships. It must be diligent in its weapons sales to conflict zones.

My friend and colleague, Senator CHUCK HAGEL, said it perfectly in a recent speech. He said:

Powerful nations must be the adults in world affairs. Anything less will result in disastrous, useless, preventable global conflict.

I couldn't agree more.

I call on China to stop propping up the Sudanese regime with oil purchases. Ensure that Chinese weapons are not fueling the conflict. Use your full diplomatic leverage to ensure full U.N. peacekeeper deployment, and work with the global community to help forge a long-term political settlement in Sudan.

This week Senators SNOWE, KERRY, FEINGOLD, LUGAR, BROWNBACK, SCHUMER, MENENDEZ, DODD, SPECTER, LEAHY, LEVIN, OBAMA, BIDEN and others have joined me in introducing a final resolution of this 110th Congress on Darfur.

It urges the President, the United Nations, the African Union, and other key members of the international community to pursue a comprehensive strategy to address the ongoing crisis in Darfur. It also condemns the Government of Sudan for its continued violence and obstruction of the inter-

national community. A similar resolution is being introduced in the House.

Quite simply, the situation in Darfur has reached a tragic juncture. This administration and Congress will either act soon or, sadly, this genocide will have occurred on our watch.

A few years ago, President Clinton faced the reality of the failure to halt the genocide in Rwanda. He called it "my great, great regret in international affairs."

That was a brave and honorable reflection.

We cannot allow ourselves to have to look back years from now to say the same thing happened in Darfur. The United States and the global community, particularly those on the U.N. Security Council and Sudan's neighbors, have a moral responsibility to speak out and act to save the people of Darfur.

Mr. SALAZAR. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to; the preamble be agreed to; the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate; and any statements relating to this measure be printed in the RECORD.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 684) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 684

Whereas more than 300,000 people have died and approximately 2,500,000 have been displaced in Darfur since 2003, according to estimates by the United Nations;

Whereas Congress unanimously declared on July 22, 2004, that the atrocities in Darfur were genocide;

Whereas, on September 9, 2004, Secretary of State Colin Powell and on June 1, 2005, President George W. Bush described the crisis in Darfur as genocide;

Whereas the United States has led the world in financial contributions to humanitarian aid and peacekeeping operations in Darfur;

Whereas, on July 31, 2007, the United Nations Security Council voted to deploy an historic United Nations-African Union (UNAMID) peacekeeping force to stem the violence in Darfur and create conditions for peace talks;

Whereas only approximately 10,000 of the authorized force of 26,000 peacekeepers and police have deployed to Darfur, delayed by Sudanese obstruction as well as by a failure of the international community to commit sufficient resources and to overcome logistical obstacles; and

Whereas more than four years have passed since Congress declared the conflict in Darfur to be genocide and conditions on the ground in Darfur continue to worsen: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) urges the President, the United Nations Secretary-General, the African Union, and other key members of the international community to pursue a comprehensive solution to the Darfur crisis by—

(A) supporting efforts to launch a just and inclusive peace process;

(B) ensuring the full and effective deployment of the UNAMID mission;

(C) ensuring the free and unfettered flow of humanitarian aid;

(D) promoting economic and political development programs;

(E) supporting full implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement of 2005; and

(F) promoting justice and accountability;

(2) condemns the Government of Sudan for its continued obstruction of the deployment of United Nations-African Union peacekeepers and equipment;

(3) condemns the ongoing acts of violence in and obstruction of aid to Darfur committed by all parties; and

(4) calls upon the Government of Sudan and armed parties in the region to declare and respect an immediate cessation of hostilities, abide by the United Nations embargo on the importation of arms, cease predation and attacks upon humanitarian organizations, and participate in international efforts to negotiate a lasting political settlement for the region.

STATE-BASED ALCOHOL REGULATION

Mr. SALAZAR. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Judiciary Committee be discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 551 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

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

The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 551) celebrating 75 years of successful State-based alcohol regulation.

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

Mr. SALAZAR. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to; the preamble be agreed to; the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate; and that any statements related to the resolution be printed in the RECORD.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 551) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 551

Whereas, throughout the history of the United States, alcohol has been consumed by the people of the United States and has been regulated by government;

Whereas, before the passage of the 18th amendment to the Constitution of the United States (commonly known as "National Prohibition"), abuses and insufficient regulation resulted in irresponsible overconsumption of alcohol;

Whereas the passage of the 18th amendment, which prohibited "the manufacture, sale, or transportation of intoxicating liquors" in the United States, resulted in a dramatic increase in illegal activity, including unsafe black market alcohol production, a growth in organized crime, and increasing noncompliance with alcohol laws;

Whereas the platforms of the 2 major political parties in the 1932 presidential campaign advocated ending National Prohibition by repealing the 18th amendment;

Whereas, on February 20, 1933, the second session of the 72nd Congress submitted to conventions of the States the question of repealing the 18th amendment and adding new language to the Constitution requiring the