

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

transportation or importation of alcoholic beverages for delivery or use in any State to be carried out in compliance with the laws of that State;

Whereas, on December 5, 1933, Utah became the 36th State to approve what became the 21st amendment to the Constitution of the United States, making the ratification of the 21st amendment the fastest ratification of a constitutional amendment in the history of the United States and the only ratification of a constitutional amendment ever decided by State conventions pursuant to Article V of the Constitution;

Whereas alcohol is the only product in commerce in the United States that has been the subject of 2 constitutional amendments;

Whereas Congress's reenactment in 1935 of the Act entitled "An Act divesting intoxicating liquors of their interstate character in certain cases", approved March 1, 1913 (commonly known as the Webb-Kenyon Act) (27 U.S.C. 122), and the enactment of the Federal Alcohol Administration Act (27 U.S.C. 201 et seq.), section 2004 of Aimee's Law (27 U.S.C. 122a) (relating to 21st amendment enforcement), the Sober Truth on Preventing Underage Drinking Act (Public Law 109-422; 120 Stat. 2890), and annual appropriations to support State enforcement of underage drinking laws demonstrate a longstanding and continuing intent on the part of Congress that States should exercise their primary authority to achieve temperance, the creation and maintenance of orderly and stable markets with respect to alcoholic beverages, and the facilitation of the efficient collection of taxes;

Whereas the legislatures and alcoholic beverage control agencies of the 50 States have worked diligently to implement the powers granted by the 21st amendment for 75 years and to ensure the creation and maintenance of State-based regulatory systems for alcohol distribution made up of producers, importers, wholesale distributors, and retailers;

Whereas the development of a transparent and accountable system for the distribution and sale of alcoholic beverages, an orderly market, temperance in consumption and sales practices, the efficient collection of taxes, and other essential policies have been successfully guided by the collective experience and cooperation of government agencies and licensed industry members throughout the geographically and culturally diverse Nation;

Whereas regulated commerce in alcoholic beverages annually contributes billions of dollars in Federal and State tax revenues and additional billions to the United States economy and supports the employment of millions of people in the United States in more than 2,500 breweries, distilleries, wineries, and import companies, more than 2,700 wholesale distributor facilities, more than 530,000 retail outlets, and numerous agricultural, packaging, and transportation businesses;

Whereas the United States system of State-based alcohol regulation has resulted in a marketplace with unprecedented choice, variety, and selection for consumers;

Whereas members of the licensed alcoholic beverage industry have been constant partners with Federal and State governments in balancing the conduct of competitive businesses with the need to control alcohol in order to provide consumers in the United States with a safe and regulated supply of alcoholic beverages; and

Whereas members of the licensed alcoholic beverage industry have created and supported a wide range of national, State, and community programs to address problems associated with alcohol abuse, including drunk driving and underage drinking: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) celebrates 75 years of effective State-based alcohol regulation since the passage of the 21st amendment to the Constitution of the United States;

(2) commends State lawmakers, regulators, law enforcement officers, the public health community, and industry members for successful collaboration in achieving a workable, legal, and successful system for the distribution and sale of alcoholic beverages; and

(3) reaffirms the continued support of the Senate for policies that allow States to effectively regulate alcohol.

NATIONAL ALTERNATIVE FUEL VEHICLE DAY

Mr. SALAZAR. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Judiciary Committee be discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 665, 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. 665) designating October 3, 2008, as "National Alternative Fuel Vehicle Day."

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

Mr. SALAZAR. Madam President, 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. 665) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 665

Whereas the United States should reduce the dependence of the Nation on foreign oil and enhance the energy security of the Nation by creating a transportation sector that is less dependent on oil;

Whereas the United States should improve the air quality of the Nation by reducing emissions from the millions of motor vehicles that operate in the United States;

Whereas the United States should foster national expertise and technological advancement in cleaner, more energy-efficient alternative fuel and advanced technology vehicles;

Whereas a robust domestic industry for alternative fuels and alternative fuel and advanced technology vehicles will create jobs and increase the competitiveness of the United States in the international community;

Whereas the people of the United States need more options for clean and energy-efficient transportation;

Whereas the mainstream adoption of alternative fuel and advanced technology vehicles will produce benefits at the local, national, and international levels;

Whereas consumers and businesses require a better understanding of the benefits of alternative fuel and advanced technology vehicles;

Whereas first responders require proper and comprehensive training to become fully

prepared for any precautionary measures that they may need to take during incidents and extractions that involve alternative fuel and advanced technology vehicles;

Whereas the Federal Government can lead the way toward a cleaner and more efficient transportation sector by choosing alternative fuel and advanced technology vehicles for the fleets of the Federal Government; and

Whereas Federal support for the adoption of alternative fuel and advanced technology vehicles can accelerate greater energy independence for the United States, improve the environmental security of the Nation, and address global climate change: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates October 3, 2008, as "National Alternative Fuel Vehicle Day";

(2) proclaims National Alternative Fuel Vehicle Day as a day to promote programs and activities that will lead to the greater use of cleaner, more efficient transportation that uses new sources of energy; and

(3) urges Americans—

(A) to increase the personal and commercial use of cleaner and energy-efficient alternative fuel and advanced technology vehicles;

(B) to promote public sector adoption of cleaner and energy-efficient alternative fuel and advanced technology vehicles; and

(C) to encourage the enactment of Federal policies to reduce the dependence of the United States on foreign oil through the advancement and adoption of alternative, advanced, and emerging vehicle and fuel technologies.

ORDERS FOR THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2008

Mr. SALAZAR. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand in recess until 9:30 a.m., tomorrow, Thursday, September 25; that following the prayer and pledge, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and the Senate proceed to a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

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

PROGRAM

Mr. SALAZAR. Madam President, we expect to receive the consolidated appropriations bill from the House tomorrow morning. It is the majority leader's intention to turn to its consideration upon its arrival.

RECESS UNTIL 9:30 A.M. TOMORROW

Mr. SALAZAR. Madam President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it stand in recess under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 8:56 p.m., recessed until Thursday, September 25, 2008, at 9:30 a.m.