

want to salute Mrs. Levinson, as well as her family and friends who have supported her during these trying times.

So what is the next step? What can we do now?

President Obama has called for a renewed diplomatic effort on Iran. Our new U.N. Ambassador Susan Rice has stated that the new administration will engage in "direct diplomacy" with the Iranians. Secretary Clinton said Tehran would be invited to an Afghanistan neighbors conference in the Netherlands at the end of the month.

We obviously have serious disagreements with Tehran on a number of issues, including its nuclear program, its despicable policy towards Israel, and its support for the terrorist groups Hamas and Hezbollah.

But the U.S. and Iran have common interests as well. Peace in Iraq, as well as in Afghanistan, is in the interests of both Tehran and Washington. We can jointly confront the scourge caused by the narcotics drug trade.

Cooperation on the case of Bob Levinson a humanitarian issue in my mind—must be a top issue if any future improvement in relations is to occur. It is but one small step we can take toward working together on this range of issues of mutual concern.

During her confirmation hearing in January, I asked Secretary of State Hillary Clinton about Bob Levinson's case. She stated that "it would be an extraordinary opportunity for the government of Iran to make such a gesture to permit contact, to release him, to make it clear that there is a new attitude in Iran, as we believe there will be with the Obama administration toward engagement, carefully constructed, and with very clear outcomes attempted."

We do not have direct diplomatic relations with Iran and our relations with Iran are difficult, to say the least. But I again call on the government of Iran to work with the U.S. and our allies to ensure Bob Levinson's return to this country and allow the Levinsons to return to a normal life.

Those points are included in S. Con. Res. 4 which I introduced on February 3. I hope that we will be able to pass this resolution by this evening. I want to thank Senator VOINOVICH, as well as 16 other Senators, for joining me as cosponsors of this resolution.

We cannot and we will not forget Bob Levinson or his family.

Mr. DURBIN. I ask unanimous consent that the concurrent 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 relating to the measure be printed in the RECORD.

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

The concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 4) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The concurrent resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. CON. RES. 4

Whereas United States citizen Robert Levinson is a retired agent of the Federal

Bureau of Investigation, a resident of Florida, the husband of Christine Levinson, and father of their 7 children;

Whereas Robert Levinson traveled from Dubai to Kish Island, Iran, on March 8, 2007; Whereas, after traveling to Kish Island and checking into the Hotel Maryam, he disappeared on March 9, 2007;

Whereas neither his family nor the United States Government has received further information on his fate or whereabouts;

Whereas March 9, 2009, marks the second anniversary of the disappearance of Robert Levinson;

Whereas the Government of Switzerland, which has served as Protecting Power for the United States in the Islamic Republic of Iran in the absence of diplomatic relations between the United States Government and the Government of Iran since 1980, has continuously pressed the Government of Iran on the case of Robert Levinson and lent vital assistance and support to the Levinson family during their December 2007 visit to Iran;

Whereas officials of the Government of Iran promised their continued assistance to the relatives of Robert Levinson during the visit of the family to the Islamic Republic of Iran in December 2007; and

Whereas the President of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, stated during an interview with NBC News broadcast on July 28, 2008, that officials of the Government of Iran were willing to cooperate with the Federal Bureau of Investigation in the search for Robert Levinson: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That Congress—

(1) commends the Embassy of Switzerland in Tehran and the Government of Switzerland for the ongoing assistance to the United States Government and to the family of Robert Levinson, particularly during the visit by Christine Levinson and other relatives to Iran in December 2007;

(2) expresses appreciation for efforts by Iranian officials to ensure the safety of the family of Robert Levinson during their December 2007 visit to Iran, as well as for the promise of continued assistance;

(3) urges the Government of Iran, as a humanitarian gesture, to intensify its cooperation on the case of Robert Levinson with the Embassy of Switzerland in Tehran and to share the results of its investigation into the disappearance of Robert Levinson with the Federal Bureau of Investigation;

(4) urges the President and the allies of the United States to engage with officials of the Government of Iran to raise the case of Robert Levinson at every opportunity, notwithstanding other serious disagreements the United States Government has had with the Government of Iran on a broad array of issues, including human rights, the nuclear program of Iran, the Middle East peace process, regional stability, and international terrorism; and

(5) expresses sympathy to the family of Robert Levinson during this trying period.

CONGRATULATING SAILORS OF THE U.S. SUBMARINE FORCE

Mr. DURBIN. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Con. Res. 10 submitted earlier today.

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

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 10) congratulating the Sailors of the United

States Submarine Force upon the completion of 1,000 Ohio-class ballistic missile submarine (SSBN) deterrent patrols.

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

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, it is with great pleasure that I cosponsor this concurrent resolution with the Senator from Washington to congratulate the sailors of the United States submarine force upon their completion of 1,000 Ohio-class ballistic missile submarine deterrent patrols. Ballistic missile submarines serve as our Nation's primary and most secure nuclear deterrent. This milestone is a testament to the hard work and dedication of the sailors who provide our security against the rising threats that are permeating the globe. I stand here today to urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this concurrent resolution in honor of all those who made this milestone possible.

The strategic deterrence capability provided by the Ohio class remains as critical to our national security today as it did when we commissioned the first Ohio-class submarine in 1981. As result of the rapid advancements in the information and technology industries, our adversaries across the globe are developing weaponry at a much faster rate than they were two decades ago. Because of this, we must always be prepared for the next generation of threats. No other weapon can provide deterrence against these threats like the ballistic missile submarine. It is imperative that we continue to fund the research and development to maintain this fleet, thereby ensuring the future of ballistic missile submarines in our naval force. I, along with many of my colleagues, am committed to improving and embracing new technologies that will allow us to maintain and operate the finest submarine force in the world.

The successful completion of 1,000 patrols is a testament to the achievements and hard work of the sailors who support and operate this incredible fleet of submarines. At the same time, we realize that this security is not provided without cost and sacrifice. Thousands of submariners in our Navy spend months and possibly years of their lives underneath the sea to ensure our safety and our freedom. Additionally, we must remember the countless hours spent by Connecticut laborers to design and construct the Trident submarines, also made possible by vendor support from all around the country. It is extremely important that we take the time to thank those service members and those American workers for their sacrifice and their service to our great Nation.

Again, my sincerest congratulations go to all the sailors who made the successful completion of 1,000 deterrent patrols possible. I hope that my colleagues will join me in supporting this resolution in their honor.

Mr. DURBIN. 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 measure be printed in the RECORD.

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

The concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 10) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The concurrent resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. CON. RES. 10

Whereas the Sailors of the United States Submarine Force recently completed the 1,000th deterrent patrol of the Ohio-class ballistic missile submarine (SSBN);

Whereas this milestone is significant for the Submarine Force, its crews and their families, the United States Navy, and the entire country;

Whereas this milestone was reached through the combined efforts and impressive achievements of all of the submariners who have participated in such patrols since the first patrol of USS Ohio (SSBN 726) in 1982;

Whereas, as a result of the dedication and commitment to excellence of the Sailors of the United States Submarine Force, ballistic missile submarines have always been ready and vigilant, reassuring United States allies and deterring anyone who might seek to do harm to the United States or United States allies;

Whereas the national maritime strategy of the United States recognizes the critical need for strategic deterrence in today's uncertain world;

Whereas the true strength of the ballistic missile submarine lies in the extremely talented and motivated Sailors who have voluntarily chosen to serve in the submarine community; and

Whereas the inherent stealth, unparalleled firepower, and nearly limitless endurance of the ballistic missile submarine provide a credible deterrence for any enemies that

would seek to use force against the United States or United States allies: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That Congress—

(1) congratulates the Sailors of the United States Submarine Force upon the completion of 1,000 Ohio-class ballistic missile submarine (SSBN) deterrent patrols; and

(2) honors and thanks the crews of ballistic missile submarines and their devoted families for their continued dedication and sacrifice.

APPOINTMENT

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair announces, on behalf of the Majority Leader, pursuant to the provisions of S. Res. 105, opted April 13, 1989, as amended by S. Res. 149 adopted October 5, 1993, as amended by Public Law 105-275, adopted October 21, 1998, further amended by S. Res. 75, adopted March 25, 1999, amended by S. Res. 383, adopted October 27, 2000, and amended by S. Res. 355, adopted November 13, 2002, and further amended by S. Res. 480, adopted November 21, 2004, the appointment of the following Senators as members of the Senate National Security Working Group for the 111th Congress: The Senator from Michigan, Mr. LEVIN, as Democratic Co-Chairman; the Senator from Massachusetts, Mr. KERRY, as Democratic Co-Chairman; the Senator from New Jersey, Mr. LAUTENBERG, as Democratic Co-Chairman; the Senator from North Dakota, Mr. DORGAN; the Senator from Illinois, Mr. DURBIN; the Senator from Maryland, Mr. CARDIN; and the Senator from West Virginia, Mr. BYRD, as Majority Administrative Co-Chairman.

ORDERS FOR TUESDAY, MARCH 10, 2009

Mr. DURBIN. I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand adjourned until 10 a.m. on Tuesday, March 10; that following the prayer and pledge the Journal of proceedings be approved to date; the morning hour be deemed expired, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and the Senate resume consideration of H.R. 1105, the Omnibus appropriations bill, as provided under the previous order; further, that the Senate recess from 12:30 to 2:15 p.m. for the weekly part conference luncheons.

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

PROGRAM

Mr. DURBIN. We expect to be in a series of votes tomorrow afternoon in relation to the remaining pending amendments to the omnibus bill, in addition to a vote on cloture on the bill and, hopefully, a vote on passage of the legislation.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M. TOMORROW

Mr. DURBIN. If there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it stand adjourned under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 7:20 p.m., adjourned until Tuesday, March 10, 2009, at 10 a.m.