

SECTION 1. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) Radio Free Asia (referred to in this Act as "RFA")—

(A) was authorized under section 309 of the United States International Broadcasting Act of 1994 (22 U.S.C. 6208);

(B) was incorporated as a private, non-profit corporation in March 1996 in the hope that its operations would soon be obviated by the global advancement of democracy; and

(C) is headquartered in Washington, DC, with additional offices in Bangkok, Hong Kong, Phnom Penh, Seoul, Ankara, and Taipei.

(2) RFA broadcasts serve as substitutes for indigenous free media in regions lacking free media outlets.

(3) The mission of RFA is "to provide accurate and timely news and information to Asian countries whose governments prohibit access to a free press" in order to enable informed decision-making by the people within Asia.

(4) RFA provides daily broadcasts of news, commentary, analysis, and cultural programming to Asian countries in several languages, including—

(A) 12 hours per day in Mandarin;

(B) 8 hours per day in 3 Tibetan dialects, Uke, Kham, and Amdo;

(C) 4 hours per day in Korean and Burmese;

(D) 2 hours per day in Cantonese, Vietnamese, Laotian, Khmer (Cambodian), and Uyghur; and

(E) 1½ hours per week in Wu (local Shanghai dialect).

(5) The governments of the countries targeted for these broadcasts have consistently denied and blocked attempts at Medium Wave and FM transmissions into their countries, forcing RFA to rely on Shortwave broadcasts and the Internet.

(6) RFA has provided continuous online news to its Asian audiences since 2004, although some countries—

(A) routinely and aggressively block RFA's website;

(B) monitor access to RFA's website; and

(C) discourage online users by making it illegal to access RFA's website.

(7) Despite these attempts, RFA has successfully managed to reach its online audiences through proxies, cutting-edge software, and active republication and repostings by its audience.

(8) RFA also provides forums for local opinions and experiences through message boards, podcasts, web logs (blogs), cell phone-distributed newscasts, and new media, including Facebook, Flickr, Twitter, and YouTube.

(9) Freedom House has documented that freedom of the press is in decline in nearly every region of the world, particularly in Asia, where none of the countries served by RFA have increased their freedom of the press during the past 5 years.

(10) In fiscal year 2010, RFA is operating on a \$37,000,000 budget, less than \$400,000 of which is available to fund Internet censorship circumvention.

(11) Congress currently provides grant funding for RFA's operations on a fiscal year basis.

SEC. 2. SENSE OF THE SENATE.

It is the sense of the Senate that—

(1) public access to timely, uncensored, and accurate information is imperative for promoting government accountability and the protection of human rights;

(2) Radio Free Asia provides a vital voice to people in Asia;

(3) some of the governments in Asia spend millions of dollars each year to jam RFA's shortwave, block its Internet sites;

(4) Congress should provide additional funding to RFA and the other entities overseen by the Broadcasting Board of Governors for—

(A) Internet censorship circumvention; and

(B) enhancement of their cyber security efforts; and

(5) permanently authorizing funding for Radio Free Asia would—

(A) reflect the concern that media censorship and press restrictions in the countries served by RFA have increased since RFA was established; and

(B) send a powerful signal of our Nation's support for free press in Asia and throughout the world.

SEC. 3. PERMANENT AUTHORIZATION FOR RADIO FREE ASIA.

Section 309 of the United States International Broadcasting Act of 1994 (22 U.S.C. 6208) is amended—

(1) in subsection (c)(2), by striking "and shall further specify that funds to carry out the activities of Radio Free Asia may not be available after September 30, 2010";

(2) by striking subsection (f);

(3) by redesignating subsections (g) and (h) as subsection (f) and (g), respectively; and

(4) in subsection (f), as redesignated—

(A) by striking "The Board" and inserting the following:

"(1) NOTIFICATION.—The Board";

(B) by striking "before entering" and inserting the following: "before—

"(A) entering";

(C) by striking "Radio Free Asia." and inserting the following: "Radio Free Asia; or

"(B) entering into any agreements in regard to the utilization of Radio Free Asia transmitters, equipment, or other resources that will significantly reduce the broadcasting activities of Radio Free Asia.";

(D) by striking "The Chairman" and inserting the following:

"(2) CONSULTATION.—The Chairman"; and

(E) by inserting "or Radio Free Asia broadcasting activities" before the period at the end.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the committee-reported amendment be agreed to, the bill, as amended, be read the third time and passed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statements relating to this bill be printed in the RECORD.

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

The committee amendment in the nature of a substitute was agreed to.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

REGARDING KYRGYZSTAN

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 566.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 566) expressing the sense of the Senate regarding the situation in Kyrgyzstan.

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

Mr. REID. Mr. 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 that any statements relating to the resolution be printed in the RECORD.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 566) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 566

Whereas on June 10, 2010, violence erupted between ethnic Kyrgyz and Uzbek communities in the southern city of Osh, Kyrgyzstan, and later spread to the city of Jalalabad, leaving at least several hundred dead and thousands injured;

Whereas the outbreak of violence forced as many as 400,000 people to flee their homes, including an estimated 100,000 women and children who face desperate conditions along the Kyrgyzstan-Uzbekistan border;

Whereas the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and other United Nations agencies estimate that the violence could directly or indirectly affect more than 1,000,000 people;

Whereas the displacement of ethnic Uzbeks and continuing instability in the southern part of Kyrgyzstan could destabilize the Provisional Government of Kyrgyzstan and undermine the legitimacy of the referendum on constitutional reform scheduled for June 27, 2010;

Whereas the Provisional Government of Kyrgyzstan, which came to power in April 2010 following large-scale opposition protests against the regime of former president Kurmanbek Bakiyev, has yet to fully extend its authority in the south and build the capacity necessary to address underlying political, social, and economic tensions;

Whereas Kyrgyz and Uzbeks in Osh have retreated into largely self-segregated neighborhoods, creating the potential for a permanent division into ethnic enclaves that could impede the delivery of humanitarian assistance and jeopardize the long-term stability of the country;

Whereas rioting and violence in southern Kyrgyzstan could spread to other areas in the Ferghana Valley, which spans the countries of Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, and Tajikistan, and further exacerbate inter-ethnic competition for resources in the region;

Whereas protracted instability in Kyrgyzstan and the wider region could provide a safe haven for extremists and criminal networks and obstruct efforts to combat the drug trade;

Whereas stability in Kyrgyzstan and the broader Central Asia region, which borders Afghanistan, Iran, China, and Russia, is important to the national security interests of the United States;

Whereas Central Asia plays a vital role in the United States strategy for Afghanistan, including the transit center at Manas International Airport in Kyrgyzstan that forms an integral part of the northern supply route for North Atlantic Treaty Organization and United States-led coalition operations in Afghanistan;

Whereas promoting stability, respect for human rights, and economic and political reform in Central Asia are important priorities for the United States;

Whereas economic growth and democratic political development in Central Asia would provide a foundation for improved cooperation with the United States in confronting an array of global challenges, from non-proliferation and counter-narcotics to energy security and climate change; and

Whereas the potential for escalating violence in Kyrgyzstan concerns not only the United States and the people of Kyrgyzstan, but also the countries in the region and the international community: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the Senate—

(1) to call upon all parties in Kyrgyzstan to refrain from violence and attend to the civilians who have been displaced or injured as a result of the violence, paying particular attention to the ethnic Uzbek population along the Kyrgyzstan-Uzbekistan border;

(2) that the Provisional Government of Kyrgyzstan should—

(A) take immediate steps to restore order, the rule of law, and the democratic process;

(B) address the underlying political, social, and economic tensions that divide Kyrgyz society for all citizens of Kyrgyzstan, regardless of ethnic background; and

(C) bring to justice those responsible for the recent violence;

(3) to support calls for a full and fair investigation into the causes of the violence in southern Kyrgyzstan;

(4) to welcome the commitment of more than \$32,000,000 of the United States Government to Kyrgyzstan for programs supporting humanitarian relief, reconstruction, and community stabilization;

(5) to commend the Government of Uzbekistan for cooperating with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the International Committee of the Red Cross, UNICEF, and other international non-governmental organizations in meeting the urgent needs of Uzbek refugees;

(6) that the Government of Uzbekistan should maintain an open border in order to ensure that the displaced and vulnerable populations seeking refuge in Uzbekistan may avail themselves of emergency humanitarian assistance and protection services;

(7) to call upon the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe to help restore calm and order through—

(A) strengthening the democratic institutions of Kyrgyzstan;

(B) encouraging respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms;

(C) establishing a framework for dialogue among the ethnic communities; and

(D) promoting confidence building measures between the Provisional Government of Kyrgyzstan and ethnic communities; and

(8) to commend the efforts of relief organizations and all persons responding to the immediate humanitarian needs of those displaced by the recent outbreak of violence in Kyrgyzstan.

ORDER FOR RECORD TO REMAIN OPEN

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the RECORD remain open until 12 noon for the purpose of the introduction of legislation, the insertion of statements, and any cosponsors, notwithstanding an adjournment of the Senate.

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

ORDERS FOR MONDAY, JUNE 28, 2010

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 2 p.m. on Monday, June 28; 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 that following any leader remarks, the Senate proceed to a period of morning business until 3 p.m., with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each; that following morning business, the Senate resume consideration of the motion to proceed to H.R. 5297.

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

PROGRAM

Mr. REID. Mr. President, under a previous order, at 5 p.m. on Monday, the Senate will proceed to executive session to debate the nomination of Gary Feinerman to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Illinois, with the time until 5:30 p.m. equally divided and controlled between Senators LEAHY and SESSIONS or their designees.

At 5:30 p.m., there will be two rollcall votes. The first vote will be on the motion to invoke cloture on the motion to proceed to H.R. 5297; the second vote will be on confirmation of the Feinerman nomination.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL MONDAY, JUNE 28, 2010, AT 2 P.M.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, 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 11:04 a.m., adjourned until Monday, June 28, 2010, at 2 p.m.

CONFIRMATION

Executive nomination confirmed by the Senate, Friday, June 25, 2010:

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

JOHN S. PISTOLE, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF HOMELAND SECURITY.

The above nomination was approved subject to the nominee's commitment to respond to requests to appear and testify before any duly constituted committee of the Senate.