

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-7954. A communication from the Director of Regulations and Policy Management Staff, Food and Drug Administration, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Division of Freedom of Information; Change of Office Name, and Removal of Address, Telephone Number, and Fax Number; Technical Amendment" (Docket No. FDA-2011-N-0318) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 17, 2014; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-7955. A communication from the Chairman, Farm Credit System Insurance Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Corporation's consolidated report addressing the Federal Managers Financial Integrity Act (FMFIA or Integrity Act) and the Inspector General Act of 1978 (IG Act); to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-7956. A communication from the Board Chair and Chief Executive Officer, Farm Credit Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Administration's Performance and Accountability Report for fiscal year 2014; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-7957. A communication from the Archivist of the United States, National Archives and Records Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Administration's fiscal year 2014 Financial Report; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-7958. A communication from the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Department of Veterans Affairs' Semiannual Report of the Inspector General for the period from April 1, 2014 through September 30, 2014; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-7959. A communication from the Director, Office of Government Ethics, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Post-Employment Conflict of Interest Restrictions; Revision of Departmental Component Designations" (RIN3209-AA14) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 17, 2014; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-7960. A communication from the Director, Office of Government Ethics, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Annual Financial Report for the Office of Government Ethics for fiscal year 2014; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-7961. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 20-462, "License to Carry a Pistol Temporary Amendment Act of 2014"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-7962. A communication from the Secretary of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Agency Financial Report for fiscal year 2014; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-7963. A communication from the Secretary of Education, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Department of Education Agency Financial Report for fiscal year 2014; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-7964. A communication from the Chief Financial Officer, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the fiscal year 2014 Agency Financial Report; to

the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-7965. A communication from the Senior Associate General Counsel, Office of the Director of National Intelligence, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Director of the National Counterterrorism Center, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 18, 2014; to the Select Committee on Intelligence.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. CARPER, from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs:

Report to accompany S. 1744, a bill to strengthen the accountability of individuals involved in misconduct affecting the integrity of background investigations, to update guidelines for security clearances, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 113-276).

By Mr. TESTER, from the Committee on Indian Affairs:

Report to accompany S. 2479, a bill to provide for a land conveyance in the State of Nevada (Rept. No. 113-277).

Report to accompany S. 2480, a bill to require the Secretary of the Interior to convey certain Federal land to Elko County, Nevada, and to take land into trust for certain Indian tribes, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 113-278).

By Mr. ROCKEFELLER, from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 2030. A bill to reauthorize and amend the National Sea Grant College Program Act, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 113-279).

By Mr. ROCKEFELLER, from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation:

Report to accompany S. 2583, a bill to promote the non-exclusive use of electronic labeling for devices licensed by the Federal Communications Commission (Rept. No. 113-280).

By Mr. ROCKEFELLER, from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, without amendment:

S. 2338. A bill to reauthorize the United States Anti-Doping Agency, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 113-281).

S. 2759. A bill to release the City of St. Clair, Missouri, from all restrictions, conditions, and limitations on the use, encumbrance, conveyance, and closure of the St. Clair Regional Airport (Rept. No. 113-282).

EXECUTIVE REPORT OF COMMITTEE

The following executive report of a nomination was submitted:

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN for the Select Committee on Intelligence.

*Nicholas J. Rasmussen, of Virginia, to be Director of the National Counterterrorism Center, Office of the Director of National Intelligence.

*Nomination was reported with recommendation that it be confirmed subject to the nominee's commitment to respond to requests to appear and testify before any duly constituted committee of the Senate.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. BURR:

S. Res. 592. A resolution recognizing the contributions of the Montagnard indigenous tribespeople of the Central Highlands of Vietnam to the United States Armed Forces during the Vietnam War, and condemning the ongoing violation of human rights by the Government of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 864

At the request of Mr. WICKER, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 864, a bill to amend the Safe Drinking Water Act to reauthorize technical assistance to small public water systems, and for other purposes.

S. 1463

At the request of Mrs. BOXER, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1463, a bill to amend the Lacey Act Amendments of 1981 to prohibit importation, exportation, transportation, sale, receipt, acquisition, and purchase in interstate or foreign commerce, or in a manner substantially affecting interstate or foreign commerce, of any live animal of any prohibited wildlife species.

S. 1686

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1686, a bill to amend the Controlled Substances Act to provide enhanced penalties for marketing controlled substances to minors.

S. 1853

At the request of Mr. BOOZMAN, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1853, a bill to amend the Environmental Research, Development, and Demonstration Authorization Act of 1978 to provide for Scientific Advisory Board member qualifications, public participation, and for other purposes.

S. 2549

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2549, a bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to allow for the personal importation of safe and affordable drugs from approved pharmacies in Canada.

S. 2689

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the names of the Senator from North Carolina (Mrs. HAGAN) and the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) were added as cosponsors of S. 2689, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to specify coverage of continuous glucose monitoring devices, and for other purposes.

S. 2833

At the request of Mr. THUNE, the name of the Senator from Utah (Mr. LEE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2833, a bill to improve the establishment of any lower ground-level ozone standards, and for other purposes.

S. 2876

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2876, a bill to establish a public education and awareness and access program relating to emergency contraception.

S. 2924

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2924, a bill to amend title 46, United States Code, to exempt old vessels that only operate within inland waterways from the fire-retardant materials requirement if the owners of such vessels make annual structural alterations to at least 10 percent of the areas of the vessels that are not constructed of fire-retardant materials.

S. 2943

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2943, a bill to amend Public Law 110-299 to extend the time period during which permits are not required for certain discharges incidental to the normal operation of vessels.

S. 2944

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2944, a bill to amend the Social Security Act to provide for the termination of social security benefits for individuals who participated in Nazi persecution, and for other purposes.

S. 2963

At the request of Mrs. BOXER, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2963, a bill to remove a limitation on a prohibition relating to permits for discharges incidental to normal operation of vessels.

S. RES. 578

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the names of the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER), the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN), the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) and the Senator from Virginia (Mr. KAINE) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 578, a resolution supporting the role of the United States in ensuring children in the world's poorest countries have access to vaccines and immunization through Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 592—RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE MONTAGNARD INDIGENOUS TRIBESPEOPLE OF THE CENTRAL HIGHLANDS OF VIETNAM TO THE UNITED STATES ARMED FORCES DURING THE VIETNAM WAR, AND CONDEMNING THE ONGOING VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS BY THE GOVERNMENT OF THE SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM

Mr. BURR submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 592

Whereas the Montagnards, sometimes referred to as "Dega", are the indigenous tribespeople living in Vietnam's Central Highlands region;

Whereas the Montagnards were driven into the mountains by invading Vietnamese and Cambodians in the 9th century;

Whereas French Roman Catholic missionaries converted many of the Montagnards in the 19th century and American Protestant missionaries subsequently converted many to various Protestant sects;

Whereas, during the 1960s, the United States Mission in Saigon, the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), and United States Army Special Forces, also known as the Green Berets, trained the Montagnards in unconventional warfare;

Whereas an estimated 61,000 Montagnards, out of an estimated population of 1,000,000, fought alongside the United States and the Army of the Republic of Vietnam (ARVN) forces against the North Vietnamese Army and the Viet Cong;

Whereas the Central Intelligence Agency, United States Special Forces, and the Montagnards cooperated on the Village Defense Program, a forerunner to the War's Strategic Hamlet Program and estimated 43,000 Montagnards were organized into "Civilian Irregular Defense Groups" (CIDGs) to provide protection for the areas around the CIDGs' operational bases;

Whereas, at its peak, the CIDGs had approximately 50 operational bases, with each base containing a contingent of two United States Army officers and ten enlisted men, and an ARVN unit of the same size, and each base trained 200 to 700 Montagnards, or "strikers";

Whereas another 18,000 Montagnards were reportedly enlisted into mobile strike forces, and various historical accounts describe a strong bond between the United States Special Forces and the Montagnards, in contrast to Vietnamese Special Forces and ARVN troops;

Whereas the lives of thousands of members of the United States Armed Forces were saved as a result of the heroic actions of the Montagnards, who fought loyally and bravely alongside United States Special Forces in the Vietnam War;

Whereas, after the fall of the Republic of Vietnam in 1975, thousands of Montagnards fled across the border into Cambodia to escape persecution;

Whereas the Government of the reunified Vietnamese nation, renamed the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, deeply distrusted the Montagnards who had sided with the United States and ARVN forces, and subjected them to imprisonment and various forms of discrimination and oppression after the Vietnam War ended;

Whereas, after the Vietnam War, the United States Government resettled large numbers of Montagnards, mostly in North Carolina, and an estimated several thousand Montagnards currently reside in North Carolina, which is the largest population of Montagnards residing outside of Vietnam;

Whereas the Socialist Republic of Vietnam currently remains a one-party state, ruled and controlled by the Communist Party of Vietnam (CPV), which continues to restrict freedom of religion, movement, land and property rights, and political expression;

Whereas officials of the Government of Vietnam have forced Montagnards to publicly denounce their religion, arrested and imprisoned Montagnards who organized public demonstrations, and mistreated Montagnards in detention;

Whereas the Government of Vietnam's restrictions on foreigners' access to the Central Highlands region complicate accurate reporting of human rights violations against the Montagnards, including the hundreds of Montagnards who have reportedly been imprisoned since 2001 and Montagnards who have fled to Thailand seeking asylum in a third country;

Whereas some Montagnard Americans have complained that Vietnamese authorities either have prevented them from visiting Vietnam or have subjected them to interrogation upon re-entering the country on visits;

Whereas the Department of State's 2013 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices and 2013 International Religious Freedom Report reference the mistreatment of Montagnards as an example of the detention of ethnic minorities in Vietnam and references reports from followers of the unsanctioned Church of Christ that local authorities in the Central Highlands provinces had harassed and persecuted them;

Whereas, in March 2014, the Unrepresented Nations and Peoples Organization (UNPO) submitted an alternative report to the United Nations Committee on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights summarizing the alleged violations of the economic, social, and cultural rights of Vietnam's Montagnard, Hmong, and Khmer Krom;

Whereas the Unrepresented Nations and Peoples Organization report states that the Government of Vietnam has denied Montagnards of their right of self-determination; imposed discriminatory policies; curtailed religious freedom; impeded access to an adequate standard of living; limited access to health care and education; infringed on the Montagnards' cultural rights; and, in two recent cases, arrested and imprisoned Montagnards purportedly for their religious beliefs;

Whereas the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom's 2014 Annual Report states that the Government of Vietnam controls all religious activities through law and administrative oversight, severely restricts independent religious practice, and represses individuals and religious groups it views as challenging its authority, including independent Protestant house churches in the Central and Northwest Highlands; and

Whereas the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom recommends that Vietnam be designated as a Country of Particular Concern (CPC) and that access to Priority 1 refugee resettlement authority should be increased for individuals from Vietnam facing a well-founded fear of persecution: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the contributions of the Montagnards who fought loyally and bravely with United States Armed Forces during the