

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

PRESIDENTIAL FLAG AND SEAL ANNIVERSARY

Mr. KAINE. Madam President, I rise today to commemorate an important but largely unheralded anniversary. Seventy years ago yesterday, President Harry Truman changed the design of the Presidential flag and seal. That moment, which is a small moment in the grand scope of American history, was nevertheless very symbolic. I would like to discuss it.

First, some context on President Truman. Truman was a great wartime President. He fought bravely in World War I in France, and then he had to make very momentous decisions at the close of World War II. Some would argue, and I think properly, that the decision on whether to use atomic weapons at Hiroshima and Nagasaki might have been the single most momentous decision ever made by a President. He wasn't even aware of the Manhattan Project and the development of the atomic weapons program until FDR died in April of 1945 and within a very few months had to make the decision whether to use those weapons against Japan.

Nobody would question or challenge whether Harry Truman was a softy. In fact, even after World War II, in March of 1947, America was war-weary, but he went to Congress and in an address to Congress said that we need to continue to provide military and economic support to nations that are battling against Soviet influence. In this case, it was the nations of Greece and Turkey. That began the Truman doctrine, the basic strategic principle whereby the United States, for the next 40 years, would sort of check off efforts by the Soviet Union to expand their influence. Harry Truman was a great wartime President.

Harry Truman did something on October 25, 1945, that was most unusual. He called the press into his office and said: Look what I have done. He unveiled the fact that he had taken the seal and flag of the Presidency of the United States and redesigned them. That design is essentially the same today with the exception that two stars were added for the States of Alaska and Hawaii that came in after the Truman Presidency.

The seal of the President, as everybody knows—if we look around the Chamber, we can see some up on the wall here—was originally an eagle, and the eagle has two claws. In one set of claws the eagle is grasping the arrows of war, and in the other set of claws, the eagle is grasping the olive branches of peace and diplomacy. Prior to the Truman Presidency, the eagle faced toward the arrows of war. Harry Truman, this great wartime President, changed the seal so the olive branches of diplomacy would be in the right claw, the sort of preserved position, and the

eagle would be facing toward the olive branches. When he did this he said: "This new flag faces the eagle toward the staff, which is looking to the front all of the time when you are on the march, and also has it looking at the olive branch for peace, instead of the arrows of war." Truman biographer David McCullough stated that Truman meant the shift in the eagle's gaze to be seen as symbolic of a nation that was on the march and dedicated to peace and diplomacy.

Significantly, right around the same time President Truman did something else that was notable and symbolical. He renamed the Department we think of as the Pentagon from the Department of War to the Department of Defense, also symbolic of the Nation's postwar dedication to peace.

While we want to be the strongest—and we are the strongest military nation in the world, as the Presiding Officer knows so very well—we want to always suggest to the world that our interest is not primarily war; no, our interest is peace and prosperity for all.

We always have to preserve and advance America's military strength because we know the connection. Sometimes the better your military strength, the more successful you can be diplomatically, but it is also the case that the strength of your diplomacy can also add to the credibility of your military might.

I wish to talk quickly about the olive branches of peace and diplomacy and then the arrows of war. America has a great diplomatic tradition. Let's talk about recent Presidential history. President Truman went to Congress and said: Let's spend, in today's dollars, tens of billions of dollars to rebuild the economies of Japan and Germany, the two nations that had been at war against the United States. Germany had been engaged in two wars with the United States in the previous 30 years. Japan had invaded the United States at Pearl Harbor, but President Truman said: Tomorrow is more important than yesterday. Let's spend dollars to rebuild these economies. It was controversial when he proposed it, but the Marshall Plan ended up being one of the most successful things the United States has done from a foreign policy perspective.

Right after the Cuban Missile Crisis of 1962, President Kennedy engaged in negotiations with the Soviet Union to reduce the nuclear threat, and the result was an agreement in 1963 to ban atmospheric nuclear tests, the Nuclear Test Ban Treaty.

President Reagan was actively engaged in trying to undermine the power of the Soviet Union and communism, but during those very vigorous and aggressive activities, he was also negotiating with the Soviet Union on arms control agreements. Probably the paramount example of that during the Reagan Presidency was the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty in 1987 that he successfully negotiated.

I happen to believe that history is going to judge the recent Iran nuclear deal in the same way. It is an effort to make tomorrow more important than yesterday and to find—even in the midst of significant challenges between the United States and Iran—a way to reduce nuclear tension. Diplomacy is always a judgment where we should try to let go some of the baggage of the past and see if we can find a better way to tomorrow.

I am a little bit worried that the Truman legacy of putting peace and diplomacy first is fraying in this body and maybe nationally. I hope by bringing to mind this anniversary today, it will remind us of our great diplomatic history and the power of our diplomatic principles. A number of times in recent years we have seen bits of evidence of a fraying commitment to diplomacy in this Chamber, in my view.

One of the great Truman institutions was the International Monetary Fund which was designed to help nations work together on economic and monetary policy issues. It is a great global institution. When you set up an institution like that in the 1940s, the challenge is that when new nations emerge and rise, how do you incorporate nations that are newly powerful into the Fund? The most recent and challenging example has been the nation of China. As China has gotten more and more important, there were many who advised us to bring China more closely into the Fund so they could assist nations throughout the world, but Congress refused to change the bylaws of the IMF to give China proportionate responsibility given its population and the strength of its economy. What did China do after we would not change the bylaws to allow them a proportionate place at the table? China established their own development bank completely separate from the IMF.

There is a debate going on right now in Congress about whether we should reauthorize the Ex-Im Bank—now, this dates back to FDR's Presidency—a premier institution that helps American companies find export markets abroad. Again, it is part of our broad diplomatic effort in outreach, and suddenly it is controversial after 80 years.

There are a number of U.N. treaties that we could profitably advance our interests on. The U.N. Convention on the Law of the Sea, if the United States had ratified that, we would have an additional diplomatic tool to challenge Chinese island building in the South China Sea.

The U.N. treaty on the rights of women and on the rights of those with disabilities are treaties that would, frankly, reflect American values and American principles because we are the leaders in the world in these areas, and yet we will not ratify these treaties.

The prospect of trade deals is much less popular in Congress than they were 15 years ago. Trade is going to happen, the question is whether the United States will play a leadership

role in writing the rules, and if we step back and don't play a leadership role, some other nations will, but these are getting more and more complicated in this body.

Finally, something I feel very strongly about is that it is hard to face the world with this strong diplomatic might when there are a lot of ambassadorial positions that are vacant. Especially in the last 6 or 7 years we have seen efforts to block or delay ambassadorial appointments that have left key posts in many nations around the world vacant.

It sends a message to other countries. When they look at us, as the United States, not putting an ambassador in place, they basically conclude that the United States may not think we are important, and that is a very bad signal to send to other nations, especially when many nations that are allies have been without ambassadors for a while.

I am hoping we can reembrace on this 70th anniversary the wisdom of Truman, who said: The nation has to be vigorous and forceful and look toward diplomacy first.

With respect to the arrows of war—I am on the Armed Services Committee, and just like President Truman, I prefer diplomacy. I think we should lead with diplomacy, but we have to be willing to use military force. I voted for military force twice during my 3 years in the Senate.

In 2013, in August, the President asked us to vote for military force against Syria to punish Bashar al-Assad for using chemical weapons against civilians. The only vote that was taken in either House was a vote in the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. I voted for it with a kind of foreboding and heavy heart because I knew there would be Virginians, some of whom I might know, who would be affected, but nevertheless I thought it was an important principle for America to stand for.

Since September of 2014, I have also been pushing to have Congress cast a vote to authorize the war against ISIL that has been going on for 15 months. There is a lot of critique in this body—and I have critique—about the way that war is being waged about strategic decisions that the President is undertaking with respect to the war, but I think at the end of the day it is hard to just be a critic. Under article I of the Constitution, it is supposed to be Congress that authorizes war rather than a President just doing it on his own.

Earlier I mentioned how the Truman olive branches of diplomacy and arrows of war reinforce one another. Obviously, you can be a stronger negotiator at the table in advancing a diplomatic solution if people understand that you have significant military capacity and the willingness to use it in the appropriate instance. The more we can do and the better we can do to empower or military through wise budgeting, for example—as we hope to find an end to

sequester and a path forward—the stronger we will make our diplomatic effort. Similarly, the reverse is also true. The more we are vigorous in going after diplomacy, the more moral credibility we have in those instances where we can say, when looking at the world, looking at our citizens, and looking at our own troops, that we now think we need to take military action and we have exhausted the diplomatic alternatives first. That improves the moral credibility behind a military effort. It enables us to make the case better to all about the need for a military effort, and often it even creates a better international justification for a military effort.

I believe the Presiding Officer and I were together last week when former Secretary Gates testified before the Armed Services Committee. It was one of the best bits of testimony I have seen in my time in the Senate. He had a word of caution for us. He said: “While it is tempting to assert that the challenges facing the United States internationally have never been more numerous or complex, the reality is that turbulent, unstable and unpredictable times have recurred to challenge U.S. leaders regularly since World War II.”

We do live in a very complex and challenging world, where we see challenges that are known but also many unpredictable challenges. Other leaders of this country, since our first days, have lived in worlds that looked equally as challenging and confusing to them. We are true to our best traditions if the United States does what Truman so emblematically suggested we should do and we push in a vigorous and creative way all of the diplomatic tools at our disposal, and that involves diplomacy, but it also involves trade and humanitarian assistance. The United States is one of the most generous nations in the world.

The strength of our moral example is something that stands as so important. If you live in a nation where journalists are being put in jail, the U.S. freedom of the press stands as a moral example. If you live in a nation where people are prosecuted because of their sexual orientation, the United States stands as a great moral example. We are not exemplary in everything. We have room to improve in everything, but we are exemplary in so many things. People around the world still look at us, and that is in fact a diplomatic area of importance. Let's be exemplary and stand for the principles we expose.

Finally, I will say this. So many of the challenges we are facing now are challenges that at the end of the day are about diplomatic solutions. In the Armed Services or the Foreign Relations Committees, we are often talking about the vexing conundrum and humanitarian disaster in Syria, but at the end of the day we hear it has to be about a political solution to the civil war. There has to be a political solu-

tion to the conflict in Yemen. There has to be a political solution to the decades-long conflict between the Taliban and the Afghanistan Government. To find a political solution, you have to have strong diplomacy. Military action will not be enough to forge a political consensus moving forward.

Ultimately, this was the message of what Harry Truman did 70 years ago. This strong wartime President, who made some of the toughest decisions that have ever been made by anybody in the Oval Office, recognized that America was a great nation because when push came to shove, we would prefer, push, and advocate for diplomacy first knowing that we would be militarily strong if we needed to be. It is my hope that we in Congress will take a lesson from that anniversary and continue to pursue that same path.

With that, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maine.

Ms. COLLINS. Madam President, what is the pending business?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. We are in a period of morning business.

Ms. COLLINS. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that I be permitted to speak for up to 15 minutes.

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

CYBERSECURITY INFORMATION SHARING BILL

Ms. COLLINS. Madam President, I rise to speak in favor of the Cybersecurity Information Sharing Act of 2015, and I urge my colleagues to support this much needed legislation. Nearly 3 months ago, the Senate was unable to find a path forward to adopt this important bill. Let's look at what has happened since the time that the Senate refused to proceed.

The fact is that our country has continued to endure a wave of damaging and expensive cyber attacks. These incidents include the first major hack of Apple's popular App Store, the compromise of 15 million T-Mobile users due to a breach at Experian, and the exposure of data of up to 8,000 Army families due to improper procedures followed by the General Services Administration. For the Army families who were affected, this sensitive information included medical histories, Social Security numbers, and child day care details.

Today, I renew my support for this bill in light of the continuing state of cyber insecurity that affects information held in the public and private sectors.

Passing the Cybersecurity Information Sharing Act would make it easier for public and private sector entities to share cyber threat information and vulnerabilities in order to lessen the theft of trade secrets, intellectual property, and national security information, as well as the compromise of sensitive personal information. It would eliminate some of the legal and