

Sudan as well as the prospects for passage of U.S. supplemental funding.

BLC OBJECTIVES

Express your commitment to upholding international humanitarian law and addressing global humanitarian crises, including by passing the supplemental funding.

[Israel/Gaza point to be provided by Team MENA]

BLC MESSAGE & SUGGESTED QUESTIONS

Israel and Gaza:
[questions and talking points to follow from Team MENA]

Kidnapped Ukrainian Children: I know that the ICRC has a unique perspective as one of the few interlocutors that talks to both sides and with the ability to operate in occupied territories in Ukraine as well as within the Russian Federation.

How do you engage with the Russian government on questions of kidnapped children? Have you found more success engaging with certain Russian agencies than others?

How does the ICC arrest warrant for Putin and his Commissioner for Children's Rights influence the Russian response to engagement on kidnapped children? Is there additional leverage that the international community could bring to bear to help you succeed in your mission of reuniting families?

War Crimes and Atrocities in Ukraine:

Can you discuss the nature of war crimes and atrocities being committed in occupied territories now? Is there additional engagement or resources from the international community necessary to help support victims and prevent future such atrocities and war crimes?

Sudan: There has been bipartisan and bicameral support for increasing U.S. leadership to resolve the horrific crisis in Sudan. I was pleased to see the Administration name a Special Envoy for Sudan, which I expect to put us in a much better position to exert diplomatic pressure to bring about a ceasefire. In addition to increasing our diplomatic efforts, we need greater resources to address the humanitarian catastrophe.

Where can the U.S. do more to support the work of the ICRC and other humanitarian organizations in Sudan?

What is your impression of the effectiveness of U.S. mediation efforts?

Armenia: USAID has committed more than \$4 million in additional humanitarian assistance to people displaced by Azerbaijan's military operation in Nagorno Karabakh. But with over 74,000 refugees, I know that the needs are great.

Has the international response been sufficient to support the vulnerable population from Karabakh forced to leave their entire lives behind?

Humanitarian Funding: As you know, the Senate's bill for supplemental funding, which includes more than \$9 billion for humanitarian assistance, is still under consideration in the House. This funding is critical to addressing the massive shortfall between available assistance and growing needs.

Given the growing humanitarian needs, how can Congress more effectively assist the ICRC and push other countries—including partners that have traditionally not provided substantial foreign assistance—to step up to the plate?

BACKGROUND

Gaza: In response to the, October 7 attacks, the ICRC scaled up its humanitarian response in Israel and Gaza. As part of this effort, the ICRC has actively advocated for the release of all hostages immediately and unconditionally. Concurrently, the ICRC has asked to visit the hostages, to check on their conditions, to deliver medical care, and to facilitate communication with their families.

When political agreements allowed hostages to be released, the ICRC played the role of neutral intermediary to facilitate the release, transfer, and return of 109 hostages from Gaza to their families. ICRC also facilitated the release, transfer and return of 154 Palestinian detainees from Israeli places of detention to their families. The ICRC works closely with its partners in the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and continues to work closely with local service-providers, communities and other partners on the ground.

Ukraine: With over 800 staff working in eight locations, Ukraine is the ICRC's largest operation in 2024. Working alongside partners from the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, the ICRC has provided humanitarian assistance to over 11.6 million people since February 2022. ICRC staff have visited almost 2,400 prisoners of war on both sides, sharing news and updates directly with thousands of families. The ICRC continues to push for access to all prisoners of war through bilateral dialogue and to advocate for the reunification of kidnapped Ukrainian children with their families.

Sudan: The ICRC's work in Sudan, in cooperation with the Sudanese Red Crescent Society (SRCS), includes promoting respect for International Humanitarian Law (IHL), supporting hospitals and health facilities with equipment and supplies, working with local water authorities on improving people's access to clean water and supporting the authorities in providing rehabilitation services for people with disabilities. The ICRC is helping families separated by conflict or displacement to keep in touch with their loved ones, and has facilitated the release of detainees upon request of the parties. Since the beginning of the conflict between the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and Rapid Support Forces (RSF) in April 2023, the ICRC has acted as a neutral intermediary between parties to the conflict and conducted various activities to protect and assist those affected by the consequences of the crisis.

ICRC Funding: The ICRC is appealing for \$2.34 billion in 2024, a 13% cut from the previous year's appeal. One quarter of the ICRC's total funding comes from the United States. The Senate-passed supplemental included \$3.5 billion in the Migration and Refugee Assistance (MRA) account, which includes funding for the ICRC.

Biography: Ms. Mirjana Spoljaric Egger has been ICRC President since October 2022. From 2018 to 2022, she served as the United Nations Assistant Secretary-General, Assistant Administrator of the UN Development Program (UNDP), and Director of the Regional Bureau for Europe and the CIS. Prior to joining the UN, Ms. Spoljaric had many years of distinguished service with the Swiss Diplomatic Corps, where she served as Ambassador and Head of the United Nations and International Organizations Division, and as Counsellor and Head of the Political Team at the Permanent Mission of Switzerland to the UN. From 2010–2012, Ms. Spoljaric was seconded to the Office of the Commissioner-General of the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) as Senior Advisor covering organizational development, management reforms, and external relations. Ms. Spoljaric studied Philosophy, Economics and International Law at the Universities of Basel and Geneva and holds a master's degree.

REMEMBERING PATSY MINK

Ms. HIRONO. Madam President, next month, the U.S. Mint will launch a

quarter featuring the late-Congresswoman Patsy Takemoto Mink as part of its American Women Quarters Program, which celebrates women who have made significant contributions to our country.

Congresswoman Mink, who represented Hawaii from 1965 to 1977 and 1990 to 2002, was a tireless advocate for gender and racial equality, and I am proud to have sent the letter recommending her inclusion in this program. Mrs. Mink's quarter will soon be in circulation alongside Edith Kanakaole's, another noteworthy woman from Hawaii who was honored by the American Women Quarters Program last year.

Mrs. Mink can be defined by her incredible resiliency and drive in the face of injustice. Born on December 6, 1927, in Paia, Maui, she attended Maui High School and received a bachelor's degree from the University of Hawaii at Manoa. After being denied admission to medical school because of her gender, Mrs. Mink chose to pursue a law degree and devoted her life to fighting for civil rights.

Over the following decades, her life was marked by an impressive series of firsts: She was the first Japanese American woman to practice law in Hawaii; the first woman elected to Hawaii's territorial legislature; and the first woman of color and first Asian American woman to serve in Congress.

At each stage in her career, Mrs. Mink fought against prejudice and advocated for greater opportunities for women. While in Congress, she coauthored the Title IX amendment of the Higher Education Act of 1972 (Title IX). This landmark law, comprised of only 37 words, ensured that no person would be denied access to any federally funded education program on the basis of sex. Title IX, coupled with Mrs. Mink's Women's Educational Equity Act of 1974, gave women and girls unprecedented access to educational and athletic opportunities.

Mrs. Mink also advocated for early childhood education, pushed for greater government transparency, and cocreated the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus—CAPAC—to promote the well-being of the Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander community.

After Mrs. Mink's passing on September 28, 2002, Mrs. Mink was inducted into the National Women's Hall of Fame and awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom, our Nation's highest civilian award. Today, Mrs. Mink's legacy continues on through the Patsy Takemoto Mink Foundation, led by Mrs. Mink's daughter Dr. Gwendolyn Mink, which supports educational access for low-income women and children. In 2022, 50 years after the passage of Title IX, we also honored Mrs. Mink's work by hanging her portrait in the U.S. Capitol, where it is now displayed directly across from the portrait of Shirley Chisholm, another trailblazer in her own right.

Congress has also renamed the Title IX amendment of the Higher Education

Act as the “Pasty T. Mink Equal Opportunity in Education Act.” This is a fitting tribute to Mrs. Mink, whose work continues to benefit women, girls, and LGBTQ students today. I, like many other women, stand on the shoulders of Mrs. Mink, and I am lucky to have considered her a dear friend.

Thank you, Congresswoman Mink, for all your contributions to our State and this Nation.

TRIBUTE TO ADDISON HATLEY

Mr. BARRASSO. Madam President, I would like to take the opportunity to express my appreciation to Addison for her hard work as an intern in the Senate Republican conference. I recognize her efforts and contributions to my office, as well as to the State of Wyoming.

Addison is a native of Virginia. She is currently a junior at the Madeira School in McLean, VA. She has demonstrated a strong work ethic, which has made her an invaluable asset to our office. The quality of her work is reflected in her great efforts over the last several months.

I want to thank Addison for the dedication she has shown while working for me and my staff. It is a pleasure to have her as part of our team. I know she will have continued success with all of her future endeavors. I wish her all my best on her journey.

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mrs. Stringer, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

In executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the Committee on Armed Services.

(The messages received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE

REPORT RELATIVE TO THE ISSUANCE OF AN EXECUTIVE ORDER THAT EXPANDS THE SCOPE OF THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY DECLARED IN EXECUTIVE ORDER 13873 OF MAY 15, 2019 (SECURING THE INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY AND SERVICES SUPPLY CHAIN), AND FURTHER ADDRESSED WITH ADDITIONAL MEASURES IN EXECUTIVE ORDER 14034 OF JUNE 9, 2021 (PROTECTING AMERICANS' SENSITIVE DATA FROM FOREIGN ADVERSARIES) PM—39

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message

from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

To the Congress of the United States:

Pursuant to the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 *et seq.*) (IEEPA), the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1601 *et seq.*), and section 301 of title 3, United States Code, I hereby report that I have issued an Executive Order that expands the scope of the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13873 of May 15, 2019 (Securing the Information and Communications Technology and Services Supply Chain), and further addressed with additional measures in Executive Order 14034 of June 9, 2021 (Protecting Americans' Sensitive Data from Foreign Adversaries).

The continuing effort of certain countries of concern to access Americans' sensitive personal data and United States Government-related data constitutes an unusual and extraordinary threat, which has its source in whole or substantial part outside the United States, to the national security and foreign policy of the United States. Access to Americans' bulk sensitive personal data or United States Government-related data increases the ability of countries of concern to engage in a wide range of malicious activities, including espionage, influence, kinetic, or cyber operations, or to identify other potential strategic advantages over the United States.

To address this threat and to take further steps with respect to the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13873, the order authorizes the Attorney General, in coordination with the Secretary of Homeland Security and in consultation with the heads of relevant agencies, to issue, subject to public notice and comment, regulations to prohibit or otherwise restrict the large-scale transfer of Americans' personal data to countries of concern and to provide safeguards around other activities that can give those countries access to sensitive data. Section 2(b) of the order authorizes the Attorney General, in consultation with the heads of relevant agencies, to take such actions, including the promulgation of rules and regulations, and to employ all other powers granted to the President by IEEPA, as may be necessary or appropriate to carry out the purposes of the order.

In addition, section 2(d) of the order authorizes the Secretary of Homeland Security, acting through the Director of the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency, in coordination with the Attorney General and in consultation with the heads of relevant agencies, to propose, seek public comment on, and publish security requirements that address the unacceptable risk posed by restricted transactions, as identified by the Attorney General. Section 2(e) of the order authorizes the Secretary of Homeland Security, in coordination with the Attorney General,

to take such actions, including promulgating rules, regulations, standards, and requirements; issuing interpretive guidance; and employing all other powers granted to the President by IEEPA as may be necessary to carry out the purposes described in section 2(d) of the order.

I am enclosing a copy of the Executive Order I have issued.

JOSEPH R. BIDEN, Jr.
THE WHITE HOUSE, February 28, 2024.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-3613. A communication from the Regulatory Specialist, Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “National Bank Community Development Investments” (RIN1557-AF19) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 6, 2024; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-3614. A communication from the Regulatory Specialist, Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Appraisals for Higher-Priced Mortgage Loans Exemption Threshold” (RIN1557-AF23) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 6, 2024; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-3615. A communication from the Regulatory Specialist, Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Rules of Practice and Procedure” (RIN1557-AE33) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 6, 2024; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-3616. A communication from the Sanctions Regulations Advisor, Office of Foreign Assets Control, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Inflation Adjustment of Civil Monetary Penalties” received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 2, 2024; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-3617. A communication from the Deputy Director of Congressional Affairs, Bureau of Industry and Security, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Removals from the Unverified List” (RIN0694-AJ52) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 5, 2024; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-3618. A communication from the Deputy Director of Congressional Affairs, Bureau of Industry and Security, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Additions of Entities to the Entity List” (RIN0694-AJ51) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 5, 2024; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-3619. A communication from the Deputy Director of Congressional Affairs, Bureau of Industry and Security, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Implementation of Additional Sanctions Against Russia and Belarus Under the Export Administration Regulations and Refinements to Existing Controls” (RIN0694-AJ48) received in the