

Such shifts don't seem intended to dial back the snowballing regional tensions, nor will they prevent the increasing humanitarian suffering. President Biden has sounded increasingly exasperated by developments on all of these fronts, frustrations echoed in comments by his secretary of state, Antony Blinken, during his latest visit to the region.

Rather than slowly amplifying expressions of disquiet, Team Biden should make a course correction—starting with exercising the very real diplomatic and military leverage at its disposal to move Israel in the direction of U.S. interests, rather than vice versa.

The first and most critical shift required is for the administration to embrace the need for a full cease-fire now. That demand cannot be one of rhetoric alone. The administration should condition the transfer of further military supplies on Israel ending the war and stopping the collective punishment of the Palestinian civilian population, and should create oversight mechanisms for the use of American weaponry that is already at Israel's disposal. Ending Israel's Gaza operation is also the surest way to avoid a regional war and the key to concluding negotiations for the release of hostages.

Washington can also leverage the deliberations underway at the International Court of Justice, where South Africa has accused Israel of being in violation of its obligations as a signatory to the 1948 international genocide convention. Israel is demonstrably nervous about the proceedings and understands that an International Court of Justice ruling has left; indeed, South Africa may have already done more to change the course of events than three months of American hand-wringing. The Biden administration does not need to support the South African claims, but it can and should commit to being guided by any findings of the court.

Finally, the United States should desist from making endless ritual incantations about a future two-state outcome, which are all too easily brushed off by Mr. Netanyahu. It should take at face value his government's categorical rejection of Palestinian statehood and its written coalition guidelines that assert "the Jewish people have an exclusive and inalienable right to all parts of the Land of Israel." Washington should instead challenge Israel to set out a proposal for how all those living under its control will be guaranteed equality, enfranchisement and other civil rights.

Doing so could have the added benefit of challenging Mr. Netanyahu's position. Although he appears to have consolidated his political base for now, his governing majority would be lost with just a handful of defections. Only around 15 percent of Israelis want Mr. Netanyahu to remain in power after this war ends, according to recent polls, and street protests could reignite at any moment.

For a combination of ideological, military and personal political reasons, Mr. Netanyahu probably doesn't want this war to end. And while his political demise is not a panacea for progress—nor can it be an explicit U.S. goal—it is nevertheless a prerequisite for creating the conditions under which Palestinian rights can be advanced. The United States can and should distance itself from the Gaza debacle and the extremism of Israel's leaders.

If Washington does not change its approach, its failures in this war will have consequences, even beyond the immediate crisis in Gaza, the hostilities involving the Houthis in Yemen and the gathering threat of a wider regional conflict.

The world, after all, is watching, and Washington should not underestimate the extent to which the extremely unpopular as-

sault on Gaza is seen globally as not only Israel's war, but America's as well. The U.S. government's transfer of arms to Israel and the political-diplomatic cover it provides, including by deploying or threatening its veto at the United Nations Security Council, makes its ownership of this war highly conspicuous—and damaging.

There are long-term security implications, too. The callous Israeli military campaign and its profound impact on civilians will almost certainly provide recruitment material for armed resistance for years to come. Arab countries will find cooperation and normalizing relations with Israel more burdensome, and Israel's opponents are gaining greater resonance: Hamas displaying resilience, the Houthis an impressive disruptive capacity and Hezbollah disciplined restraint.

With Israel making clear in word and deed its intention to continue down this dangerous path—indifferent to U.S. needs and expectations—shouldn't Mr. Biden be keeping a greater distance?

#### TRIBUTE TO SOPHIA OHLE

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I would like to take the opportunity to express my appreciation to Sophia for her hard work as an intern in the Energy and Natural Resources Committee. I recognize her efforts and contributions to my office, as well as to the State of Wyoming.

Sophia 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 Sophia 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.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### TRIBUTE TO MICHELLE ARCHER

• Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize Vermont State Police Trooper Michelle Archer for her lifesaving rescue of a young child. Trooper Archer's heroic actions are an extraordinary example of public service.

Trooper Archer joined the Vermont State Police in 2018 and has worked out of both the Williston and Derby barracks, serving the counties of Chittenden, Lamoille, and Orleans.

On December 17, 2023, Trooper Archer was on patrol in Lamoille County. When a 911 call came in from the town of Cambridge reporting that an 8-year-old child had fallen through the ice on a frozen pond into 40-degree water, Trooper Archer was on scene in less than 5 minutes. Without hesitation, she jumped into action. Trooper Archer put her training to use by grabbing a throw rope and floatation device, quickly but calmly entering the freez-

ing water and swimming out to the victim, and bringing the unresponsive young girl to shore. There, Trooper Archer's colleague, Trooper Keith Cote, provided first aid. The child spent time in the hospital, but thankfully, and in no small part due to the troopers' decisive actions, she is fully recovered.

While Trooper Archer's rescue rightfully made headlines, it is just one example of the dedication of Vermont public servants in law enforcement and beyond. Every day, they renew their commitment to protecting and serving Vermonters with fairness and compassion. This often means putting their own lives and safety on the line. They are our neighbors, friends, family members, and fellow Vermonters—committed to the values of integrity, courage, and honor—and to making a difference in the lives of others.

Trooper Archer, along with Trooper Cote, demonstrated exceptional service during this rescue, and for that, they have the sincere appreciation of all Vermonters. I am hopeful that their exceptional display of public service will inspire others to step up and serve their communities. In Vermont, we need more dedicated people to join the ranks of the Vermont State Police and other law enforcement agencies, and to enter other public sector jobs like teaching, healthcare, the fire service, and beyond.●

#### REMEMBERING DEBORAH WOMBLE JOHNSON

• Mr. TILLIS. Mr. President, I rise today to honor a great North Carolinian, Deborah Womble Johnson.

Born in Nash County, NC, on December 8, 1952, Deborah had a highly successful 37-year career as a healthcare executive, advising some of the top companies in the world, including Abbott Laboratories based in Rocky Mount, NC.

Deborah was a loving wife and mother, a devout Christian, and a pillar in her community. She was an active and lifelong member of the Temperance Hall Methodist Church, founded by Dr. John Mercer, who built her family's historic home. She was an outdoor enthusiast who made countless friends as the president of the Englewood Garden Club, a Nash County certified Master Gardener, and a member of the Wilson County Beekeeper Association.

Deborah is survived by her husband of 28 years, John M. Johnson, Jr.; his son and Deborah's stepson Brian Marshall Johnson of Alexandria, VA; her sister-in-law Laurie Womble and her sons Van and Billy Womble, of Spring Lake, NC; nieces Toni Rouse, Yvonne Harrell, Roberta Weaver, of Pinetops, NC; niece Renee Womble and nephews Dave Womble, Curtis Womble, of Lunenburg, MA; and Bobby Womble of Lexington, NC.

I would like to offer my deepest condolences to Deborah's loving family and the many friends she made throughout her life in North Carolina.

May her memory be a blessing to them.●

#### MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 12 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2761, and the order of the House of January 9, 2023, the Speaker appoints the following Members on the part of the House of Representatives to the British-American Interparliamentary Group: Mr. CROW of Colorado, Mr. MEEKS of New York, Ms. DELBENE of Washington, Mr. GOMEZ of California, and Ms. MATSUI of California.

#### MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bill was read the second time, and placed on the calendar:

H.R. 6914. An act to require institutions of higher education to disseminate information on the rights of, and accommodations and resources for, pregnant students, and for other purposes.

#### 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-3356. A communication from the Secretary of the Federal Trade Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Combating Auto Retail Scams Trade Regulation Rule" (RIN3084-AB72) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 11, 2024; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3357. A communication from the Branch Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Statutory Exceptions to Phaseout Reducing Elective Payment Amounts for Applicable Entities if Domestic Content Requirements are Not Satisfied" (Notice 2024-9) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 17, 2024; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-3358. A communication from the Branch Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Electronic Filing Administrative Exemptions, Waivers, And Rejections; Obsolete Notice 2010-13 and Modifying Notice 2023-60" (Notice 2024-18) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 22, 2024; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-3359. A communication from the Branch Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Guidance on Anti-Abuse Rules Under Section 127 of the SECURE 2.0 Act of 2022 and Certain Other Issues with Respect to Pension-Linked Emergency Savings Accounts" (Notice 2024-22) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 22, 2024; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-3360. A communication from the Branch Chief of the Publications and Regula-

tions Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "List of No-Rule Areas of IRC for Letter Rulings or Determination Letters" (Rev. Proc. 2024-3) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 22, 2024; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-3361. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Corporate Bond Yield Curve for Determining Present Value" (RIN1545-BQ57) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 22, 2024; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-3362. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Update to Minimum Present Value Requirements for Defined Benefit Plan" (RIN1545-BK95) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 22, 2024; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-3363. A communication from the Branch Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Miscellaneous Changes Under the SECURE 2.0 Act of 2022" (Notice 2024-2) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 17, 2024; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-3364. A communication from the Branch Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "2023 Cumulative List of Changes for Defined Contribution Qualified Pre-approved Plans" (Notice 2024-3) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 17, 2024; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-3365. A communication from the Branch Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Revenue Ruling: 2023 Base Period T-Bill Rate" (Rev. Rul. 2023-23) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 17, 2024; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-3366. A communication from the Branch Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "De Minimis Error Safe Harbor Exceptions to Penalties for Failure to File Correct Information Returns or Furnish Correct Payee Statements" (Notice 2024-2) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 17, 2024; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-3367. A communication from the President of the United States to the President pro tempore of the United States Senate, transmitting, consistent with the War Powers Act, a report relative to United States forces, as part of a multinational operation alongside the United Kingdom, with support from Australia, Bahrain, Canada, and the Netherlands, conducted strikes against facilities in Yemen that facilitate Houthi militants' attacks in the Red Sea region, received during adjournment of the Senate on January 12, 2024; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-3368. A communication from the Regulatory Policy Analyst, Food and Drug Administration, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Food Additives Permitted in Feed and Drinking Water of Animals; Calcium Formate" (Docket No. FDA-2020-F-0151) received in the Office of

the President of the Senate on January 22, 2023; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-3369. A communication from the Branch Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Use of Actuarial Tables in Valuing Annuities, Interests for Life or a Term of Years" (RIIN0938-AV39) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 17, 2024; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-3370. A communication from the Director of Acquisition Policy, General Services Administration, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Federal Acquisition Regulation; Federal Acquisition Circular 2024-02, Introduction" (FAC 2024-02) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 22, 2024; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3371. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 25-362, "Minimum Wage Clarification Amendment Act of 2023"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3372. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 25-363, "Golden Triangle Business Improvement District Amendment Act of 2023"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3373. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 25-364, "Friendship Heights Business Improvement District Amendment Act of 2023"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3374. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 25-365, "Jeanette A. Michael Way Designation Act of 2023"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3375. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 25-366, "Gordon Way Designation Act of 2023"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3376. A communication from the Division Chief, Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Amendments to Part 4 of the Commission's Rules Concerning Disruptions to Communications; New Part 4 of the Commission's Rules Concerning Disruptions to Communications" ((PS Docket Nos. 21-346, 15-80) (ET Docket No. 04-35) (FCC 23-71)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 22, 2024; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3377. A communication from the Chief of Staff, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Amendment of Section 73.202(b), Table of Allotments, FM Broadcast Stations (Lac Du Flambeau, Wisconsin)" (MB Docket No. 23-302) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 22, 2024; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3378. A communication from the Bureau Chief, Wireline Competition Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Accelerating Wireline Broadband