

**SEC. 2. TRANSMITTAL OF RESOLUTION.**

The Secretary of the Senate shall transmit an enrolled copy of this resolution to the Government of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka.

**RESOLUTION REGARDING ISRAELI MEMBERSHIP IN A UNITED NATIONS REGIONAL GROUP**

Mr. LOTT. I ask unanimous consent the Senate proceed to the consideration of Calendar No. 373, S. Res. 188.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The bill clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 188) expressing the sense of the Senate regarding Israeli membership in a United Nations regional group.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to the immediate consideration of the resolution?

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

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the resolution and the preamble be agreed to en bloc, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and any statements relating to the resolution appear in the RECORD.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 188) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

**S. RES. 188**

Whereas, of the 185 member states of the United Nations, only the State of Israel is ineligible to sit on the Security Council, the Economic and Social Council, or any other United Nations committee;

Whereas the State of Israel was created in response to a 1947 General Assembly resolution and joined the United Nations in 1949;

Whereas the members of the United Nations have organized themselves according to regional groups since 1946;

Whereas eligibility for election to the rotating seats of the Security Council, or other United Nations councils, commissions, or committees, is only available to countries belonging to a regional group;

Whereas Israel has remained a member of the United Nations despite being subjected to deliberate attacks which aimed to place the legitimacy of the State of Israel in question;

Whereas this anachronistic Cold War isolation of Israel at the United Nations continues;

Whereas barring a member of the United Nations from entering a regional group is inimical to the principles under which the United Nations was founded, namely, "to develop friendly relations among nations based on respect for the principle of equal rights . . ."; and

Whereas Israel is a vibrant democracy, which shares the values, goals, and interests of the "Western European and Others Group", a regional group which includes Australia, Canada, New Zealand, and the United States: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That it is the sense of the Senate that—

(1) it should be the policy of the United States to support the State of Israel's efforts to enter an appropriate United Nations regional group;

(2) the President should instruct the Permanent Representative of the United States

to the United Nations to carry out this policy;

(3) the United States should—

(A) insist that any efforts to reform the United Nations, including the Security Council, also resolve this anomaly; and

(B) ensure that the principle of sovereign equality be upheld without exception; and

(4) the Secretary of State should submit a report to Congress on the steps taken by the United States, the Secretary General of the United Nations, and others to help secure Israel's membership in an appropriate United Nations regional group.

**APPOINTMENT BY THE PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE**

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair, on behalf of the President pro tempore, pursuant to P. L. 103-227, appoints the following individuals to the National Skill Standards Board:

Upon the recommendation of the Democratic Leader: Tim C. Flynn, of South Dakota, Representative of Business; Jerald A. Tunheim, of South Dakota, Representative of Human Resource Professionals.

**APPOINTMENT BY THE MAJORITY LEADER AND MINORITY LEADER**

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair announces, on behalf of the two leaders, pursuant to provisions of S. Res. 98, agreed to July 25, 1997, the appointment of the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. KERREY) to the Global Climate Change Observer Group, vice the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. BINGAMAN).

**UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—CONFERENCE REPORT TO AC-COMPANY H.R. 2400**

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the Senate now proceed to the ISTECA conference report notwithstanding the receipt of the papers and the reading be considered dispensed with.

Mr. KERRY. Mr. President, reserving the right to object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Massachusetts reserves the right to object.

Mr. KERRY. Mr. President, as I have discussed with the distinguished majority leader, I do not want to slow up the proceedings. I never have. I am trying to simply resolve a couple of last-minute details. So I am constrained to object, at least for a few moments, until Senator CHAFEE can finish doing what he is doing and we have a chance to confer. I assure my colleagues, this should not be a long-term process, and I hope we can resolve it very, very quickly, but I do object at this moment.

Several Senators addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Virginia.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I understand, as one of the managers of the bill, we can speak at some length here.

But is there desire that someone wish to have a minute or two?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Missouri.

Mr. BOND. Mr. President, I was going to use about 2 minutes to thank the distinguished chairman of our subcommittee, the Senator from Virginia, and say kind things about him. But if he wishes—

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I yield the floor instantly.

Mr. BOND. Mr. President, I rise to say a very quick word or two about the TEA-21, I believe, Transportation Efficiency Act of the year 2000 and to express my deep appreciation for the leadership that Chairman CHAFEE, Chairman WARNER and Senator BAUCUS have provided. This, as has been said, is one of the very largest bills that we have acted upon. It has an impact on each of our States and will have for the next 6 years.

It has been a very difficult fight to raise the dollars necessary and to allocate them fairly. I express the deepest appreciation to all three of my colleagues I mentioned.

I want to say what tremendous work has been done by the staff on the majority side, Jimmie Powell, Ann Loomis, Dan Corbett; on the minority side, Tom Sliter and Kathy Ruffalo.

On my own staff, Tracy Henke has worked literally hundreds of hours and has had very little sleep, as all of the staff on Environment and Public Works. They have done an outstanding job.

When we started this process, I said there were five essential goals: Increase the funding for highways. We need a bigger pie. We need, for the State of Missouri, to get a fair share. We must upgrade and repair deteriorating bridges. We need to put the trust back into the highway trust fund so that people who pay gas taxes into the trust fund will know that those gas taxes are coming back to build better roads, bridges, highways and transportation system. Finally, there should be flexibility so the States and localities can get the most for their money.

I am delighted they have approved all those principles. I note for the Record what I have noted in committees, in conferences, in individual discussions. I have grave and deep problems with and do not agree with the use of the funds from a newly and administratively created veterans' smoking program to offset the expenditures of the highway fund. I believe the highway fund should be spent for highways; veterans' funds should be spent for veterans. I have fought those battles; I have lost those battles because the President has insisted on using that as an offset. I intend to come back and work with colleagues, such as Chairman SPECTER of the Veterans' Committee, Senator MCCAIN, Senator SMITH and others to put a good veterans health care measure into the next vehicle, and I believe that is probably going to be the tobacco bill.

We are going to see that our veterans are cared for. I realize that offsets are needed. I do not think we should have taken this one. But for our State, we are going to receive tremendous benefits in Missouri. This is nearly a 53-percent increase in the annual funding for the State of Missouri where our roads, highways and bridges are not just a matter of convenience, they are a matter of life and death. Safety depends upon adequate roads.

For the first time, we are going to see our share of the funds moving up from the low 80 cents per \$1 sent in to almost 92 cents. We will see a structure to ensure the gas taxes will be used for highways and transportation. The flexibility is expanded and for good measure.

I thank the leaders for agreeing to my wetlands banking amendment which will enable us to ensure improved protection for wetlands in accommodating the highway construction.

Last year, I worked with people on both sides to put through the Bond extension which kept the highway funding flowing until May 1 of this year. We have not had contract authority, obligation authority for the last month. I believe the President, through his Secretary of Transportation, expressed great appreciation for this measure, and I hope that we can pass it today and get it signed by the President so we can go back to rebuilding the roads, bridges and highways that are vitally important for our country.

I thank the leader and thank the leadership of the committee.

#### UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST— CONFERENCE REPORT TO AC- COMPANY H.R. 2400

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I renew my unanimous consent request that the Senate proceed to the ISTE A conference report, notwithstanding the receipt of the papers, and that the reading be considered dispensed with.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. KERRY. I object at this point.

Mr. LOTT. I thought this was going to be resolved.

Mr. KERRY. We are just in conversation now, Mr. President. If we can just have time so we can complete the conversation.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I intend to renew this request about every 2 minutes for the remainder of the day, and as soon as we get this consent, I suggest we go to a recorded vote, because there are major problems being caused by this delay and they are only going to grow. In that Senators want to express their interest, concern, appreciation or hatred, they will be able to do so at great length.

I hope we can get something done here so we can move to this unanimous consent request and then move to a vote. Senator DASCHLE is in concert with me on this. It is the right thing

for us to do for each other and for our country.

I will withhold momentarily, but I am going to renew this request in just a few minutes.

Mr. WARNER addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Virginia.

#### ISTEA

Mr. WARNER. I thank the Presiding Officer.

Mr. President, while both leaders are present on the floor, as one who has been involved for a year and a half in preparing the legislation which now, hopefully, will be voted upon by the Senate, I thank my distinguished colleague, the majority leader, and my colleague, the distinguished minority leader. I just think of how many times during the course of this conference we have made calls to them to seek their guidance that both are entrusted to give as a consequence of their very important positions.

I also have virtually over the last 7 days and nights worked at the side of my distinguished chairman, Senator CHAFEE, and the distinguished ranking member, the Senator from Montana, Mr. BAUCUS, as we prepared and then I think very fairly, forcefully and successfully advocated the Senate's position before the House of Representatives.

The House was very ably represented by Chairman SHUSTER, ranking member Congressman OBERSTAR, Congressman PETRI, Congressman RAHALL—the four from the House versus the three from the Senate.

It was a long conference. Not until late last night did we put in place the final decision for the foundation on which I believe this bill rests, and that is equity among the States. Fifteen months ago, as chairman of the subcommittee in the Environment Committee entrusted with this important legislation, we embarked on the hearing process for this legislation. We held hearings in seven different States because it was essential to go out and get the views of the people: The citizens, the supervisors, the State legislatures and, indeed, the representatives of their legislatures and the Governors themselves. Senator BAUCUS and I actually went to a joint hearing of the States of Montana and Idaho. Senator CHAFEE held hearings in other parts of America. So we didn't just sit in Washington, we went to where the problems are and to learn firsthand.

Senator BAUCUS has been an absolute brick, as we say throughout my part of the world, as my partner, together with Senator CHAFEE, not only in the final hours, but throughout the 15-month process to bring this bill to fruition.

The dollar value represents the largest increase in the history of America. Many people played a vital role in that, notably the senior Senator from West Virginia, the senior Senator from Texas, Senator DOMENICI and, indeed,

Senator STEVENS was very helpful, because this is a very complex series of votes and then adjustments to the various accounting principles and budget principles which we adhered to in the Senate.

So many persons are deserving of a great deal of credit for providing this important conference report which will shortly be voted on by this body.

The staff is extraordinary. In my 19 years in the Senate, I do not know of another instance in which I have seen more dedicated service. By my side here in the Chamber is Ann Loomis, who was the counsel for the subcommittee, who 15 months ago worked and traveled, as did I and others, to gain the very important information from across the United States to incorporate into this bill. Kathy Ruffalo of Montana was Senator BAUCUS' principal assistant on the committee. She also worked with us throughout this bill, as did Ellen Stein of my staff. Jimmie Powell, of course, is the staff director. Dan Corbett, Tom Sliter—and all too often we forget the many others who are back in the offices of the Senators, who represent those Senators on the committee in the long hearings and the workup of this legislation, and, most particularly, the support staff who are on the Environment and Public Works Committee—all contributed to making this, I think, the most significant bill in the history of the United States of America addressing transportation needs.

How often has Senator GRAMM or Senator BYRD pointed out that we are in a one-world market. To the extent that we in the United States can have an efficient and safe transportation system is to the extent we can compete with nations far beyond our shores.

Our system was aging, continues to age; and this bill makes the necessary corrections. And through the leadership of Senator BYRD and Senator GRAMM, we got the additional funds to make it the most meaningful transportation bill in America's history.

Equity was the theme, the very theme that united all of us. While we incorporated many of the principles of ISTE A, the bill passed in 1991—and it was important to do so—there were corrections that, I can say, as softly, I suppose, as it can be expressed, were very definitely needed to correct what we felt were inequities in ISTE A.

Mr. President, I see the distinguished leader. I will be happy to yield.

#### UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST— CONFERENCE REPORT TO AC- COMPANY H.R. 2400

Mr. LOTT. I renew my request that the Senate now proceed to the ISTE A conference report notwithstanding the receipt of the papers, and the reading be considered as dispensed with.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. WYDEN addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oregon.