

\$100,000 per month lease. Moreover, these funds will begin a much needed expansion that will enhance the training and readiness of eight Army Reserve units.

Finally, the report will fund the planning and design of a new National Guard training center in Niantic, Connecticut. The present facility consists of World War II vintage, temporary wooden structures. They do not meet Army standards for classrooms, dining, or billeting. The National Guard, however, relies on this training center to serve troops from six Northeastern states. Troops of all ranks train at the center, and the Army and the Army Reserve use the center as well. The funding of the planning and design of the new center is a welcome sign to thousands of servicemembers, for it signals a strong commitment from the federal government to the National Guard.

One Connecticut project would have replaced an Air National Guard complex in Orange. The poor condition of the present facility severely hinders the 103rd Air Control Squadron from accomplishing its mission, and the structure suffers from a variety of building code violations. I thank my colleagues on the Military Construction Subcommittee for including this project in the Senate bill. The project was not funded in conference, but I still appreciate the support of Chairman BURNS and Senator MURRAY, and I look forward to working with them next year to fund this project in Fiscal Year 2000.

So, I praise the Conference Committee for their work on this report. They have made some tough choices—this report allocates \$759 million less than last year. But they have made those choices with the best interests of the U.S. armed forces in mind.

Mr. BURNS. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the conference report accompanying the military construction appropriations bill. The yeas and nays have been ordered. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. NICKLES. I announce that the Senator from Georgia (Mr. COVERDELL), the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. DOMENICI), the Senator from Texas (Mr. GRAMM), the Senator from Alaska (Mr. MURKOWSKI), and the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER) are necessarily absent.

I also announce that the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. HELMS) is absent because of illness.

I further announce that, if present and voting, the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. HELMS) and the Senator from Georgia (Mr. COVERDELL) would each vote "yea."

Mr. FORD. I announce that the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. BINGAMAN), the Senator from Ohio (Mr. GLENN), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. HOLLINGS), and the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. INOUE) are necessarily absent.

I further announce that, if present and voting the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. HOLLINGS) would vote "aye."

The result was announced—yeas 87, nays 3, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 253 Leg.]

YEAS—87

Abraham	Enzi	Lott
Akaka	Faircloth	Lugar
Allard	Feingold	Mack
Ashcroft	Feinstein	McConnell
Baucus	Ford	Mikulski
Bennett	Frist	Moseley-Braun
Biden	Gorton	Moynihan
Bond	Graham	Murray
Boxer	Grams	Nickles
Breaux	Grassley	Reed
Brownback	Gregg	Reid
Bryan	Hagel	Roberts
Bumpers	Harkin	Rockefeller
Burns	Hatch	Roth
Byrd	Hutchinson	Santorum
Campbell	Hutchison	Sarbanes
Chafee	Inhofe	Sessions
Cleland	Jeffords	Shelby
Coats	Johnson	Smith (NH)
Cochran	Kempthorne	Smith (OR)
Collins	Kennedy	Snowe
Conrad	Kerrey	Specter
Craig	Kerry	Stevens
D'Amato	Kohl	Thomas
Daschle	Landrieu	Thompson
DeWine	Lautenberg	Thurmond
Dodd	Leahy	Torricelli
Dorgan	Levin	Wellstone
Durbin	Lieberman	Wyden

NAYS—3

Kyl	McCain	Robb
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NOT VOTING—10

Bingaman	Gramm	Murkowski
Coverdell	Helms	Warner
Domenici	Hollings	
Glenn	Inouye	

The conference report was agreed to.

TRAVEL BY SENATOR JOHN WARNER FOR THE SENATE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, this is to advise the Senate that Virginia's senior Senator, JOHN WARNER, is unable to make votes today because of work he is undertaking for the Senate Armed Services Committee. As second senior member of the committee, Senator WARNER has met with senior U.S. military officials and government representatives in Bosnia, Serbia, and Macedonia. Senator WARNER traveled to Sarajevo, Belgrade, Skopje, and Pristina in Kosovo. His travel and briefings included field visits as well.

Senator WARNER is compiling a first-hand assessment for the Armed Services Committee of the military and political situation in this troubled and war-torn region of the world. He is scheduled to return later today.

FOREIGN OPERATIONS, EXPORT FINANCING, AND RELATED PROGRAMS APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1999

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will proceed to S. 2334, which the clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2334) making appropriations for foreign operations, export financing, and related programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1999, and for other purposes.

The Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. BOND addressed the Chair. The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HUTCHINSON). The Senator from Missouri.

Mr. BOND. Mr. President, I thank the Chair. I thank the manager of the bill. I wanted to take just a moment to describe a provision that we have offered which the managers have indicated that they will accept.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. If the Senator will withhold, the Senator cannot be heard. May we have order in the Chamber, please. The Senate will please come to order. Please take your conversations to the Cloakroom.

The Senator from Missouri.

Mr. BOND. Mr. President, as I indicated, we have talked with the manager and the ranking member of the measure about a provision that I have offered with respect to the development of weapons of mass destruction in Iraq. I thank them for their willingness to accept it.

I wanted to tell my colleagues very briefly what it is, because this is an issue of such great importance today.

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, may we have order. I see at least eight conversations going on in the Senate. The Senator is entitled to be heard. I hope we will be able to hear him.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Will Senators please take their conversations to the Cloakroom.

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, the conversations have not yet been ended. May we have order in the Senate. Mr. President, I hope Senators will pay attention to the Chair and show some respect for the Chair as well as the Senator who seeks to address the Senate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. I thank the Senator from West Virginia.

The Senator from Missouri.

Mr. BOND. Mr. President, I thank my distinguished friend, the ranking member of the Appropriations Committee. I remember well the days when I came back from summer vacation, and for the first days of school it was a little difficult to focus attention. It is good to see colleagues again. I appreciate very much the effort so that we can discuss what unfortunately has become a very serious problem.

Mr. President, in light of the continued proliferation issues which surround the world and the Middle East in particular, I believe that now, more than ever, it is important for the United States to maintain its vigilance with

respect to Iraq's insatiable appetite to procure the most terrible weapons on earth.

Saddam Hussein has attempted to avoid any and every attempt by the civilized world to control and monitor his government's obsession with attaining weapons of mass destruction. Saddam Hussein has a proven track record of his proclivity to utilize these weapons if he does not believe that the consequences of his actions would lead to his own destruction or at least to severe injury. The continued aggressive monitoring of Iraq's weapons stockpiles is critical to preventing him from building and using these weapons to make another attempt to dominate the region through physical threats to neighboring populations.

The recent resignation of Scott Ritter from the inspection team and his reasons for doing so should not go unheeded by this body. The coalition of nations which developed originally to thwart Iraq's aggression against its neighbors has deteriorated to the point where each new confrontation with Iraq becomes a test of wills within the United Nations and the Security Council. Time and time again, Saddam has scoffed at United States stated policy of "no compromise" and time and time he is proven correct. No longer do we punish Iraqi transgressions; we become party to negotiating additional concessions. We no longer lead with resolve; we follow timidly and make excuses for delay and inaction.

We must not shirk from our responsibility to have the administration and the world understand our commitment to insuring that Iraq abandon its weapons of mass destruction program through strict inspections programs and a well defined and consistently implemented set of consequences for non-compliance. To achieve that I have proposed a resolution which outlines concerns I have regarding Iraqi weapons of mass destruction, calls upon the administration to oppose any effort to relax inspection regimes and has the President submit a report to Congress on the United States Government's assessment of Iraq's weapons program.

I understand that the resolution I have proposed has been accepted by both sides and has been included in the bill and I thank the chairman and the ranking member and other members of the committee for their help to include this resolution in this bill which outlines our most grave concerns and calls upon the President to issue a report which certifies the level of compliance by the Iraqi regime to the numerous non-proliferation protocols currently in effect, the effectiveness of these protocols, and the implementation of United States' policy to curb Iraq's weapons program.

I thank the Chair. I thank the chairman of the committee and the ranking member for permitting me to proceed.

I yield the floor.

Mr. McCONNELL addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kentucky.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, the bill before us is a \$12.599 billion bill within an allocation of \$12.6 billion.

While it is below the administration's request of \$14.1 billion in fiscal year 1999, we provided virtually the same level as last year's funding. If we compare last year's level with this year, including arrears, both bills are approximately the same level—\$13.1 billion.

Fortunately, we can achieve this level because Senator DOMENICI and the Budget Committee decided to give arrears special treatment relieving scoring pressure.

Let me review some of the highlights which many members have expressed interest in.

For the first time we have reduced the level of support for Israel and Egypt. This is the first reduction of a planned 10 years, evenly distributed schedule. We reduced Israel's economic aid by a total of \$120 million to \$1.080 billion and increased security assistance by \$60 million to \$1.860 billion.

There is no increase in security assistance for Egypt so to maintain proportionality we have only reduced the economic aid program by \$40 million to \$775 million. Security assistance stays constant at \$1.3 billion.

We have also tried to preserve a relatively strong level of funding for the New Independent States which most of us agree need the help to finish their transition to free market democracies. In total we have provided \$740 million.

Within the NIS account we have continued to earmark levels for three countries, Ukraine, Armenia, and Georgia.

Although I strongly support securing Ukraine's political and economic independence, and believe we should do all we can to help, I must confess some frustration with the pace of reforms in that country. It is clear the economic environment in Ukraine is very difficult to work in. In particular, the government has been slow to recommend—and the Rada even slower to pass—essential tax and commercial law reforms, the key to attracting and expanding private investment.

Because of the slow pace of reforms, the bill reduces the overall level of support for Ukraine from \$225 million to \$210 million. The bill also authorizes the Secretary of State to withhold 50 percent of the funds for 120 days until she certifies that the Ukrainians are on the right track and have made progress in their tax and commercial structure and demonstrated a serious commitment to economic reforms. This will not be easy, but I believe President Kuchma has recognized it is in Ukraine's interest to advance and accelerate reforms.

Ukraine is not the only weak and worrisome economy. Since working on the 1993 bill, Senator LEAHY and I have both expressed concern about the inconsistent and slow pace of reforms in

Russia which are very much in the news this very day. August headlines once again demonstrate our aid and that of other donors is not achieving crucial and sustainable results.

For at least 4 years, we have all read the same headlines. Russia faces imminent financial collapse and Moscow calls for immediate international support, always with a measure of justifiable urgency. There are round the clock negotiations, in which Moscow, once again, agrees to all the right tough financial, tax and economic reforms, donor funds are disbursed, there is a deep sigh of international relief, and then absolutely nothing happens.

I have repeatedly warned officials at Treasury that it seems unwise at the very time we are dismantling our welfare system here at home, that we create a new program of destructive dependency abroad. Russia's addiction to international loans is not healthy—for their economy or our interests. The administration must follow through and use our aid for programs which will sustain the needed tax and commercial reforms or the current crisis will only get worse, if that is possible.

The crisis in investor confidence and the flight of capital is not a recent event. In fact this latest crisis reflects how little foreign capital has been invested in generating jobs, income and growth in manufacturing and production. The collapse we are witnessing is driven by the fact that the Russian budget and economy are fueled primarily by two sources—international loans and the artificially inflated bond market. Given the choice between the promise of a government bond return of 150 percent or sinking capital into an industrial plant where there are no commercial regulations protecting contract sanctity or investment, money has moved into Moscow's bond market.

But, even that investment has been slim compared to other global economies. Before the stock market was closed, only a handful of companies were being traded, each losing enormous ground. Reports of 80 percent losses in value in such thin markets exaggerate the impression of the scale of trade and more importantly hid the real story. A few companies lost, and are losing, a lot of money. However, real, long term investment in Russia's productive capacity has never really grown. With no equity, no real investment to back it, the Russian ruble was bound to collapse calling attention to the basic problems with the commercial environment which neither the administration nor the Yeltsin government have been willing to tackle. Now, there is little chance—but *no* choice to carry out overdue reforms.

Let me add one more caution. This overhaul should not be the IMF's formula response. Raising taxes in an economy where there is little income and less growth isn't painful; it's stupid. Some Russian entities, most notably Gazprom, clearly have evaded tax

collection in the past, at the expense of starved government coffers. But, in general higher taxes are not going to solve Russia's long term crisis. Confidence and investment will only be restored and expanded by reforms which implement and enforce a rational, consistent commercial rule of law.

While the NIS accounts is both large and important, I think the core of this year's bill has been defined by events in Asia. What is new this year is the serious commitment we have made to support our trading partners, allies and friends across the Pacific, as they work through the most turbulent economic conditions they have experienced since World War II.

There are several Asian related initiatives worth noting.

First, in title VI, we include full support for the new arrangements to borrow and the quota to replenish depleted resources for the IMF. After extensive discussion and debate, the Senator voted for a bill which provided both funding and reforms in the management of the IMF. This bill includes the Senate passed version in its entirety.

Many share my concern that the IMF, and other international institutions, have been remote, indifferent and very closed societies dominated by foreign bureaucrats who are happy to take our money and spend it without accountability to any public authority or government.

This legislation takes a first step toward opening the IMF's doors and shedding light on their management policies and practices. I don't want anyone to conclude that the IMF will be as accessible as your credit union on the corner, but we have started a process which I hope eventually will produce a better managed and more open, accountable institution.

While I was less concerned in the Spring about the IMF's financial standing, I now believe the time has come for the Congress to complete our commitment. The recent repackaged \$22 billion Russian loan compelled activation of Fund's reserve line of credit known as the General Arrangements to Borrow which this legislation will replenish. With the possibility of new requirements in Asia and closer to home in Latin America, I think the Fund's solid financial footing avoids further U.S. bilateral commitment of funds and is key to the recovery of our Pacific trading partners which, I expect, in turn, will help stave off a slow down of our economy.

In addition to replenishing the IMF, we have recommended other steps to strengthen the Asian economies. We have increased the subsidy for the Export Import Bank significantly over last year, which was not easy given the overall budget pressure. However, export support is more important than ever for the U.S. economy, especially as our traditional partners suffer setbacks and devaluations making their products cheaper and more competitive on the world market.

In addition to our commitment to U.S. financial institutions deeply engaged in Asia, this bill also specifically addresses the crisis in Indonesia, Burma and Cambodia.

Senator STEVENS and INOUE have been especially concerned by the collapse of the Indonesia economic and political situation, as all of us have. This time last year, I was convinced that the collapse in investor confidence, driving the rupiah down to devastating new lows each week, would only be reversed with a major political change. I believed then, as now, that until elections are held, and the country is provided honest, strong democratic leadership, Indonesia is destined to struggle, if not fail,

Suharto's departure was welcome, but long overdue. He has left behind a shell of a government and the risk of more violence and instability grows. In this context, I have been deeply disappointed by AID and the administration's slow response to Indonesia's problems. Indonesia continues to be the regional economic undertow dragging down and potentially drowning each of her neighbors. The IMF, the World Bank, the Asian Bank, and AID all lack a clear, consistent strategy on how to address this crisis.

At this point conservative estimates suggest at least 60 million people are unemployed placing pressure on virtually every family. This bill provides \$100 million to launch a serious economic and political effort to help put the country back on track. It directs funds to strengthen political parties to assure quick and fair elections and it provides food, medical, job generating an related humanitarian assistance. But what is equally important is it will compel AID to carry out this support outside the cozy, long standing relationship with official ministries and their bureaucrats. The bill requires 80 percent of the aid be administered through non-government organizations which not only will ease suffering but also help build new, grass roots aid delivery mechanisms and strengthen the next generation of political and economic leaders.

Next, the bill expands political and humanitarian support to Burma. I think we are at a point where our ASEAN partners agree the junta in Rangoon has gone too far. I commend Secretary Albright for her public statements and effort to secure the return of the legitimate government and urge her to continue her crucial work in the days ahead.

While I have confidence in her commitment, much of her effort seems to be undermined by events in country. To assure American policy and practice are consistent both in Washington and in Rangoon, I have set aside \$2 million which may be expended only after written consultation with the legitimate government elected in 1990. This is not a precedent—there has been past dialog between other donors and the legitimate government establishing guide-

lines for the administration of development aid. I do recognize this may be difficult to accomplish, but U.S. policy and practice must press forward and actively include the 1990 government in any dialog which involves our funds. Ultimately, these funds may simply sit in trust for a future free day in Burma, but I think our support for democracy must be in both words and financial action.

For the past 2 years, I have held deep reservations about American embassy officials failure to support the restoration of democracy, but that is a debate for another day. What I hope to achieve today is a clear statement and representation of support for those who suffer the brutality of the regime by increasing our humanitarian aid and, to make absolutely clear support or the legitimate government which we should be working with rather than against.

Finally, and briefly, I want to turn to Cambodia. I am deeply concerned that the environment leading up to elections was not conducive to a free and fair outcome. While the turnout was high, as we all know, elections are less about election day and more about the weeks and months beforehand.

After Hun Sen's bloody coup in which scores of people were killed and many fled the country, his junta seemed to recognize the need to establish some margin of legitimacy or face a cut off of all international aid. Hun Sen called for elections and then for months systematically denied any opponent any real opportunity to campaign. At least 49 people were targeted and assassinated in politically motivated hits. Candidates were denied access to the press, and restricted from giving speeches, holding rallies or meeting and getting their message out to voters.

While the opposition urged a delay in the election date, the Administration decided to support moving forward. Now there are real questions about the final outcome with opposition challenges over fraud and irregularities. Whatever the outcome, what is very clear is many of the candidates who returned to Cambodia to campaign did so at considerable risk. Sam Rainsy and his party members and FUNCINPEC candidates, all put their lives on the line to run for office, to reclaim their nation.

I believe it is vital to stand by their commitment to democracy and assure their risk was not in vain. Thus, aid to Cambodia is conditioned upon certifications related to the fairness of the elections and the prospects for real democratic growth. Humanitarian aid and development aid provided through non-government organizations can proceed regardless, but it makes no sense to prop up a vicious, self-serving dictatorship.

In conclusion, the market slides and crashes across Asia have convinced even the most isolationists among us that our economic and political security interests are defined and can be

damaged by events as far away as Jakarta. With increased export assistance, by expanding humanitarian and economic initiatives, and building programs, to strengthen independent, democratic institutions worldwide, I believe this bill supports and secures U.S. interests in international economic growth and political stability, while living within the balanced budget agreement.

I encourage my colleagues' support.

I certainly urge my colleagues to support the bill. That completes my opening statement. Senator LEAHY will probably want to make an opening statement.

Mr. LEAHY addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair recognizes the Senator from Vermont.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Andrew Weinschenk, a fellow in Senator LAUTENBERG's office, be granted the privilege of the floor for the duration of debate on the foreign operations appropriations bill.

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

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, last year we completed debate on the foreign operations bill in record time. This year the bill contains \$250 million less than last year, so I hope it will take even less time.

The bill represents a delicate compromise. As I said, we have a lot less money this year, and since almost half the funds in this bill is earmarked for the Middle East, the quarter-billion-dollar cut from last year has to come out of other programs. That is a very significant cut. It is over \$1 billion below the President's request.

A quarter of a billion dollars may not be a lot in some budgets, like the defense budget, but it is a great deal when it means cuts in funding for diplomacy and programs to—and I will give you examples of the areas we are cutting—support for U.S. exports, or to promote economic reforms in the former Soviet Union and democracy in Indonesia, or to aid refugees in Bosnia and support business exchange programs in Eastern Europe, or money to combat the spread of illegal drugs and infectious diseases. Infectious diseases—Mr. President, I remind everybody that the most virulent disease in the world is only an airplane trip away from any one of our homes in the United States. And, of course, money to protect the environment.

These are but a few examples of what is in this bill and what we have had to cut because of this year's low budget allocation.

Having said that, I commend the chairman of the Foreign Operations Subcommittee. Senator MCCONNELL has done an outstanding job to try to make the most of the funds we have in as balanced a way as possible. No one can be entirely happy with what we have done, because we don't have the

money to make everybody happy. I think the chairman has done his best to honor the many requests of the Senators on both sides of the aisle and to fund the foreign policy priorities of the United States.

I also thank the committee chairman, Senator STEVENS, and the ranking member, Senator BYRD, for their help. They have a difficult job in trying to balance the interests of all the appropriations subcommittees. I know they have tried to give us the funds we need and, at the same time, stay within the parameters of the balanced budget agreement.

I simply note that the entire foreign operations budget amounts to less than 1 percent of the Federal budget, but these are the funds we use besides the defense budget to promote our influence around the world. There is not a Senator here who does not want to protect our national interests. Those national interests can be in Korea or they can be in our own hemisphere. But for the United States, the most powerful, wealthiest nation history has ever known, the United States which has become that way because we have worldwide interests, it is hard to point to any part of the world on any continent of the world where our interests are not involved. All of us like to say, "Well, we are the United States—we should influence this, that, or the other thing in the world." If we are going to do that, we have to have the power to do it, too.

It is like saying you want to go to such and such a spot, in your State, but if there are no roads and no way to get there, then you are not going to do it. And the cost to carry out our responsibilities and to project our influence worldwide is not something that is going to be picked up by the State or local governments.

These programs are not "foreign handouts" as some have called it. They are going to determine the kind of world in which our children and grandchildren live 10, 20, 50 years hence.

Frankly, I do not believe this bill adequately funds our foreign policy and national security needs. As a superpower that is increasingly dependent on the global economy—in the last 2 days if there is anybody who did not realize we were dependent on the global economy, wake up; we are. As a superpower intent on solving global problems by leading by example, I think we are going to look back years from now and wonder why we were so shortsighted.

Leadership and security are not just abstract concepts, they cost money. The amount in this bill is a pittance for a superpower that has important interests to protect on every continent, important American interests to protect on every continent.

Mr. President, if history is any guide, I think the chairman and I can expect there will be Senators who have amendments to shift funds from one account to another in this bill. They

may feel we have done too little for their favorite program. And they may be right. But we had to make some very painful choices, choices we would not have had to make if we had a larger budget to begin with. The chairman and I are going to have to oppose such amendments.

This is a very delicately put together piece of legislation, based on the allocation we have. I might have done things differently if I were chairman. And the 98 other men and women in this body may have each done it somewhat differently. But we have to have one bill. The Senator from Kentucky and I have worked very closely together to balance the interests of both sides of the aisle, the interests of the United States and the interests of the administration, the interests of the U.S. Senate. With the funds we have, I think we should go forward with this bill as it is. If there are amendments, I would hope that they come up; if there are not, I am prepared to go to third reading.

With that, I yield the floor.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

AMENDMENT NO. 3491

(Purpose: To amend title I)

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I send an amendment to the desk and ask for its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Kentucky [Mr. MCCONNELL], for himself and Mr. LEAHY, proposes an amendment numbered 3491.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

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

The amendment is as follows:

On page 3, line 6, strike the following proviso: "Provided further, That the Export Import Bank shall not disburse direct loans, loan guarantees, insurance, or tied aid grants or credits for enterprises or programs in the New Independent States which are majority owned or managed by state entities:"

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the amendment be temporarily laid aside.

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

AMENDMENTS NOS. 3492 AND 3493 EN BLOC

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I send to the desk two amendments modifying language included on global climate change. Senators BYRD and HAGEL have been very involved in this issue and have recommended these changes so that programs can go forward, but Congress will have an opportunity to determine details on the planned activities.

It has been very difficult to pin down just what the administration plans to do in the area of global climate change. I think these amendments strike the appropriate balance and meet the concerns raised by colleagues who want to maintain a U.S. leadership role on environmental issues, yet at the same time preserve the congressional oversight of these activities.

So I send, Mr. President, both of these amendments to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Kentucky [Mr. MCCONNELL], for himself and Mr. LEAHY, proposes amendments numbered 3492 and 3493 en bloc.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that reading of the amendments be dispensed with.

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

The amendments are as follows:

AMENDMENT NO. 3492

(Purpose: To amend the Foreign Operations bill)

On page 71, line 17, after the word "activities" insert: "and, subject to the regular notification procedures of the Committees on Appropriations, energy programs aimed at reducing greenhouse gas emissions".

AMENDMENT NO. 3493

(Purpose: To amend the Foreign Operations bill)

On page 107, line 25, strike "and activities that reduce vulnerability to climate change."

Mr. MCCONNELL. Senator LEAHY and I believe there is no opposition to these amendments on either side of the aisle.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, the Senator from Kentucky is right. I support the pending amendment.

Mr. President, I would like to take this opportunity to discuss with the subcommittee chairman, Senator MCCONNELL, his amendments to modify section 540(b) and section 752(a) of the bill, modifications which I strongly support.

It is my understanding that the purpose of the change to section 540(b) is to make clear that funds in the bill may be used, notwithstanding any other provision of law, to support energy programs aimed at reducing greenhouse gas emissions. However, because of concerns expressed by certain senators that requests to AID for specific information about these activities was not provided and that they therefore have been unable to determine precisely what these funds were used for, they requested that these funds be subject to the Committees' regular notification procedures. Does the subcommittee chairman agree that the purpose of subjecting these funds to the notification procedures is not to prevent funding for these activities notwithstanding any other provision of law, since we could have done that by simply leaving the section as it is, but rather to be sure that the Congress gets the information it requests?

Mr. MCCONNELL. The Senator is correct. AID has not been responsive to

the requests of senators for information about these activities. We are adding the notification requirement to section 540(b) in order to ensure that information that is requested about certain energy programs is provided in a timely way.

Mr. LEAHY. Thank you. I would like to take another minute to ask the subcommittee chairman about section 572(a) of the bill, which makes funds available for certain environmental activities subject to the regular notification procedures of the committees. The language is quite broad, and it includes any activities promoting country participation in the Framework Convention on Climate Change. Again, I want to be clear about the purpose of this provision. It is my understanding that, like section 540(b), it was included due to concerns expressed by some senators that AID has not been sufficiently responsive to requests for information about the expenditure of certain funds for these activities. The information that was provided was very general and did not fully describe what the funds were used for. It is my understanding that this provision does not seek to prevent funding for these activities, but instead aims to ensure that when senators request AID to provide specific information about its use of these funds the information is provided in a timely way.

Mr. MCCONNELL. The Senator is correct.

Mr. BYRD. If the managers of the bill would entertain a question, it is my understanding from their explanation that their intent in including the notification requirements in sections 540(a) and 572(b) is to support these activities, and to ensure that information the Congress asks for is provided by the administration. I want to be sure that, assuming the administration keeps the Congress informed about how appropriated funds are to be spent, the Congress intends for these programs to receive the necessary funds. Am I correct?

Mr. LEAHY. That is my intention.

Mr. MCCONNELL. As the author of these provisions that is also my intention.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, the amendments are agreed to.

The amendments (Nos. 3492 and 3493) were agreed to.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to reconsider the vote.

Mr. LEAHY. I move to lay that motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 3494

(Purpose: To make technical corrections)

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I send a package of technical amendments to the desk. It is a fairly long list, but essentially involves corrections, language inadvertently left out, changes to assure consistency and date corrections. For example, the word "appropriated" was struck in one in-

stance and replaced with the technically correct "made available." I send these technical amendments to the desk and ask for their immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Kentucky [Mr. MCCONNELL], for himself and Mr. LEAHY, proposes an amendment numbered 3494.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

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

The amendment is as follows:

On page 3, line 5 and 6, strike "1999 and 2000" and insert in lieu thereof, "1999, 2000, 2001 and 2002".

On page 8, line 23 and 24, strike ", and shall remain available until September 30, 2000".

On page 13, line 13, insert "demining or" after the words "apply to".

On page 13, line 14, strike "other".

On page 21, line 3, strike "other than funds included in the previous proviso."

On page 29, line 9, strike "appropriated" and insert in lieu thereof "made available".

On page 29, line 13, strike "deBremmond" and insert in lieu thereof "deBremond".

On page 31, line 23, insert "clearance of" before "unexploded ordnance".

On page 39, line 1, insert "may be made available" after "(MFO)".

On page 40, lines 5 and 6, strike "Committee's notification procedures" and insert in lieu thereof, "regular notification procedures of the Committees on Appropriations".

On page 49, line 2, insert after "commodity" the following, ": Provided, That such prohibition shall not apply to the Export-Import Bank if in the judgment of its Board of Directors the benefits to industry and employment in the United States are likely to outweigh the injury to United States producers of the same, similar or competing commodity, and the Chairman of the Board so notifies the Committees on Appropriations".

On page 57, line 17, insert "disease programs including" after "activities or".

On page 84, beginning on line 25, through page 85, line 5, strike all after the words "The authority" through the word, "countries" and, insert in lieu thereof, "Any obligation or portion of such obligation for a Latin American country, to pay for purchases of United States agricultural commodities guaranteed by the Commodity Credit Corporation under export credit guarantee programs authorized pursuant to section 5(f) of the Commodity Credit Corporation Charter Act of June 29, 1948, as amended, section 4(b) of the Food for Peace Act of 1966, as amended (Public Law 89-808), or section 202 of the Agricultural Trade Act of 1978, as amended (Public Law 95-501)".

On page 90, on lines 1, 5, and 15 before the word "Government" insert the word "central".

On page 90, line 13, after the word "resigned" insert the word "or is implementing".

On page 91, line 24, before the word "Government" insert the word "central".

On page 95, line 5, delete "steps" and insert in lieu thereof, "effective measures".

On page 95, line 7, strike the word "further".

On page 106, line 8, strike "1998 and 1999" and insert in lieu thereof "1999 and 2000".

On page 109, line 21, strike "any".

On page 117, line 24, after "remain available" insert "until expended".

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I believe there is no objection to these technical amendments.

Mr. LEAHY. There are no objections, Mr. President.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. If there is no objection, the amendment is agreed to.

The amendment (No. 3494) was agreed to.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I move to reconsider the vote.

Mr. LEAHY. I move to lay that motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, those are the only amendments I am aware of as of this moment. So we are moving right along, I say to my friend.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I say to my friend from Kentucky, I said earlier we did it in record time last year. We may break that now. Again, I am perfectly willing to go forward and wrap it up. There may be some who feel otherwise.

COMMUNITY-BASED TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Mr. President, organizations such as the National Telephone Cooperative Association are able to help provide new and innovative methods to bring modern telecommunications service to rural and remote areas around the globe. Such initiatives, particularly those that encompass a grass-roots, community-based approach, are key to economic development, business creation and income generation. They enhance economic stability, create jobs, improve agricultural production and further the development of democratic processes and traditions.

The committee has, in the past, encouraged AID to work with organizations like the National Telephone Cooperative Association to bring modern means of communication to rural areas. Cooperatives foster community involvement and help to build civil society—important steps along the path away from a socialist, government-controlled economy toward a free-market economy. These programs are just the type that we should be promoting in the Ukraine and other NIS states, where any growth in the private sector represents a challenge to the government and encourages sustainable income generation and economic growth on a local level.

Another program that the committee urged AID to support was rural telephone cooperative programs in Poland, which have achieved significant success. The on-going program in the Philippines has also seen success. However, this project is in need of continued participation by AID's country and central programs. AID should also promote the development of telephone cooperatives in Africa. Countries in the Horn, Ghana, and South Africa are poised for developing useful rural telecommunications. There is no doubt that in addition to promoting economic growth, rural citizens in these countries would benefit enormously.

For these reasons, I encourage AID to continue to work with telephone cooperatives in the United States to fos-

ter community-based telecommunications programs in the developing countries. I hope that language to this effect can be included in the conference report on this bill.

Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

TRIBUTE TO PRESBYTERIAN DISASTER ASSISTANCE OF LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, while we have a moment, I would like to recognize an organization from my home state of Kentucky which has been on the front lines responding to international disasters.

The Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA), headquartered in Louisville, has responded to international disaster issues in 37 countries and has mission relations in 80 countries. It is dedicated to responding to national and international disasters, aiding refugees and displaced persons, assisting refugee resettlement, educating the world's children, and making efforts designed to foster development abroad. Clearly, it has made a difference in the world and brought hope to the needy.

Just recently, following the tragic bombings in Kenya and Sudan, PDA provided the staff services of its eye clinic and specialized orthopedic rehabilitation center for victims. PDA also worked closely with the Presbyterian Relief and Development Association of Sudan.

In early summer, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, in cooperation with other organizations, was able to provide a shipment of fishing supplies to over 25,000 households in the Upper Nile Region where the ability to fish the rivers will keep these people from slipping into the grip of famine. PDA was able to serve people across several ethnic boundaries, ensuring that this assistance benefited those most in need.

Mr. President, I know the entire Senate joins me in saluting the courageous work of Presbyterian Disaster Assistance. It gives me a great deal of pride that this organization which offers such important and valuable service is headquartered in the Commonwealth of Kentucky. We all hope for a time when the efforts of organizations such as PDA are not necessary, but until that occurs we can take comfort that the job will be undertaken with vigor, compassion, and expertise.

FOREIGN OPERATIONS, EXPORT FINANCING, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1999

The Senate continued with the consideration of the bill.

AMENDMENT NO. 3495

(Purpose: To provide a limited waiver for certain foreign students of the requirement to reimburse local educational agencies for the costs of the students' education)

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I send an amendment to the desk and ask for its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Kentucky [Mr. MCCONNELL], for Mr. LUGAR, proposes an amendment numbered 3495.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

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

The amendment is as follows:

On page 114, strike all after line 1 through page 115 line 6 and insert the following:

SEC. 578. LIMITED WAIVER OF REIMBURSEMENT REQUIREMENT FOR CERTAIN FOREIGN STUDENTS.

Section 214(l)(1) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1184(l)(1)), as added by section 625(a)(1) of the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996 (110 Stat. 3009-699), is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (B), by redesignating clauses (i) and (ii) as subclauses (I) and (II), respectively;

(2) by redesignating subparagraphs (A) and (B) as clauses (i) and (ii), respectively;

(3) by striking "(l)(1)" and inserting "(l)(1)(A)"; and

(4) by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

"(B) The Attorney General shall waive the application of subparagraph (A)(ii) for an alien seeking to pursue a course of study in a public secondary school served by a local educational agency (as defined in section 14101 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 8801) if the agency determines and certifies to the Attorney General that such waiver will promote the educational interest of the agency and will not impose an undue financial burden on the agency."

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, this amendment has been cleared on this side of the aisle and, I believe, on the other side.

Mr. LEAHY. There is no objection on this side of the aisle.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, the amendment is agreed to.

The amendment (No. 3495) was agreed to.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to reconsider the vote.

Mr. LEAHY. I move to lay that motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

AMERICAN EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS IN LEBANON

Mr. ABRAHAM. Would the Senator from Kentucky yield for a question?

Mr. MCCONNELL. I would be happy to yield to the Senator from Michigan.

Mr. ABRAHAM. I want to thank the Senator from Kentucky for the interest