

conduct of terrorist attacks against United States nationals and interests; and

"(1) sharing intelligence with the United States about terrorist activity, in general, and terrorist activity directed against United States nationals and interests, in particular; and

"(2) any other matters that the President considers appropriate."; and

(4) in subsection (e), as so redesignated, by striking "national interests" and inserting "national security interests".

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, Senator LEAHY and I have cleared this block of amendments.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. If there be no further debate, the question is on agreeing to the amendments.

The amendments (Nos. 3510 through 3518), en bloc, 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.

Mr. TORRICELLI. Mr. LEAHY, I know that you join me in welcoming the progress that the citizens of Northern Ireland and the Republic have made toward implementing a peace agreement. I would like to thank you and the members of the Appropriations Committee for the tremendous work you have done this year, including funding the International Fund for Ireland (IFI) at the full amount President Clinton requested in FY 1999. At this critical point in time, this Senate, and the United States as a whole, must begin to study our relationship with Northern Ireland and do our best to ensure that peace takes hold in the region. Dramatic cuts in the budget, particularly foreign aid, have made this task more challenging. Understanding both the need to support peace in Northern Ireland and dealing with budget cuts, I would like to request your support for consideration of adding any additional funding to the IFI, should it become available at a later time. It is important that we consider ways to meet the needs of the people of Northern Ireland and the Republic, and I hope you will join me in this effort.

Mr. LEAHY. As a fellow supporter of the peace process in Northern Ireland, I want to assure you that, should additional funds become available at a later date, we will consider increasing the amount available to the IFI.

Mr. D'AMATO. Mr. Chairman, I would like to join my colleague in expressing my support for the work the Appropriations Committee has done this year. It is important that we maintain our strong support for Northern Ireland and the Republic, and the funds made available to the IFI in the upcoming fiscal year are a critical step. In the wake of the passage of the Good Friday Accords, I have been working with Senator TORRICELLI over the past several months to determine a method that will best express the United States' support for peace in Northern Ireland. At this point in time, I would like to request your sup-

port for consideration of additional funding to the IFI, should it become available in the future.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I join Mr. LEAHY in assuring you that we will consider adding funds to the IFI, should they become available at a later date, so that we may bolster peace in the region.

Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, I am very concerned about a provision in the FY 1999 Foreign Operations, Export Financing, and Related Programs Appropriation bill regarding military assistance for the Baltic nations that, according to the Committee report, is intended to accelerate the integration of the Baltic States into NATO. Although the Administration has assured the Congress that consideration of the Baltic nations for membership in NATO would proceed in a deliberate fashion in consultation with our NATO allies subject to the procedures already established, designating military assistance to the Baltic nations in accordance with the language contained in the Committee report would circumvent those assurances. I wish to advise my colleagues that the allocation of any military assistance provided in this bill to the Baltic nations will not assure their admission into NATO.

Mr. President, I recall that during the recent debate on enlarging NATO last April, many senators expressed their concern about extending our military commitments beyond the limits which are already straining our ability to meet worldwide contingencies. I believe that providing military assistance to the Baltic nations in order to accelerate their membership into NATO could lead us into a de facto security commitment to that region that might strain our resources even further, and therefore, be harmful to our national security interests as well as those of our NATO allies. Many of my colleagues here in the Senate as well as the distinguished Dr. Henry Kissinger who testified last spring before the Armed Services Committee question our ability to respond effectively to military contingencies in the Baltic region.

In addition, Mr. President, I am very concerned about the state of relations between the United States and Russia at this vulnerable time in international relations. Providing military assistance to the Baltic nations for the express reason of accelerating their membership in NATO is likely to exacerbate the uneasy state of our relations with the current Russian government as well as many influential Russian leaders who oppose that nation's current leadership. I do not believe it is in our interest to create unnecessarily greater difficulties with Russia than we already have. I believe this provision of the bill as discussed in the Committee report could cause significant problems with Russia and unfounded expectations among the Baltic nations for whom there is no assured membership in NATO.

I have spoken with Senators LEAHY, HUTCHISON, and ROBERTS about my concerns and they share these sentiments.

Mr. LEAHY. Thank you, Senator BINGAMAN. I too am concerned that providing military assistance to the Baltic nations with the expressed intent to accelerate their membership into NATO is premature and should not prejudice consideration for their membership into NATO when a decision to do so might occur.

Mrs. HUTCHISON. Mr. President, I agree with my colleagues on this very important national security issue. In particular, I agree that the words in the Committee report for this bill should not be taken to mean that membership in NATO by the Baltic states is going to be considered until there is a complete debate on the matter, that the Senate's responsibility for advice and consent on treaties is in any way predetermined in the case of the Baltic countries.

Mr. ROBERTS. Thank you, Mr. President. I would like to add my reservations to those of my colleagues. I am very concerned about overextending our military commitments without sufficient resources to handle the additional tasks we might assume. Enlarging NATO should be a step by step deliberate process that should not be circumvented in any way.

Mr. BINGAMAN. I appreciate the supportive words of my colleagues on this important matter of national security.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent Joan Wadelton, a State Department fellow on the staff of the Committee on Foreign Relations, be accorded the privilege of the floor during the pendency of S. 2334.

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

The Senator from Kentucky.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I know both Senators from New Jersey are anxious to make a statement on another matter, but Senator LEAHY and I now have a finite list of amendments which we believe will bring us to final passage.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

Several Senators addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Jersey.

CONGRATULATING THE TOMS RIVER EAST AMERICAN LITTLE LEAGUE TEAM

Mr. LAUTENBERG. Mr. President, I thank the manager and ranking member on the Foreign Operations Subcommittee for giving us these few minutes of time. This is kind of a happy moment in New Jersey. One of our communities, Toms River, has produced a special group of young people who have won the Little League World Series. I send a resolution to the desk and ask for its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 268) congratulating the Toms River East American Little League team of Toms River, New Jersey, for winning the Little League World Series.

The Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. LAUTENBERG. Mr. President, I rise to introduce that resolution along with my colleague, Senator TORRICELLI, expressing our pride and our admiration for that very special group of youngsters from New Jersey. New Jersey has a national philosopher who dwells in its boundaries. His name is Yogi Berra. He is often quoted and I quote him now. I recall he said, "It's like deja vu all over again."

For another time, a New Jersey Little League team has won the prestigious Little League World Series championship, a group of exciting youngsters under the age of 12, vigorous sports figures now. I have seen them on television. I understand the 11-year-old pitcher got a request for marriage from an admirer. I don't think that is what he was striving for, but it happened. The honors accorded this group have been spectacular.

This past Saturday, the Toms River East American Little League team clinched the honor, defeating Kashima, Japan, by a score of 12 to 9 to win the 52nd annual Little League World Series Championship. They are affectionately known as "The Beasts of the East," these little guys. They are pretty good. They received a hero's welcome Sunday upon return home from the five-game series in Williamsport, PA, where they defeated teams from Jenison, MI, Cypress, CA, Tampa, FL, and Greenville, NC, before their final game with Japan. They are the fourth New Jersey team in history to win the Little League World Series and the first U.S. team in 5 years to win this title.

Toms River East American has brought pride to its community and the entire State of New Jersey. They join the ranks of the New Jersey teams from Hammonton, the 1949 Little League champions; Wayne, NJ, the 1970 champions; and Lakewood, champs in 1975.

All of the young men on the team deserve hearty congratulations for an incredible season. I give you their names: Mike Belostock, Eric Campesi, Chris Cardone, Chris Crawford, Scott Fisher, Brad Frank, Joe Franceschini, Todd Frazier, Tom Gannon, Casey Gaynor, Gabe Gardner and R.J. Johansen.

These 12 young men are not only fine athletes, but they are also outstanding young people. They showed poise and dignity, and if one saw them in that game on national TV, unparalleled enthusiasm under pressure.

Their manager, Mike Gaynor, and coaches, Ken Kondek and Joe Franceschini, Sr., all volunteers, shepherded these youngsters through a 28-game season. I commend them for their hard work and their dedication on behalf of Toms River's children. But I

also must congratulate the parents, the families and the fans of the team's players who supported these young sluggers through thick and thin. They traveled long distances to root for their children, and they are truly the heroes behind the champions.

Mr. President, I am pleased that the entire U.S. Senate will have a chance to join with me and Senator TORRICELLI in recognizing the accomplishments of not only the Toms River East American team, but also the greater Toms River community. New Jersey and the Nation owe a debt of gratitude to the "Beasts from the East," their parents, families, friends and fans for allowing us to celebrate this important achievement.

As Yogi Berra said, "I'd like to thank all of those who made this night necessary."

With that, I yield the floor.

Mr. TORRICELLI addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Jersey.

Mr. TORRICELLI. Mr. President, I am very proud to join with my colleague, Senator LAUTENBERG, in offering this resolution of congratulations. With all the rancor and discord of our times, it is worth the Senate taking a moment to note that in small towns and cities across America, there are values that endure.

On Saturday, 12 young men, no more than 11 and 12 years old, reminded us of some of those values. They became the first American team in 5 years to win the Little League World Series. It is a process that began a year ago when 7,000 different teams across America and in several other nations began to compete for this honor. The culmination was on Saturday when, by a score of 12 to 9, they defeated Kashima, Japan.

There is no denying the athletic prowess of each of the 12 young men who produced this victory. An 11- or 12-year-old boy to hit a baseball more than 210 feet in repeated home runs is as much an achievement in its own way as Mark McGwire racing for a home run title.

But in truth, there is more to this success than simple athletic prowess. Behind each and every one of these young men was a parent, a coach, a teacher, a neighbor, an umpire—someone who gave something of themselves, not simply to teach an athletic skill, but character, values, the qualities of determination that are so very American.

In this way, each of the 46,000 people of Toms River were a part of this victory; indeed, in a special sense, so was every American a part of this victory.

The lesson learned is that sacrifice and humility are an essential part of victory. How else does one explain a Mike Belostock who, in a championship game at a principal moment of his life, discovers that his eye is scratched from a contact lens and tells his mother he has decided not to play because

the eye damage could have sacrificed the chances of his team.

Or persistence: Chris Cardone who replaced Belostock in the lineup and hit a game-winning home run, his first in 28 games, and only his second hit of the tournament. Or Todd Frazier who not only struck out the final Japanese batter, but who also batted a perfect 4 for 4 in the game.

Those are all sources of pride, but when the game was over and the team came home, there was something that impressed me even more. Every parent made it very clear that on Monday morning, every superstar of the "Beasts from the East" would be at school promptly and ready for work when school resumed.

Mr. President, I join my colleagues in congratulating Chris Cardone, Todd Frazier, Scott Fisher, Gabe Gardner, Joe Franceschini, Casey Gaynor, Eric Campesi, R.J. Johansen, Mike Belostock, Brad Frank, Tom Gannon, Chris Crawford and their coaches, Mike Gaynor and Ken Kondek, for a job well done.

Toms River is a town of champions, those who were on the field and those who were off. For those of us in the Senate and across America who watched their achievement with pride, we are reminded that there are values in our children as quintessentially American as baseball itself. Toms River, congratulations and well done.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there further debate? If not, the question is on agreeing to the resolution congratulating the Toms River East American Little League.

The resolution (S. Res. 268) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, is as follows:

S. RES. 268

Whereas on Saturday, August 29, 1998, the Toms River East American Little League team defeated Kashima, Japan, by 12 runs to 9 runs to win the 52d annual Little League World Series championship;

Whereas Toms River East American team is the first United States team to win the Little League World Series championship in 5 years, and the fourth New Jersey team in history to win Little League's highest honor; and

Whereas the Toms River East American team has brought pride and honor to the State of New Jersey and the entire Nation: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) congratulates the Toms River East American Little League Team and its loyal fans on winning the 52d annual Little League World Series championship;

(2) recognizes and commends the hard work, dedication, determination, and commitment to excellence of the team's members, parents, coaches, and managers; and

(3) recognizes and commends the people of Toms River, New Jersey, and the surrounding area for their outstanding loyalty and support for the Toms River East American Little League team throughout the team's 28-game season.

Mr. LAUTENBERG. Mr. President, I move to reconsider the vote by which the resolution was agreed to.

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

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

Mr. McCONNELL addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kentucky.

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

The Senate continued with the consideration of the bill.

AMENDMENT NO. 3506

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I believe the amendment of the Senator from Pennsylvania may be pending.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Pennsylvania does have the pending amendment. The Senator from Pennsylvania is recognized.

Mr. SPECTER. I thank the Chair.

Mr. President, I outlined the purpose of this amendment earlier today. What it does is provide for some \$28.9 million of funding for the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty Preparatory Commission. There is not a problem with the funding coming out of unobligated funds of prior years.

The Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty is pending before the U.S. Senate. Senator BIDEN and I had submitted a resolution sponsored by some 36 Senators which called for hearings before the Foreign Relations Committee and a vote by the Senate on ratification of the constitutional procedure.

The matter now pending is somewhat different, and that is to provide funding for the Preparatory Commission. The problem with testing, which is going on now, has become very acute during the course of the past several months—when India initiated nuclear testing, followed by Pakistan—those two countries with all of their controversy are on the verge of real problems.

I said earlier this morning that when Senator Brown and I traveled to India back in August of 1995 and talked to Prime Minister Rao, he was interested in having the subcontinent nuclear-free. Shortly thereafter, we visited Pakistan and saw their political leader, Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, who had a similar view, but that situation has deteriorated materially.

In asking for a vote on this matter, it is not only to strengthen the position in conference where we know that on a voice vote, sometimes the position in conference is not as strong. But, also in the absence of the Senate taking up the Treaty, to have a show of support for the Treaty as I think will be reflected at least in part; although, you could support this amendment without necessarily committing to the Treaty.

Mr. President, at this time I ask for the yeas and nays on the amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, as I outlined earlier, my cosponsor is the distinguished Senator from Delaware, Senator BIDEN. He has come to the floor. At this time, I yield to him.

Mr. BIDEN addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. GORTON). The Senator from Delaware.

Mr. BIDEN. Mr. President, I will not take much of the Senate's time. I think this debate is about the easiest debate the Senate can face. There is one simple reason to support the Specter amendment, of which I am a cosponsor, and the U.S. contribution to the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty Preparatory Commission. It is real simple. It is in the national security interest of the United States. I reiterate what the Senator from Pennsylvania said. This is true whether or not you favor the test ban treaty or oppose it.

Most of the funding requested for the Preparatory Commission is to be devoted to capital expenditures on the international monitoring system, the ability to monitor. Improving our nuclear test monitoring capabilities is clearly of benefit to the United States—again, whether you are for or against this treaty—as well as to the benefit of the world community.

The recent nuclear weapons tests in India and Pakistan are a stark reminder of the importance of monitoring. The international monitoring system should improve the seismic monitoring of nuclear tests in India and Pakistan by nearly a full order of magnitude. That will lower the threshold of detectable yields by a factor between 5 and 10, depending on the test-site geology.

So if the detection threshold is a yield of 200 tons today, it would be 20 to 40 tons a few years from now. Let me say that again. If the threshold at which we can detect today is 200 tons, if this monitoring system is improved, as we fully expect it would be assuming we fund our part, it would reduce that to be able to detect 20 to 40 tons—but only if we pay our contribution.

The international monitoring system will also provide these improved monitoring capabilities in a more cost-effective manner than we can achieve them unilaterally. Countries other than the United States will bear roughly 75 percent of the costs. Where I come from, that is a pretty good deal. We pay three-quarters less than we would have to pay in order to be able to get 5 times the accuracy in terms of information, as much as 10 times the resolution we need to know if anybody has set off a nuclear test.

In addition, some of the improvement is literally unattainable through U.S.-sponsored monitoring alone, as some of the international monitoring sites will be in countries that refuse to contribute to a U.S. unilateral monitoring system.

The Preparatory Commission, Mr. President, is investing—is investing—

now in an international monitoring system, even though the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty might not come into force for some years.

There are two important reasons to support this. First, if we do consent to U.S. ratification of the treaty, we will want to be able to verify compliance as soon as the treaty enters into force. Any delay in funding the international monitoring system would translate into a delay in achieving the needed verification capabilities. Second, the improved monitoring achieved through new or upgraded sensor sites will contribute to U.S.—and world—monitoring capabilities as soon as they are in place, not just after the treaty enters into force.

U.S. agencies need to monitor possible nuclear weapons tests worldwide whether or not we ratify the treaty. Even so, opponents of ratification should support this funding. What would we do if we were here on the floor and said, "You know, there's going to be no test ban treaty. We just want to know what's going on in the rest of the world. We want to know. And guess what? A whole bunch of nations will join in with us to increase the capability of monitoring a test by roughly tenfold, a minimum of fivefold. And all we have to do is contribute, in this case, one-quarter of the cost?"

Would we conclude not to do that? Would we sit here and say, "No, no, no, we don't want to know; we don't want to pay 25 percent of the cost to increase our ability to detect testing that is up to 10 times more sensitive than what our capability now is?"

What are we talking about here? I mean, what rationale can there possibly be? I suspect my friends will say, "Well, you know, if we go ahead and do this, then we're on a slippery slope to ratifying that God awful treaty." I think it is a good treaty, but that is the best argument you can come up with unless you say, "We don't want to know. We don't want to know whether or not a nation is detonating a nuclear device that is in the 20 to 40 ton range. We're satisfied knowing all they can do is under 200 tons. Once they get above that, that is when we'll pay attention to it."

Mr. President, in sum, the international monitoring system will make a real contribution to U.S. monitoring capabilities. That contribution will be much less expensive than sustaining those sites unilaterally. And it will come on line as soon as the equipment is installed.

Let anybody have to be reminded, we live in a very dangerous world. The proliferation of nuclear weapons is occurring and it is a real risk. It seems to me, Mr. President, again, whether or not you are for the test ban treaty, the national interests requires these monitoring investments. So I strongly urge—strongly urge—all of my colleagues to support this amendment.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

Mr. JEFFORDS. Mr. President, the Senator from Pennsylvania has raised