

property disputes. This could include an assessment of the best institutional practices developed elsewhere, and development of the information and administrative systems necessary for effective implementation. Key to getting such a program started could be various sorts of training, advice regarding information systems, hardware and software, property surveying and registration systems, and assessing operational, management and staffing costs for administration.

U.S. advisers could help in the development of a plan for educating the Cuban public about the nature and basis of such a system. Such a program could require a significant commitment of effort and resources by a future Cuban government and the U.S. government. This effort could focus on gauging public opinion and identifying concerns and issues of potential stake holders in the reconciliation process to ensure policy and legal solutions are responsive.

International financial institutions could develop and carry out programs with similar goals and along these lines.

Various agencies of the U.S. government may be available to provide such assistance. For instance, the FCSC may be able to offer technical assistance to a transition or democratic government in Cuba, as well as to interested NGOs and independent organizations, in the efforts to resolve property disputes. Such assistance could include advice on structuring a claims adjudication or arbitration mechanism in Cuba, assistance in devising procedures for collecting, hearing and disposing of the claims, and advice on principles to follow in resolving claims involving property that has been substantially altered subsequent to being taken.

ASSISTING U.S. NATIONALS WITHOUT CERTIFIED CLAIMS

Assisting a democratic or transition government in its efforts to establish an efficient property resolution mechanism will directly support the efforts of non-certified claimants to obtain compensation in Cuba. In addition, the U.S. government may provide various forms of support to U.S. nationals wishing to present claims to such a domestic Cuban body. Such support could include ensuring that interested persons obtain the necessary papers to file their claims; encouraging a transition or democratic government to resolve such claims promptly and effectively; monitoring the progress of claims settlement and, where necessary, offering creative solutions to difficult problems; and providing informal assistance to claimants seeking to understand the process and present a claim. In the case of Central and Eastern Europe, for instance, the U.S. government—principally through the special envoy for property claims in the region—has actively promoted the resolution of claims arising from both Nazi confiscations and Communist nationalizations.

LEGISLATIVE REVIEW

At this time, there are no areas requiring further legislative action regarding the resolution of property claims in Cuba prior to a change of government in Cuba. Once a transition or democratic government comes to power in Cuba, however, it will be important for the Administration and Congress to consult closely as conditions change in Cuba to assist in the resolution of property claims in Cuba in a manner that contributes both to the development of a strong bilateral relationship with a democratic Cuba and to Cuba's economic recovery.●

TRIBUTE TO THE NEW HAMPSHIRE SPECIAL OLYMPICS AS THEY HOLD THEIR FIFTH ANNUAL FALL GAMES

● Mr. SMITH. Mr. President, I today recognize the New Hampshire Special Olympics participants and volunteers as they hold their fifth annual fall games, their second largest event of the year. On October 26, more than 550 athletes, 200 coaches, and 300 New Hampshire volunteers will gather in Concord, NH to participate in the Special Olympics fall games. The games, which will be held on the beautiful campus of St. Paul's School, are certain to be met with enthusiasm and excitement by participants and volunteers alike. I would like to extend a special New Hampshire welcome to everyone who will partake in this special day.

Above all else, I would like to recognize the participants. All 550 athletes devoted countless hours and a tremendous amount of hard work and perseverance in preparation for this event. I truly admire their dedication and courage as they come forward to compete in these seven difficult sporting events. All of them are top-notch athletes and should be very proud of their efforts. May all the Olympians enjoy their day.

The New Hampshire Special Olympics fall games would not be possible without the help of so many volunteers who work behind the scenes. Volunteers are truly essential to the success of the fall Special Olympic games. I would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to all the New Hampshire volunteers who make this wonderful day possible.

I would also like to commend New Hampshire Special Olympic's executive director, Mike Quinn, and his capable staff. They have dedicated countless hours of their time to make the Special Olympics a success, and have allowed the residents of New Hampshire to come out and show their Granite State spirit.

Without the support and contributions of a number of sponsors, the New Hampshire Special Olympics would not be able to hold their fall games. Among these supporters are St. Paul's School, the National Guard, Derryfield School, Merrimack County Savings Bank, AMR/Chaulk, Ambulance Services, and many more. Once again, I extend my thanks to those who made a contribution to this phenomenal program.

May the fifth annual fall games be a success and continue to flourish in the future. I wish all the Olympians the very best as they compete in the New Hampshire fall games. We are all very proud of you.●

TRIBUTE TO NEW HAMPSHIRE ALLIANCE FOR THE MENTALLY ILL ON THE OCCASION OF THEIR 17TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE AND MEMBERSHIP MEETING

● Mr. SMITH. Mr. President, I today pay tribute to the Alliance for the

Mentally Ill of New Hampshire on the occasion of their 17th Annual Conference and Membership Meeting. This educational conference is being held on October 26 at Rundlett School in Concord, NH. Those participating will have an excellent opportunity to attend workshops, view informative displays, and talk to alliance members. I congratulate all the alliance volunteers for hosting this important conference and extend a special welcome to those who will be in attendance.

The New Hampshire Alliance for the Mentally Ill strives to better the lives of those with mental illnesses or serious emotional disorders, promote the rights of the mentally ill, and educate the public about mental illness. Their goals are to highlight numerous services available to the mentally ill, especially focusing on youngsters and seniors.

I commend the New Hampshire Alliance for the Mentally Ill for their hard work and dedication to increasing the level of awareness of mental illness. Their conference will provide an excellent opportunity for those attending to learn more about the alliance and their objectives. Again, I would like to welcome all the participants who are attending this educational conference and congratulate those who have worked so hard to organize the conference.●

TRIBUTE TO NEW HAMPSHIRE'S NATURE CONSERVANCY CHAPTER FOR RECEIVING THE NATIONAL PROGRAM PROGRESS AWARD

● Mr. SMITH. Mr. President, I today pay tribute to New Hampshire's Nature Conservancy for receiving the National Program Progress Award. The New Hampshire chapter was presented with this award, one of the Nature Conservancy's highest honors, at the Nature Conservancy's National Annual Trustees Meeting on September 30.

The New Hampshire chapter has earned this award for their outstanding work in protecting Sheldrick Forest, a 227-acre old-growth forest located in Wilton, NH. The conservancy launched a multifaceted grassroots campaign to save the forest from development. Through its campaign the conservancy raised the property's purchasing price to \$550,000. The New Hampshire chapter also purchased Sheldrick Forest, making it the conservancy's 17th preserve in the State. This was an outstanding accomplishment.

In addition to the conservancy's dedicated actions to save Sheldrick Forest its members were recognized for their efforts to protect the Great Bay estuary system, for supporting the Maquipucuna Cloud Forest Reserve in Ecuador, and for creating the Mount Teneriffe preserve in Milton, which is home to a federally listed endangered orchid species. The New Hampshire Nature Conservancy chapter has worked hard to preserve New Hampshire's