

the Mexican gangs may soon take over the drug trafficking from the Cali cartel. It is ironic then that Colombia, the source country, was decertified while Mexico was fully certified.

I must also add that I have heard that some foreign officials believe our certification process is illegitimate. This is the height of arrogance. What is illegitimate about placing conditions on our foreign aid and requiring the recipient to curb the flow of drugs?

The certification process has the net effect of bringing the drug problem to the forefront, not only for the United States but also for Mexico. It seems as though only when a government is forced to confront the problem as difficult as the drug trade will a solution be found.

As a result of the amount of drugs that are found to have come into the United States through Mexico, we know that Mexico has failed to stem the international drug trade. If this administration does not want to recognize Mexico's failure, then it is up to Congress to do so. Again, I encourage my colleagues to join us in this effort.●

RECOGNIZING THE ODELSON FAMILY

● Mr. SIMON. Mr. President, the late Sam and Rose Odelson of Chicago had 13 children, 8 of whom served in the United States Armed Forces during World War II. Their contributions should be recognized.

Four sons served in Europe, three in the Pacific, and one in the States. Two were injured in combat, and altogether, they earned 20 battle stars.

Oscar served in the United States Army in Italy. Sidney, an Army veteran who landed at Omaha Beach served in France and Germany. Joe was also in the Army, serving near the tail end of the war in southern France. Julius was 89th Airborne, Roy was in the Army Air Corps, Ben served with the 13th Air Force in the South Pacific for over 2 years, and Mike was an MP in the Philippines.

All the eight Odelson boys returned home after the war. A few stayed in Chicago, the others moved out to sunny California to work in the insurance, furniture, or restaurant business.

With the recent commemoration of the 50th anniversary of World War II, it is fitting to recognize the achievements of this family. I salute these brothers and their family for their selfless commitment to our country.●

CONDEMNING THE CAMPAIGN OF TERROR AGAINST ISRAEL

● Mr. BIDEN. Mr. President, in a statement last week I condemned two terrorist bombings which took place in Jerusalem and Ashkelon 12 days ago. I did not think that it would be so soon that events would bring me once again to this floor to condemn another pair of cowardly attacks against innocent people, including young children.

Today, Israelis are justifiably shocked, disgusted, and angry. To bring home just what Israel is experiencing, let me provide a vivid comparison. On a proportional basis, the number of people killed by terrorists in Israel over the past 12 days would be equivalent to over 3,000 Americans killed. Imagine what our reaction would be if over 3,000 Americans were murdered in terrorist attacks in such a short period.

I dare say that our fundamental sense of stability and security as a nation would be shaken to its very core. That is what Israelis are feeling today.

As difficult as it is in this moment of grief and anger, we have to recognize the motive of those behind these dastardly attacks. Their single-minded aim is to end the peace process cold.

We cannot let them have the satisfaction of that kind of victory. We must resist the urge of our raw emotions in the wake of these outrageous attacks. We must not discard the remarkable achievements of the past 3 years, for that would play directly into the hands of the terrorists.

Last week, I urged that the peace process continue. I believe that even more firmly now.

The terrorists can be defeated through a two-pronged strategy. First, there must be intensified efforts to destroy the infrastructure and network that are ultimately behind terrorist actions. In that regard, I commend President Clinton for offering technical assistance to the Israelis and Palestinians in the war against terror. Second, we must prove to the terrorists that their actions are not producing the desired results. That means moving forward undaunted with the peace process.

Last week, I appealed to the Palestinian majority that supports peace to join the battle against terror with renewed vigor because it is their future that is most at stake. I renew that call today. If these attacks continue, then the Palestinian experience with self-government could become a fleeting memory.

Mr. President, in my remarks today I have used the term "war"—the same term Prime Minister Shimon Peres has used to describe the state of affairs between Israel and Hamas. It is an appropriate term to use, and unlike many wars this one is a clear-cut conflict between good and evil.

A victory by the pro-peace majority of Israelis and Palestinians could lead the way to a thriving, vibrant, and cooperative Middle East. A victory by Hamas and its extremist allies on both sides will mean conflict, bloodshed, and division long into the future.

In this war, as in all of Israel's wars, the United States will stand by Israel and do whatever it takes to ensure victory.

Mr. President, Israel has endured much suffering in its short history, and it has shown remarkable fortitude in the face of terrorism and other at-

tempts to destroy it. The Israeli people have always thwarted the designs of those who have tried every means to eliminate their country. I have no doubt that they will prevail in their present struggle against those who have declared war against Israel, the peace process, and, indeed civilization itself.●

REPORT OF SENATE DELEGATION'S TRIP TO THE MIDDLE EAST

● Mr. PELL. Mr. President, in February, I led a congressional delegation on a trip to Jordan, Syria, Israel, and Cyprus. I was pleased to be joined on this trip by the distinguished Senators from Virginia and Oklahoma—Senators ROBB and INHOFE.

On our trip, Senator INHOFE, Senator ROBB, and I focused primarily on the Middle East peace process, including prospects for a peace treaty between Israel and Syria, as well as the implementation of Israel's peace agreements with Jordan and the Palestinians. During our stop in Cyprus, we examined the conflict between the Greek and Turkish Cypriots and the likelihood of a peaceful, negotiated settlement.

Since our return, the Middle East—and specifically Israel—has been wracked by an unimaginable wave of violence and terror. The murder of scores of innocent Israelis, as well as Palestinians, Americans, and other civilians, has cast an unmistakable pall over the peace process. To be frank, I am not sure that any supporter of the peace process, be they in Israel, the Palestinian autonomous zone, or the United States, has a clear idea of what the future holds.

My own hope is that the process can survive this unspeakable assault. Our recent trip reaffirmed for me the clear fact that the terrorists are the enemies of peace. If the terrorists succeed in destroying the peace process, then they will be rewarded for their depravity. I do not think such an outcome would be right or fair.

Mr. President, the Senate already has responded to some of the terrorist bombings in Israel. Scarcely a week ago, the Senate passed a resolution to condemn the perpetrators, to commiserate with the victims, to express continued support for our ally, Israel. In a shocking indication of how frequent these incidents have become, however, the Senate will soon consider yet another resolution that condemns two more bombings that have occurred since the passage of the last resolution.

Above and beyond these resolutions, I would expect that there may be some deep soul searching in both the Congress and the administration about the American role in coordinating the peace process. In this regard, I thought it might be useful to share with my colleagues the report that our Senate delegation made on its recent trip to the Middle East. As I said a moment ago, our trip preceded the recent wave

of terror, but I think that our observations, conclusions, and recommendations remain timely and important.

Mr. President, I ask that our delegation's executive summary be printed in the RECORD.

The summary follows:

LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL

FEBRUARY 23, 1996.

Hon. JESSE HELMS,

Chairman, Senate Committee on Foreign Relations, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: From February 7-14, 1996, our Senate delegation traveled to the Eastern Mediterranean, visiting Jordan, Syria, Israel, and Cyprus. The delegation, led by Senator Claiborne Pell, Democrat from Rhode Island and Ranking Minority Member of the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations, included Senator Charles S. Robb, Democrat from Virginia and a Member of the Senate Committees on Foreign Relations, Armed Services and Intelligence; and Senator James Inhofe, Republican from Oklahoma and a Member of the Senate Committees on Armed Services and Intelligence. We were accompanied by Senate Foreign Relations Committee staff members Edwin K. Hall (Minority Staff Director and Chief Counsel), George A. Pickart (Minority Professional Staff Member for the Near East and South Asia), and Peter M. Cleveland (Minority Professional Staff Member for East Asia and the Pacific) and by Jay C. Ghazal (Legislative Assistant to Senator Pell for Defense Issues).

The purpose of the trip was to focus on the Middle East peace process, including prospects for a successful conclusion to the bilateral negotiations between Israel and Syria, and the status of the implementation of Israel's peace agreements with Jordan and the Palestinians. We also examined the potential for a peaceful and negotiated settlement to the conflict on Cyprus.

In Jordan the delegation met with His Majesty King Hussein bin Talal, Her Majesty Queen Noor, and with newly-appointed Foreign Minister Abdal Karim al-Kabariti; in Syria with Foreign Minister Farouq al-Shara and Vice President Abdal Halim Khaddam; in Israel with Prime Minister Shimon Peres and with representatives of the Israel Defense Forces on the Golan Heights; in Gaza with PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat and newly elected Palestinian Council members Haider Abdel Shafi, Ziyad Abu Amer, and Riyad Zanoun; and in Cyprus with President Glafkos Clerides, House President Alexis Galanos, and Turkish Cypriot leader Rauf Denktash. In addition, Senators Robb and Inhofe, both members of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence, met separately with U.S. intelligence officials on matters pertaining to the region.

Our visit to the region coincided with a period of intense activity with regard to the peace process and other matters:

On the day of our arrival in Israel, Prime Minister Shimon Peres called for early elections in an effort to secure a mandate for his peace negotiations with Syria;

Syria and Israel, fresh from a scheduled break in their negotiations at Wye Plantation in Maryland, had just hosted a shuttle visit by U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher;

The Palestinians had just concluded elections for a chief executive—a vote won overwhelmingly by PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat—and an 88 member council;

On the day we traveled to Gaza, Israel had sealed its borders with the Palestinian autonomous area for security reasons, one of many closures since the onset of self-rule;

Israel and Jordan continued to work out arrangements to implement their recent

peace treaty, at the same time that King Hussein exhibited a more aggressive posture towards Iraq;

As Ankara grappled with forming a new government and as Athens installed new leadership, tensions flared between Turkey and Greece over an uninhabited Dodecanese islet, and a visit by a high-level U.S. envoy to mediate over Cyprus was cancelled.

We would like to commend the dedicated U.S. Foreign Service personnel at the American Embassies in Jordan, Syria, Israel and Cyprus, and at the U.S. Consulate General in Jerusalem, for their assistance and support during our trip. In particular, we would like to express our deep appreciation to Ambassador Wesley W. Egan, Jr. and Deputy Political Counselor Margot Sullivan in Amman; Ambassador Christopher W.S. Ross and Political Officer Laurence Silverman in Damascus; Ambassador Martin S. Indyk and Political Officer John Hall in Tel Aviv; Consul General Edward G. Abington, Jr. and Political Officer Gina Abercrombie-Winstanley in Jerusalem; and Ambassador Richard A. Boucher and Political Officer John Lister in Nicosia, for their special efforts to make our trip a success.

We would also like to thank our military escort, Commander Sean Fogarty (USN), as well as Commander Joe Malone (USN), and YNI Dwight Brisbane (USN) for their exceptional work in support of the delegation.

This report attempts to present a snapshot of the circumstances at the time of our visit. Our visit, it should be noted, preceded the recent wave of terrorist bombings in Israel, so the report does not address the bombings or their potential impact—which undoubtedly will be quite significant on the region and the prospects for peace. The views expressed are our own, and do not necessarily reflect those of the Senate Committees on Foreign Relations and Armed Services, or the individual members thereof.

Sincerely,

CLAIBORNE PELL.
CHARLES S. ROBB.
JAMES M. INHOFE.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

ISRAEL-SYRIA PEACE NEGOTIATIONS

Peace talks between Israel and Syria resumed late last year and showed signs of progress. Syrian and Israeli officials report that serious discussions have taken place under U.S. auspices at Wye Plantation in Maryland, and that the new informal setting helped to produce greater flexibility from both sides.

The parties may become distracted by early elections in Israel and the presidential campaign in the United States, which in turn may prevent them from reaching quick agreement on a peace treaty. But officials from Israel and Syria say substantive negotiations will continue for the foreseeable future and assert that an agreement remains possible.

Notwithstanding the improvements in atmosphere, Syria and Israel still have a tough road ahead in the negotiations:

The relationship between the two countries is plagued by instinctual mistrust;

Difficult decisions remain to be made on security arrangements on the Golan Heights (including the extent of Israel's withdrawal, the dimensions of demilitarized zones, and the possible presence of an international monitoring force including U.S. troops) and on the fabric of the future Israeli-Syrian relationship.

Syrians accept the inevitability of peace with Israel, but appear uncertain of the terms, ill-prepared for a normal relationship and reluctant to accept the concept of a warm peace.

ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN PEACE AGREEMENTS

Assuming the recent terrorist bombings in Israel do not cause the peace process to unravel completely, the "Oslo II" agreement between Israel and the Palestinians will set the stage for the emergence of a permanent Palestinian entity—which Palestinians see as their own state with East Jerusalem as its capital, and which Israelis see as something far short of that.

Palestinian officials, including PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat, bristle at what they perceive to be "unequal" U.S. treatment of Israel and the Palestinians, but acknowledge the importance of their own commitments on security and wish to be seen as working hard to prevent acts of violence and terror against Israelis.

The Palestine National Council will have to decide whether and how to amend the PLO Covenant, which still refers to the destruction of Israel. Arafat clearly recognizes the need to address the issue, but is not yet fully committed to changes that will be as forthcoming and precise as Israel and others would expect.

The Palestinians must develop and refine the institutional basis for their experiment with self-rule. Recent elections succeeded in creating an 88 member council, but council members have yet to meet and seem to lack confidence about their role in Palestinian society and their relationship with Arafat—their powerful chief executive.

ISRAEL-JORDAN PEACE TREATY

Jordan and Israel are implementing their October 1994 peace treaty with vigor and in good faith. As King Hussein stated, "The peace process is over. It's peace building now."

In recent months, King Hussein has taken a new and aggressive posture towards Iraq, granting asylum to two highly-placed Iraqi defectors (who willingly returned to Iraq after our visit and were subsequently murdered), calling for greater coordination among Iraq's fractured opposition, and talking about a federated Iraq. The King's statements and actions present a challenge to Saddam Hussein and have sparked the interest—not all positive—of other regional powers such as Syria.

CYPRUS CONFLICT

The situation in Cyprus, which is closely connected to the relationship between Greece and Turkey, remains jittery and uncertain. The recent escalation of tensions between Ankara and Athens over a small Dodecanese island underscores the acute need to resolve differences between the Greek and Turkish Cypriot leaders.

While some in the Greek and Turkish Cypriot communities appear willing to seek reconciliation, and even with the broad outlines of a solution apparent for some time, a recent attempt by the U.S. Administration to initiate a high-level mission on Cyprus failed to take hold.

The United States stands ready to devote considerable resources and energy to the problem, but the parties offer few prescriptions for improving the current hostile climate. The tendency of the Turkish Cypriot leadership to rehash old grievances when discussing current problems suggests that the impasse may remain for some time. ●

PRESIDENT'S DAY

● Mr. NUNN. Mr. President, I rise today to bring to the Senate's attention a practice that has crept into our popular culture with little notice. This practice relates to the Federal holiday we observe every year on the third