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Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m., and was called to order by the President pro tempore [Mr. THURMOND].

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Lloyd John Ogilvie, offered the following prayer:

Gracious God, these days in the Senate are filled with crucial issues, sharp differences on solutions, and vital votes on legislation. So we begin this day with the question that you asked King Solomon, "Ask: What shall I give you?" We empathize with Solomon's response. He asked for an "understanding heart." We are moved by the more precise translation of Hebrew words for "understanding heart," meaning "a hearing heart."

Solomon wanted to hear a word from You for the perplexities he faced. He longed for the gift of wisdom so that he could have answers and direction for his people. We are moved by Your response, Lord. "See, I have given you a wise and listening heart."

I pray for nothing less as Your answer for the urgent prayers of the women and men of this Senate. Help them to listen to Your guidance and grant them wisdom for their debates and their decisions. All through our history of this Nation, You have made good men and women great when they humbled themselves, confessed their need for Your wisdom, and listened intently to You. Speak, Lord. We need to hear Your voice in the cacophony of other voices. We are listening. Through our Lord and Saviour. Amen

RECOGNITION OF THE ACTING MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The able acting majority leader, Senator COCHRAN, is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, at the request of the majority leader, I an-

nounce today that the Senate will be in morning business during which Senators may speak. There will be no roll-call votes during today's session of the Senate. On Monday, the majority leader hopes that the Senate will be able to begin debate on the concurrent budget resolution. Senators will be notified as soon as any agreements are reached.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that I be recognized for a period not to exceed 15 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. COLLINS). Without objection, it is so ordered.

NATO ALLIANCE MEMBERSHIP FOR ROMANIA

Mr. COCHRAN. Madam President, last week I received a letter from the distinguished Senator from Indiana [Mr. LUGAR] on the subject of a task force which he had been asked to chair convened by the Council on Foreign Relations on the subject of Russia, its neighbors, and an enlarging NATO.

Senator LUGAR's letter discusses the highlights of the findings and agreements that were reached by this impressive task force made up of experts on foreign policy and national security. I think it is important for the Senate to consider and review carefully the task force report and the information in that as we are beginning serious consideration now in the Foreign Relations Committee and soon in this Chamber proposals for the enlargement of NATO. We have already had other agreements which have been widely publicized this week—the charter or the framework between Russia and the United States on the subject of NATO enlargement. So it is very timely, in my view, for us to begin to get all of the information and all of the viewpoints that we can from those who deserve respect on these issues so we will be fully advised as we are called upon to make decisions on proposals from the administration.

In his letter, Senator LUGAR points out that "The Task Force reached a strong bipartisan consensus that the enlargement of NATO and improved NATO-Russia relations need not be incompatible." First he pointed out that the goal of this task force "was to determine whether Russia's concerns could be managed and its internal transition bolstered without stopping or slowing NATO enlargement. The Task Force also looked," he said, "at the security concerns of the Baltic states and Ukraine."

He says the Task Force "agreed that it is in the United States interest to try to achieve both" enlargement of NATO and a strengthening of NATO-Russian relations. So we also should "negotiate from a position of strength and not allow the NATO Alliance to be held hostage in any manner by Moscow. We strongly caution," he said, the Task Force said, "that NATO's core mission of collective defense of its members—both old and new—not be diluted in any manner."

Other highlights include an urging of the administration and NATO allies "to take very specific steps, to reassure the Baltic states and Ukraine that they will not be left in a security no-man's land."

And in conclusion, he says the Task Force recommends endorsing "NATO's decision to add new, 'full' members at the Madrid summit in July 1997, and suggests the Alliance remain open to the possibility of adding more new members in the future."

The Task Force said, and he quotes from their findings:

We believe that the goal of NATO's enlargement with Russia should not be to provide compensation for enlargement. Rather, it should be to forge a new NATO-Russia relationship that builds on opportunities offered by a new Europe, a Russia in transition and an adapting NATO.

The Task Force recommended also "To engage Russia, negotiate a formal NATO-Russia charter," which is being done, "and a consultative mechanism

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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