

Although DOE has already helped secure hundreds of tons of nuclear weapons materials, the overwhelming majority of material is still poorly secured. Consequently, the administration is requesting that the MPC&A Program be increased by \$25 million in fiscal year 1998. This funding request is necessary for U.S. plans to continue implementing this program. Before the Lugar-Bingaman amendment was accepted, however, the fiscal year 1998 Defense Authorization bill had called for the MPC&A Program to continue to be funded only at fiscal year 1997 levels.

The administration's budget request also includes \$50 million for the International Nuclear Safety Program. This program, which is also operated by DOE, helps to make improvements to Soviet-designed nuclear powerplants in Russia and the New Independent States. By helping these countries implement desperately needed safety measures, this program helps reduce the risk of another Chernobyl nuclear power reactor disaster. Again, full funding is critical to U.S. plans to continue implementing these initiatives. Again, before the Lugar-Bingaman amendment was accepted, the fiscal year 1998 Defense Authorization bill would have prevented the Pentagon from providing any funds to the International Nuclear Safety Program in fiscal year 1998.

The fiscal year 1998 DOD Authorization bill before the Senate provides \$268.2 billion in budget authority for the DOD and the national security programs at DOE. This is \$2.6 billion beyond the level the President initially requested. In addition, the bill includes \$3.6 billion for ballistic missile defense purposes and more than \$5 billion for weapons systems not originally requested by the Pentagon. Considering those facts, it is inconceivable to me that the Senate would cut the CTR Program, the MPC&A Program and the International Safety Program by \$135 million.

Mr. President, these three programs are critical to our efforts to protect the United States from weapons of mass destruction. Unlike ballistic missile defense, the CTR Program, the MPC&A Program and the International Safety Program have already produced results and caused the destruction of Russian nuclear weapons. Simply put, they make our world safer. I am pleased that the Senate adopted the Lugar-Bingaman amendment last night, and I commend my colleagues on the Senate Armed Services Committee for rectifying what would have been a tragic mistake.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Virginia.

Mr. WARNER. I think the time has come now that the distinguished ranking member and myself clear what amendments are cleared on both sides. Then I am prepared to proceed to wrap up, and we can close the Senate down.

Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum. I hope this quorum will not exceed 2 to 3 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that there now be a period for the transaction of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 5 minutes each.

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

URGENT CALL FOR RESTORATION OF DEMOCRACY IN CAMBODIA

Mr. BIDEN. Mr. President, I rise to express my deep concern about the brutal subversion of democracy underway in Cambodia. I urge the administration to condemn the action for what it is: A bloody coup d'etat perpetrated by co-Prime Minister Hun Sen and his Cambodian People's Party.

The administration today announced it was suspending for 30 days all assistance provided to the Cambodian Government. All such assistance, including loans provided by the World Bank and other international financial institutions, should remain suspended until the democratically elected Government of Cambodia is restored.

Programs implemented through non-governmental organizations—efforts supporting the rule of law, public health, prosthetics for mine victims, et cetera—should be reviewed to determine which ones can continue in light of recent events.

I applaud the decision taken by the Association of Southeast Asian Nations [ASEAN] to delay Cambodia's membership in that organization. Cambodia's neighbors are under no illusions that Cambodia today is prepared to be a responsible member of the international community.

BACKGROUND

A few weeks ago, Cambodia seemed poised to close the book on a bloody chapter of its history by bringing the genocidal Khmer Rouge Leader Pol Pot to justice. But now Hun Sen threatens to plunge the country back into darkness and civil war.

Dozens of people have been killed. There are reports of mass arrests and looting in the Capital of Phnom Penh. Prince Ranariddh's supporters have been expelled from the legislative assembly. Interior Minister, and Ranariddh loyalist, Ho Sok reportedly has been executed while in the custody of government troops.

For the long-suffering people of Cambodia—victims of "the killing fields"—

Hun Sen's unconstitutional action is a painful blow to their quest for democracy, reconciliation, and national reconstruction. That quest seemed achievable in October 1991 when—after 12 years of civil war—Cambodia's warring factions and all of the foreign parties who had played a role in the Cambodian conflict signed the Paris peace accords. Vietnam withdrew its army from Cambodia and the United Nations established the U.N. Transitional Authority for Cambodia [UNTAC].

UNTAC's primary goal was to oversee the creation of a democratic, internationally recognized government in Phnom Penh. UNTAC was the largest, most comprehensive, and most expensive peacekeeping operation in the history of the United Nations. More than 12,000 troops, 4,000 civil police, and 20,000 civilian workers and volunteers from more than 50 countries poured into Cambodia.

UNTAC supervised the return of more than 400,000 refugees from Thailand and the registration of 5 million eligible voters. The operation cost more than \$1.7 billion, with an additional \$2 billion pledged by international donors to fund reconstruction of the war-torn country.

In May 1993, Cambodia experienced its first free and fair multiparty election. Despite terrorist threats from the Khmer Rouge—who refused to participate in the election and shelled some polling places—90 percent of registered voters came to the polls.

The incredible turnout was a testimony to the enthusiasm of the Cambodian people for democracy and their desire for peace.

Prince Ranariddh's party won those elections. Hun Sen's party came in second. But when Hun Sen disputed the results and threatened to plunge the country back into civil war, King Sihanouk, with the blessing of the international community, fashioned a compromise.

A coalition government was established, with Prince Ranariddh and Hun Sen serving as co-Prime Ministers. They jointly administered Cambodia until Hun Sen's coup d'etat last weekend.

The coalition was never an easy one. In recent months, relations between the two Prime Ministers had become increasingly strained as both began jockeying for position in the runup to national elections scheduled for 1998.

The disintegration of the Khmer Rouge actually exacerbated the tension between the two major parties, as each sought the political and military support of the breakaway Khmer Rouge elements.

Now the tensions have flared into open conflict. The question for the friends of democracy in Cambodia is how to respond.

Our first priority must be to ensure the safety of more than 1,000 American citizens—including our diplomatic and military personnel.

Our very able Ambassador in Phnom Penh, Ken Quinn, has acted with courage and professionalism to provide a