

been proud to support. Members participate in the annual Rutland Loyalty Day Parade, Memorial Day and Veterans Day and annual POW/MIA Day ceremonies. Chapter One has also initiated an "Honor the Vet Program" with area businesses. Under this program, local businesses agree to provide a discount to any veteran with a veteran organization membership card.

In short, Mr. President, VVA Chapter One honors Vermont, just as its veterans honored us with their service in Vietnam. There are now four chapters carrying on the VVA tradition in Vermont. Besides Chapter One in Rutland, there is now chapter Chapter 601 in Bennington, Chapter 723 in Chester and Chapter 753 in St. Albans.

I thank them for all they have done and I wish them the best on this landmark occasion.●

ASSESSMENT OF CUBAN THREAT TO UNITED STATES NATIONAL SECURITY

● Mr. GRAHAM. Mr. President, the 1998 Defense Authorization Bill contains a provision, which I introduced as an amendment, that requires the Secretary of Defense to conduct an assessment of the Cuban threat to United States national security. The bill requires the Secretary to report to Congress on this assessment by March 31, 1998. The report has been delayed, and it now appears that the report will be released after Congress begins the Easter recess.

While the final report has not been released and no member of Congress has yet been briefed on its content, a draft report was leaked to the press and several articles have appeared over the past few days. I am concerned that this information was leaked to the press before the report was provided to Congress.

Members of Congress are now in the position of having to respond to these press reports without the benefit of knowing the actual contents of the report. Since Congress will not be in session for over two weeks and our ability to respond to the report will be limited, I would like to take this opportunity to provide some context for the report and for the reason that I requested it.

Cuba, under Fidel Castro's dictatorial regime, has a well documented history of threatening the national security of the United States. From the Cuban Missile Crisis, to the Mariel Boatlift, to the Brothers to the Rescue shootdown, the pattern of provocation and threat to the well being of Americans is clear. Unfortunately what is also clear is a pattern of unpreparedness on the part of the United States to respond to Cuban provocations. In fact, NBC News reported that President Clinton was constrained in responding to the Brothers to the Rescue shootdown because of a fear of Cuban counterattacks.

It was my intention that this report would force the Defense Department to

assess Cuban capabilities to threaten the United States and, since Castro has a long record of using his capability against the United States, prepare contingency plans to respond to any threat from Cuba. We should not be caught off guard, unable to respond again.

Press reports that the Department of Defense assessment finds no national security threat from Cuba are very troubling. Just two years ago, Cuban Air Force MiGs shot down two unarmed civilian aircraft over international waters, killing three United States citizens. Although U.S. forces monitored the entire event, no U.S. forces were able to respond. Our advanced fighter aircraft never got off the ground.

Equally as troubling as this type of conventional threat are the non-traditional threats posed by Cuba. Biological and chemical weapons, intelligence collection activities, immigration crises, drug trafficking, and dangerous nuclear and information warfare programs all pose national security threats to the United States.

At the same time, U.S. capability to deal with these threats continues to erode. A series of base closure decisions have reduced capability in the areas that provide the most direct capacity to respond to Cuban provocations. With the realignment of Homestead Air Force Base and Key West Naval Air Station, we are in a worse posture than in 1996 when the shootdown occurred.

Mr. President, let me mention a few of the known Cuban capabilities that cannot be overlooked. First, a significant conventional military capability exists that can harm United States interests, as demonstrated by the 1996 shootdown. In addition, Jane's Defense Weekly reported last summer that Castro is training elite special force units in Vietnam which are prepared to attack U.S. military targets during a final confrontation. NBC News reported in 1995 that Cuba has operated a special military training school since the mid-1980's named the Baragua School in Los Palacios, Pinar del Rio, in a region known as El Cacho. It reportedly trains some 2,500 men and specializes in commando attacks and infiltration of other countries.

Castro's capability to produce weapons of mass destruction is even more worrisome, particularly his ability to produce biological weapons. There is no question that the capability exists. Cuba has a developed pharmaceutical industry and a network of biological "institutes" which could be used for more than simply scientific research. Many of Cuba's engineers and scientists have been trained in former communist countries such as East Germany and Russia and have ample training to cultivate biological weapons. Biological weapons are the easiest to conceal and acquire because of the dual-use nature of the technology.

Another major threat to U.S. national security is the intelligence col-

lection facilities in Cuba that can intercept all electronic transmissions, emanating from the east coast of the United States. The 28 acre Russian intelligence facility at Lourdes has two electronic satellite dishes aimed at the United States which can intercept phone calls, faxes, and computer data from the entire Eastern seaboard. Russia and Cuba renegotiated a \$200 million annual lease for the site in 1995. According to U.S. intelligence analysts, one dish listens in on general U.S. communications, the other is used for targeted eavesdropping. The facility employs 800 Russian technicians and linguists. An example of the danger this facility poses to U.S. national security is the fact that during the Gulf War, the station's specialists intercepted the details of the U.S. military battle plans and were prepared to disclose these plans to Iraq and other U.S. enemies.

The Russians have spent nearly \$3 billion on Lourdes and sources say that the Russians are upgrading its reach. In addition, the operation at Lourdes is extremely sophisticated. According to U.S. intelligence sources, the Russians program the computers at Lourdes to listen for specific phone numbers. When they detect those lines are in use, the computers automatically record the conversations or transmissions. For priority targets, an alarm signals a Russian linguist who will actually listen in.

The Castro regime has also used mass migration as a policy tool. There have been two major refugee crises which have posed a security threat to the U.S. In 1980, 125,000 Cubans came to the U.S. in the "Mariel Boatlift." In 1994, another 32,000 Cubans left Cuba by boat and were picked up at sea by the U.S. Coast Guard. In the Mariel crisis, the Cuban government encouraged criminals and mental patients to leave, causing additional security problems for the United States.

The problem of dealing with a large influx of refugees, whether criminal or not, gives Castro a weapon he can use to threaten the United States. Mass immigration represents a form of leverage Castro can use to extract concessions from the U.S. on a number of issues.

Cuba also has a dormant nuclear capability that can threaten the United States. Sergei Shoigu, Minister of Emergency Situations in Russia, has recently confirmed that Russia and Cuba will forge ahead to finish constructing the Juragua nuclear plant on Cuba's south coast. The Juragua facility is known to be unsafe in both construction and design. A nuclear accident at Juragua would send a radioactive cloud over the lower tier of the U.S. to Texas or up to the East Coast to Washington, D.C. within the first four days, depending on the season and prevailing winds. According to a National Oceanographic and Atmosphere Administration study, an estimated 50-80 million Americans from Florida to

Texas could be exposed to dangerous levels of radioactivity.

The U.S. State Department lists Cuba as a state sponsor of terrorism. Cuba also regularly conducts political, social, and economic interactions with countries listed on the State Department's List of Terrorist Nations, including Libya, Iran, and Iraq, giving it access to these countries' illegal supplies of weapons and biotech products. These activities, all just 90 miles off our shores, must be considered as a threat to U.S. national security.

Mr. President, it is clear that Cuba has the capability to threaten U.S. national security. Castro's track record of provocations and attacks should be a warning that he will use whatever capabilities he has. We must take these threats seriously and ensure that we can adequately respond to any Cuban provocation. The Constitution requires us to provide for the common defense of the American people, and we must never shrink from that responsibility. The threats posed by Castro's Cuba are obvious. What must be made clear is an adequate plan to deter and defend against such threats. ●

TRIBUTE TO BOB BARKER

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to a man who has brought joy and laughter to countless Americans during his nearly fifty years in entertainment, Bob Barker. Next week, Mr. Barker, who is the host and executive producer of the legendary game show CBS' "The Price is Right," celebrates airing the 5,000th episode of his series. I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing his achievements.

In his 26th season, "The Price is Right" is the longest running game show in American history and continues to be America's highest rated daytime game show. Beyond the fact that most Americans have watched the show at some point in their lives, more than 42,000 people have been contestants on the program, while an approximate 1.3 million have participated in the studio audience. Both the show's spontaneity and Mr. Barker's effortless rapport with contestants have given "The Price is Right" its unique popularity. Bob has repeatedly said over the years, "The Price is Right" is not just a television show, it is an event. Today I commend Mr. Barker not only for reaching this impressive milestone with the show, but also for his long-standing ability to entertain the American people.

Mr. Barker was born in Darrington, Washington, and spent most of his youth on the Rosebud Indian Reservation in South Dakota where his mother was a school teacher. His family eventually moved to Springfield, Missouri, where he attended high school and Drury college on a basketball scholarship. When World War II intervened, he became a Navy fighter pilot, but the war ended before he was assigned to a seagoing squadron.

Following his discharge, Mr. Barker returned to Drury College and took a job at a local radio station to help finance his studies. It was there that he discovered that what he did best was to host audience participation shows. After graduating summa cum laude with a degree in economics, he went to work for a radio station in Palm Beach, Florida. A year later he moved to Los Angeles, and within a week, he was the host of his own radio program, "The Bob Barker Show."

Bob Barker's career was forever transformed in 1956 when he debuted as the host of the television show, "Truth or Consequences." It was his 3,524 consecutive performances on "Truth or Consequences" over its eighteen-year run that won him the title of "Most Durable Performer" in the Guinness Book of World Records. During his forty-one years on network television, he has taped more shows than any other individual for a network series. Between "Truth and Consequences," "The Price is Right," and his 21 years as host of both the Miss USA and Miss Universe pageants, he has hosted more than 8,500 shows in the course of his career. According to CBS, he has made more appearances on television in general than anyone else in the entire history of the medium. Bob has won 12 Emmy Awards, ten of which were for his performances as a game show host and represent the largest number of Emmys given to a single television performer.

Bob is an outspoken and eloquent supporter of animal rights, and has consistently used his celebrity to help to control the animal population, thereby reducing the number of needless animal deaths. Each day he closes "The Price is Right" with a reminder to spay and neuter your pets. He has established the DJ&T Foundation to provide funding for free spay and neuter clinics across the nation. In recognition of his efforts, he received the International Society for Animal Rights' highest honor, the Henry Salt Award, in 1995.

Therefore, as Mr. Barker commemorates the 5,000th episode of "The Price is Right," I thank him for his special lighthearted touch. As he told the Los Angeles Times in 1996, "We don't solve the world's problems. But hopefully we help a lot of people to forget their problems for an hour * * * We're there to entertain, laugh, and have fun." On behalf of the people of the state of California, I congratulate you, Bob, and thank you for entertaining us and making us laugh.

REMOVAL OF INJUNCTION OF SECRECY—TREATY DOCUMENT NO. 105-40

Ms. COLLINS. As in executive session, I ask unanimous consent that the injunction of secrecy be removed from the following treaty transmitted to the Senate on April 2, 1998, by the President of the United States:

Treaty with Israel on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters, Treaty Document No. 105-40.

I further ask unanimous consent that the treaty be considered as having been read for the first time; that it be referred, with accompanying papers, to the Committee on Foreign Relations and ordered to be printed; and that the President's message be printed in the RECORD.

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

The message of the President is as follows:

To the Senate of the United States:

With a view to receiving the advice and consent of the Senate to ratification, I transmit herewith the Treaty between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the State of Israel on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters, signed at Tel Aviv on January 26, 1998, and a related exchange of notes signed the same date. I transmit also, for the information of the Senate, the Report of the Department of State with respect to the Treaty.

The Treaty is one of a series of modern mutual legal assistance treaties being negotiated by the United States for the purpose of countering criminal activities more effectively. The Treaty should be an effective tool to assist in the prosecution of a wide variety of modern criminals, including those involved in terrorism, other violent crimes, drug trafficking, money laundering, and other white collar crime. The Treaty is self-executing.

The Treaty provides for a broad range of cooperation in criminal matters. Mutual assistance available under the Treaty includes: taking the testimony or statements of persons; providing documents, records, and articles of evidence; serving documents; locating or identifying persons or items; transferring persons in custody for testimony or for other assistance; executing requests for searches and seizures; assisting in proceedings related to seizure, immobilization and forfeiture of assets, restitution, and collection of fines; executing procedures involving experts; and providing any other form of assistance appropriate under the laws of the Requested State.

I recommend that the Senate give early and favorable consideration to the Treaty and give its advice and consent to ratification.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON.

THE WHITE HOUSE, April 2, 1998.

AUTHORIZING FUNDS FOR FEDERAL-AID HIGHWAYS, HIGHWAY SAFETY PROGRAMS, AND TRANSPORT PROGRAMS

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I understand that the Senate has received from the House H.R. 2400 regarding the highway legislation. Pursuant to the consent agreement of March 12, 1998, I now ask unanimous consent that the