

Mr. President, the U.S. and NATO are right to move forward now to send a clear and forceful message to Milosevic that he can no longer brazenly defy world opinion. The brutal slaughter of innocent non-combatants in Kosovo must stop now. If it continues, the West must have the resolve to do what is necessary to bring it to an end. And, if necessary, I want to say as a U.S. Senator, I think there should be air-strikes.

I wanted to speak out before we leave and I want the RECORD to show that I have spoken out. I wish that the U.S. Senate had brought this matter up. Other Senators would have very different points of view, and I understand that. But it really troubles me, saddens me, that the Senate as a body has not had a thorough discussion and debate about what is a life-or-death matter. I wanted to at least have a chance to speak out. I thank my colleague from Oklahoma for giving me some time.

Mr. SPECTER. Parliamentary inquiry: I have been asked to propound a unanimous consent request which relates to another bill. Would it be in order at this time to ask unanimous consent that it may be considered separately?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator may make the request.

OPERATION DESERT SHIELD AVIATION CONTINUATION PAY

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. 2584. The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2584) to provide aviator continuation pay for military members killed in Operation Desert Shield.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, this legislation is introduced to correct a legislative inequity that has adversely affected one of my constituents, Mrs. Vicki Reid of Dauphin, Pennsylvania.

At the time of his death in Operation Desert Shield, Captain Frederick Reid was serving as a United States Air Force pilot. The Air Force had authorized an Aviator Continuation Pay contract contingent upon his continuing to serve in the Air Force. Unfortunately, on October 10, 1990, Captain Reid was killed during a flight training operation.

The Defense Department policy at the time was that one's death precluded receiving the continuation pay. Congress responded by enacting the Mack Amendment, under which families of pilots killed in action during Operation Desert Storm are entitled to the deceased pilot's Aviator Continuation Pay. This provision of the fiscal year 1992 Defense Appropriations Act (P.L. 102-172) stipulates that in order to collect the Aviator Continuation Pay, the pilot must have died during Operation Desert Storm (on or after Janu-

ary 17, 1991), but excludes those pilots killed in Operation Desert Shield.

By letter to me dated August 3, 1998 from Under Secretary Rudy De Leon, the Department of Defense has confirmed that Captain Reid was the only U.S. Air Force pilot killed in Operation Desert Shield who was entitled to Aviator Continuation Pay and that approximately \$58,000 of Captain Reid's Aviator Continuation Pay was unpaid at the time of his death. In a September 11, 1998 letter to me, the Air Force has expressed its support for an extension of the Mack Amendment to cover the Reid case.

While private relief legislation is a last resort to be used sparingly by the Congress, Captain Reid's service and dedication to his country are laudatory. Had he died only a few months later, his widow would have been justly compensated. Accordingly, I am introducing this bill today.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that a letter from the Department of Defense and a letter from the Air Force be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the letters were ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE,
UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE,
Washington, DC, August 3, 1998.

Hon. ARLEN SPECTER,
U.S. Senate,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR SPECTER: This responds to your letter of July 2, 1998, to Secretary Cohen concerning Aviation Continuation Pay (ACP) due to pilots at the time of their death while serving in Operation Desert Shield.

A review of files pertaining to the members who died while serving in Desert Shield indicate that, of the eight pilots who died during that operation, only Captain Reid was serving under an ACP bonus contract at the time of his death. Approximately \$58,000 of that bonus was left unpaid due to Captain Reid's death and would be payable to his widow should legislation be enacted to extend the Mack Amendment to P.L. 102-172 to cover members killed in Operation Desert Shield.

I appreciate the concern you have shown about this issue. Please contact me if you require any further information.

Sincerely,

RUDY DE LEON.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE,
DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE,
Washington, DC, September 11, 1998.

Hon. ARLEN SPECTER,
U.S. Senator,
Philadelphia, PA.

DEAR MR. SPECTER: This responds to your inquiry for Ms. Vicki Reid and the possibility of receiving the remaining portion of her late husband's, Captain Frederick Reid, Aviator Continuation Pay (ACP).

As currently codified in Section 301b, Title 37, United States Code, ACP is paid upon the acceptance of a written agreement to remain on active duty. Members who do not complete the total period of service under the terms of that agreement, even as a result of death while in military service, are not entitled to the unearned portion of the compensation. Current law does not permit the Air Force to pay Ms. Reid the approximately \$58,000 remaining on her husband's agreement.

Air Force officials are aware of the possibility of extending the Mack Amendment to

cover members killed in Operation Desert Shield and strongly support this initiative. The Air Force officials sincerely appreciate the dedication to duty exemplified by Captain Reid.

We trust you will find this information helpful.

Sincerely,

MARCIA ROSSI,
Lt. Col. USAF, Con-
gressional Inquiry
Division, Office of
Legislative Liaison.

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read a third time and passed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statements relating to the bill appear at this point in the RECORD.

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, reserving the right to object—I will not object—I want to inquire, has that been cleared on this side?

Mr. SPECTER. It has been cleared on the other side of the aisle. It provides for aviator continuation pay for Air Force personnel killed in Operation Desert Shield. It is for a Pennsylvania constituent, as I understand it, the only one who has not been so compensated.

Mr. DORGAN. I thank the Senator.

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

The bill (S. 2584) was passed, as follows:

S. 2584

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. OPERATION DESERT SHIELD AVIATOR CONTINUATION PAY.

Section 8135(b) of the Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 1992 (Public Law 102-172; 105 Stat. 1212; 37 U.S.C. 301b note) is amended—

(1) by striking out "January 17, 1991" and inserting in lieu thereof "August 2, 1990"; and

(2) by inserting "(regardless of the date of the commencement of combatant activities in such zone as specified in that Executive Order)" after "as a combat zone".

INTELLIGENCE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 1999— CONFERENCE REPORT

Mr. NICKLES. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now turn to the consideration of the conference report to accompany H.R. 3694, the intelligence authorization bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection? Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report.

The committee on conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 3694), have agreed to recommend and do recommend to their respective Houses this report, signed by all of the conferees.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, the Senate will proceed to the consideration of the conference report.

(The conference report is printed in the House proceedings of the RECORD of October 5, 1998.)