

MOYNIHAN, have indicated their interest, and look forward to working with them early next year to address this issue in the Finance Committee.

#### AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED

#### RELATIVE TO THE ELECTIONS TO BE HELD IN GABON IN DECEMBER 1998

##### LUGAR AMENDMENT NO. 3834

Mr. LOTT (for Mr. LUGAR) proposed an amendment to the resolution (S. Res. 285) expressing the sense of the Senate that all necessary steps should be taken to ensure the elections to be held in Gabon in December of 1998 are free and fair; as follows:

Strike all after the resolving clause and insert the following:

That the Senate—

(1) recognizes and commends those Gabonese who have demonstrated their love for free and fair elections;

(2) commends the Government of Gabon for inviting the International Foundation for Election Systems to perform a pre-election assessment study;

(3) calls on the Government of Gabon to—

(A) take further measures to ensure the organization and administration of a transparent and credible election and to ensure that the national election commission is able to independently carry out its duties; and

(B) further welcome the International Foundation for Election Systems, the National Democratic Institute, the International Republican Institute, and other appropriate national and international non-governmental organizations to aid the organization of, and to monitor, the December 1998 Presidential election in Gabon, in an effort to assist the government in ensuring that the elections are free and fair;

(4) urges the United States Government to continue to work with the international community, and through appropriate non-governmental organizations, to help create an environment which guarantees free and fair elections; and

(5) urges the United States Government and the international community to continue to encourage and support the institutionalization of democratic processes and the establishment of conditions for good governance in Gabon.

Strike the preamble and insert the following:

Whereas Gabon is a heavily forested and oil-rich country on the west coast of Central Africa;

Whereas Gabon gained independence from France in 1960;

Whereas Gabon is scheduled to hold national elections in December 1998 for the purpose of electing a President;

Whereas the Government of Gabon was subject to single-party rule until 1990 and only one person has held the office of the President since 1967;

Whereas the International Foundation for Election Systems (IFES) and the African American Institute (AAI) served as observers during the organization of the 1993 Presidential and legislative elections in Gabon and found widespread electoral irregularities;

Whereas the Government of Gabon is a signatory to the Paris Accords of 1994, which was approved by national referendum in July

1995, and was instituted to provide for a state of law guaranteeing basic individual freedoms and the organization of free and fair elections under a new independent national election commission;

Whereas the people of Gabon have demonstrated their support for the democratic process through the formation of numerous political parties since 1990 and their strong participation in prior elections; and

Whereas it is in the interest of the United States to promote political and economic freedom in Africa and throughout the world: Now, therefore, be it

Amend the title to read as follows: "Expressing the sense of the Senate that all necessary steps should be taken to ensure the elections to be held in Gabon are free and fair."

#### RELATIVE TO THE HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES AGAINST THE CIVILIAN POPULATION OF SIERRA LEONE

##### ABRAHAM AMENDMENT NO. 3835

Mr. LOTT (for Mr. ABRAHAM) proposed an amendment to the resolution (S. Res. 298) condemning the terror, vengeance, and human rights abuses against the civilian population of Sierra Leone; as follows:

Whereas the ousted Armed Forces Revolutionary Council (AFRC) military junta and the rebel fighters of the Revolutionary United Front (RUF) have mounted a campaign of terror, vengeance, and human rights abuses on the civilian population of Sierra Leone;

Whereas the AFRC and RUF violence against civilians continues with more than 500 survivors of atrocities, including gunshot wounds, amputations or rape;

Whereas the International Committee of the Red Cross estimates that only 1 in 4 victims of mutilation actually makes it to medical help;

Whereas the use and recruitment of children as combatants in this conflict has been widespread, including forcible abduction of children by AFRC and RUF rebels;

Whereas UNICEF estimates the number of children forcibly abducted since March 1998 exceeds 3,000;

Whereas the consequences of this campaign have been the flight of more than 250,000 refugees to Guinea and Liberia in the last 6 months and the increase of over 250,000 displaced Sierra Leoneans in camps and towns in the north and east;

Whereas the Governments of Guinea and Liberia are having great difficulty caring for the huge number of refugees, now totaling 600,000 in Guinea and Liberia, and emergency appeals have been issued by the United Nations High Commission for Refugees for \$7,300,000 for emergency food, shelter, and sanitation, and medical, educational, psychological, and social services;

Whereas starvation and hunger-related deaths have begun in the north where more than 500 people have died since August 1, 1998, a situation that will only get worse in the next months;

Whereas the humanitarian community is unable, because of continuing security concerns, to deliver food and medicine to the vulnerable groups within the north and east of Sierra Leone;

Whereas the Economic Community of West African States and its peacekeeping arm, the Economic Community of West African States Military Observer Group (ECOMOG), are doing their best, but are still lacking in the logistic support needed to either bring

this AFRC and RUF rebel war to a conclusion or force a negotiated settlement;

Whereas arms and weapons continue to be supplied to the AFRC and RUF in direct violation of a United Nations arms embargo;

Whereas the United Nations Under Secretary for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, and Refugees International, following visits to Sierra Leone in May and June 1998, condemned, in the strongest terms, the terrible human rights violations done to civilians by the AFRC and RUF rebels; and

Whereas the Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary General for Children and Armed Conflict, following a May 1998 visit to Sierra Leone, called upon the United Nations to make Sierra Leone one of the pilot projects for the rehabilitation of child combatants: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) urges the President and the Secretary of State to give high priority to solving the conflict in Sierra Leone and to bring stability to West Africa in general;

(2) condemns the use by all parties of children as combatants, in particular their forcible abduction by the Armed Forces Revolutionary Council and the Revolutionary United Front, in the conflict in Sierra Leone;

(3) calls on rebel forces to permit the establishment of a secure humanitarian corridor to strategic areas in the north and east of Sierra Leone for the safe delivery of food and medicines by the Government of Sierra Leone and humanitarian agencies already in the country mandated to deliver this aid;

(4) urges the President and the Secretary of State to continue to strictly enforce the United Nations arms embargo on the Armed Forces Revolutionary Council and Revolutionary United Front, including the condemnation of other nations found to be not in compliance with the embargo;

(5) urges the President and the Secretary of State to continue to encourage the contribution of peacekeeping forces by member governments of the Economic Community of West African states to its peacekeeping arm, ECOMOG;

(6) urges the President and the Secretary of State to continue to support the appeal of the United Nations High Commission for Refugees for aid to Sierra Leonean refugees in Guinea, Liberia, and elsewhere, as well as other United Nations agencies and non-governmental organizations working in Sierra Leone to bring humanitarian relief and peace to the country, including support the United Nations Observer Mission in Sierra Leone;

(7) urges the President and the Secretary of State to take a more comprehensive and focused approach to its relief, recovery and development assistance program in Sierra Leone and to continue to support the Government of Sierra Leone in its Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration Program (DDRP) for the country as peace becomes a reality;

(8) urges the President and Secretary of State to work with the Government of Sierra Leone, with organization of civil society and with ECOMOG in their efforts to promote and protect human rights, including respect for international humanitarian law;

(9) encourages and supports the United Nations Special Representative of the Secretary General for Children and Armed Conflict, Olara Otunu, to continue efforts to work in Sierra Leone to establish programs designed to rehabilitate child combatants; and