

trademark pipe in the other. I always thought it was to remind folks you didn't have to be Redford handsome or Kennedy strong to go after big game.

What you do have to be, though, is committed to the idea that we are put here for something more than just serving ourselves.

I like to think I am committed to that idea. I hope when I am through I will be judged to have been half as committed to it as one of the biggest little men I have been privileged to know, George Cunningham.

PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS IN UKRAINE

Mr. CAMPBELL. Mr. President, yesterday the Senate, with bipartisan support, agreed to S. Res. 205, a resolution urging the Government of Ukraine to ensure a democratic, transparent, and fair election process leading up to the March 31 parliamentary elections. I appreciate Chairman BIDEN and Senator HELMS' support in committee and the leadership for ensuring timely consideration of this important resolution.

In adopting S. Res. 205, the United States Senate expresses interest in, and concerns for, a genuinely free and fair parliamentary election process which enables all of the various election blocs and political parties to compete on a level playing field. While expressing support for the efforts of the Ukrainian people to promote democracy, rule of law, and human rights, the resolution urges the Ukrainian government to enforce impartially the new election law and to meet its OSCE commitments on democratic elections. I want to underscore commitments undertaken by the 55 OSCE participating States, including Ukraine, to build, consolidate, and strengthen democracy as the only form of government for each of our nations.

The Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe, the Helsinki Commission, which I chair has monitored closely the situation in Ukraine and has a long record of support for the aspirations of the Ukrainian people for human rights and democratic freedoms. A recent Commission briefing on the parliamentary elections brought together experts to assess the conduct of the campaign. High level visits to Ukraine have underscored the importance the United States attaches to these elections in the run up to presidential elections scheduled for 2004.

As of today, with less than two weeks left before the elections, it remains an open question as to whether the elections will be a step forward for Ukraine. Despite considerable international attention, there are credible reports of various abuses and violations of the election law, including candidates refused access to media, the unlawful use of public funds and facilities, and government pressure on certain political parties, candidates and media outlets, and a pro-government bias in the public media.

Ukraine's success as an independent, democratic, economically successful state is vital to stability and security and Europe, and Ukraine has, over the last decade, enjoyed a strong relationship with the United States. This positive relationship, however, has been increasingly tested in the last few years because of pervasive levels of corruption in Ukraine and the still-unresolved case of murdered investigative journalist Georgiy Gongadze and other issues which call into question the Ukrainian authorities' commitment to the rule of law and respect of human rights.

Ukraine enjoys goodwill in the United States Senate and remains one of our largest recipients of U.S. assistance in the world. These elections are an important indication of the Ukrainian authorities' commitment to consolidate democracy and to demonstrate a serious intent regarding integration into the Euro-Atlantic community.

NEXT STEPS IN THE FIGHT AGAINST HIV/AIDS

Mr. BIDEN. Mr. President, by now I hope that all of my colleagues are aware of the extent of the HIV/AIDS epidemic. The spread of the disease is of grave humanitarian and security concern to the United States.

Last year alone, 3 million people died as a result of the disease. I have yet to see a study or data which suggests that the number will not increase in 2002.

In January of 2000 the National Intelligence Council released a National Intelligence Estimate entitled "The Global Infectious Disease Threat and its Implications for the United States." The report stated that "the severe social and economic impact of infectious diseases, particularly HIV/AIDS, and the infiltration of these diseases into the ruling political and military elites and middle classes of developing countries are likely to intensify the struggle for political power to control scarce state resources. This will hamper the development of a civil society and other underpinnings of democracy and will increase pressure on democratic transitions in regions such as the FSU [former Soviet Union] and Sub-Saharan Africa where the infectious disease burden will add to economic misery and political polarization."

On February 13 of this year I chaired a hearing on the future of America's bilateral and multilateral response to the epidemic. What I learned was both encouraging and discouraging. First, the bad news. The disease continues to spread. Last year, five million people were infected with HIV/AIDS, bringing the total number of people with the disease to 40 million. There are more AIDS orphans than ever before, over 10.4 million, and that number is expected to more than double in the next 8 years as more and more adults fall ill and die.

In some parts of the world, women are becoming infected at rates com-

parable to men. This change in the infection pattern is tragic not only because the increase is a reflection of women and girls' inability to say no, in many instances, to unwanted sexual advances, but also because the more women who are infected, the greater the number of babies there are who are liable to contract HIV during birth or from drinking their infected mother's breast milk.

The good news is that the international community is beginning not only to recognize the need for more action, it is beginning to take more action. We are beginning to go beyond rhetoric towards concrete steps. We have established Global Funds for HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria. The U.S. Government has increased the amount of spending on bilateral programs. The problem is that we have not yet gone far enough. Despite our efforts to date, the problem continues to grow.

There are no easy solutions. I will not stand here and say that I have a magic formula for stopping the spread of HIV/AIDS. We must recognize, however, that while the problem is not going away any time soon, there are some steps we can take immediately and in the long-term that will help mitigate the effects of the disease and eventually stop it in its tracks.

A serious commitment is required. A lot of times when we talk about commitment in this chamber we are talking about 6 to 18 months. I am talking about a commitment of years. Not 2 years. Not 3 years. Start thinking in terms of a decade or more. According to the UN, studies of middle and low-income countries where interventions have slowed the spread of the disease, we need to spend \$7 to \$10 billion annually on treatment, care and support in the developing world for the next 10 years if we are to change current trends.

The UN estimates that if we are going to bring HIV infection rates down, by the year 2005 the international community is going to have to scale up spending to \$9.2 billion. That money does not include funds for improving the health and education infrastructure in developing countries. It only covers prevention care and support programs. 2001 expenditures, according to this same report were only \$1.8 billion.

We have a long way to go. And we will have to readjust our mind-sets such that we are prepared to stay the course financially for a long time to come, or nothing we do is going to have a lasting impact.

So what is to be done if we are willing to adopt such an approach?

The ultimate solution to this problem is the development of a vaccine. Scientists are working on one, but Dr. Anthony Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases at the National Institutes of Health was quoted in the Los Angeles Times on March 16 as saying

that this could take at least ten more years. In the meantime, we have got to undertake action to bring the infection rate down as far as possible, and to care for those who have contracted the disease.

Part of the problem we are having in stopping the spread of HIV/AIDS is the basic barrier of underdevelopment. One of the things that has facilitated the spread of the disease in developing nations has been lack of infrastructure, mainly in the communication, education and health sectors. People in remote villages in a poor country do not have the luxury of picking up a local paper or watching the local news on their televisions. There is no easy way to spread the word about the HIV/AIDS. If there are schools, they are irregularly attended, which blocks another avenue of informing people about the disease.

Health in poor countries are deplorable. Helping countries improve basic health services will go a long way towards addressing HIV/AIDS. This includes training medical personnel, building and or repairing clinics and providing medical supplies and equipment. The benefits of improved health infrastructure are enormous. HIV/AIDS is not the only disease affecting poor countries. By improving health infrastructure, we improve the level of access to basic health care for other diseases such as tuberculosis and malaria. And devoting more resources to improving the health sector has the advantage of laying down the groundwork for AIDS treatment activities.

Addressing educational needs and health infrastructure are two long-term investments that the United States, in conjunction with our international partners need to make. This disease is going to be around for a long time. Especially if we fail to act.

What should we do in the short term to address the global epidemic? There are several things that we can do immediately to enhance our response.

First, we should strengthen coordination of U.S. agencies so that we are dealing with the problem in the most efficient way. The President has taken some steps to address it, naming Secretary of State Colin Powell and Tommy Thompson, Secretary of Health and Human Services, as co-chairs of a Cabinet-level task force on the global HIV/AIDS threat. I do not believe, however that this really solves the problem.

Developing an integrated U.S. response to the global AIDS epidemic will require more time and energy than two Cabinet-level Secretaries can devote to it. We need someone working full time on integrating the great work that different U.S. agencies are doing. He or she must have the authority to develop a U.S. policy response that is informed by all U.S. government agencies spending money on HIV/AIDS. This person should be accountable for the implementation of the strategy, and required to report on the imple-

mentation of the consolidated U.S. strategy on a yearly basis.

The coordinator must have the authority to bring the point people on HIV/AIDS programs in all the different agencies to one table and have them figure out what tasks their respective agencies should be undertaking based on areas of comparative advantage and expertise. Finally, the coordinator needs the authority to eliminate overlaps where possible, identify gaps and decisively settle turf disputes among agencies about areas of responsibility.

The second step to enhancing the U.S. response is beginning the process of providing deeper levels of debt relief to poor nations. It may take a while for countries to realize these savings, but we have got to begin negotiations for an enhanced Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Initiative right away. We must make sure that countries where there is a severe HIV/AIDS emergency and which are at or beyond a decision point in the HIPC process are paying no more than 5 percent their fiscal revenue in debt servicing. Countries where there is no health emergency should be paying no more than 10 percent of fiscal revenue in debt servicing.

Why enhance debt relief? Because all the early indicators are that debt relief works. According to the World Bank, Burkina Faso, Uganda, and Malawi are all using debt relief saving to fight HIV/AIDS. Now is not the time to be come complacent, but to make a bold move forward, to capitalize on this success by taking debt relief one step farther.

Part and parcel with enhanced debt relief should be the provision of technical assistance to countries, to ensure that an adequate amount of debt relief savings are devoted to programs to combat HIV/AIDS.

We must expand the provision of crucial interventions such as voluntary testing and counseling if we are to enhance the U.S. response to HIV/AIDS. Voluntary testing and counseling is a cornerstone of intervention. One particular study conducted in three African countries showed that given the opportunity for such testing, 60 percent of adults would take advantage. It also showed that only 15 percent of those same people had access to this service. Think about it. Fifteen percent of those who wanted to know if they had HIV/AIDS were able to get an answer.

The importance of voluntary testing and counseling cannot be overstated. Once people find out whether or not they are infected with HIV, they are able to make decisions about behavior change that can save their lives and the lives of their partners, spouses and children. It is crucial that we provide the funds to training more counselors, and deliver more rapid test kits to areas of need so that those who want testing and counseling can obtain it.

In addition to the above activities, I encourage the administration to expand its efforts to help developing nations craft and implement national

blood transfusion policies including policies to prevent HIV infection through blood transfusions. Such programs are especially needed in Africa. Some people might contend that this should be a relatively low priority as the HIV infection rate from blood transfusion is only 5 percent. I would argue that we have to do everything we can to address the spread of the disease, and that this is an intervention that is straightforward, and that has benefits that extend beyond combating HIV/AIDS.

At the Foreign Relations Committee hearing on HIV/AIDS on February 13, USAID Administrator Natsios indicated that to the best of his knowledge less than fifty percent of African countries have developed a national blood transfusion policy and less than one third of African countries have a system in place to limit HIV transmission through blood transfusions. Here in America we have virtually eliminated the threat of contracting HIV/AIDS through blood transfusion by adopting screening and evaluation policies.

We have the expertise to see that health care workers in Africa and elsewhere are properly trained in appropriate clinical use of blood transfusions and in proper transfusions techniques. We can teach best practices for testing. We can show countries how to recruit and retain non-remunerated blood donors from uninfected portions of the population so that a safe, tested blood supply is available. Last year in Africa, 3.4 million people were infected with HIV. If there had been national systems to monitor, manage and test the blood supply for HIV, perhaps as many as 170,000 of those people might be HIV free today.

Another way to strengthen U.S. response is to expand programs that specifically focus on women and girls. Due to biological vulnerability, and economic and social pressures, women and girls in Africa are far more likely to contract HIV than boys and men the same age. According to UNAIDS, girls age 15 to 19 are almost eight times more likely to be infected with HIV/AIDS than their male counterparts. Women aged 20 to 24 were 3 times more likely to be HIV-positive than their male peers.

There is no easy way to counteract this phenomenon, but there are a number of steps which can be taken. In the long term, social and cultural norms must be changed to increase the economic and social independence of women. It is easier for a woman to reject unwanted sexual advances if she is able to provide materially for herself and her children. Men must be educated as to the dangers of unprotected extramarital sex. In addition, we must emphasize education programs. It is imperative that young people know how to prevent the spread of HIV/AIDS. There are solutions which we must work on with renewed vigor.

Right now, today, we must channel more resources towards research into

female controlled and initiated methods of prevention such as the female condom and microbicides.

A usable microbicide must be developed so that women, with or without the consent of a partner, can protect themselves from HIV/AIDS. We are at least five years away from the availability of a first generation product. Not only must we see that one is developed, we must make sure that it is usable and made available in developing countries, that women are informed about its availability, and that they are instructed in its use.

We should put more money into increasing the availability of the female condom, and continuing to refine the product. The female condom is not a miracle solution. Critics contend that women cannot use them without the knowledge of their partners, therefore it is redundant to make them available when the male condom is so readily available. What I would say is that if we are willing to make the choice available to men to use protection, we should be willing to give women a choice about protecting themselves as well.

Right now part of the reason that female condoms are not available is price. A bulk purchase would serve to lower the cost to the consumer. Another problem is information. We must teach people about the female condom's existence, and show people how to use it.

The female condom is the only female initiated method of prevention available right now to women living in societies where their ability to make choices about when and with whom they are physically intimate are in some cases limited, and in other cases non-existent. Since the beginning of the epidemic, 10 million women have died of HIV/AIDS, over a million of them in the past year. Women are becoming increasingly affected. We must use every means we have to reverse these trends.

I would also submit that it is important that the United States give generously to the Global Fund for AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria. The U.S. must consistently show leadership in our donations. In May of last year, the President pledged \$200 million in seed money for the fund. Other nations followed suit. None of them pledged more than the United States. The UK, Japan, and Italy all pledged \$200 million. This is a perfect example of the fact that where the U.S. leads, others will follow. There are now almost \$2 billion in pledges for the fund; \$800 million is expected to be available this year. The call for proposals went out in January, and the first grants are expected to be made in April.

While I in no way fault the President for his initial pledge, I can't help but wonder how much money would have been donated to the Global Fund this past year if America's contribution had been \$500 million instead of \$200 million.

The Global Fund is a welcome addition to the fight against HIV/AIDS, but it must be just that—an addition. Contributions must not take the place of bilateral programs.

Finally, I submit that the job of defeating HIV/AIDS is too big for the United States to handle alone. We need the help of the international community. I cannot state this in strong enough terms. We must encourage other donors to do their share to help halt the epidemic. The U.S. Government provides nearly 50 percent of HIV/AIDS assistance funds. This is 4 times as much as the next donor. It is imperative that other donors be full partners in this fight both in their bilateral programs and their pledges to the Global Fund. We cannot win this war without their help.

The steps I have outlined above are just that. None of what I have talked about is a prescription for a solution to the AIDS epidemic. Most of it is not new. I simply stand here before you today to point out that despite our best efforts the virus is marching on. However the situation is not hopeless by any means. The United States has been an innovator, devising effective programs to mitigate and reverse the global spread of AIDS. We cannot stop.

I hope that Congress and the Administration can work together to reinvigorate and enhance current efforts to stem the tide of HIV/AIDS infection and care for and support those with the disease. Failure to do so will mean the death of an entire generation of people. That is much too steep a price to pay.

LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ACT OF 2001

Mr. SMITH of Oregon. Mr. President, I rise today to speak about hate crimes legislation I introduced with Senator KENNEDY in March of last year. The Local Law Enforcement Act of 2001 would add new categories to current hate crimes legislation sending a signal that violence of any kind is unacceptable in our society.

I would like to describe a terrible crime that occurred February 2, 1998, in Corvallis, OR. A gay high school student was beaten by three youths who used anti-gay epithets. Robert P. Huffaker and Michael B. Nash, both 16, and Cyle A. Schroeder, 15, were charged with third-degree assault and first-degree intimidation in connection with the incident.

I believe that government's first duty is to defend its citizens, to defend them against the harms that come out of hate. The Local Law Enforcement Enhancement Act of 2001 is now a symbol that can become substance. I believe that by passing this legislation and changing current law, we can change hearts and minds as well.

VIOLENCE IN THE MIDDLE EAST

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I rise today to express my concern and

dismay at the news of yet another suicide bombing in Jerusalem. My thoughts and prayers go out to the victims and their families.

Israel, a democratic state and a staunch friend and ally of the United States, has a simple desire that all sovereign nations share: that it may live in peace within secure and stable borders, free from the terror and senseless acts of violence.

I condemn this terrorism and those who carry it out. How many more innocent lives must be lost before Chairman Arafat takes decisive and concerted action to reign in the terrorists and put an end to their brutal campaign? He made a commitment at Oslo to settle the differences between Palestinians and Israelis peacefully and he must live up to that pledge.

I am pleased that President Bush has sent General Zinni back to the Middle East to broker a cease-fire and get both sides to adhere to the Tenet Plan. To put it mildly, he has a long road ahead of him and there is a lot of work to be done.

Three articles discuss the situation in the Middle East: one by Washington Times columnist Mona Charon, another by Libby Werthan from the Nashville Jewish paper, the Observer, and finally an article by Naomi Regan called "Living in Parallel Universe."

Each article in its own way describes some of the pain, anguish, and despair that Israelis feel over the continuing acts of violence and the collapse of the peace process. I urge my colleagues to read these articles and take their message to heart. Israel wants peace. Israel needs peace. Israel deserves peace.

I hope the day will come when I will not have to come to the Senate floor to condemn yet another bombing. Enough is enough. I urge General Zinni and the administration to do all that they can to help bring about an end to the violence and the resumption of peace talks.

I ask unanimous consent to print in the RECORD the articles I cited.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Augusta Chronicle, March 9, 2002]

FLAWED SAUDI PEACE PLAN EXPOSED

(By Mona Charen)

Imagine for a moment that all reporting about the U.S. war on terrorism was presented without reference to Sept. 11. American attacks from the air using B-52s and F-16s against fighters armed with small weapons would seem quite disproportionate. Our stated intention to kill as many members of al Qaida as possible might be condemned, by our own Department of State, as "excessive" and "contributing to the cycle of violence."

But U.S. actions are never presented that way, because everyone acknowledges that we have the perfect right to defend ourselves against those who have done us grave harm. Nor are we asked to sit by and wait for our enemies to do us even more catastrophic damage if they get the chance. But when it comes to the Israeli/Palestinian conflict, the context is removed. Bleeding Israel is daily exhorted to stop contributing the cycle of violence. Her teen-agers are blown to bits at discotheques. Her babies are approached outside a synagogue by a suicide bomber who