

Whereas since 1947, more than 35,000 students from 110 countries have studied abroad as Rotary Ambassadorial Scholars;

Whereas Rotary International's Group Study Exchange program has helped more than 46,000 young professionals explore career fields in other countries;

Whereas 8,000 secondary school students each year experience life in another country through Rotary International's Youth Exchange Program;

Whereas over the past 5 years, members of Rotary International in all 50 States have hosted participants in Open World, a program sponsored by the Library of Congress, and therefore have earned the honor of serving as Open World's most outstanding host;

Whereas there are approximately 400,000 Rotary International club members in more than 7,700 clubs throughout the United States sponsoring service projects to address critical issues such as poverty, health, hunger, illiteracy, and the environment in their local communities and abroad; and

Whereas February 23, 2005, would be an appropriate date on which to observe Rotary International Day: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the goals and ideals of a "Rotary International Day" to celebrate the centennial anniversary of Rotary International; and

(2) recognizes Rotary International for 100 years of service to improving the human condition in communities throughout the world.

SENATE RESOLUTION 63—CALLING FOR AN INVESTIGATION INTO THE ASSASSINATION OF PRIME MINISTER RAFIQ HARIRI AND URGING STEPS TO PRESSURE THE GOVERNMENT OF SYRIA TO WITHDRAW FROM LEBANON

Mr. REID (for Mr. BIDEN (for himself, Mr. LUGAR, Mr. REID, Mr. FRIST, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. DODD, Mr. CORZINE, Mr. ALLEN, and Mr. CHAFEE)) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 63

Whereas on February 14, 2005, Rafiq Hariri, the former Prime Minister of Lebanon, was assassinated in a despicable terrorist attack;

Whereas the car bomb used in the assassination killed 16 others and injured more than 100 people;

Whereas the intent of the terrorists who carried out the assassination was to intimidate the Lebanese people and push Lebanon backward toward chaos;

Whereas Rafiq Hariri served as Prime Minister of Lebanon for a total of 10 years since the end of the Lebanese war in 1991;

Whereas Rafiq Hariri helped revitalize the economy of Lebanon and rebuild its shattered infrastructure and pioneered and directed the rebirth of Beirut's historic downtown district;

Whereas Rafiq Hariri stepped down as Prime Minister on October 20, 2004;

Whereas Syria maintains at least 14,000 troops and a large number of intelligence personnel in Lebanon;

Whereas there is widespread opposition in Lebanon to the continuing Syrian presence in Lebanon;

Whereas the United Nations Security Council issued a Presidential Statement (February 15, 2005) condemning the terrorist bombing that killed Rafiq Hariri and calling on "the Lebanese Government to bring to justice the perpetrators, organizers and sponsors of this heinous terrorist act";

Whereas United Nations Security Council Resolution 1559 (September 2, 2004) calls for

the political independence and sovereignty of Lebanon, the withdrawal of foreign forces from Lebanon, and the disarmament of all militias in Lebanon;

Whereas Syria is the main supporter of the terrorist group Hezbollah, the only significant remaining armed militia in Lebanon;

Whereas Hezbollah supports Palestinian terrorist groups and poses a threat to the prospects for peace in the Middle East;

Whereas the Syria Accountability and Lebanese Sovereignty Restoration Act of 2003 (22 U.S.C. 2151 note) was enacted into law on December 12, 2003; and

Whereas the President has recalled the United States Ambassador to Syria for urgent consultations: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) condemns the cowardly and despicable assassination of Rafiq Hariri, the former Prime Minister of Lebanon;

(2) extends condolences to Prime Minister Hariri's family and the people of Lebanon;

(3) supports United Nations Security Council Resolution 1559 (September 2, 2004), which calls for the withdrawal of all foreign forces from Lebanon;

(4) urges the President to seek a United Nations Security Council resolution that establishes an independent investigation into the assassination;

(5) urges the President to consider imposing sanctions under the Syria Accountability and Lebanese Sovereignty Restoration Act of 2003 (22 U.S.C. 2151 note); and

(6) supports the call of the Lebanese people for an end to Syria's presence in Lebanon, and for free and fair elections monitored by international observers.

SENATE RESOLUTION 64—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE THAT THE UNITED STATES SHOULD PREPARE A COMPREHENSIVE STRATEGY FOR ADVANCING AND ENTERING INTO INTERNATIONAL NEGOTIATIONS ON A BINDING AGREEMENT THAT WOULD SWIFTLY REDUCE GLOBAL MERCURY USE AND POLLUTION TO LEVELS SUFFICIENT TO PROTECT PUBLIC HEALTH AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Mr. JEFFORDS (for himself, Ms. SNOWE, Mr. SARBANES, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. DAYTON, Mr. LAUTENBERG, and Ms. COLLINS) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 64

Whereas mercury is a persistent, bioaccumulative, and toxic heavy metal;

Whereas mercury is found naturally in the environment but is also emitted into the air, land, and water in various forms in the United States and around the world during fossil fuel combustion, waste incineration, chlor-alkali production, mining, and other industrial processes, as well as during the production, use, and disposal of various products;

Whereas mercury air pollution has the ability to both deposit locally and travel thousands of miles in a global atmospheric pool of emissions before eventual deposition, crossing national boundaries and becoming a shared global burden;

Whereas the United Nations Environment Programme reported that, on average, anthropogenic emissions of mercury since pre-industrial times have resulted in 50- to 300-percent increases in deposition rates around the world;

Whereas the United Nations Environment Programme reported that global consumption of mercury equaled 3,337 tons in 1996, and that all mercury releases to the global environment total approximately 5,000 tons each year;

Whereas mercury air pollution can deposit into lakes, streams, and the oceans where it is transformed into toxic methylmercury and bioaccumulates in fish and fish-eating wildlife;

Whereas the National Academy of Sciences confirmed that consumption of mercury-contaminated fish and seafood by pregnant women can cause serious neurodevelopmental harm in the fetus, including such detrimental effects as intelligence quotient deficits, abnormal muscle tone, decreases in motor function, attention, or visuospatial performance, mental retardation, seizure disorders, cerebral palsy, blindness, and deafness;

Whereas the 1997 Mercury Study Report submitted by the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to Congress found that every region of the United States is adversely affected by mercury deposition;

Whereas the Food and Drug Administration, the Environmental Protection Agency, and 44 States currently have advisories warning the public to limit consumption of certain fish that are high in mercury content;

Whereas, of the 4,000,000 children born every year in the United States, a scientist at the Environmental Protection Agency estimates that approximately 630,000 are exposed to mercury levels in the womb above the safe health threshold, caused primarily by maternal consumption of mercury-tainted fish;

Whereas these health and environmental effects of mercury contamination can impose significant social and economic costs in the form of increased medical care, special educational and occupational needs, reduced economic performance, and disruptions in recreational and commercial fishing and hunting, and can create disproportionate health, social, and economic impacts among subpopulations dependent on subsistence fishing;

Whereas the Environmental Protection Agency has estimated that the United States is a net emitter of mercury in that the United States contributes 3 times as much mercury to the global atmospheric pool of air emissions as it receives through deposition;

Whereas the United States Geological Survey has not reported mercury consumption figures for key sectors in the United States economy since 1996, thereby creating important information gaps relating to domestic mercury use and trade;

Whereas the quantity of domestic fugitive chlor-alkali sector emissions has been labeled an enigma by the Environmental Protection Agency;

Whereas, in accordance with Public Law 101-549 (commonly known as the "Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990") (42 U.S.C. 7401 et seq.), the Environmental Protection Agency determined in December 2000 that a maximum achievable control technology standard for mercury and other air toxic emissions for electric utility steam generating units in the United States is appropriate and necessary, and listed coal- and oil-fired electric utility steam generating units for regulation, thereby triggering a statutory requirement that maximum achievable controls be implemented at every existing coal- and oil-fired electric utility steam generating unit by not later than December 2005;