

special responsibility to the world calling on our Nation to be “for the world, an example of a genuinely free, democratic, just and humane society.”

In recent years, even as his health deteriorated, he refused to give up. And in this, he served as a model to millions of people throughout the world about how faith and willpower can overcome adversity.

Indeed, I cannot remember a Pope who has been more warmly received and loved. I had the great honor to meet him at the Vatican in 1982 where I presented him with a cross sculpted from handguns melted down after being turned into police when they were banned in San Francisco. He received my gift warmly, giving me a rosary in return.

The world has lost a strong voice for peace, justice, and human dignity. Pope John Paul II will be dearly missed.

Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, I watched with great sadness this weekend as the world lost a remarkable leader and faithful servant. Pope John Paul II, born Karol Wojtyla, was the leader of the world’s largest church and shepherd to more than a billion Catholics throughout the world. In my home State of North Dakota, more than 130,000 Catholics are mourning the Pope’s death this week and praying for the repose of his soul. I join these faithful and millions of others in grieving for the Holy Father who spread a message of peace and charity during his 26-year-long pontificate.

Reflecting on the Pope’s legacy, I will forever admire his bravery, both in answering God’s call and in challenging corrupt governments for the sake of humanity. In his first mass at St. Peter’s Basilica in 1978, Pope John Paul II called on Catholics throughout the world to “be not afraid.”

The Pope spent his entire life living that call. Born on the eve of World War II, Pope John Paul knew the horrors of war; the Nazis forced him into labor when they invaded Poland in 1939. During this period, he found comfort in his Catholic faith and challenged the Nazis by attending illegal prayer meetings. These experiences hardened his conviction that war is “always a defeat for humanity.”

He again answered the call to “be not afraid” when he challenged the Soviet Union and the tyranny of communism in his homeland, Poland. Both as Archbishop of Krakow and then as Pope, John Paul II provided religious strength to those fighting these regimes. He is credited with helping to topple communism in Poland, and his steadfastness against oppression in all forms will forever be honored.

There may be no event more telling of his commitment to bravery and mercy than the attempt on his life in 1981. After being shot twice, nearly resulting in his death, the Pope recovered and continued his public works. Two years after the shooting, he visited his attacker in jail and offered his

forgiveness. Responding to this act of evil with compassion and grace, John Paul served as a witness to what humanity should strive to become.

The world has lost a great leader and the father of a religious family. John Paul II will be remembered as a teacher and defender of the faith he was called to serve. He will be honored as a diplomat and as a revolutionary in the fight against injustice and oppression. And he will provide us ongoing inspiration to respect human dignity and the worth of all humankind.

I am saddened by the loss of this just and holy man; however, I am joyful that he surely has passed to a more perfect place and is in communion with the God he served so faithfully. My thoughts and prayers are with the Catholic community and all those who mourn the death of Pope John Paul II.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is now closed.

FOREIGN AFFAIRS AUTHORIZATION ACT, FISCAL YEARS 2006 AND 2007

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the pending business.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (No. S. 600) to authorize appropriations for the Department of State and international broadcasting activities for fiscal years 2006 and 2007, for the Peace Corps for fiscal years 2006 and 2007, for foreign assistance programs for fiscal years 2006 and 2007, and for other purposes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Indiana.

Mr. LUGAR. Mr. President, today, the Senate will be considering S. 600, the Foreign Affairs Authorization Act for Fiscal Years 2006 and 2007. The Foreign Relations Committee passed this bill on March 3 by a vote of 18-0. This is the third successive year that the Foreign Relations Committee has reported out a comprehensive Foreign Affairs Authorization bill by a unanimous vote. We are pleased to have this opportunity to bring it to the floor for the Senate’s consideration. I want to especially thank the majority leader and the Democratic leader for their assistance and support in bringing this measure to the floor.

This legislation gives voice to Senate views on issues touching every continent—from the threat of terrorism and weapons of mass destruction, to the safety of Americans working in our embassies overseas, to an increased and focused effort to spur economic growth in the poorest countries. It authorizes the executive branch to take important actions on a wide range of issues. And, it authorizes appropriations for our diplomats, our foreign aid workers, and our Peace Corps volunteers, as well as the programs and policies that they manage on behalf of the United States.

These people are our civilian soldiers—they pursue a bold war on terrorism and a noble and far-sighted battle against disease, poverty, and humanitarian disasters. Most work in circumstances where the threat level is severe. American diplomats and aid workers frequently have been targets of terrorism while serving overseas. But they understand the importance of representing the United States, and they go anyway.

At this time in our history we are experiencing a confluence of foreign policy crises that is unparalleled in the post-Cold War era. Our Nation has lived through the September 11 tragedy, and we have responded with a worldwide war against terrorism. We have fought wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, where we are likely to be engaged in security and reconstruction efforts for years to come. We have been confronted by nuclear proliferation problems in North Korea and Iran that threaten U.S. national security and regional stability. We are continuing efforts to safeguard Russia’s massive stockpiles of chemical, biological, and nuclear weapons and to prevent proliferation throughout the world. We have experienced strains in the Atlantic Alliance, even as we have expanded it. We are trying to respond to the AIDS pandemic in Africa, the natural disasters in the Indian Ocean region, and the man-made calamity in Sudan. We are trying to take advantage of openings in the Middle East peace process and spur the advance of democracy in many countries. Emerging powers, including China, India, and Brazil, may soon reconfigure the world economically and politically in ways that we do not yet comprehend.

There is a tendency in the media and sometimes in this body to see diplomatic activities as the rival of military solutions to problems. We have to get beyond this simplistic formulation. We have to understand that our military and our diplomats are both instruments of U.S. national power that depend on one another. They both help shape the international environment and influence the attitudes of governments and peoples. They both gather information and provide expertise that is vital to the war on terrorism. And they both must be unsurpassed in their capabilities, if the United States is going to survive and prosper.

Americans rightly demand that U.S. military capabilities be unrivaled in the world. Should not our diplomatic strength meet the same test? If a greater commitment of resources can prevent the bombing of one of our embassies, or the proliferation of a nuclear weapon, or the spiral into chaos of a vulnerable nation wracked by disease and hunger, the investment will have yielded dividends far beyond its cost.

In considering this legislation today, it is important to remember that since the end of the Cold War, the Foreign Affairs Account frequently has suffered