

"We feel devastated and frustrated," Father Schmitt said. "People are trying to deal with the anger. I tell people we aren't going to gain anything by spreading more hatred in the world."

Mr. Daliberti was born in Tennessee, but spent most of his childhood in Jacksonville, where his father worked as an aviator machinist at Cecil Field Naval Air Station, and where he would develop a passion for jets. After four years in the Navy and a string of civilian jobs near Jacksonville, Mr. Daliberti took a job in Kuwait three years ago as a trainer of mechanics on F-18 jets.

"He loved the people over there and was getting along great," his father said.

UNITED STATES DENIES TWO AMERICANS
ENTERED IRAQ AS SABOTEURS
(By Steven Greenhouse)

WASHINGTON, March 27.—The Clinton Administration today rejected assertions from Baghdad that two Americans being held prisoner there had crossed into Iraq as saboteurs or spies.

White House and State Department officials said again today that the two had strayed mistakenly and innocently into Iraq while trying to visit a friend south of the border in Kuwait and did not deserve the eight-year prison sentences an Iraqi court imposed on them on Saturday.

"It was an innocent mistake," said Michael D. McCurry, the White House spokesman. "These two crossed across the border and had no intention to conduct any kind of sabotage at all." He also denied their motive was espionage.

Saddi Mehdi Saleh, the Speaker of Iraq's Parliament, told The Associated Press today: "We have no aggressive intentions toward these two Americans. But we have just applied Iraqi law according to the manner we do to all the foreigners who are coming for sabotage or other political reasons."

He added: "Sending spies or saboteurs, we reject this equation and don't agree with it. The United States of America must understand this fact."

Mr. Saleh later denied that he had said the two Americans planned acts of sabotage. Instead, he asserted that their aim was to create an incident that would prolong United Nations sanctions against Iraq.

United States officials said today that the two men—David Daliberti, 41, of Jacksonville, Fla., and William Barloon, 39, of New Hampton, Iowa—had apparently made a wrong turn and strayed into Iraq when they were seeking to visit a Danish friend at a United Nations compound in Kuwait, a half-mile south of the Iraqi border.

According to interviews with American and United Nations officials, the two Americans drove north from Kuwait City on March 13 to visit their friend, who was in a Danish engineering unit that is part of the 1,142-member United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Observer Mission.

It is well known that many Westerners who live in Kuwait visit acquaintances who are part of the United Nations mission because alcoholic beverages are readily available in its compounds, unlike elsewhere in Kuwait.

The two, who worked on a McDonnell Douglas contract to maintain Kuwaiti military aircraft, were apparently allowed to pass into Iraq by both a United Nations border patrol and an Iraqi border patrol. Iraqi police arrested them a few minutes later when they sought to cross back into Kuwait.

One American official said "we're as baffled as everyone else" how they could have mistakenly entered Iraq.

Secretary of State Warren Christopher told reporters: "The sentences were unjustified.

These men strayed into Iraq and we certainly think they should be promptly released. There's no basis for the kind of sentences that were imposed."

Mr. Christopher specifically denied suggestions that the two men were working for the Central Intelligence Agency, telling reporters, "There is no basis for those reports." He said such rumors would complicate efforts to win their release "only if" the Iraqis "let it complicate it."

Mr. HARKIN. I thank the Senator from Oklahoma for letting me speak and propose this amendment at this time.

Mr. NICKLES. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second.

There is a sufficient second.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

Mr. NICKLES. Mr. President, I compliment my friend and colleague, Senator HARKIN from Iowa, for this amendment. I am sympathetic to it and I will support it.

I might tell my colleagues we do not expect to vote now, and probably we will ask for the vote. We will check and see on the Democrat side if it is OK to vote at 12 noon. If not, we will announce the vote shortly.

I am sympathetic for a lot of reasons. Certainly it is an injustice when we have two American citizens who are working for a company, McDonnell, to be taken hostage and be sentenced for 8 years for mistakenly crossing the border.

I am sympathetic for another reason, because I found out the hard way. We had an Oklahoman that also was taken captive and held in Iraq for some time in 1993, Ken Beaty, an Oklahoman from Mustang, OK. He worked for an oil company. He was jailed for 205 days, I tell my colleague, in April 1993 through November 1993. He is 45 years old. Eventually we were successful. My colleague, Senator BOREN, Members might recall, went to Iraq to obtain his release. I hope we will have even a speedier resolution for these two individuals. Certainly it is an outrage that this type of a sentence was given for an innocent trespass. Eight years is certainly outrageous.

I concur with my colleague. The Senate should speak out in this amendment. I have no objection, and I suspect we will be voting on it around 12 o'clock.

Mr. HARKIN. If the Senator will yield, I want to thank the Senator from Oklahoma.

I know the managers of the bill—we do not want to load the bill with amendments and resolutions, but this is important. I appreciate his willingness to go away and get this up and get the Senate to express itself on this amendment. Thank you.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Montana.

Mr. BAUCUS. I ask unanimous consent to speak as in morning business.

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

MALMSTROM AIR FORCE BASE

Mr. BAUCUS. Mr. President, this weekend, the Base Closure and Realignment Commission comes to Great Falls for a hearing on the future of Malmstrom Air Force Base. And as both the Great Falls community and the BRAC Commissioners prepare for the hearing, I would like to recall a piece of history many have forgotten.

In 1942, as the United States entered the Second World War, President Roosevelt and Gen. George Marshall selected Malmstrom Air Force Base for a critically important mission. They chose this to be the main base for Lend-Lease supplies to the Soviet Army.

Over the next 3 years, 1942 to 1945, Malmstrom pilots made over 10,000 flights to the Soviet Union. They gave the Soviet Army trucks, tank parts, and other supplies crucial to the defense of Leningrad, the Battle of Kursk, and other watershed events in the European theater.

Now, you may ask, why Malmstrom?

The answer is simple. This air base is practically at the geographic center of North America. Thus it is the one place that is most secure military locations anywhere. At the same time, because flights to Europe and Northern Asia fly over the North Pole, there is no continental airbase closer to Japan and Russia than Malmstrom.

So, paradoxically, Malmstrom Air Force Base is among two very important groups: First, the bases most secure against foreign attack, and second, the bases most strategically important in wartime.

I am pleased to say that the Air Force recognizes this. In their report to the President last March 1, they said Malmstrom should remain a principal site for our land-based strategic nuclear forces.

But they also made a more puzzling recommendation. They asked the President to reverse two previous BRAC decisions, and move Malmstrom's squadron of KC-135 tanker aircraft to Florida.

Though I do not believe this would make much military sense. So I hope the BRAC Commissioners look closely at Malmstrom, listen to the community, and make the right decision to keep the tankers where they are now.

As the 1992 BRAC found, Malmstrom is a good place for the tanker squadron, and can support an expanded rather than a contracted flying mission.

That is no accident. Since the days of Roosevelt and Marshall, the Air Force has put a great deal of money into making Malmstrom a top-level base for our nuclear missiles and for the flying missile. They have done a good job; and they had good reasons to do it.

First of all, we may again need Malmstrom's service in wartime.

Everything human—whether it is technology, relations between governments, or anything else—is subject to change. But geography is not. We will

never have a better location for a strategic airbase than Malmstrom, which is both invulnerable to naval attack and as close as a continental airbase can be to Eurasia.

Second, Malmstrom is ideal for peacetime operations. The Great Falls area is perfect for Air Force training missions, because they do not call Montana the Big Sky State for nothing.

The airspace around Malmstrom is wide open. Visibility is excellent. There are no big mountains or even buildings for that matter nearby. And the weather is almost always sunny and dry. In fact, Malmstrom has the best flying weather in the area, and is already an alternative landing site for the other bases in the region. And, as the prairie is thinly populated, there are very few big metropolitan areas where frequent training missions could annoy local residents.

Third, Malmstrom will remain an ideal location for the foreseeable future. The Cascade County and Great Falls municipal governments work closely with base commanders to keep plenty of open ground between Malmstrom and the town.

Because we are a thinly populated State, the Air Force can be confident that even if there is substantial local growth, no property developer will build right up to the wire.

So disruption to the local community will always be minimal. Complaints by local citizens will be few or nonexistent. And, perhaps most important, the open ground ensures that base security will always be protected much more effectively than it could be in a heavily urban area like MacDill.

Finally, of course, Malmstrom has top-quality facilities for flying.

It has an airstrip good enough to support 10,000 Lend-Lease flights. And it has first-class maintenance capability to protect today's high-performance aircraft. In fact, Malmstrom is the only airbase in the Pacific Northwest with an anticorrosion facility.

Mr. President, we are very confident, that a careful, unbiased review will show that Malmstrom Air Force Base is an unequalled national security resource. Its strategic location, excellent flying and maintenance facilities, and multiple-mission capability make it a perfect site for this tanker squadron.

So Great Falls welcomes Commissioners Cox, Davis and Kling to the community. They can expect a warm, hospitable Montana reception. And we look forward to the chance to make our case this weekend.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. NICKLES. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

REGULATORY TRANSITION ACT

The Senate continued with the consideration of the bill.

Mr. NICKLES. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the vote on the HARKIN amendment numbered 411 occur today at 2:15.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. INHOFE). Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. NICKLES. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, what is the parliamentary situation?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The pending amendment is the Harkin amendment to the Nickles amendment to the substitute.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I am presently asking recognition, and I will speak briefly and ask permission to be able to do that as in morning business.

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

A CALAMITY IN AFRICA

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I have listened to the recent proposals of several Republican Senators for deep cuts in our foreign assistance program. Some of these proposals do not mention cuts specifically, but that is the thinly veiled consequence of what they propose. We pride ourselves for our generosity, but our foreign assistance accounts for less than 1 percent of the total Federal budget. These proposals would cut that even further, with the deepest cuts in the funds that go to help the neediest people in the world.

I will speak at length on this subject in the coming weeks, but I wanted to talk briefly about what are talking about if these proposals gain support.

At the same time that Republicans are pushing for drastic reductions in aid to needy American children and families, they would have us turn our backs on people around the world who are even more desperate. Let me mention one example, that was described in the Washington Post on March 17.

Uganda, once a prosperous, peaceful country, was destroyed by Idi Amin in the 1970's. Today, the average yearly income is \$170 per person, and as Uganda struggles to rebuild from civil war it is being destroyed from within again. One of every fifteen Ugandans is HIV positive. Half a million Ugandan children have lost a parent to AIDS. By 1998, 10,000 Ugandan children will have died from AIDS, and another 300,000 children will be infected.

In towns like Kakuuto with 70,000 residents, 30 percent of the people are either infected with HIV or already suf-

fering from AIDS. There are 17,000 orphans in that town alone.

The article describes a typical girl who became the head of her family at the age of 13, when her mother died from AIDS. AIDS had already killed her father. She now cares for her four younger brothers and sisters.

In 1990 I went to Uganda, and I saw the devastation caused by AIDS. I saw the heroic efforts of people there, everyday people, trying to fight the epidemic, a battle they could not possibly win without the help of countries like ours.

The article goes on to describe similar stories in Kenya, where Father Angelo D'Agostino, a Jesuit priest and a personal friend of mine, founded a home in Nairobi for AIDS orphans. He gets calls seeking a home for 100 AIDS babies every month. He has room for only 80 children, many of whom watched their parents die.

Mr. President, there are more rescissions coming from the House, and there are proposals to cut the foreign assistance program. Meanwhile, in Africa there are 10 million people infected with HIV, and the number continues to climb. Close to a million and a half are children. Many of the HIV infections were spread by sexually transmitted diseases that are common wherever there is poverty. These diseases are common in our own country, but here we have the vaccines or medicines to cure them. There they do not, and they become HIV positive, and they die.

There is no cure for AIDS. Would those who would cut the meager funds we spend to fight AIDS in places like Uganda, or India where it is spreading like wildfire among a population of a billion people, have us seal our borders? Tell future generations of Americans that if they leave our shores they cannot return?

Mr. President, this is one of a dozen examples I could mention of what will happen if we cut these foreign assistance programs. It makes a great press release today. We might just as well be sentencing our children and grandchildren to death.

I ask unanimous consent that the article be printed in the RECORD.

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

[From the Washington Post, Mar. 17, 1995]
AFRICAN AIDS EPIDEMIC CREATING A SOCIETY OF ORPHANS—HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF CHILDREN LEFT PARENTLESS AS SCOURGE SWEEPS THE CONTINENT

(By Stephen Buckley)

KAKUUTO, UGANDA.—Elizabeth Nakaweesi, 17, became head of her household at 13.

In 1989, her mother died of AIDS. In 1991, AIDS killed her father. That left Elizabeth to care for her four brothers and sisters, now aged 10 to 15.

Instead of spending her days in school, she spends them making straw mats and cultivating her family's half-acre of banana trees. She makes \$40 a year.

"It is painful to have no parents," Elizabeth said recently, sitting in her family's battered clay hut. "If they were here, they