

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 non-existent. 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

would take care of us: we would have the things we do not have."

Nakaweesi's plight has become a familiar one in Africa, where AIDS has left millions of children without parents and has afflicted thousands of others who contracted the AIDS virus through their mothers.

Statistics on the impact of AIDS among African children are sketchy but nonetheless grim. UNICEF predicts that by 1999, up to 5 million African children will have lost their mothers to AIDS. Of the 9.5 million people in sub-Saharan Africa who either have the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV)—which causes AIDS—or the disease itself, an estimated 1.3 million are children.

AIDS has ravaged the continent in part because of cultural mores that assent to men having simultaneous sexual partnerships with more than one woman. Researchers also have found that a high rate of nonfatal sexually transmitted diseases among both genders has made Africans more vulnerable to HIV.

AIDS specialists fear that the impact of the disease on children will slash school enrollments, roll back gains in infant mortality rates and further tax family structures already shattered by political and economic crises in many African countries.

Uganda's AIDS crisis is among the most urgent in Africa, as 1.5 million of the nation's population of 17 million are HIV-positive. An estimated 519,000 Ugandan children have lost at least one parent to AIDS, and the government reports that by 1998 about 150,000 children will have died of it and another 300,000 will be infected.

"What we have seen is staggering," said Omwony Ojwok, director of the Uganda AIDS Commission. "The families in particular are simply at a breaking point. You have some adults with 10 orphans in their house, plus their own children. Eventually, you run out of adults to take care of the children."

The town of Kakuuto, three hours west of Kampala, has been hit especially hard. An estimated 30 percent of its 70,000 residents are either HIV-positive or have AIDS. Relief workers estimate that there are 17,000 orphans. Some are left on their own, but many more live with grandparents who often are too old to provide the economic and emotional security of a mother and father.

Alandrena Nakabiito, 62, was left with six orphans, ages 5 to 13, when two relatives died of AIDS in the early 1990s. Nakabiito, who reared four of her own children, said that she never expected to be cast in this role.

"I never thought of it," she said, waving her arms in her dark, narrow, two-room hut. "I built this small house for myself." Now eight people, including Nakabiito's 72-year-old sister, live there.

Nakabiito said she makes about \$60 a year, adding that she would work harder on her acre of land but age has drained her strength. She digs only in the morning, resting in the afternoon. The slight woman, whose hands bear scars of a hard farm life, said she is especially sad that she cannot help Lucky Nakkazi, the 13-year-old, with her studies. Lucy can go to school only because the World Vision relief organization pays fees for her and about 2,500 other orphans in Kakuuto.

"I would try to help, but I have poor sight at night," Nakabiito said, referring to Lucy's school work.

Lucy attends Kakuuto Central Primary School, where headmaster Kyeyune Gelazius said that 220 of his 450 students have lost parents to AIDS. He predicts that within five years, 75 percent of his students will be orphans. He said that generally their attendance is sporadic and their behavior disruptive and that they lag academically.

"They don't get the attention they need at home," said Gelazius, who has seen 11 relatives die of AIDS. "Their grandparents are usually too old, and the children don't respect them."

A study in neighboring Tanzania found that children who have lost their mothers to AIDS "have markedly lower enrollment rates and, once enrolled, spend fewer hours in school" than youngsters with two parents, the World Bank Research Observer reported. The same study concluded that by 2020 the AIDS death rate among children in Tanzania will have cut primary and secondary-school enrollments by 14 and 22 percent, respectively.

Doctors also fear that AIDS will wipe out improvements in infant mortality rates over the past decade. For now, the rate remains stable, but a 1994 World Bank report on AIDS in Uganda warned: "Because of the large numbers of women carrying the virus, there are increasing numbers of infants and children infected. This together with the loss of mothers due to AIDS will increase infant and child mortality significantly." At the Kakuuto offices of Doctors of the World, a medical relief group, AIDS program coordinator Fred Sekyewa said babies born to mothers with AIDS have a 25 to 50 percent chance of being infected and that one in three pregnant women examined here tests HIV-positive.

Sekyewa added that many women with AIDS have babies because of cultural pressures. "In African societies it is an abomination for a woman to die without a child," he said. "A woman in her twenties who has AIDS will say, 'I must have a child now because I may die before I get the opportunity.'"

In Nairobi, Kenya, hundreds of HIV-positive children die in hospitals annually after being abandoned by their mothers. Three years ago, the Rev. Angelo D'Agostino, a Jesuit priest, founded a home in Nairobi for such children. A surgeon and psychiatrist who taught at George Washington University for 14 years, D'Agostino said he gets calls from hospitals and social workers seeking homes for 100 AIDS babies every month. D'Agostino, 69, has taken in about 80 children. He said that some have become healthy after receiving a steady diet of nutritious meals and attention.

"They were born with their mother's HIV antibodies, so they initially tested positive. But they never got infected," D'Agostino said. "So after a while, they're fine. But usually these kids die of malnutrition or something else in a hospital; because they once tested positive, everybody gives up on them."

The priest said that his children, most of whom are under 5, often show the strains of losing their parents. They cry for hours. They have nightmares. They stare into space.

"They talk about seeing their parents die," D'Agostino said. "They talk about being alone with their 10- or 12-year-old sibling."

Elizabeth Nakaweesi understands their pain. The teenager said she quit school in the sixth grade to care for her young siblings after her parents' deaths because "there was nobody else to do it."

Elizabeth's father, who died at 51, had collected taxes at the local market. Her mother, who was 39, had cultivated their plot of bananas, sweet potatoes and cassavas.

Sometimes, when crops are poor and her straw mats are not selling, Nakaweesi must beg neighbors for help. She said that without assistance from neighbors and World Vision—which pays school fees, bought her a bicycle and provides other necessities—she and brothers and sisters would not survive.

Elizabeth works hard to foster a spirit of family teamwork. After her siblings return from school, everyone works in the field before dinner. At supper time, one child fetches water. Another finds firewood. Another picks bananas. Another puts out bowls and eating utensils. Another does the cooking.

But the teenager knows that she cannot replace her parents. When she tries to speak of them, tears will in her eyes. She turns her face to the wall.

"They must be mother and father now," said Grace Mayanja, a staff worker with World Vision, referring to children in Kakuuto left to raise siblings. "But in their hearts, they're still little girls."

STOP HIDDEN KILLERS: THE GLOBAL LANDMINE CRISIS

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, over the years, I have spoken often about the problem of landmines. I have done so on this floor and as a member of the U.S. delegation to the United Nations, where I addressed the Disarmament Committee of the United Nations. I have been urging the U.S. Government and the United Nations to do whatever they can to stop the proliferation and use of antipersonnel landmines.

Sometimes when we think of landmines, we think of these huge floating mines in a shipping lane, but in fact, what we usually mean is a weapon about the size of a can of shoe polish. Antipersonnel landmines are tiny, and in some of them the only metal part is about the size of a thumb tack, so it is virtually impossible to detect. They cost about \$2 or \$3, and can be concealed beneath the surface of the ground. They are strewn by the thousands and they explode when somebody steps on them, no matter whether that person is a civilian or combatant. They kill an estimated 70 people each day. In the 2 hours since the Senate opened session this morning, at least eight people have been killed or maimed in the world from landmines. We are talking about 70 people each day, 26,000 people each year. There are an estimated 85 to 110 million landmines in 60 to 65 countries waiting to explode.

To give you some idea of this, parts of the Netherlands, and Denmark, are still too dangerous to go into, because of landmines left from World War II. But the vast majority of these hidden killers have been spread in just the past few years. In fact, even though the Russians followed our lead and declared that it would stop exporting antipersonnel landmines, that policy apparently does not apply to Chechnya. The Russians have been spreading landmines in Chechnya and doing it in such a way that nobody is ever going to know where they are—they are being dropped by the thousands out of airplanes—and there will be people, years from now, still dying and being maimed from them.

This January, at a press conference attended by representatives of some 40 countries, Secretary of State Christopher announced the release of the State Department's report "Hidden Killers: The Global Landmine Crisis."