States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, without objection, referred to the Committee on International Relations and ordered to be printed:

*To the Congress of the United States:*

This report is submitted pursuant to 1705(e)(6) of the Cuban Democracy Act of 1992, 22 U.S.C. 6004(e)(6) (the ''CDA''), as amended by section 102(g) of the Cuban Liberty and Democratic Solidarity (LIBERTAD) Act of 1996, Public Law 104–114; 110 Stat. 793 (the ''LIBERTAD Act''), which requires that I report to the Congress on a semiannual basis detailing payments made to Cuba by any United States person as a result of the provision of telecommunications services authorized by this subsection.

The CDA, which provides that telecommunications services are permitted between the United States and Cuba, specifically authorizes me to provide for payments to Cuba by license. The CDA states that licenses may provide for full or partial settlement of telecommunications services with Cuba, but does not require any withdrawal from a blocked account. Following enactment of the CDA on October 23, 1992, a number of U.S. telecommunications companies successfully negotiated agreements to provide telecommunications services between the United States and Cuba consistent with policy guidelines developed by the Department of State and the Federal Communications Commission.

Subsequent to enactment of the CDA, the Department of the Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) amended the Cuban Assets Control Regulations, 31 C.F.R. Part 515 (the ''CACR''), to provide for specific licensing on a case-by-case basis for certain transactions incident to the receipt or transmission of telecommunications between the United States and Cuba, 31 C.F.R. 515.542(c), including settlement of charges under traffic agreements.

The OFAC has issued eight licenses authorizing transactions incident to the receipt or transmission of telecommunications between the United States and Cuba since the enactment of the CDA. None of these licenses permits payments to the Government of Cuba from a blocked account. In the period October 23, 1992, to June 30, 1996, OFAC-licensed U.S. carriers reported payments to the Government of Cuba in settlement of charges under telecommunications traffic agreements as follows:

| | |
|---|---|
| AT&T Corporation (formerly, American Telephone and Telegraph Company | $39,647,734,42 |
| AT&T de Puerto Rico | 524,646.58 |
| Global One (formerly, Sprint Incorporated) | 4,870,053.05 |
| IDB WorldCom Services, Inc. (formerly, IDB Communications, Inc.) | 3,038,857.00 |
| MCI International, Inc. (formerly, MCI Communications Corporation) | 17,453,912,00 |
| Telefonica Larga Distancia de Puerto Rico, Inc. | 150,282.40 |
| WilTel, Inc. (formerly, WilTel Underseas Cable, Inc.) | 7,792,142.00 |
| WorldCom, Inc. (formerly, LDDS Communications, Inc) | 3,349,967.88 |
| | $76,827,595.33 |

I shall continue to report semiannually on telecommunications payments to the Government of Cuba from United States persons.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON.

THE WHITE HOUSE, *September 20, 1996.*

## COMMISSION ON CHEMICAL AND BIOLOGICAL WARFARE AGENT EXPOSURE ACT

(Mr. BROWDER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BROWDER. Madam Speaker, legislation I am introducing today calls for the creation of an independent commission to study the possible incidences of chemical and biological warfare agent exposure during the Persian Gulf conflict.

The legislation is based on a September 5 recommendation by the staff of the Presidential Advisory Committee on Gulf War Veterans' Illnesses. Creation of this commission before Congress adjourns sine die is essential if we are to uncover the causes of gulf war syndrome, assure veterans of the Government's good faith, and reduce the chance that soldiers in future conflicts may be exposed to unnecessary health risks.

## SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of May 12, 1995, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

## SAFE MOTHERHOOD

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Colorado [Mrs. SCHROEDER] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. SCHROEDER. Madam Speaker, I take the floor today to talk about a bill I will be introducing this week dealing with safe motherhood. When women first got the right to vote in this country, one of the first things they focused on was how many American women were dying in childbirth. In 1913 alone, the statistics were horrifying, because more women died in this country in childbirth than any other cause except for tuberculosis which we all know was running almost as an epidemic. The women, after they got the right to vote, found that this Congress was spending more money on hog cholera than they were on safe motherhood. There was a flurry of activity, a lot was done, and unfortunately we really have not done much to focus on this since. I have asked for several reports to be done and when we look at those reports, it is really quite startling.

First, we really do not know much about the condition of safe motherhood. Even Health and Human Services estimates that what we do know is probably only about 50 percent correct. They would guess that our very high rate of maternal deaths is probably double what it really is. And that is because each State keeps statistics, and because of insurance and everything, they tend to want to keep the statistics very tightly, so they probably in many places count maternal deaths only when they happen directly during the pregnancy rather than within the year of the pregnancy that aggravated a preexisting condition or something else. In our country we are more apt to blame it on the condition than on the pregnancy. As a consequence, as high as our statistics are for the developed world, they are still probably much higher than that if we really knew the truth. So the first thing I am going to do in my bill is try and get uniformity in statistics, so we begin to know what we have really got here.

Second, the one thing we do know is intended pregnancies are the safest. If people are intending to get pregnant, they are watching their diet, they are probably trying, we hope, to stop smoking, drinking or whatever else they are doing and they are in much better shape and they are much healthier pregnancies. We all know how everyone in this country has been horrified by the percentage of unintended teen pregnancies. Eighty-two percent of the teen pregnancies between the ages of 15 and 19 are unintended. Very few people know that for women over 40, the statistics are almost the same. Unintended pregnancies of women over 40 are now at 77 percent. That is almost the same as teens. Further, we know from the meager statistics we do have, or the shaky ones we have, women over 40 who are pregnant are 9 times more likely to die in childbirth than women below that. So we have a tremendous education process to do, not only with teens but with women over 40, for heaven's sakes, who have not been getting this information.

Another piece that I will be talking about in my bill is folic acid. As we all know, you can take that and it is in breads, it is in a lot of things now, and it will prevent many, many birth defects that we have been so troubled by in this country. Educating pregnant moms about that is terribly important for the future.

Then another piece, which is awfully important, is having standards, standards that would certify facilities that provide fetal ultrasound. I know folks will scream about that. They screamed about that when we had legislation to put in standards for people who were doing mammograms, pap smears, and everything else. But let me say the only thing worse than not having those