

approved overflight rights for U.S. and other Coalition military aircraft as well as use of Cypriot airports. Important areas of cooperation between the U.S. and Cyprus are spelled out by the U.S.-Cyprus Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty. The treaty has been in force since September 2002 and facilitates bilateral cooperation in the fight against global terrorism, organized crime, drug-trafficking and related violent crimes. Cyprus is the first European Nation to sign on to President Bush's Proliferation Security Initiative, which provides for shipping inspections and intergovernmental cooperation that is designed to stem the spread of weapons of mass destruction. The addition of Cyprus to the PSI is particularly significant because Cyprus has the sixth largest commercial shipping fleet in the world. It is plain that Cyprus and the United States share common goals and common values.

This is a critical time for Cyprus. The two communities of Cyprus are moving together, their economies and peoples forming links like never before. The actions of the U.S. must encourage and foster reunification, not push the communities apart with divisive actions that challenge the sovereignty of the legitimate government of Cyprus. All Americans, whether officials from the administration or from this body, should educate themselves about these important issues before considering a trip to Cyprus though an illegal port of entry.

I ask unanimous consent to print in the RECORD the following letter.

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

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, DC, June 30, 2005.

Hon. OLYMPIA J. SNOWE,
U.S. Senate,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR SNOWE: Thank you for your letter of May 27 regarding the policy and legal basis for allowing U.S. citizens, including U.S. Government officials, to travel directly into northern Cyprus. Our policy approach is based on our assessment of what is most likely to produce progress toward the Cyprus settlement that we all want to see. The Turkish Cypriot community's vote in favor of the Annan Plan in April 2004 marked a historic shift by that community in favor of such a settlement, and thus fundamentally altered the situation on the island.

Denying the Turkish Cypriots direct links with the international community, despite the fact they have done what the world asked of them, would in effect punish them for the fact that the Annan Plan was not accepted by the majority of Greek Cypriots. Such an approach inevitably would weaken Turkish Cypriot support for a settlement. It would also hamper efforts to narrow the economic gap between the two communities, unnecessarily raising the cost to the Greek Cypriots and the world of any prospective settlement.

Based on this analysis, we have taken steps in support of the UN Secretary General's call on the international community to ease the isolation of the Turkish Cypriots. One of the steps we took was to authorize U.S. Government officials to travel directly to northern Cyprus using tourist passports,

for the purpose of establishing the sorts of international links that we believe are appropriate. We regret that some view our limited steps vis-à-vis the Turkish Cypriot community to be in some way directed against the Republic of Cyprus. We continue to work diligently not only to maintain, but to enhance, our good relations with the Republic of Cyprus.

We have taken great care to ensure that our steps are consistent with U.S. and international law. Neither U.S. nor international law prohibits U.S. citizens from traveling directly to the area administered by Turkish Cypriots. Moreover, U.S. citizens are not alone in traveling to that area: Greek Cypriots, other EU nationals, and foreign nationals from non-EU countries regularly fly directly to and from Ercan (Tymbou) airport. In fact, courts in the Republic of Cyprus have explicitly refused to penalize Greek Cypriots who have chosen to so travel.

I hope this information is useful in understanding the policy and legal basis of our decisions and clarifies that our efforts are aimed solely at promoting a comprehensive solution to the Cyprus problem so that all Cypriots can live and work together in peace on a reunified island. If you have any further concerns on this matter, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

MATTHEW A. REYNOLDS,
Acting Assistant Secretary,
Legislative Affairs.

CNOOC

Mr. BAYH. Mr. President, great concern has been raised by this Senator, and others, in recent weeks regarding efforts by the China National Offshore Oil Corporation, known as CNOOC, to acquire the prominent U.S. oil company, Unocal, based in California. The Unocal Board has endorsed a takeover bid by Chevron, also a California company, which its shareholders will vote on in the coming days.

This Senate needs to be aware, however, that CNOOC, which is essentially an arm of the Chinese government, may well be planning to raise its bid to acquire Unocal, and what greatly disturbs this Senator are reports in the press that they are waiting for Congress to adjourn for August before making a renewed bid—a move that directly challenges the Congress and the authority granted to it by the Constitution to regulate foreign commerce.

Moreover, this renewed bid heightens my concerns about the heavily subsidized nature of CNOOC's financing. When foreign firms compete for assets in the U.S., it is essential that they do so on a level playing field with U.S. companies. Government subsidies tilt this playing field, and in doing so distort competition. This harms U.S. workers, companies and investors.

Congress recently approved an amendment to the Energy Policy Act that requires the Administration to study these issues and report to Congress and the President. This amendment reflects Congress' strong reservations about the PRC's role in financing the acquisition of U.S. energy assets, and about CNOOC bid for Unocal in particular.

CNOOC's decision to increase its bid would heighten my concerns about CNOOC's efforts. If anything, it reinforces my belief that subsidies of this sort raise serious economic policy concerns and leave U.S. firms at an unfair competitive disadvantage. You can be sure that I will not be alone amongst my colleagues, in the Senate and in the House, who will be paying attention to what happens in the coming days, and if need be, will be prepared to act when Congress returns in September.

THE NATIONAL BOY SCOUT JAMBOREE

Mr. COLEMAN. Mr. President, I would like to welcome over 30,000 young men to Washington D.C. for the 2005 National Boy Scout of America Jamboree. I would also like to give my sincerest condolences to the families of the four Boy Scout leaders who were tragically killed Monday afternoon in an accident while setting up camp.

Occurring every 4 years, the national jamboree is one of Scouting's grandest traditions. It is a chance for thousands of young men to come together and celebrate our shared values and traditions as Americans. In a world that too often celebrates our differences, the National Boy Scout Jamboree is a unique opportunity to celebrate the qualities we all share as Americans.

It is also a chance for these young men to visit our Nation's Capital to be inspired by the monuments, to learn from our Nation's artifacts, and to see democracy in action. To those of us who work in Washington it is sometimes easy to forget just how amazing it is that a place like this, where free men can gather, debate, and decide their own fates, even exists.

I was recently reminded of the significance of Washington by a young boy scout from Plymouth, MN, named Eyan R. Lason. In anticipation of his trip to the National Boy Scout Jamboree this week, Eyan wrote an essay on what the trip and Washington mean to him. Eyan did not write his essay as a requirement or to win a prize. In fact, until the other day Eyan didn't even know that I had read his essay. No, Eyan wrote his essay because he has a true appreciation for the values and spirit that this city represents.

Eyan began his essay by describing his trip as "A journey back to where America was made, an expedition to see and feel everything that this country was based on, and is destined to become."

Eyan is right. During his time here in Washington he will see our Nation's values. But he would not find them in the architecture of our buildings, or the history on display in the Smithsonian. No, Eyan will find our Nation's values in the hearts of his fellow Scouts.

These young men represent the heart and soul of the American people. They know that courage is not the absence of fear, but strength and capacity to go