

than previous military juntas. Additionally, this coup could have negative consequences for Thailand's simmering human rights problems and the insurgency in the south. The coup leaders have already stated that they will focus on quelling a separatist insurgency in southern Thailand. This is worrisome if the military council relies on a strictly military approach to the unrest.

The coup is also bad for the region. Events in Thailand are sending the wrong message to democracies throughout the region that are dealing with legacies of military coups. Secretary Rice has dismissed the notion that this could have a contagion effect throughout the region. While I hope this is true, we should not ignore the fact that a number of countries in Southeast Asia are still dealing with the legacies of military dictatorships. Indonesia is recovering from years of dictatorial military rule, and the Republic of the Philippines is still working to strengthen its democratic institutions and repair its recent history of military intervention. The coup is also, significantly, going to have a direct impact on Thailand's ability to serve as a broker between Burma and the rest of the world.

Finally, it will have an impact on U.S. interests in the region. Thailand is a critical strategic partner of the United States, and some may be tempted to maintain warm relations with the Thai military. Our close political and military relationship goes back decades and is a vital component of U.S. national security policies in the region. But this friendship must take into consideration the dangerous behavior of those who led this coup. We must resist the temptation to give the leaders of this coup a free pass. Instead, we must take strong action.

We need to signal a real sense of urgency to restoring legitimacy to the democratic institutions within Thailand. It is imperative that the Thai military restore the authority of democratic institutions in Thailand expeditiously. President Bush needs to weigh in decisively. The U.S. Government must signal that it will not accept this new interim authority as the status quo and that the Thais must take immediate actions to restore democracy to Thailand. There are four specific things that must occur.

First, the United States must pressure the military council to schedule national elections immediately. General Sonthi has promised elections by October 2007. This is insufficient. Elections should be held at the earliest possible date, understanding the logistical requirements involved in preparing to hold a national election. This is essential and is the only way the military council can prove that it does intend to reintroduce democracy to Thailand.

Second, the administration must immediately put into place sanctions that are required under U.S. law. This means cutting off military assistance

now. As we learned in Indonesia, this in itself will send a powerful message to the Thai military that usurping democracy does not pay. The administration would do itself a favor by making the conditions for reinstating military-to-military relations clear from the outset. Still, this must be a clean break and must be leveraged in the future to help restore democracy.

Third, the United States must work vigorously with other key players in the region to create a united front of disapproval for the coup. The United States can't be alone in its criticisms or in applying pressure on the Thai junta. Secretary Rice's use of the phrase "U-Turn" doesn't cut it. We need a strong message that recognizes the grave nature of these developments. ASEAN members, in particular, have a strong role to play. Thailand's neighbors and regional partners must speak out about this coup in strong ways and must use their economic, political, and social leverage to help reinstall democracy in Thailand.

Finally, and until national elections can be carried out, the military council must lift all restrictions on democratic parties, the press, and political leaders. This includes Thaksin supporters. Those who broke the law under the Thaksin Government should be held accountable in the courts of law, not a military junta. Political opposition parties must be allowed to convene, and press freedoms must be established.

Mr. President, I close by reiterating the concern I laid out at the beginning of this statement. The military's end-run of the country's democratic institutions will undermine Thailand's important role throughout the region and the world and will therefore harm our own country's national security interests in the region. Thailand is a critical partner in the region and in the broader fight against terrorist networks. We need a strong, democratic Thailand to serve as our partner. We can't do this if this new military dictatorship derails a democratic government. The United States and international community must urge the Thai military to take the necessary action to restore Thailand's democracy.

NUCLEAR MEDICINE WEEK

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I rise again this year to remind my colleagues that October 1 to 7 is Nuclear Medicine Week. Nuclear Medicine Week is the first week in October every year and is an annual celebration initiated by the Society of Nuclear Medicine. Each year, Nuclear Medicine Week is celebrated internationally at hospitals, clinics, imaging centers, educational institutions, corporations, and more.

I am particularly proud to note that the Society of Nuclear Medicine is headquartered in Reston, VA. The Society of Nuclear Medicine is an international scientific and professional or-

ganization of more than 16,000 members dedicated to promoting the science, technology, and practical applications of nuclear medicine. I commend the society staff and its professional members for their outstanding work in the field of nuclear medicine and for their dedication to caring for people with cancer and other serious and life-threatening illnesses.

Some of the more frequently performed nuclear medicine procedures include bone scans to examine orthopedic injuries, fractures, tumors or unexplained bone pain; heart scans to identify normal or abnormal blood flow to the heart muscle, to measure heart function or to determine the existence or extent of damage to the heart muscle after a heart attack; breast scans that are used in conjunction with mammograms to detect and locate cancerous tissue in the breasts; liver and gallbladder scans to evaluate liver and gallbladder function; cancer imaging to detect tumors; treatment of thyroid diseases and certain types of cancer; brain imaging to investigate problems within the brain itself or in blood circulation to the brain; and renal imaging in children to examine kidney function.

I thank all of those who serve in this very important medical field and join them in celebrating Nuclear Medicine Week during the first week of October.

TRIBUTE TO PARK B. SMITH

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I would like to recognize the exceptional generosity and work of Park B. Smith and his wife, Linda Johnson Smith.

Park and I met through our mutual involvement in The Marine Corps—Law Enforcement Foundation, an organization that believes in and supports the potential of our youth. They provide scholarship bonds for children of active-duty Marines and Federal law enforcement personnel killed in the line of duty. Park has become a good friend and someone whom I admire.

Park, an alumnus of the College of the Holy Cross, and Linda have a strong belief in the value of education and have exemplified this dedication. Through their generosity, the College of the Holy Cross has been able to continue to grow and build its community. It is for this reason that I would like to ask unanimous consent to have an article about Park and Linda Smith from The Wall Street Journal printed in the RECORD.

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

[From the Wall Street Journal, Friday, Sept. 15, 2006]

GIVING BACK—DONOR TO TURN WINE INTO BREAD

(By Kelly Crow)

Park B. Smith has written his share of million-dollar checks to benefit his alma mater. Now, he has decided to donate by turning over part of his prized wine collection to a major auctioneer.