

threat to the United States which warrants such a new hostile policy.

I have believed for some time that an expanded dialog with the Cuban Government is in the interest of the United States and Cuba. With the cold war over and little or no Soviet or Russian presence in Cuba, it simply does not make sense to completely ignore a country in our hemisphere because it is nondemocratic. Indeed, discussions and contacts on issues such as human rights, market economies, commercial relations, arms control, Caribbean affairs, the free flow of information, refugee affairs, and family visitation rights could actually help facilitate resolution of these complex problems and, I think, would do it, Mr. President, far better than nonengagement and isolation.

We have ongoing discussions with other nondemocratic countries like Saudi Arabia, Indonesia, and North Korea, and we recently opened a liaison office in Vietnam. Mr. President, we have even granted most-favored-nation status to China, so it makes little sense to outlaw virtually any contact with Cuba.

This proposal also threatens the United States effectiveness in international organizations by requiring the United States representatives to seek a United Nations embargo against Cuba and to oppose Cuban membership in international financial institutions. Mr. President, the United States has more important and pressing problems which require multilateral support and should not be required to pursue an outdated and misguided policy in an international forum.

Finally, Mr. President, I am particularly amused by the support of the Senator from North Carolina for more money for TV Marti. This program has been documented time and time again as ineffective. Certainly in times of serious fiscal constraint TV Marti should be eliminated; it should not be enlarged. It is very ironic that during the debate on the balanced budget amendment, when we are all claiming we are going to identify more specific cuts and cut out the fat in Government, here is a proposal which exemplifies the waste that has helped jack up the Federal deficit in the first place.

Mr. President, the chairman's proposal is provocative but it is unrealistic and shortsighted. I hope the administration will work with partners in the hemisphere to develop a multilateral strategy to promote democracy and human rights in Cuba and prepare for that day to which we all look forward, the transition of power in Cuba.

I thank the Chair and I yield the floor.

Mr. ROBB addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Virginia.

Mr. ROBB. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that I be recognized to speak as if in morning business for not to exceed 4 minutes.

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

Mr. ROBB. I thank the Chair.

#### THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE INVASION AT IWO JIMA

Mr. ROBB. Mr. President, today marks an important anniversary for all of us who served in the Marine Corps and for freedom-loving Americans everywhere. On this date 50 years ago, the largest force of U.S. marines ever assembled prepared to embark on the most savage and most costly battle in the history of the Marine Corps. Nearly 100,000 troops, American and Japanese, were ready to fight to the death on the most heavily fortified island in the world, 8 square miles of volcanic ash and rock known as Iwo Jima.

Since the turn of the century, marines had pioneered and developed the capability for seizing advanced naval bases. The payoff for those many years of planning and training was seen in the successive, hard-fought victories in the amphibious landings throughout the Pacific in places like Guadalcanal, Bougainville, Tarawa, and New Britain, and on Saipan, Guam, Tinian, and Peleliu.

But now in February 1945 marine forces were approaching within 1,000 miles of the Japanese homeland for the first time and would face a determined, fanatically brave enemy who had constructed the most elaborate and ingenious system of underground fortifications ever devised. Despite thorough allied planning and preparation and all the naval and air support available, it was ultimately the marine on the beach with the rifle who eventually won this critical battle for America.

Mr. President, one out of every three marines who set foot on Iwo Jima was killed or wounded, so great was the price of victory. As Gen. Holland M. Smith, Commanding General, Expeditionary Troops, Iwo Jima, said later of his marines, "They took Iwo Jima the hard way, the marine way, the way we had trained them to take it when everything else failed. They took Iwo Jima with sweat, guts, and determination."

Mr. President, I thank the Chair and I yield the floor.

#### AUTHORIZING BIENNIAL EXPENDITURES BY COMMITTEES OF THE SENATE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to the consideration of Senate Resolution 73, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 73) authorizing biennial expenditures by committees of the Senate.

The Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, is there a time agreement on this resolution?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. One hour evenly divided.

Mr. STEVENS. I yield myself such time as I may require.

Mr. President, on January 25, the Senate Rules Committee reported a biennial omnibus committee funding resolution. It is Senate Resolution 73 and it is reports No. 104-6.

The Senate has authorized the committee funding on a biennial basis since 1989, primarily due to the good work of my great friend from Kentucky, who is the former chairman of the committee. We have worked together many years now. Senator FORD has insisted on a biennial funding resolution.

The resolution before us today is a biennial funding resolution, and it is consistent with the direction of the conference of the majority to cut committee budgets by 15 percent. Senate Resolution 73 cuts 15 percent from the 1994 total recurring budget authority. It will add 2 percent for a cost-of-living adjustment for the 1995 recurring salaries and authorize a 2.4 percent COLA for 1996 for recurring salaries. There is also a 2.4-percent COLA for January and February 1997. The 1996 and 1997 COLA will be subject to the approval of the President pro tempore of the Senate.

This resolution authorizes \$49,394,804 for the period from March 1, 1995, and September 30, 1996, and \$50,521,131 between March 1, 1996, and February 28, 1997.

Mr. President, this is a reduction of \$7,641,011 from the 1994 funding level.

I have a chart here that shows the change in committee budget authority since 1980, and the Senate will note there has been a considerable shift in budget authority. The real dollar amount is in blue and the dollar amount adjusted for inflation is in orange. You can see that we have maintained a steady decline in the adjusted-for-inflation level of expenditures by the Senate.

We also have a second chart which shows the level of authorized committee staff since 1980. Since last year, the level of committee staff is reduced by 20 percent. In 1994, there were 1,185 authorized committee staff positions, and in 1995 there will be 947.

Again, I wish to point out that we are continuing the good work of my friend, the former chairman, the Senator from Kentucky, Mr. FORD, because these cuts are in addition to the 10-percent decrease that committee budgets took in the last Congress pursuant to his leadership.

Between 1980 and 1994, the Senate committees will have taken a 16.7 percent reduction in staff. I might say the House of Representatives took about a 5 percent reduction during that same time and that fact explains the difference in the amount of reductions currently being taken in the House compared to what we are taking in the Senate this year. But, I believe this additional cut in committee funding is a