

letter to Secretary O'Leary outlining the reasons behind our concerns. I ask that a copy of that letter be printed in the RECORD. In summary, we raised concerns over the evaluation of the potential exposure of the general public to radiation, the inadequate training and equipment possessed by Tacoma emergency response units to deal with a radiation emergency, the failure to address the potential for terrorist activities during the importation process, and the proposal to use the Hanford nuclear facility as an interim storage facility. Given these concerns, we asked DOE to no longer consider using commercial ports such as Tacoma, but to limit further consideration of alternative #1 to military ports.

It has recently come to my attention that alternative #2 in the DEIS, facilitating the management of the spent nuclear fuel overseas, may be a better choice. Although the DEIS presents a number of difficulties in implementing alternative #2, it may be more feasible than previously thought. There is a processing facility in Scotland that is apparently both able and willing to take the spent nuclear fuel and reprocess it into more stable, less threatening material. I want to encourage DOE to fully investigate this possibility. It could ensure that we meet our nuclear nonproliferation goals without threatening the health and safety of United States citizens.

I look forward to working with DOE and the administration to ensure that we meet our nuclear nonproliferation objectives while simultaneously protecting the citizens of the United States.

The letter follows:

U.S. SENATE

Washington, DC, June 8, 1995.

HAZEL O'LEARY,
Secretary, U.S. Department of Energy,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SECRETARY O'LEARY. We are writing to express our concerns over the alternatives proposed in the Department of Energy's (DOE) Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) on the management of spent nuclear fuel (SNF) from foreign research reactors. We are concerned about the proposed option of importing the foreign SNF through commercial ports such as Tacoma, WA.

While the desire to encourage other nation's research reactors to switch to low-enriched uranium (LEU) from highly-enriched uranium (HEU) is an integral component of the United States overall nuclear nonproliferation policy, importing foreign SNF through commercial ports may not be necessary. The DOE DEIS lists two military ports among the ten possible ports of entry for the SNF. We feel that DOE should limit further consideration of importing SNF to these or other appropriate military ports because of the considerable concern amount citizens and city officials about importing SNF through commercial ports.

First, there is significant apprehension about the threats to public health importing this SNF through commercial ports would create. Although DOE has stated that the threats to public health are not significant given the state of the material and the overly cautious design of the storage casks, we are not convinced that no public health threat exists. There is public concern that

longshoremen, sailors, and average citizens could potentially become exposed to significant radiation levels. Whether this risk is real or only perceived is irrelevant. Importing foreign SNF through commercial ports would at best threaten public confidence and citizens' sense of security and at worst pose a significant threat to public health.

Second, the DEIS states: "Primary responsibility for emergency response to a foreign research reactor SNF incident would reside with local authorities." Although the port and city of Tacoma have emergency response plans for hazardous materials, neither the Police and Fire Departments nor the Port workers are properly equipped or trained to contend with a significant radiation emergency. Properly equipping and training these people would add a significant and unnecessary cost to the overall proposal. In addition, it is not clear that Police Officers, Fire Fighters, and port workers would be willing to undergo such training, knowing that it opens them up to potential future radiation exposure. In fact, port workers in Tacoma may declare their unwillingness to handle the material during even routine transport procedures, let alone emergencies.

Third, importing foreign SNF through commercial ports runs contrary to the overall policy objective of reducing the worldwide availability of HEU and other nuclear waste. If lengthy, unnecessary and relatively low-security transportation of SNF occurs through commercial ports, the increased opportunities for theft, hijacks, and sabotage could result in greater accessibility to the SNF than desired. As current events have unfortunately revealed, the United States is not immune to terrorism, either foreign or domestic. Even if this material could not be used in the making of nuclear weapons, and some of it could, the very fact that it is radioactive makes it dangerous. Transporting this material through commercial ports would create an unnecessary threat to national security.

These concerns present a compelling case for DOE to preclude further consideration of commercial ports like Tacoma, WA for the importation of foreign SNF. While removing HEU and other nuclear waste from the global marketplace is an essential aspect of nuclear nonproliferation, importing this material through military ports may prove more reasonable given the increased protection that could be provided to public health and safety and national security.

We are also concerned about the proposal to store the foreign SNF at the Hanford Nuclear Reservation. This idea is unacceptable given the current state of affairs at that facility. The current environmental problems associated with the storage of nuclear waste at the Hanford site have resulted in clean up costs near \$50 billion. In addition, current budget pressures will make it difficult for DOE to meet its legally enforceable clean up schedule. Additional waste management responsibilities could further hamper the Department's efforts at the site.

In summary we would appreciate DOE limiting further consideration of this proposal to military ports and adequate storage facilities.

Thank you for your consideration. We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

PATTY MURRAY.
JIM MCDERMOTT.
NORM DICKS.●

EBOLA

● Mr. SIMON. Mr. President, one of the Americans who has a great deal of firsthand knowledge of Zaire, the trou-

bled country in Africa, is Dr. William Close, a physician who spent a number of years in Zaire.

He is a remarkable person whose 16 years were not only given to service of the people of Zaire but given to keen observation.

Dr. Close, whose instincts and insights I have come to trust, believes that the United States should be backing Prime Minister Kengo more firmly. It is the peaceful way out for a nation that is now destitute. It is a way out from Mobutu dictatorship.

He has written a novel about the disease that we have heard so much about, ebola. That is also the title of his book. I have not read the book, but I understand it provides real insights into Africa.

I have read the epilog to the book, which is not fiction. The book is fiction but based in large part on facts. The epilog contains insights, not only into Zaire but into international tragedies, as well as domestic tragedies.

For example, when Dr. Close writes: "Devastating diseases breed in the cesspools of poverty," he could be writing about other countries, but he could also be writing about our country.

He prods our consciences when he writes:

When the people of one nation are crushed by destitution, disaster from revolutions or plagues are inevitable. Then, countries such as ours, which with small amounts of timely assistance could have prevented the worst from happening, are forced into more massive involvement. Recent history proves the point.

I ask that Dr. Close's epilog to his book, "Ebola," be printed in the RECORD.

The epilog follows:

EPILOG

After the first explosion of Zaire's Ebola virus in 1976, the country continued on its inexorable decline into economic collapse and political chaos. A different strain of Ebola erupted in south Sudan three years later. As before, it came . . . it killed . . . it disappeared.

Ten years after the tragedies in Yambuku, I had settled into a remote rural medical practice in Wyoming. One morning I opened the newspaper and read that the United States Army intended to build an aerosol lab at Dugway Proving Ground near Salt Lake City to test hemorrhagic fever viruses, including Ebola, for "defensive purposes." With Salt Lake City only a three-and-a-half-hour drive from my Wyoming home, I felt a tightening in my gut: there would be no defense against a laboratory accident. An outcry from the people of Utah delayed the project—for the time being.

Four years ago, Zaire was again on the front pages. Like a coup de grace, a violent mutiny gripped the country by its throat. The troops, backed by a desperate, hungry population, rampaged through the major cities and destroyed what little remained of industry, commerce, and the rotting infrastructure.

In August of 1994, I returned to Zaire at the invitation of the Prime Minister of the transitional government, Mr. Kengo wa Dondo, an old friend. With Zairian and Belgian colleagues, we reviewed the medical crises that continue to overwhelm the country. Sleeping sickness, river blindness, goiters and cretinism, and malaria had been under effective

control during the decades before independence and into the sixties and early seventies. But, with the disintegration of Zaire's economy, exacerbated by gross corruption and mismanagement, by the early 1990s these diseases were again ravaging large segments of the population and AIDS played out its slow-death scenario in every city. I visited the capital city's general hospital, called "Mama Yemo" after the president's mother. Her bronze bust still stands among fetid, skeletal buildings of what had been a proud and efficient referral center of two thousand beds. Old midwives walk four hours to come to work. Doctors thumb rides to be on call. The personnel is there, trained and ready to work, but there is no equipment, no medicines, no IV fluids worth mentioning. The medical staff come, still hoping that they can do something for people.

Prime Minister Kengo's government has started up the long and dangerous road to reforming the national economy. This means eliminating powerful and wealthy forces that have profited from the virtual collapse of government. This means countering political egos and stepping on sensitive toes. Communications, schools, medical services, and normal government functions like tax collecting and customs at the ports of entry must be rebuilt from scratch. For this to happen, roads, telephones, postal services, water supply, and sewer systems must function properly. The disintegration of these combined services signifies an infrastructure that has plummeted to catastrophic levels. In such conditions, it is not surprising that major epidemics are flourishing, and devastating diseases like hepatitis, AIDS, "red diarrhea," and now, once more, Ebola, are threatening the population and, possibly, the world.

In 1976, Zaire was still a client state of the West, and although President Mobutu's long, all-powerful dictatorship had stifled progress and milked profits for himself and his entourage to the detriment of his people, some services were still working, especially the mission hospitals and schools. Today this situation is far worse. Zaire, Rwanda, and Burundi are examples of countries whose strategic value to the West all but disappeared when the Berlin Wall came down. "Africa has fallen off the horizon." "We will help you, Mr. Kengo, when you have straightened out the country." Catch-22 nonsense dressed in meaningless, diplomatic jargon and papered with documents that begin, "We deplore . . ." It takes a corrupter to exploit the leader of a client state.

The present resurgence of Ebola in Zaire, the deaths in Kikwit of patients along with their Zairian doctors, nurses, hospital workers, and Italian nursing sisters, can either generate fear and more panic-provoking films, or it can give rise to an awakening in all of us. We live in a small community of nations. When one nation coughs, others cannot sleep. When the people of one nation are crushed by destitution, disaster from revolutions or plagues are inevitable. Then, countries such as ours, which with small amounts of timely assistance could have prevented the worst from happening, are forced into more massive involvement. Recent history proves the point.

Devastating diseases breed in the cesspools of poverty. Many Zairian doctors and nurses are well-trained, competent professionals, but they have little or nothing with which to work. Maintenance and even the most basic supplies are lacking in government hospitals because of the gross mismanagement characteristic of regimes that preceded Mr. Kengo's government. We must graduate from judgment and neglect to realistic actions, and we must encourage the handful of men and women now struggling against monu-

mental odds in countries all but abandoned by the West.

I am sad that the occasion for the publishing of my book "Ebola" coincides with another outbreak of this African hemorrhagic fever in Zaire. My heart joins the many who mourn. I bow to the courage of those who take care of the sick and dying. Whether this resurgence is caused by our trifling with nature's balance or by some other tragic circumstance, let us hope that Ebola's hiding place will be found this time.

If this book opens hearts, stimulates minds, and broadens our human perspectives, it will have played a small part in surmounting an immense challenge.

W.T.C.,
Big Piney, Wyoming.

WELCOMING THE SPECIAL OLYMPIC ATHLETES TO THE SPECIAL OLYMPICS WORLD GAMES IN NEW HAVEN, CT

• Mr. DODD. Mr. President, it is with great pride and anticipation that I join all of Connecticut in extending our warmest welcome to the athletes, families, coaches and friends of the 1995 Special Olympics World Games. Right now, more than 6,700 athletes from every State in the Union, and from 125 nations around the world, are traveling to New Haven, CT, to compete in a world-class sporting event from July 1-9. These games constitute the largest sporting event in the world this year.

Twenty-five years ago, Eunice Kennedy Shriver established the Special Olympics—an international sports organization for people with mental retardation. She envisioned bringing joy and pride, developed through competition, to those about whom the world had forgotten, and believed could not compete. We are thrilled to have the privilege of hosting an event that has been an inspiration to the world. It is impossible to watch these games, witness the tremendous skill and courage of these truly special athletes, and not be changed in some way.

It is in that spirit that thousands of people have worked for more than a year to help make the dreams of these athletes a reality. I would like to commend the Shriver's, former Governor Weicker, the entire World Games Organizing Committee, the towns and families throughout Connecticut, and the thousands of volunteers who have so generously opened their hearts and homes to the athletes and their families.

In a world where professional athletics has often become synonymous with multimillion-dollar contracts and endorsements, the Special Olympics remind us of what sport is truly about—the thrill of accomplishment and the satisfaction that comes from giving your all.

The excitement and splendor of the Special Olympics extends beyond sports competition. The worlds of science, diplomacy, art, culture, and entertainment unite to honor the spirit of Special Olympics and achievements of people with mental retardation. There will be extraordinary events jux-

taping the drama of world-class sports with the power of courageous competitors achieving their personal best before the eyes of the world.

The talent and dedication of these athletes, their love for their sport, and their extraordinary sportsmanship are an inspiration to us all.●

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. DOLE. Mr. President, it is my understanding that the negotiations are still in the process of negotiation on H.R. 1944, the rescissions bill. We are not quite in a position yet to say whether or not there will be a vote when it comes to the Senate, if it passes the House or if it is taken up by the House. And we are advised we will not know that for another additional 2 hours. So it seems to me, after discussion with the Democratic leader, Senator DASCHLE, that our best hope is to come back in the morning. I regret I cannot absolutely guarantee Members there will be no votes tomorrow. But it is our hope that, if the House acts and if the rescissions bill comes to the Senate, we can do it quickly. It may require a vote on final passage. It may require additional votes. But I hope we can do it by noon or 1 o'clock tomorrow.

Is that satisfactory with the Democratic leader?

Mr. DASCHLE. If the distinguished leader would yield, it is satisfactory. I think Senators ought to be aware that there is a possibility of votes tomorrow. But like the majority leader, I would like to see if we can resolve whatever differences remain and work through this and hopefully even come up with a way by which a vote would be unnecessary. But as the distinguished leader said, the negotiations are still under way on the House side, and it is unclear when or if sufficient progress would be made to bring the issue to a closure on the House side. So, all we can do at this point is to wait and assume that sometime tomorrow we could bring it up. So, I think the distinguished leader's recommendation is a good one. And I hope we can finally come to closure on it sometime tomorrow.

Mr. DOLE. So, I would say to my colleagues, we hope there will not be any votes tomorrow. I cannot promise that. We believe—not certain—but believe on this side we have cleared action on H.R. 1944 without votes. But that could change depending on what the House does. I can say that for certain.

We will be working together tomorrow morning—myself and the Democratic leader—to let our colleagues go at the earliest possible time.

UNANIMOUS-CONSENT AGREEMENT—S. 343

Mr. DOLE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that at 1 p.m. on Monday, July 10, the Senate resume consideration of S. 343, the regulatory reform