

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED

MEXICO CERTIFICATION JOINT
RESOLUTIONCOVERDELL (AND OTHERS)
AMENDMENT NO. 25

Mr. COVERDELL (Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. HELMS, Mrs. HUTCHISON, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. DOMENICI, Mr. KERRY, Mr. DODD, Ms. MOSELEY-BRAUN, and Ms. LANDRIEU) proposed an amendment to the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 58) disapproving the certification of the President under section 490(b) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 regarding foreign assistance for Mexico during fiscal year 1997; as follows:

Strike all after the resolving clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. REPORT REQUIREMENT.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following findings:

(1) The abuse of illicit drugs in the United States results in 14,000 deaths per year, has inordinate social consequences for the United States, and exacts economic costs in excess of \$67,000,000,000 per year to the American people.

(2) An estimated 12,800,000 Americans, representing all ethnic and socioeconomic groups, use illegal drugs, including 1,500,000 users of cocaine. Further, 10.9 percent of Americans between 12 and 17 years of age use illegal drugs, and one in American four children claim to have been offered illegal drugs in the past year. Americans spend approximately \$49,000,000,000 per year on illegal drugs.

(3) There is a need to continue and intensify anti-drug education efforts in the United States, particularly education directed at the young.

(4) Significant quantities of heroin, methamphetamines, and marijuana used in the United States are produced in Mexico, and a major portion of the cocaine used in the United States is imported into the United States through Mexico.

(5) These drugs are moved illegally across the border between Mexico and the United States by major criminal organizations, which operate on both sides of that border and maintain the illegal flow of drugs into Mexico and the United States.

(6) There is evidence of significant corruption affecting institutions of the Government of Mexico (including the police and military), including the arrest in February 1997 of General Jesus Gutierrez Rebollo, the head of the drug law enforcement agency of Mexico, for accepting bribes from senior leaders of the Mexican drug cartels. In 1996, the Attorney General of Mexico dismissed more than 1,200 Mexico federal law enforcement officers in an effort to eliminate corruption, although some were rehired and none has been successfully prosecuted for corruption. In the United States, some law enforcement officials may also be affected by corruption.

(7) The success of efforts to control illicit drug trafficking depends on improved coordination and cooperation between Mexico and United States drug law enforcement agencies and other institutions responsible for activities against illicit production, traffic and abuse of drugs, particularly in the common border region.

(8) The Government of Mexico recognizes that it must further develop the institutional financial regulatory and enforcement capabilities necessary to prevent money

laundering in the banking and financial sectors of Mexico and has sought United States assistance in these areas.

(9) The Government of Mexico has recently approved, but has yet to implement fully, new and more effective legislation against organized crime and money laundering.

(10) The Government of the United States and the Government of Mexico are engaged in bilateral consideration of the problems of illicit drug production, trafficking, and abuse through the High Level Contact Group on Drug Control established in 1996.

(11) The President of Mexico has declared that drug trafficking is the number one threat to the national security of Mexico.

(12) In December 1996, the Government of the United States and the Government of Mexico joined with the governments of other countries in the Western Hemisphere to seek to eliminate all production, trafficking, and abuse of drugs and to prevent money laundering.

(13) Section 101 of division C of the Omnibus Consolidated Appropriations Act, 1997 (Public Law 104-208) requires the Attorney General to increase the number of positions for full-time, active-duty patrol agents within the Immigration and Naturalization Service by 1,000 per year through the year 2001.

(14) The proposed budget of the President for fiscal year 1998 includes a request for 500 such agents.

(15) Drug cartels continue to operate with impunity in Mexico, and effective action needs to be taken against Mexican drug trafficking organizations, particularly the Juarez and Tijuana cartels.

(16) While Mexico has begun to extradite its citizens for the first time and has cooperated by expelling or deporting major international drug criminals, United States requests for extradition of Mexican nationals indicted in United States courts on drug-related charges have not been granted by the Government of Mexico.

(17) Cocaine seizures and arrests of drug traffickers in Mexico have dropped since 1992.

(18) United States law enforcement agents operating in Mexico along the United States border with Mexico must be allowed adequate protection.

(b) SENSE OF CONGRESS ON COOPERATION ON DRUGS BY COUNTRIES IN THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE.—It is the sense of Congress to urge the President, in his official visits in the Western Hemisphere, to examine with leaders of governments of other countries in the Western Hemisphere the effectiveness of efforts to improve counterdrug activities in order to curtail the production, traffic, and abuse of illicit drugs, and to define plans for specific actions to improve cooperation on such activities, including consideration of a coordinated multilateral alliance.

(c) SENSE OF CONGRESS OF PROGRESS IN HALTING PRODUCTION AND TRAFFIC OF DRUGS IN MEXICO.—It is the sense of Congress that there has been ineffective and insufficient progress in halting the production and transit through Mexico of illegal drugs.

(d) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than September 1, 1997, the President shall submit to Congress a report describing the following:

(1) The extent of any significant and demonstrable progress made by the Government of the United States and the Government of Mexico, respectively, during the period beginning on March 1, 1997, and ending on the date of the report in achieving the following objectives relating to counterdrug cooperation:

(A) The investigation and dismantlement of the principal organizations responsible for drug trafficking and related crimes in both Mexico and the United States, including the

prevention and elimination of their activities, the prosecution or extradition and incarceration of their leaders, and the seizure of their assets.

(B) The development and strengthening of permanent working relationships between the United States and Mexico law enforcement agencies, with particular reference to law enforcement directed against drug trafficking and related crimes, including full funding and deployment of the Binational Border Task Forces as agreed upon by both governments.

(C) The strengthening of bilateral border enforcement, including more effective screening for and seizure of contraband.

(D) The denial of safe havens to persons and organizations responsible for drug trafficking and related crimes and the improvement of cooperation on extradition matters between both countries.

(E) The simplification of evidentiary requirements for narcotics crimes and related crimes and for violence against law enforcement officers.

(F) The full implementation of effective laws and regulations for banks and other financial institutions to combat money laundering, including the enforcement of penalties for non-compliance by such institutions, and the prosecution of money launderers and seizure of their assets.

(G) The eradication of crops destined for illicit drug use in Mexico and in the United States in order to minimize and eventually eliminate the production of such crops.

(H) The establishment and implementation of a comprehensive screening process to assess the suitability and financial and criminal background of all law enforcement and other officials involved in the fight against organized crime, including narcotics trafficking.

(I) The rendering of support to Mexico in its efforts to identify, remove, and prosecute corrupt officials at all levels of government, including law enforcement and military officials.

(J) The augmentation and strengthening of bilateral cooperation.

(2) The extent of any significant and demonstrable progress made by the Government of the United States during the period beginning on March 1, 1997, and ending on the date of the report in—

(A) implementing a comprehensive anti-drug education effort in the United States targeted at reversing the rise in drug use by America's youth;

(B) implementing a comprehensive international drug interdiction and enforcement strategy; and

(C) deploying 1,000 additional active-duty, full-time patrol agents within the Immigration and Naturalization Service in fiscal year 1997 as required by section 101 of division C of the Omnibus Consolidated Appropriations Act, 1997 (Public Law 104-208).

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO
MEETCOMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION, AND
FORESTRY

MR. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry be allowed to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, March 20, 1997, at 9 a.m. in SR-328A to receive testimony regarding agriculture research reauthorization.

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

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet at 10 a.m. on Thursday, March 20, 1997, in open session, to receive testimony on the fiscal year 1998 budget request for Department of Energy national security programs and review environmental management activities.

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

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources be granted permission to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, March 20, for purposes of conducting a Subcommittee on National Parks, Historic Preservation, and Recreation hearing which is scheduled to begin at 2 p.m. The purpose of this oversight hearing is to address the future of the National Park System and to identify and discuss needs, requirements and innovative programs that will insure the Park Service will continue to meet its many responsibilities well into the next century.

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

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the full Committee on Environment and Public Works be granted permission to meet to consider the nominations of Johnny H. Hayes, nominated by the President to be a member of the board of directors of the Tennessee Valley Authority; Judith M. Espinosa, nominated by the President to be a member of the board of trustees of the Morris K. Udall Scholarship and Excellence in National Environmental Policy Foundation; and D. Michael Rappoport, nominated by the President to be a member of the board of trustees of the Morris K. Udall Scholarship and Excellence in National Environmental Policy Foundation Thursday, March 20, after the first Senate floor vote or at a time to be determined Thursday, March 20, in 406 Dirksen.

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

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, the Finance Committee requests unanimous consent to conduct a hearing on Thursday, March 20, 1997, beginning at 10 a.m. in room 215 Dirksen.

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

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent on behalf of the Governmental Affairs Committee to meet on Thursday, March 20, 1997, at 9:30 a.m. for a hearing on the role of the Department of Commerce in the U.S. trade policy, promotion and regulation, and opportunities for reform and consolidation.

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

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

Mr. LOTT. The Committee on the Judiciary would request unanimous consent to hold an executive business meeting on Thursday, March 20, 1997, at 10:30 a.m., in room 226 of the Senate Dirksen Office Building.

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

COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND HUMAN RESOURCES

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Labor and Human Resources be authorized to meet for a hearing on Higher Education Act reauthorization, during the session of the Senate on Thursday, March 20, 1997, at 10 a.m.

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

COMMITTEE ON RULES AND ADMINISTRATION

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Rules and Administration be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, March 20, 1997, beginning at 9:30 a.m. until business is completed, to hold an oversight hearing on the operations and budget of the Congressional Research Service and the Library of Congress.

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

COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS

Mr. LOTT. The Committee on Veterans' Affairs would like to request unanimous consent to hold a joint hearing with the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs to receive the legislative presentation of AMVETS, American Ex-Prisoners of War, Veterans of World War I, and the Vietnam Veterans of America. The hearing will be held on March 20, 1997, at 9:30 a.m., in room 345 of the Cannon House Office Building.

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

SUBCOMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Financial Institutions of the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, March 20, 1997, to conduct a hearing to examine the Federal Reserve's proposal to modify the "firewalls" that separate commercial banks and their securities affiliates.

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

SUBCOMMITTEE ON SURFACE TRANSPORTATION AND MERCHANT MARINE

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Surface Transportation and Merchant Marine Subcommittee of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation be authorized to meet on Thursday, March 20, 1997, at 9:30 a.m. on ocean shipping reform.

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

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

ROLLOUT OF THE F-22

Mrs. HUTCHISON. Mr. President, on April 9, 1997, an important milestone will be reached when the Lockheed Martin Corp. rolls out the F-22 in Marietta, GA. The F-22 is a powerful new aircraft that will ensure complete and total air dominance for the United States in the 21st century.

How do you measure success in air superiority. The best measure I know is reflected in the fact that no U.S. soldier has been killed by an enemy aircraft in over 40 years. And that is why the F-22 is critical at this time, for the F-22 ensures that impressive record of protecting our forces continues unbroken.

There are some who fail to understand that the threat to our air forces is growing and that the world remains dangerous despite the end of the cold war. Throughout the world today there are a host of Russian-made surface-to-air missiles readily available on the open market to any nation with the money available to buy them. At the same time, a new generation of tactical fighter is also being produced in Russia and elsewhere which can outperform and defeat our current air superiority fighter, the F-15C. All of these pose significant threats to our ability to maintain air superiority.

The F-22 will ensure that America maintains not just air superiority but air dominance. And as the former Secretary of Defense William Perry once said "everything else we do depends on air dominance."

Mr. President, I am pleased to note that the rollout on April 9 will mark the beginning of a new era for Air Force aviation. As a Texan, I am also proud of the role America's premier tactical fighter complex in Fort Worth, TX played in building this revolutionary aircraft.

I hope my colleagues will take notice of the rollout in a year which marks the 50th anniversary of our Air Force. I also hope my colleagues will take this opportunity to reflect on the importance of our Air Force and the role they have played since their founding 50 years ago in maintaining peace and stability in a dangerous world. The rollout of the F-22 will begin a new chapter in Air Force history and help ensure the Air Force and the country remains strong and capable in the future.

GREEK INDEPENDENCE DAY

• Mr. SARBANES. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to the Greek people on the 176th anniversary of the beginning of their struggle for independence. Since regaining their freedom and reaffirming their commitment to democratic principles, the Greek people have built a modern-day republic that is a strong and positive presence in the Balkans and eastern Mediterranean.