

council, the United States and its allies can take advantage of the historic opportunity presented by the end of the cold war and lay the foundation for long-term European security.

I believe it is squarely in our national interest to do so, and in the coming year as the Senate prepares to exercise its constitutional responsibility of ratifying or rejecting the accession protocols to the Washington Treaty, I will continue to speak out on the course of NATO enlargement.

I thank the Chair and yield the floor.

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Williams, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

At 11:04 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Goetz, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bill:

S. 543. An act to provide certain protection to volunteers, nonprofit organizations, and governmental entities in lawsuits based on the activities of volunteers.

At 12:05 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Goetz, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 1757. An act to consolidate international affairs agencies, to authorize appropriations for the Department of State and related agencies for fiscal years 1998 and 1999, and to ensure that the enlargement of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) proceeds in a manner consistent with United States interests, to strengthen relations between the United States and Russia, to preserve the prerogatives of the Congress with respect to certain arms control agreements, and for other purposes.

At 5:37 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Hays, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 1871. An act making emergency supplemental appropriations for recovery from natural disasters, and for overseas peacekeeping efforts, including those in Bosnia, for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1997, and for other purposes.

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

A message from the House of Representatives, delivered by one of its

reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bill:

H.R. 1871. An act making emergency supplemental appropriations for recovery from natural disasters, and for overseas peacekeeping efforts, including those in Bosnia, for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1997, and for other purposes.

The enrolled bill was signed subsequently by the President pro tempore [Mr. THURMOND].

ENROLLED BILL PRESENTED

The Secretary of the Senate reported that on June 12, 1997 he had presented to the President of the United States, the following enrolled bill:

S. 543. An act to provide certain protection to volunteers, nonprofit organizations, and governmental entities in lawsuits based on the activities of volunteers.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, which were referred as indicated:

EC-2142. A communication from the Chairman of the Board of the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report under the Inspector General Act for the period of October 1, 1996 through March 31, 1997; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-2143. A communication from the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report under the Inspector General Act for the period of October 1, 1996 through March 31, 1997; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-2144. A communication from the Acting Administrator of the General Services Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report under the Inspector General Act for the period of October 1, 1996 through March 31, 1997; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-2145. A communication from the Secretary of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report under the Inspector General Act for the period of October 1, 1996 through March 31, 1997; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-2146. A communication from the Chairman of the Railroad Retirement Board, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report under the Inspector General Act for the period of October 1, 1996 through March 31, 1997; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-2147. A communication from the Chairman of the Railroad Retirement Board, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report under the Inspector General Act for the period of October 1, 1996 through March 31, 1997; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-2148. A communication from the Director of the Office of Personnel Management, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report under the Inspector General Act for the period of October 1, 1996 through March 31, 1997; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-2149. A communication from the Acting Commissioner of the Social Security Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report under the Inspector General Act for the period of October 1, 1996 through March 31, 1997; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-2150. A communication from the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report under the Inspector General Act for the period of October 1, 1996 through March 31, 1997; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-2151. A communication from the Secretary of Education, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report under the Inspector General Act for the period of October 1, 1996 through March 31, 1997; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-2152. A communication from the Secretary of the Department of Education, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report under the Inspector General Act for the period of October 1, 1996 through March 31, 1997; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-2153. A communication from the Chairman of the International Trade Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report under the Inspector General Act for the period of October 1, 1996 through March 31, 1997; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-2154. A communication from the Chairman of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report under the Inspector General Act for the period of October 1, 1996 through March 31, 1997; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-2155. A communication from the Secretary of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report under the Inspector General Act for the period of October 1, 1996 through March 31, 1997; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-2156. A communication from the Administrator of the Agency for International Development, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report under the Inspector General Act for the period of October 1, 1996 through March 31, 1997; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-2157. A communication from the Secretary of Labor, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report under the Inspector General Act for the period of October 1, 1996 through March 31, 1997; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-2158. A communication from the Attorney General, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report under the Inspector General Act for the period of October 1, 1996 through March 31, 1997; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-2159. A communication from the Chairman of the Federal Trade Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report under the Inspector General Act for the period of October 1, 1996 through March 31, 1997; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-2160. A communication from the Chairman of the Board, National Credit Union Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report under the Inspector General Act for the period of October 1, 1996 through March 31, 1997; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-2161. A communication from the Secretary of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report under the Inspector General Act for the period of October 1, 1996 through March 31, 1997; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-2162. A communication from the Chairman of the Consumer Product Safety Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report under the Inspector General Act for the period of October 1, 1996 through March 31, 1997; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-2163. A communication from the Chief Executive Officer of the Corporation for National Service, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report under the Inspector General Act for the period of October 1, 1996 through March 31, 1997; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.