

The East-West Center already receives a high proportion of its funding from private sources and project specific Federal grants. It seems that it could continue its core functions without the American taxpayer footing the bill. Even the Clinton administration has recognized the need to terminate Federal funding for this center. The administration's budget summary noted that the effort to phase out governmental funding for the East-West Center will continue with its request of \$7 million. Yesterday we took a step backwards from achieving that goal. It is my sincere hope that the appropriators will reduce funding from the current level.

I started my fight to eliminate Federal funding for the East-West Center nearly 2 years ago, and I plan to continue my efforts. Many of my colleagues think that \$10 million isn't a lot of money considering that we have a \$1.6 trillion budget. I believe every expenditure should be reviewed regularly. At a time when Congress, at the request of the taxpayers, is working to finally balance the budget, this kind of sole-source, noncompetitive project can no longer be justified.

#### U.N. VOLUNTARY FUND FOR VICTIMS OF TORTURE

Mr. GRAMS. Mr. President, during the debate on reforming the United Nations to make it a more effective organization, there was little discussion about the important work that the United Nations carries out. One good example which directly relates to my State is, the U.N.'s leading role in promoting and providing financial assistance to treatment centers for victims of torture around the world. The passage of my amendment to the Foreign Affairs Reform and Restructuring Act of 1997, which authorizes the United States to contribute \$3 million in fiscal year 1998 and \$3 million in fiscal year 1999 to the U.N. Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture, ensures that treatment centers in more than 50 countries will continue to receive support. I would like to thank the junior Senator from Minnesota for cosponsoring my amendment, and joining me in being an advocate for helping victims of torture.

My home State of Minnesota is fortunate to have the first and only comprehensive treatment center in the United States for victims of torture. The Center for Victims of Torture has treated over 500 patients since it was established in 1985, and has enabled them to become productive members of our communities by overcoming the atrocities suffered in their countries of origin. I have learned a great deal from visiting the Center and meeting its clients and staff. In addition to providing treatment to persons who have been tortured by foreign governments, the Center has been active in providing training and support for treatment centers abroad.

The United States should take a leading role in encouraging the estab-

lishment of additional treatment programs both at home and abroad. We are making progress in this direction. The United States is now the largest contributor to the U.N. Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture. We must continue to support treatment centers, like the one in Minnesota, which helps those who cannot help themselves—victims of torture. Dedicating more of our U.N. voluntary funds for this purpose will help provide this important service to more needy victims.

#### REPORTING OF S. 858, THE INTELLIGENCE AUTHORIZATION BILL FOR FISCAL YEAR 1998 FROM THE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE

Mr. THURMOND. Mr. President, I am pleased to favorably report out from the Committee on Armed Services, S. 858, the intelligence authorization bill for fiscal year 1998, without amendment or written report.

#### STATE DEPARTMENT AUTHORIZATION BILL

Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, I rise to express my concern about the passage of S. 903, the Foreign Affairs Reform and Restructuring Act of 1997. Some of my distinguished colleagues have cited this legislation as historic in scope and worthy of support because of the consolidation of the U.S. Information Agency, the Arms Control and Disarmament Agency, and parts of the Agency for International Development into the Department of State. I do not object to this consolidation, but I am concerned that the Senate is yet again infringing too much on the Presidential prerogative to be the primary architect of U.S. foreign policy. This bill gives microlevel direction on how consolidation should occur, and I feel that this is not appropriate for the Senate to be trying to micromanage the performance of our State Department agencies, offices, and employees.

Mr. President, I have other concerns as well with S. 903. As Senators LUGAR and SARBANES have articulated, I feel that we have established inappropriate benchmarks for the United Nations in this legislation so that moneys obligated by the United States to the United Nations can be released. I feel that it is important for the United States to communicate its concerns to the United Nations about its management problems. But I also feel it is important for the United States to honor its already incurred obligations and pay our debts. Furthermore, some of the tests that we impose on the United Nations are very inappropriate. For instance, during the first year, only \$100 million of the \$819 million in arrears payments after a sovereignty test, which states that efforts must be taken to ensure that no U.S. law be over-ridden or changed by any action of the United Nations. I don't believe that there are many legislators in this Congress who believe for

a moment that any U.N. law would purport to have such authority, nor would the United States allow such authority to be vested in the United Nations. However, the inclusion of this in S. 903 sends a signal to our constituents that this is a serious problem. I was sent to the Senate to try and address real problems, not to stir up fake ones.

On another front, it seems to me strange that we would be abolishing two agencies and preparing for the absorption of a third into the Department of State and at the same time creating a brand-new stand-alone agency to oversee the broadcasting functions that were traditionally part of the U.S. Information Agency and under the auspices of the Board for International Broadcasting, which was abolished by the International Broadcasting Act of 1994. We should be basing our current institutional consolidations on the basis that the cold war has ended and that we need to reorganize to meet the challenges of a new and different international system. This legislation however, which sets up a structure virtually identical to the Board for International Broadcasting will cover, among other activities, our broadcasting to Cuba activities. I think that it is not wise to build new institutions, which this bill does, which will keep our Nation mired in a cold war mode.

For these and other reasons, Mr. President, I am registering my objection to this State Department authorization bill, S. 903. I realize that this bill will pass with overwhelming support from this Chamber, but I believe that sometimes we can give away too much on the commonsense front to strike a deal.

#### 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 Committee on the Judiciary.

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

#### MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 12:42 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 bills and joint resolution, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 985. An act to provide for the expansion of the Eagles Nest Wilderness within Arapaho and White River National Forests, Colorado, to include the lands known as the Slate Creek Addition upon the acquisition of the lands by the United States.

H.R. 1057. An act to designate the building in Indianapolis, Indiana, which houses the