

## SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL PARKS, HISTORIC PRESERVATION

Mr. THURMOND. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on National Parks, Historic Preservation, and Recreation of the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources be granted permission to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, May 14, for purposes of conducting a subcommittee hearing which is scheduled to begin at 2 p.m. The purpose of this hearing is to receive testimony on titles IX and X of S. 1693, the Vision 2020 National Parks Restoration Act; and S. 1614, a bill to require a permit for the making of motion picture, television program, or other form of commercial visual depiction in a unit of the National Park System or National Wildlife Refuge System.

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

## ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

## NUCLEAR TESTS CONDUCTED BY INDIA ON MONDAY, MAY 11, AND WEDNESDAY, MAY 13, 1998

• Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, I am deeply concerned that India conducted three underground nuclear tests in the western desert state of Rajasthan on Monday, May 11, and two additional tests at the same site on Wednesday, May 13. These tests were conducted without any advance warning to the rest of the world and are a dangerous precedent for future testing by other nations. No nation should think that it can conduct secret nuclear tests and not be held accountable for its actions. Furthermore, these tests run counter to an international campaign to pass the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT), of which I fully support, and are both irresponsible and unacceptable. The United States and the international community must speak out against this action and act swiftly and justly.

India, which has not signed the 1970 nonproliferation treaty, gave no advance warning about the nuclear tests on Monday and Wednesday. Indian Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee said that the explosions in the desert, 330 miles southwest of New Delhi, did not result in the release of radiation into the atmosphere. However, this is simply untrue. Nuclear explosions, even when they are conducted underground, release deadly radioactive materials into the atmosphere and water table, posing health risks for generations to come. Treating the human race and the environment with such complete disrespect is unacceptable and will not go unnoticed.

While many of India's leaders have applauded these tests, the people of India are hurt the most. India is a country of extreme poverty and all Indians will be harmed by this act. On one hand, international sanctions are imminent which will pose further eco-

omic hardship on the poorest of the poor. On the other, the radiation from these nuclear blasts has severe health impacts on all Indians including those closest to New Delhi. It was irresponsible for the leaders of India to sacrifice the economic and physical well-being of its people for a display of military might.

Moreover, countries that break international law by detonating nuclear devices are subject to denial of U.S. credits and credit guarantees.

Federal law also requires U.S. opposition to loan requests to international lending institutions and bars loans from any U.S. bank to the Indian government except those that provide food or other agricultural commodities. I will bring the issue of international sanctions and international lending up with my colleagues on the Senate Banking Committee, which oversees World Bank issues, to ensure that appropriate actions are taken with regard to countries who disregard international law and conduct nuclear tests.

India, one of several nations widely suspected of nuclear capability which has not joined the 1970 CTBT treaty, now observed by 185 countries, should be pressured to sign the treaty immediately. India's leaders acted with disregard and India must be shown that its actions are unacceptable. The United States will be forced to impose sanctions on India, and I would urge swift action on this front. Nevertheless, this irresponsible act by India should not be an impetus to step up the arms race by Pakistan. Instead, Pakistan should exercise restraint and caution while the international community imposes sanctions. In the long-term, Pakistan will benefit most by responding to this action, not with military buildup, but with a higher level of dignity and morality.

Mohandas Gandhi said, We must support friends even in their mistakes, however, it must be the friend and not the mistake we are supporting." India's decision to conduct nuclear tests was a mistake that was both irresponsible and unacceptable. Although I wish no ill on the people of India, the leaders of the country must accept responsibility for this mistake and the consequences that, no doubt, will follow. •

## ARTHRITIS FOUNDATION'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY

• Mr. COVERDELL. Mr. President, I rise today to congratulate the Arthritis Foundation on its 50th anniversary. Since its inception in 1948, the Arthritis Foundation is stronger than ever and is forging ahead with an increased commitment to providing help and hope for those who suffer from the more than one hundred forms of arthritis and related conditions, including osteoarthritis, rheumatoid arthritis, lupus, fibromyalgia and juvenile arthritis.

Arthritis, in its various forms, is a major national health problem, affect-

ing more than 40 million people in the United States. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention predict that by the year 2020, arthritis prevalence will increase to 59.4 million Americans—one out of every five people, including 285,000 children.

If that is not enough, the economic impact of arthritis is significant. I have been informed that arthritis results in 39 million physician visits a year and more than half a million hospitalizations annually. Medical costs and lost productivity due to arthritis are estimated at almost \$65 billion per year—approximately 1.1 percent of the gross national product.

Through it all, the Arthritis Foundation has increased public awareness and has help provide guidance for combating arthritis. The Arthritis Foundation, an Atlanta based nonprofit organization, supports research to find the cure for the prevention of arthritis and seeks to improve the quality of life for those affected by this disease. Further, the Arthritis Foundation encourages people with arthritis to seek early diagnosis and treatment, and provides programs to facilitate self-management.

The Arthritis Foundation's sponsorship of research for 50 years has resulted in major treatment advances for most types of arthritis and related conditions. The Foundation currently provides \$16 million annually in grants to more than 300 researchers to help find cures, promote prevention and provide better treatments. Since its inception, the Foundation has spent more than \$200 million on research while supporting more than 1,700 scientists and physicians.

The organization has informed me that they are moving toward a new era of public health activity that includes collaboration with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to develop the National Arthritis Action Plan. They are seeking support for the inclusion of arthritis in Healthy People 2010, the nation's strategic planning guide for health promotion and disease prevention.

The National Arthritis Action Plan will focus on such elements as defining the nature, extent and distribution of the arthritis burden; identifying modifiable risk factors; developing creative and effective public health programs and policies to reduce this burden; and implementing and coordinating these programs and policies through partnership with government, voluntary, professional, private and academic institutions and organizations.

The Arthritis Foundation also provides a large number of nationwide community-based services to make life easier and less painful. These services include self-help courses, water and land-based exercise classes, support groups, instructional videotapes, educational brochures and booklets, and continuing education courses and publications for health professionals.