

corner of Georgia; Azerbaijan and Armenia are at war over Nagorno-Karabakh, and other areas of the world that are of great concern to the stability and concern of the world.

These situations are all connected. We must develop a foreign policy that captures the completeness of this interconnect. We also must tone down our rhetoric and speak and act responsibly. Actions have consequences. Words have consequences. Words have consequences especially overseas. We are seeing a geopolitical, military, and economic structure shift like the world has never seen. With diffusion of power across the globe, stability and security and peace with new alliances and new alignments become critical to our future, the future of the world.

One element of our foreign policy—sanctions—needs to be reviewed. Sanctions without our allies' support do not work. We are living in a different world. Sanctions are of limited value. Withholding MFN status from China accomplishes what. Withholding additional IMF funding accomplishes what. We will soon be debating in this body religious persecution legislation to accomplish what. We are playing a very dangerous game here. Isolating ourselves where we have very little leverage over other countries and isolating other nations by driving them further away makes no sense to our national interests and the interests of the world.

This may be the most important time since World War II when a strong bipartisan, a strong bipartisan American foreign policy is required. The world has changed at a rate unseen and unparalleled in the history of man. This complicates how we deal with crises and problems and relationships. Technology and communications have changed the dynamics of the world. We must bring together the world's interests—not at the expense of national sovereignty. America's strategic triad for the next century is a strong national defense, a strong trade and foreign policy, and a strong economy. And I will have more to say about that later.

Congress must be very careful in what we say and what we do as we proceed along a very dangerous path. We must be careful not to weaken or neuter the President in front of the world. The world is very dangerous and unpredictable. Congress must not micromanage foreign policy. I have been as outspoken as any Senator on this floor about the concerns and the differences I have with this administration on foreign policy. It is the responsibility of the Senate to question that, to probe that. But we have to understand that whatever we say and do has consequences, reverberations, ramifications. America must speak to the world with some sense and some semblance of unity. We cannot allow our foreign policy to unravel before the eyes of the world during a very dangerous time. The world needs American leadership,

consistency, presence and engagement. Without it, without American leadership, the world becomes an even more dangerous place.

America must show the world that it is resolute about its basic beliefs and freedoms and human rights and God-given rights. But we must do it smartly, effectively, and with the objective of realistically and truly changing the world for the better. Not headlines, not resolutions, not campaign promises, but understanding what this arch is about: to get on the other side of true change, to alter the behavior of totalitarian, authoritarian governments. America will find itself isolated in the world if we continue to moralize to others and force every aspect of our lifestyle and our way of life on others as a blueprint for their lives and societies.

Again, Congress must be very careful as we proceed. Nations, like individuals, lead by example and force of character.

Mr. President, I yield the floor. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SANTORUM). Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### DEVASTATING STORMS IN MICHIGAN COMMUNITIES

Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, yesterday I toured the Michigan communities of Walker and Merrill, two of the cities in Michigan which suffered considerable destruction from severe storms that swept through our State on Sunday. These storms devastated communities ranging from Grand Traverse County, which is up in the northwest part of our State, to Kalamazoo County, which is in the southwest part of our State, as well as from one side of the State, the west side, all the way across to Wayne County in southeastern Michigan.

According to the latest count, four people were tragically killed as a result of these storms. Thunderstorms, with winds of more than 90 miles per hour, knocked out power to over 860,000 homes and businesses. As of last night, more than 300,000 were still without power. School districts in Oakland and Macomb Counties closed schools because they had no power. In Walker, MI, which I visited, the local officials told me approximately 60 people had been injured. Estimates of the costs are still coming in. In the village of Spring Lake in West Michigan, for example, the village manager has estimated millions of dollars in private and public losses.

Having seen firsthand the destruction wrought by this severe weather, I would like to say two things. First, as an elected official, I pledge to do every-

thing I can to make available all possible resources of the federal government to those who need help. Second, as a citizen of Michigan, my thoughts and prayers are with the friends and families of those who lost their homes, and especially those who lost their lives.

Today I will contact with the head of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). My first priority is to deliver to FEMA a damage assessment and formally request that the federal government move forward in helping these communities. In the difficult days ahead my offices in both Washington and Michigan will offer assistance to all who need help in the complex process of securing federal aid.

While touring Walker and Merrill I witnessed awesome destruction; entire properties—farm barns and homes—were reduced to rubble by the forces of Mother Nature. However, the greatest impression left upon me came from talking with government officials, emergency workers, local volunteers and affected residents. Every individual I encountered exhibited the same optimistic determination to recover and to rebuild. It is my intention to make certain the federal government is a proactive partner in this effort.

I yield the floor.

#### PACIFIC LINK INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE STUDENTS

Mr. ASHCROFT. Mr. President, I rise today to commend a student program, the Sino-American Youth Conference, sponsored this summer by Pacific Link International Exchange Students (PLIES). PLIES is a Christian ministry with the worthy goal of providing a cultural experience in the United States to students from the People's Republic of China.

Student from China have long studied in the United States, and the exchange of young people between our two countries has done much to increase our mutual understanding and to advance liberty in China. PLIES hopes that its hosting of the Sino-American Youth Conference in Washington, D.C. this summer will continue that positive tradition of exchange by allowing Chinese students to witness first hand the workings of democracy in our nation's capital.

Young people from China and the United States will be shaping the future of both of their respective countries. The exchange of ideas and the building of friendships facilitated through the PLIES program will benefit China and the United States in the years ahead.

The staff of PLIES are to be congratulated for their work in China and their commitment to furthering dialogue between our two countries. I extend my welcome to the students from China participating in the PLIES program. May your time in the United States be fulfilling and beneficial.