

recognize. It was 54 years ago today that the first nuclear explosion occurred at the Trinity Test Site in New Mexico. Mr. President, 54 years ago today we saw the first nuclear explosion on the face of the Earth. At that time, of course, we developed nuclear weapons because we were locked in a life and death struggle with the Axis powers. We developed nuclear weapons to end the most destructive war the world had ever seen, the Second World War. We then got involved in a cold war with the Soviets and we saw the buildup of thousands and thousands of tactical and strategic nuclear weapons, warheads, and delivery vehicles.

I want to tell you what President Dwight D. Eisenhower said towards the end of his term about the spread of nuclear weapons. He said not achieving a test ban—that is, a ban on the testing of nuclear weapons—“would have to be classified as the greatest disappointment of any administration of any decade of any time and of any party.” That belief, expressed by President Eisenhower, was echoed by President John F. Kennedy, who stated that a comprehensive nuclear test ban would “increase our security; it would decrease the prospects of war.” He said, “Surely this goal is sufficiently important to require our steady pursuit.”

That was the late 1950s and the early 1960s. We still do not have a Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty in force, but we are close. Almost 3 years ago, this country, the United States, along with over 100 nations, signed a Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty. The President sent that treaty to the Senate 662 days ago. What has happened? What has been done with that treaty? Nothing. Not a hearing. Not a minute, not an hour, not a day of hearings, not one hearing on the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty.

The only way another country in this world who wants to develop nuclear weapons can have some guarantee that they have nuclear weapons that work is if they can test them. That is true of China; it is true of any other country. A test ban treaty in which this country provides leadership, signs and ratifies it, is a significant step towards removing the dangers of the proliferation of nuclear weapons around the world. We ought to do this. We ought to be able to do it soon.

I used a chart on the floor of the Senate recently in which I showed the number of days it took to ratify treaties. No treaty that I am aware of languished here for over 600 days except this treaty.

We have a responsibility to lead in this country with respect to this treaty, and we are not leading. This treaty is before the Senate. The committee has a responsibility to hold a hearing and give the Senate the opportunity to debate the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty. There is precious little discussion about it. No one seems to know it is here. It has been here almost 2 years.

Next week, several of my colleagues and I are going to hold a press conference to announce the results of a recent bipartisan poll that will demonstrate, once again, overwhelming support for this treaty. This chart shows the support all across this country from last year's poll. Overwhelmingly, the American people support a Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty.

It has been negotiated, it has been signed, but it has not been ratified. Why? Because it was sent to the Senate over 600 days ago and there has been no debate about it, no discussion of it to speak of, and there has not been 1 minute of hearings held on this treaty. This Senate ought to have the opportunity to debate and to vote on the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty.

I reach back to President Eisenhower to make the case only because I want to demonstrate how long the desire for a Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty has been around—decade after decade.

Most recently, when India and Pakistan detonated nuclear weapons, virtually under each other's chins—and these are countries that do not like each other much—it should have sent a signal to all of us that we need to be concerned about the proliferation of nuclear weapons. How do we manifest concern? By expressing leadership. How do we express leadership? By bringing a Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty that has been negotiated and signed before this body for ratification.

I yield the floor.

#### TOP AMERICAN HOSPITALS IN COLORADO

Mr. ALLARD. Mr. President, over the course of the last week the Senate has examined at great length many of health care's problems in America. On the floor we have discussed various legitimate problems and anecdotal horror stories to such an extent that I fear we may have obscured what is positive about health care in the United States.

Each year US News and World Report magazine recognizes American hospitals that practice health care that all Americans can be proud. These hospitals perform at the very highest levels, demonstrating excellence in general care and specific areas of medical specialty. This year the magazine analyzed each of our nation's 6,299 hospitals, and I am proud to rise today to recognize a number of hospitals from my home state of Colorado that have been recognized by US News and World Report for their outstanding work.

In Colorado we have long understood the value these fine institutions bring to their communities, our state, and the Rocky Mountain region.

I would like to recognize Children's Hospital in Denver, ranked 12th nationally in the specialty of Pediatrics, and 2nd in the Western Region.

I would like to recognize Craig Hospital in Denver, ranked 5th nationally

in the specialty of Rehabilitation, and 2nd in the Western Region.

I would like to recognize University Hospital in Denver, ranked 37th nationally in the specialty of Ear Nose and Throat, 4th in the Western Region; ranked 23rd nationally in the specialty of Rheumatology, 4th in the Western Region; and ranked 15th nationally in the specialty of Rehabilitation, and 4th in the Western Region.

Finally, I would like to salute National Jewish in Denver, for their overall number one ranking as the finest American hospital for Respiratory Disorders.

I know I speak for all Coloradans when I say that I am thankful to have these fine institutions in our state.

I congratulate Children's Hospital, University Hospital, Craig Hospital and National Jewish for this recognition of their exemplary work.

#### A MILITARILY STRONG ISRAEL

Mr. BOND. Mr. President, I have been very encouraged in recent days by the peace offensive initiated by the new government of Ehud Barak in Israel. The people of Israel long for peace. The new Prime Minister, in his first few days in office, has been energetically trying to lay the groundwork for a secure, lasting peace in the Middle East. I applaud his efforts and trust that Prime Minister Barak's actions will be fully discussed and carried forward in his upcoming talks in Washington during the next week.

While I applaud these steps toward peace, I also believe it is imperative that, at the same time, Israel remain militarily strong. The only way a durable peace will be successfully negotiated and maintained in this dangerous but vital region of the world is if Israel deals from a strong hand. Even if Israel is successful in reaching an accommodation with its closest neighbors, it will continue to face very serious strategic threats from Iran, Iraq, and Libya for the foreseeable future.

To counter these terrorist states which possess weapons of mass destruction and lie within easy striking distance of Israel's homeland, it is critical that Israel have an effective strategic strike capability that will provide effective deterrence. To do this and to move simultaneously forward in implementing the Wye River Agreement and pursuing peace initiatives with its neighbors, Israel will need more military assistance funding for aircraft purchases from the United States.

In this regard, I recently came across a thoughtful Lexington Institute Issue Brief, authored by well-known defense strategist Loren Thompson, “Bolstering Israel's Strategic Air Power Serves America's Interests.” In this essay, Dr. Thompson argues that helping Israel to increase its military strength at this time not only will help Israel and further Middle East peace but also help protect America's interests in the region, especially since the

US may have less access to bases in the region and more threats to American security interests in the future.

Dr. Thompson states, among other things, that:

It (Israel) needs enough money to buy and equip 15 more F-15's for a total force of 40. . . . Making such a purchase would nearly double the Israeli Air Force's capacity for long-range strikes. . . . The US economic and political interest in the Middle East-Persian Gulf region will continue to grow in the years ahead (and) Israel is the only stable, reliable US ally willing to take the necessary risks. Congress and the Clinton Administration need to equip it (Israel) so that it is ready when the time comes.

Mr. President, to share Dr. Thompson's thoughts with my colleagues, I ask unanimous consent that this essay be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the essay was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

**BOLSTERING ISRAEL'S STRATEGIC AIR POWER  
SERVES AMERICA'S INTERESTS**

(By Loren B. Thompson, Ph.D.)

Israel's government is currently considering a major purchase of military aircraft from the United States. The pending sale has attracted media attention in the U.S. because it pits two highly-regarded tactical aircraft—the Boeing F-15 and Lockheed Martin F-16—against each other in a competition that may be the last opportunity to keep the F-15 in production.

The F-15 is more capable than the F-16 in some roles, but it is also more expensive. That is one reason why the F-16 has won most of the recent international arms-sale competitions in which both aircraft were offered. With global tensions greatly reduced from the Cold War period, many nations would prefer the operational flexibility of acquiring a larger number of planes for the same price.

Israel will probably be no exception. It is a foregone conclusion that the Israeli Air Force (IAF) will select one of the two planes because the U.S. government subsidizes Israeli arms purchases and the F-15 and F-16 are the only U.S. aircraft being offered in the current competition. But the IAF has over a hundred aging F-4 fighters and A-4 attack planes reaching the end of their useful life, and the multi role F-16 is a much more affordable replacement than the F-15, both in terms of up-front acquisition costs and later support costs. So the F-15 is likely to lose the competition.

**THE STRATEGIC CONTEXT**

The U.S. government should not try to dictate to Israel how it organizes or equips its military. On the other hand, Washington should be sensitive to the fact that Israel is one of America's few democratic allies in the Middle East, and its armed forces in the future may be called on to serve as substitutes for U.S. military power. This has happened in the past, most notably when the IAF destroyed Iraq's Osirak reactor in 1981—a facility the Iraqis planned to use for making weapons-grade nuclear material.

The Osirak mission was carried out by Israeli F-16 strike aircraft escorted by F-15 fighters. Its success was good news for every nation in the region, although few Arab states could publicly say so. Saddam Hussein's subsequent behavior demonstrated it was also good news for America, which avoided having to deal with a nuclear-capable dictatorship in a volatile, strategically-important region.

But things have changed in the Middle East since 1981. A number of countries other

than Iraq—some of them more distant from Israel—have begun acquiring access to weapons of mass destruction. Iran is developing nuclear, chemical and biological weapons, along with the ballistic missiles to deliver such weapons over long distances (it tested the new Shahab medium-range ballistic missile in July 1998). Libya has made similar efforts. And Sudan has become a center of global terrorism, one suspected of sponsoring the manufacture of chem-bio weapons.

These trends, which are likely to grow worse, already pose a serious threat to both Israeli and Western interests in the region. But whereas policymakers in Washington have the luxury of seeing such developments in tactical terms, for Israel they are strategic: the very survival of the Jewish state is at stake. And although it is now fashionable to think of America as the world's policeman, it is clear that Israel will often have more incentive and latitude than the U.S. to respond expeditiously to such threats in the future.

**ISRAEL'S STRATEGIC DILEMMA**

Which is why the pending arms sale has a special significance: if the government of Prime Minister Ehud Barak decides its top air-power priority is to refresh its force structure with the improved version of the F-16 (the F-16I), Washington shouldn't dispute that decision. But the issue of Israel's strategic strike capability against emerging threats in distant states like Iran should not be neglected. One of the ways in which the F-15I is superior to the F-16I is in its ability to carry bigger bomb loads to greater distances. It would be easier to sustain a long-range bombing campaign against strategic targets near the Iranian capital of Teheran using F-15I's than F-16I's for the simple reason that the F-15I's have about a third more range.

A single F-16I has a maximum weapons carriage of four 2,000-pound bombs, which it can carry to a maximum unrefueled combat radius of over 700 nautical miles. An F-15I can carry the same bombload to a radius of about 1,100 nautical miles, or it can carry up to seven 2,000-pound bombs of lesser range. The performance of the F-15 results from the fact that each of its twin engines generate as much thrust (29,000 pounds) as the single engine on an F-16. Unfortunately the twin engines are also the biggest reason why each F-15I would cost the IAF about 30% more, not counting later support costs. In air warfare, the tradeoff between price and performance often is inescapable.

Fortunately for Israel, long-range strategic strike is a specialized mission that does not require a large number of aircraft, and the IAF already has 25 F-15Is suitable for the mission that it bought in 1995. Furthermore, it's not as though the F-16s can't hit remote targets: it was the strike aircraft against the Osirak reactor. But for truly distant targets, the F-16 imposes performance penalties. Conformal fuel tanks might have to be added at the expense of bombload, or aerial refueling might be necessary in hostile airspace. For these very distant targets, the F-15I is the safer choice.

The problem is that Israel doesn't have enough F-15I's today to prosecute a sustained bombing campaign over great distances, and within current budget constraints it can't afford to buy more—unless it decides to buy fewer F-16s, which would be a bad idea given the age of existing IAF assets and the myriad other missions the F-16Is are needed to cover.

**THE BOTTOM LINE**

The bottom line is that Israel needs more military assistance funding for aircraft purchases from the United States. Specifically, it needs enough money to buy and equip 15 more F-15Is for a total force of 40, without

cutting its planned purchase of F-16s. Some F-15I proponents have called for a "second squadron" of F-15Is, but the U.S. should not be in the business of dictating the organization of the Israeli Air Force. What it should be doing is helping Israel meet the full range of its legitimate military needs.

Fifteen more F-15s for Israel is not enough to keep the F-15 line open for an extended period of time, but that's precisely the point: this may be the last chance for Israel to acquire an adequate strategic strike capability before the F-15 line closes. Making such a purchase would nearly double the IAF's capacity for long-range strikes while permitting more efficient use of the support infrastructure bought to support the 25 F-15Is already in the force. It would also free up F-16s for other missions, thus enhancing utilization of the entire tactical-aircraft inventory.

But the case for funding a viable IAF strategic force transcends Israeli military needs. The U.S. economic and political interest in the Middle East-Persian Gulf region will continue to grow in the years ahead as America becomes more dependent on foreign oil. Unfortunately, its access to bases and freedom to act militarily in the region will probably diminish, forcing it in some cases to rely on allies to achieve military goals. Israel is the only stable, reliable U.S. ally willing to take the necessary risks. Congress and the Clinton Administration need to equip it so that it is ready when the time comes.

**MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE**

A message from the House of Representatives was received announcing that the Speaker signed the following enrolled bill on July 1, 1999:

H.R. 775. An act to establish certain procedures for civil actions brought for damages relating to the failure of any device or system to process or otherwise deal with the transition from year 1999 to the year 2000, and for other purposes.

**MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE  
RECEIVED DURING ADJOURNMENT**

A message from the House of Representatives was received, during the adjournment of the Senate, announcing that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 1691. An act to protect religious liberty.

H.R. 2466. An act making appropriations for the Department of the Interior and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2000, and for other purposes.

The message further announced that the House agrees to the resolution (H. Res. 249) returning the Senate the bill (S. 254) to reduce violent juvenile crime, promote accountability by and rehabilitation of juvenile criminals, punish and deter violent gang crime, and for other purposes, in the opinion of this House, contravenes the first clause of the seventh section of the first article of the Constitution of the United States and is an infringement of the privileges of this House and that such bill be respectfully returned to the Senate with a message communicating this resolution.

This message also announced that the Speaker appoints the following Members as additional conferees in the conference on the disagreeing votes of the