

And now, let me announce the Decree.

"On Elaboration of National Anti-corruption Program"

"Taking into consideration the scale and the complexity of the corruption and to increase the effectiveness of activities for its suppression a national group shall be set up to the office of President of Georgia. The group with the following membership shall develop the anti-corruption program:

1. Lado Chanturia—Chairman of Georgian Supreme Court, Head of the Group;
2. David Usuposhvili—Lawyer, Executive Secretary of the Group;
3. Gia Nodia—Director, Caucasus Institute for Peace, Democracy and Development;
4. Sulokhan Molashvili—Chairman of Georgian Chamber of Control;
5. Levan Dzeladze—First Deputy of Georgian Minister of Finances;
6. Nana Devdariani—Georgian Public Defender;
7. Gia Meparishvili—Member of Parliament;

The task group shall present the main trends of the program by September 20, 2000. The essential components and plans will be implemented before the final presentation of the program. The deadline of developing and publishing complete version of national anti-corruption program is fall, 2000.

While working out national anti-corruption program the Group shall:

Gather, analyze and collect recommendations of international organizations concerning corruption in Georgia, programs worked out in governmental structures, research agencies and ideas based on private initiatives shall be presented to the Group;

Be provided with the idea of the national consensus—to negotiate with each interested person, political and social groups;

Work out a specific mechanism to make a program taking into account society involvement and their proposals and opinions;

Explore, analyze and use experience in corruption problems of foreign countries and leading international governmental and non-governmental organizations;

Define the separate sections of anti-corruption system, provide their systematic description, (legislative base, institutional structure, political system, economical base, moral, psychological preceding, etc. . . .) and explain the relationship concerning reasons and results, hence, set up a system of priorities;

Elaborate on political, financial, institutional, legislative and personnel staff providing schemes for anti-corruption program implementation;

Analyze acting legislation of Georgia, make complex program of legislative amendments and thus eradicate those legislative defects that promote formation of corruption based relations or hinder effective struggle against corruption;

Study the relations of separate national traditions to corruption-based relations spread all over the country and take appropriate measures;

Make a prognosis for main obstacles expected on the definite stages of project implementations process and define the ways to avoid them;

According to definite program activities make a prognosis for the most afflicted social groups and regions and plan to take social protection measures;

Seek and invite Georgian and foreign specialists to elaborate on concrete problems and thus to arrange working conditions for at least two specialists on every issue;

Discuss the materials offered by experts, plan to take concrete measures in definite directions and unite them within the frames of complex anti-corruption program stages;

Define the mechanisms for the monitoring of program implementation process and for

adequate reaction towards variable environment;

Present concrete recommendations concerning anti-corruption activities to the president of Georgia in case of demand, or by private initiative, in case of especially important issues;

Demand from every state and local administration requested information in timely order without any obstacles.

We acknowledge that foreign countries and international organizations and/or missions acting in Georgia shall provide active support and give necessary assistance (including financial aid) to the Group;

Non-governmental organizations, political units and representatives of public society shall be urged to cooperate with the group and respond their requests on time;

The group shall work out the working schedule within next week. It should be taken into consideration that a special anti-corruption plan and materials thereof are designed at the national Security Council to President of Georgia and according to the order of President of Georgia will be handed over to the Group to utilize them while working process.

The members of the Group who are not in civil service shall receive their salary from exploring funds of the Program;

The executive secretary shall provide administrative and technical arrangements for the Group.

#### COMMENDING SENATOR CARL LEVIN

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I want to talk about Senator CARL LEVIN, the ranking member for the Democrats on the very important defense committee of this Congress.

The Democrats could not be more proud of any Senator than we are of CARL LEVIN. We are so comfortable with him at the helm of this important aspect of what takes place in this country; that is, the preparedness of our military. He has a great working relationship with Senator WARNER. This bill was an extremely difficult bill. It simply could not have been completed without the expertise, the concern, and the respect Senator LEVIN has with his colleagues. I want to make sure the RECORD reflects that.

#### NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2001

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, I rise today in support of S. 2549, the National Defense Authorization Act for FY2001. Included in the bill that passed today are several amendments that will significantly improve the lives of active duty members, reservists, military retirees, veterans, and their families.

These amendments greatly improved the version of the bill that came out of the Armed Services Committee. I had voted against reporting the bill out of the Committee because it did not include important measures for military personnel and neglected the issue of defense reform.

The critical amendments that were included in the legislation that passed today will: remove servicemembers

from food stamps; increase pay for mid-grade Petty Officers and Non-Commissioned Officers; assist disabled veterans in claims processing; restore retirement pay for disabled military retirees; provide survivor benefit plan enhancements; authorize a low-cost life insurance plan for spouses and their children; enhance benefits and retirement pay for Reservists and National Guardsmen; authorize back-pay for certain WWII Navy and Marine Corps Prisoners of War; and provide for significant acquisition reform by eliminating domestic source restrictions on the procurement of shipyard cranes.

One of the areas of greatest concern among military retirees and their families is the "broken promise" of lifetime medical care, especially for those over age 65. While the Committee had included some key health care provisions, it failed to meet the most important requirement, the restoration of this broken promise.

With severe recruitment and retention problems still looming, we must better compensate our mid-grade enlisted servicemembers who are critical to leading the junior enlisted force. We have significantly underpaid enlisted servicemembers since the beginning of the All-Volunteer Force. The value of the mid-grade NCO pay, compared to that of the most junior enlisted, has dropped 50% since the All-Volunteer Force was enacted by Congress in 1973. This pay provision for the mid-grade enlisted ranks, up to \$700 per year, plus the food stamp pay provision of an additional \$180 per month for junior enlisted servicemembers, provides a significant increase in pay for enlisted servicemembers.

The National Guard and Reserves have become a larger percentage of the Total Force and are essential partners in a wide range of military operations. Due to the higher deployment rates of the active duty forces, the Reserve Components are being called upon more frequently and for longer periods of time than ever before. We must stop treating them like a "second-class" force.

I would like to emphasize the importance of enacting meaningful improvements for our servicemembers, their families and their survivors. They risk their lives to protect our freedom and preserve democracy. We should compensate them adequately, improve the benefits to their families and survivors, and enhance the quality of life for the Reserves and National Guard in a similar manner as the active forces.

Each year the number of disabled veterans appealing their health care cases continues to increase. It is Congress' duty to ensure that the disability claims process is less complex, less burdensome, and more efficient. Likewise, we should restore retirement pay for disabled military retirees.

I would also like to point out that this year's defense authorization bill contained over \$1.9 billion in pork—unrequested add-ons to the defense