

advocates and the diamond industry for making this certification system a reality.

Because of their success, Mr. President, today we are faced with the urgent need of providing legislative measures to enable effective U.S. implementation of the certification scheme. We need to provide the Administration with the authorization necessary to ensure U.S. compliance with this global, regulatory framework. That is why I am here today to introduce legislation that commits the United States to mandatory implementation of the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme.

I join my distinguished colleagues, Senators GRASSLEY, DURBIN, FEINGOLD, BINGAMAN, TALENT, and SNOWE, to introduce the "Clean Diamond Trade Act." This legislation is very similar to a measure introduced in the House last week, H.R. 1415. Our bill is very simple. The whole idea behind it is to commit the United States to a system of controls on the export and import of diamonds, so that buyers can be certain that their purchases are not fueling the rebel campaign.

Specifically, our legislation would prohibit the import of any rough diamond that has not been controlled through the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme. Put simply, this means that every diamond brought into the United States would require a certificate of origin and authenticity, indicating that a rebel or terrorist group has not laundered it onto the legitimate market.

Additionally, the bill calls on the President to report annually to Congress on the control system's effectiveness and also requires the General Accounting Office to report on the law's effectiveness within two years of enactment.

Finally, Mr. President, our bill emphasizes that the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme is an ongoing process and that our government should continue to work with the international community to strengthen the effectiveness of this global regulatory framework. As the world's biggest diamond customer—purchasing well over half of the world's diamonds—our nation has a moral responsibility to show continued leadership on this issue.

Quite candidly, there are a lot of things in this world—a lot of terrible, tragic things—that we don't have the power to change or to fix. But today, we can change something. We can make a difference. We have the power to help put an end to the indescribable suffering and violence caused by diamond-related conflicts. We have that power, and we must use it. And so, I urge my colleagues to join me in support of this much-needed legislation.

We have an obligation—a moral responsibility—to help stop the violence, the brutality, the needless killing and maiming. No other child should kill or be killed in diamond-related conflicts.

I believe that it is absolutely imperative that we pass the bill we have introduced quickly and help end these atrocities once and for all.

It is the humane thing to do. It is the right thing to do. It is the only thing to do.

I thank the Chair and yield the Floor.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 102—RECOGNIZING THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SINKING OF THE USS THRESHER (SSN 593)

Mr. SUNUNU (for himself, Mr. GREGG, Ms. SNOWE, and Ms. COLLINS) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 102

Whereas the USS Thresher was first launched at Portsmouth Naval Shipyard on July 9, 1960;

Whereas the USS Thresher departed Portsmouth Naval Shipyard for her final voyage on April 9, 1963, with a crew of 16 officers, 96 sailors, and 17 civilians;

Whereas the mix of that crew reflects the unity of the naval submarine service, military and civilian, in the protection of the Nation;

Whereas at approximately 7:47 a.m. on April 10, 1963, while in communication with the surface ship USS Skylark, and approximately 300 miles off the coast of New England, the USS Thresher began her final descent;

Whereas the USS Thresher was declared lost with all hands on April 10, 1963;

Whereas from the loss of the USS Thresher, there arose the SUBSAFE program, which has kept United States' submariners safe at sea ever since as the strongest, safest submarine force in history;

Whereas from the loss of the USS Thresher, there arose in our Nation's universities the ocean engineering curricula that enables the United States' preeminence in submarine warfare; and

Whereas the crew of the USS Thresher demonstrated the "last full measure of devotion" in service to this Nation, and this devotion characterizes the sacrifices of all submariners, past and present: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the 40th Anniversary of the sinking of the USS Thresher;

(2) remembers with profound sorrow the loss of the USS Thresher and her gallant crew of sailors and civilians on April 10, 1963; and

(3) expresses its deepest gratitude to all submariners on "eternal patrol", who are forever bound together by their dedicated and honorable service to the United States of America.

SEC. 2. TRANSMISSION OF RESOLUTION.

The Secretary of the Senate shall transmit a copy of this resolution to the Chief of Naval Operations and to the Commanding Officer of the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard to be accepted on behalf of the families and shipmates of the crew of the USS Thresher.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED & PROPOSED

SA 434. Mr. MCCAIN (for himself, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. GRAHAM, of South Carolina, Mr.

CHAMBLISS, Mr. CRAIG, and Mr. MILLER) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 718, to provide a monthly allotment of free telephone calling time to members of the United States armed forces stationed outside the United States who are directly supporting military operations in Iraq or Afghanistan.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 434. Mr. MCCAIN (for himself, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. GRAHAM of South Carolina, Mr. CHAMBLISS, Mr. CRAIG, and Mr. MILLER) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 718, to provide a monthly allotment of free telephone calling time to members of the United States armed forces stationed outside the United States who are directly supporting military operations in Iraq or Afghanistan; as follows:

Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Troops Phone Home Free Act of 2003".

SEC. 2. PURPOSE.

It is the purpose of this Act to support the morale of the brave men and women of the United States armed services stationed outside the United States who are directly supporting military operations in Iraq or Afghanistan (as determined by the Secretary of Defense) by giving them the ability to place calls to their loved ones without expense to them.

SEC. 3. FINDINGS.

The Congress finds the following:

(1) The armed forces of the United States are the finest in the world.

(2) The members of the armed services are bravely placing their lives in danger to protect the security of the people of the United States and to advance the cause of freedom in Iraq.

(3) Their families and loved ones are making sacrifices at home in support of the members of the armed services abroad.

(4) Telephone contact with family and friends provides significant emotional and psychological support to them and helps to sustain and improve morale.

SEC. 4. DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE TELECOMMUNICATIONS BENEFIT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—As soon as possible after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall provide, wherever practicable, prepaid phone cards, or an equivalent telecommunications benefit which includes access to telephone service, to members of the armed forces stationed outside the United States who are directly supporting military operations in Iraq or Afghanistan (as determined by the Secretary) to enable them to make telephone calls to family and friends in the United States without cost to the member.

(b) MONTHLY AMOUNT.—The value of the benefit provided by subsection (a) shall not exceed \$40 per month per person.

(c) END OF PROGRAM.—The program established by subsection (a) shall terminate on the date that is 60 days after the date on which the Secretary determines that Operation Iraqi Freedom has ended.

(d) FUNDING.—

(1) USE OF EXISTING RESOURCES.—In carrying out this section, the Secretary shall maximize the use of existing Department of Defense telecommunications programs and capabilities, private support organizations, private entities offering free or reduced-cost services, and programs to enhance morale and welfare.

(2) USE OF APPROPRIATED FUNDS.—In addition to resources described in paragraph (1)

and notwithstanding any limitation on the expenditure or obligation of appropriated amounts, the Secretary may use available funds appropriated to or for the use of the Department of Defense that are not otherwise obligated or expended to carry out this section.

SEC. 5. DEPLOYMENT OF ADDITIONAL TELEPHONE EQUIPMENT.

The Secretary of Defense shall work with telecommunications providers to facilitate the deployment of additional telephones for use in calling the United States under this Act as quickly as practicable, consistent with the availability of resources. Consistent with the timely provision of telecommunications benefits under this Act, the Secretary should carry out this section and section 4 in a manner that allows for competition in the provision of such benefits.

SEC. 6. NO COMPROMISE OF MILITARY MISSION.

The Secretary of Defense shall not take any action under this Act that would compromise the military objectives or mission of the Department of Defense.

NOTICES OF HEARINGS/MEETINGS

COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS

Mr. CAMPBELL. Mr. President, I would like to announce that the Committee on Indian Affairs will meet on Wednesday, April 2, 2003, at 10 a.m. in Room 485 of the Hart Senate Office Building to conduct a hearing on S. 556, a bill to Reauthorize the Indian Health Care Improvement Act.

Those wishing additional information may contact the Indian Affairs Committee at 224-2251.

COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS

Mr. CAMPBELL. Mr. President, I would like to announce that the Committee on Indian Affairs will meet on Wednesday, April 9, 2003, at 10 a.m. in Room 485 of the Hart Senate Office Building to conduct a hearing on S. 285, to authorize the integration and consolidation of alcohol and substance abuse programs and services provided by Indian tribal governments, and for other purposes; S. 558, a bill to Elevate the Director of the Indian Health Service to be Assistant Secretary for Indian Health, and for other purposes; and S. 555, to establish the Native American Health and Wellness Foundation, and for other purposes.

Those wishing additional information may contact the Indian Affairs Committee at 224-2251.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS

Mr. CRAIG. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Environment and Public Works be authorized to meet on Tuesday, April 1 at 9:30 a.m. to conduct a hearing to consider the nominations of: Ricky Dale James to be a Member of the Mississippi River Commission; Rear Admiral Nicholas A. Prah, NOAA, to be a Member of the Mississippi River Commission; and from Richard W. Moore, nominated to be Inspector General of the Tennessee Val-

ley Authority; and other pending nominations.

The meeting will be held in SD 406.

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

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Mr. CRAIG. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Finance be authorized to meet during the session on Tuesday, April 1, 2003, at 10 a.m., to hear testimony on Taxpayer Alert: Choosing a Paid Preparer and the Pitfalls of Charitable Car Donations.

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

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Mr. CRAIG. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Finance be authorized to meet during the session on Tuesday, April 1, 2003, at 12 p.m., to hear testimony on the Nominations of Mark Van Dyke Holmes, to be Judge of the United States Tax Court; Diane L. Kroupa, to be Judge of the United States Tax Court; Robert Allen Wherry, Jr., to be Judge of the United States Tax Court; and Harry A. Haines to be Judge of the U.S. Tax Court.

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

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Mr. CRAIG. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, April 1, 2003, at 9:30 a.m., to hold a hearing on NATO.

Witnesses

Panel 1: "A View From Brussels." The Honorable Nicholas R. Burns, U.S. Permanent Representative to North Atlantic Treaty Organization, Brussels, Belgium.

9:45: Business Meeting to ratify the Joint Convention on the Safety of Spent Fuel Management and on the Safety of Radioactive Waste Management.

Panel 2: "New Members & A Changing Alliance." Dr. Ronald D. Asmus, Senior Transatlantic Fellow, German Marshall Fund, Washington, DC;

Mr. Bruce Jackson, President, Project on Transitional Democracies, Washington, DC.

Full committee open: Senator LUGAR will preside, March 31, 2003.

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

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Mr. CRAIG. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, April 1, 2003, at 9:45 a.m., to hold a business meeting to ratify the "Joint Convention on the Safety of Spent Fuel Management" and on the "Safety of Radioactive Waste Management," T. Doc. 106-48.

The Committee will consider and vote on the following agenda item:

Treaty: Joint Convention on the Safety of Spent Fuel Management, and

on the Safety of Radioactive Waste Management, T. Doc. 106-48.

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

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

Mr. CRAIG. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be authorized to meet to conduct a judicial nominations hearing on Tuesday, April 1, 2003, at 10 a.m., in the Dirksen Senate Office Building Room 226.

Panel I: The Honorable Bob Graham; The Honorable Bill Nelson; The Honorable Mary Landrieu; The Honorable Bill Frist.

Panel II: Carolyn B. Kuhl, to be U.S. Circuit Judge for the Ninth Circuit.

Panel III: Cecilia M. Altonaga, to be U.S. District Judge for the Southern District of Florida;

Patricia Head Minaldi, to be U.S. District Judge for the Western District of Louisiana.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection it is so ordered.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

Mr. CRAIG. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Select Committee on Intelligence be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, April 1, 2003 at 2:30 p.m. to hold a hearing on Intelligence Matters.

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

SUBCOMMITTEE ON READINESS AND MANAGEMENT SUPPORT

Mr. CRAIG. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Readiness and Management Support of the Armed Services Committee be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, April 1, 2003, at 9:00 a.m., in open session to continue to receive testimony on the impacts of environmental laws on readiness and the related administration legislative proposal in review of the defense authorization request for fiscal year 2004.

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

SUBCOMMITTEE ON SEAPOWER

Mr. CRAIG. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Seapower of the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, April 1, 2003, at 2:30 p.m., in open session to receive testimony on Navy and Marine Corps development priorities, procurement priorities, and Navy shipbuilding programs, in review of the defense authorization request for fiscal year 2004 and the future years defense program.

Witnesses

Panel I: Admiral Vernon E. Clark, USN, Chief of Naval Operations; General Michael W. Hagee, USMC, Commandant of the Marine Corps.

Panel II: The Honorable John J. Young, Jr., Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Research, Development, and Acquisition; Vice Admiral Michael G.