

So I believe that it is imperative to think creatively about inducements that can be offered to induce North Korea to relinquish its nuclear ambitions. Implementation of several relatively modest nonnuclear energy sector initiatives—introducing market institutions to the North Korean energy sector; undertaking efforts to repair the existing electric grid; rehabilitating coal supply and transport; eliminating waste; and underwriting small-scale renewable projects—would provide for a stable energy sector for North Korea in the near and intermediate term. And, as part of a process of larger diplomatic engagement with North Korea, this can contribute significantly to defusing the current crisis.

There is no evidence that North Korea has started to reprocess. North Korea may well be determined to go down the nuclear path and a nuclear North Korea may well be an unavoidable consequence of the current crisis. But nothing is yet set in stone, and at a time of increasing uncertainty the world looks to the United States to lead. And there is no better way to underscore our seriousness than through direct negotiations. Such talks are all the more important when dealing with an isolated, tyrannical and bellicose regime, because miscommunication can all too easily lead to miscalculation, with possibly catastrophic consequences.

REAUTHORIZING THE ASSAULT WEAPONS BAN

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, a Bureau of Justice Statistics survey published in November 2001 reported that almost 7 percent of State inmates and more than 9 percent of Federal inmates carried military-style semiautomatic weapons in carrying out the crime for which they were convicted. In 1997, roughly 43 percent of inmates who carried a military-style semiautomatic or fully automatic weapon fired it and more than 25 percent of them killed or injured their victim.

Military-style semiautomatic weapons are modifications of traditional semiautomatic weapons. They incorporate features intended to give users an advantage in combat situations. Such features include but are not limited to: pistol grips, folding stocks, bayonet mounts, and flash suppressors. The 1994 semiautomatic assault weapons ban prohibited the manufacture of semiautomatic weapons that incorporate at least two of these military features and accept a detachable magazine. Preexisting military-style semiautomatic weapons were not banned.

The semiautomatic assault weapons ban will expire on Sept. 13, 2004. If the law is not reauthorized, the production of military-style semiautomatic weapons can legally resume. As the Bureau of Justice Statistics study illustrates, the use of military-style semiautomatic weapons is already a widely used

option for many in the criminal population. Restarting production of these weapons will obviously increase their number and availability. Such an increase does not bode well for public safety.

It is critical that we reauthorize the semiautomatic assault weapons ban. We should not wait for new statistics to demonstrate that more criminals are turning to newly manufactured military-style semiautomatic weapons. Existing evidence of past behavior is clear. If we wait, more damage will already have been done. Military-style semiautomatic weapons represent a danger to the lives of police officers and the general public. For the safety of our Nation's citizens, the Congress should act this year.

LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ACT OF 2001

Mr. SMITH. Mr. President, I rise today to speak about the need for hate crimes legislation. In the last Congress, Senator KENNEDY and I introduced the Local Law Enforcement Act, a bill that would add new categories to current hate crimes law, sending a signal that violence of any kind is unacceptable in our society.

I would like to describe a terrible crime that occurred September 19, 2001, in Pittsburgh, PA. A 43-year-old man attacked a 22-year-old Pakistani-born university student. The student was walking home from classes when he was alarmed to see a stranger charging after him, his arms already swinging. As he punched and kicked the student, the attacker yelled, "Are you from Afghanistan?" and "I'm going to kill you!" A nearby construction worker managed to stop the attacker, who then fled.

I believe that Government's first duty is to defend its citizens, to defend them against the harms that come out of hate. The Local Law Enforcement Enhancement Act is a symbol that can become substance. I believe that by passing this legislation and changing current law, we can change hearts and minds as well.

CLUSTER BOMBS AND LANDMINES IN IRAQ

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, we can all celebrate the collapse of Saddam Hussein's brutal, corrupt regime. While much remains to be done to rebuild Iraq and reassure the Arab world that the United States is a liberator, not a conqueror, and that we have no intention of imposing our will on the Iraqi people, the demise of such a tyrant should be universally welcomed.

As we reflect on the past 3 weeks of war, we should above all pay tribute to the extraordinary courage and professionalism of our Armed Forces. They conducted themselves in ways that should make all of us proud.

We should also make note of the vast arsenal of modern weapons which en-

abled them to prevail. These weapons have devastated Iraqi troops, armor, and military infrastructure.

We have seen on television how effective our precision-guided missiles and bombs are, and we can only imagine how many civilian casualties were avoided because of their accuracy. It is partly because we have such increasingly accurate weapons that I want to discuss an issue that concerns me, and that is the use of cluster bombs by our forces in Iraq.

Cluster bombs, otherwise known as "submunitions" or "bomblets," are strewn by aircraft or artillery over a wide area. They can be as small as a baseball. They are designed to detonate on impact and scatter deadly shrapnel in every direction. However, on average some 2-20 percent do not explode on impact. Instead, they remain on the surface of the ground, often hidden by sand or vegetation, where they lie in wait for some unsuspecting child, farmer, or other innocent person. They also pose a grave danger to U.S. forces in the area.

The United States military dropped millions of cluster bombs on Laos during the Vietnam war. Today, over 30 years later, they continue to maim and kill innocent people. The cost of removing these tiny, lethal weapons is prohibitive for an impoverished country like Laos. The United States Agency for International Development, through the Leahy War Victims Fund, is aiding some of the severely disabled victims of these indiscriminate weapons.

More recently, the United States has used cluster bombs in several countries, including Kosovo, Afghanistan, Iraq during the first gulf war, and, according to reports, again in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

In the first gulf war, U.S. planes dropped more than 24 million submunitions on Iraq, leaving roughly 1.2 million duds which resulted in over 1,600 Kuwaiti and Iraqi civilian deaths and an additional 2,500 injured following the war. The cost of clearing these duds and other unexploded ordnance was in the hundreds of millions of dollars.

In 1995 in Bosnia, U.S. military officers reportedly banned the use of cluster bombs because they were seen to present an unacceptable risk to civilians. However, 3 years later, during the NATO air campaign in Yugoslavia, U.S., British and Dutch military aircraft dropped more than 295,000 submunitions. The U.N. Mine Action Coordination Center estimated that more than 20,000 live bomblets remained after the war, and the International Committee of the Red Cross reported that in the year following the war there were 151 reported casualties due to cluster bombs.

The U.S. Air Force has used cluster bombs in Afghanistan, where, predictably, they have caused the deaths of innocent civilians. Additionally, the appearance of the yellow bomblets bore a

remarkable similarity to food aid parcels being airdropped. Civilians searching for food instead have found a hidden death. Also, the bright yellow of the bomblets attracted children, who thought it might be a toy. I read recently that this same problem has occurred in Iraq.

According to Human Rights Watch, television images and reports from journalists embedded with the U.S. military indicate that U.S. forces are using artillery projectiles and rockets containing large numbers of cluster munitions of a type which, according to a Department of Defense report, have a failure rate of 16 percent. This could result in hundreds or thousands of dangerous duds.

In addition, The Washington Post reported on March 29 that U.S. forces fired 18 Army Tactical Missile Systems against suspected air defense sites in support of a helicopter attack by units of the 101st Airborne Division on March 28. The payload of an ATACMS is 300 or 950 submunitions with a reported failure rate of 2 percent.

There is also apparently video footage of U.S. Marine artillery units supporting the 3rd Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion using 155 millimeter artillery firing projectiles at Iraqi positions. A reporter described "hundreds of grenades" being fired at the Iraqis. These were apparently a type of submunition which have a 14 percent dud rate.

Submunitions that fail to detonate upon impact become de facto landmines. I have long opposed the use of landmines, and while cluster bombs differ from landmines in that the former are designed to explode on impact, I have urged the Department of Defense to only use cluster bombs that contain reliable self-destruct fuses. Modern self-destruct fuses, which cost only \$8-10 each, could reduce the number of duds and the number of innocent casualties by more than 97 percent. Yet, the cluster bombs used by U.S. forces in Iraq do not, to my knowledge, include this available technology. Innocent people, whether Iraqis or Americans, should not die on account of a mere ten dollars.

I have also urged the Pentagon to adopt rules of engagement to prevent the use of cluster bombs in heavily populated areas. These weapons, which are designed to detonate over a wide area, are not accurate enough to prevent widespread death and injury to noncombatants.

I also want to speak about the use of landmines by Iraqi forces. As I mentioned, I oppose the use of landmines—specifically, landmines that do not have a man in the loop. According to Human Rights Watch and press reports, Iraqi soldiers and paramilitaries have strewn antipersonnel mines widely. They even stored mines inside a mosque in a town in northern Iraq, and placed them around the mosque. This is a war crime.

Iraq is not among the 132 countries that are party to the 1997 Ottawa Con-

vention that outlaws any use, production, stockpiling or trade in anti-personnel mines. Neither is the United States. However, landmines that do not have a man in the loop which can distinguish between an enemy soldier and an innocent civilian are outmoded, inhumane weapons. They should be universally condemned.

Even before this latest conflict, Iraq was a heavily mined country. It is littered with mines from the Iraq-Iran war and from decades of internal fighting. Landmines were used in the first Gulf war by Iraq, as well as by U.S. forces. I am very pleased that U.S. forces apparently have not used landmines in Operation Iraqi Freedom. The fact that even without landmines our soldiers were able to destroy the Iraqi army in a matter of weeks is the latest evidence that landmines without a man in the loop should have no future in U.S. war fighting plans.

Landmines continue to take their toll. In the past 3 weeks, a cameraman working for the BBC was killed in Iraq when he stepped on a mine, and at least three U.S. marines have been injured by mines in separate incidents. It is a virtual certainty that innocent people will continue to be maimed and killed by mines in Iraq long after the fighting stops.

Saddam Hussein's army had a long history of atrocities against the Iraqi people, as well as against Iraq's neighbors. Its use of landmines is but another example of its utter disregard for innocent life.

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. President, today is a new beginning for the people of free Iraq. The central authority in Baghdad has collapsed. Saddam Hussein's regime has lost control. But we know that there will be hard days ahead, days that will test our leadership, and test our willingness to engage with the rest of the world.

In the coming months and years, America faces the enormous challenge of helping the Iraqi people rebuild their lives in peace and prosperity. This challenge presents an extraordinary opportunity for the United States as well. If we do this right, we have a chance to ensure that the United States occupies a place of respect and admiration in the world. We must take advantage of this opportunity to strengthen relationships with our core allies, to revitalize the United Nations, and to demonstrate American leadership through respectful engagement with the rest of the world.

Today, in Baghdad and throughout Iraq, America's military forces are still in harm's way, and our thoughts and prayers are with them. Over the past 3 weeks, I have visited with some of our troops and their families in North Carolina at Fort Bragg, Camp Lejeune, and with the National Guard. These young men and women inspire us all. They are performing brilliantly, and they will bring us to a great military victory. I support our troops, and I support the cause for which they are fighting.

I have long argued that disarming Saddam, even if it meant the use of military force, was necessary to defend America's national interests. Last fall, I cosponsored and voted for the resolution authorizing force to disarm Saddam. As I argued then, lasting victory will require more than removing Saddam from power and disarming Iraq once and for all. Victory means winning the peace. We have proved that we have firepower. Now we must show that we have staying power.

We must make a major commitment to help rebuild Iraq. It is in America's national interest to help build an Iraq at peace with itself and its neighbors, because a democratic, tolerant and accountable Iraq will be a peaceful regional partner. Such an Iraq could serve as a model for the entire Arab world. If done right—with humility, patience and cooperation—this effort to rebuild Iraq will bring the world together and return America to a place where it is respected and admired.

The President has spoken about his commitment to Iraq's future and pledged that America will be there to help. We must hold him to these commitments, especially because in Afghanistan the President's rhetoric about winning the peace looks more and more like an empty promise.

In order to succeed, our actions to help Iraq must be based on four clear and simple principles.

First, the United States cannot do this alone. It would be a huge mistake if the reconstruction of Iraq were an "American-only" effort. The United Nations must play a central role, not just through passive endorsement, but through active engagement in reconstruction, humanitarian relief, and civil administration. In addition, we should be working with our NATO allies to find ways the alliance could be involved in providing security assistance, and we should seek help from our friends in the European Union. Finally, we need to work with regional partners such as Turkey and Jordan to support these efforts. A robust multilateral approach to this problem will not just increase the likelihood of success. It also will allow us to share the burden of the reconstruction costs with the rest of the international community. And it will help create a free Iraqi Government with legitimacy and authority in the region and the world.

Second, we must ensure the immediate security and safety of the Iraqi people, and help them achieve stability over the long-term. In the beginning, most of this security will have to come from American and British military forces. While our forces should be there as long as it takes, and not be restricted by artificial deadlines, an American military presence in Iraq cannot be indefinite. We should support creating a multinational force to follow our efforts, including a central role for NATO. There are many other urgent security needs as well, such as eliminating the instruments of Iraq's

system of repression and securing Iraq's borders and oil facilities. The Iraqi people will only be able to emerge from the shadow of Saddam Hussein's tyranny if they are freed from the threat of violence and lawlessness.

Third, the Iraqi people must be able to shape their own future, not have it imposed on them by outsiders. We can help create an environment for this to happen. This means, most fundamentally, a civil administration that protects three basic freedoms: freedom of speech, freedom of assembly, and freedom of movement. Iraq also must develop the rule of law. Its people need the international community's help in capturing and trying war criminals, developing legal institutions, educating judges and lawyers, and developing a legitimate police force.

The reconstruction effort must also begin to restore the basic elements of everyday life, from ensuring that they have adequate electricity and clean water to helping them at tasks life rebuilding their roads and schools.

All Iraqis must have confidence that they will have a voice in their future and that they will have a government that reflects their diversity. A free and democratic Iraq will not spring up by itself or overnight in a multi-ethnic, complicated society that has suffered under repression for generations. The Iraqi people deserve and need our help to rebuild their lives and to create a prosperous, thriving, open society. All Iraqis—including Sunnis, Shia and Kurds—deserve to be represented.

Fourth, the Iraqi people must have the tools to build a prosperous economy that is theirs alone. Iraq has enormous natural resources and it has great potential. While we should help the Iraqi people tap into that potential, we have to make clear to the Iraqi people that the oil is theirs, and not for the U.S. or others to exploit. We also will have to explore all possibilities for debt restructuring and relief. Yet doing what it takes to succeed in Iraq is only one of the challenges we face. We have to develop a new kind of leadership throughout the world.

In the Middle East, it is time to engage to achieve a real peace between the Israelis and the Palestinians. I think this administration's disengagement in this crisis for the past 2 years has been a mistake. With the end of the conflict in Iraq, we have an opportunity to bring hope to this troubled region. We must seize it.

We also have to do far more to support democracy and freedom throughout the Middle East. No region of the world is more vital to our interests; yet no region is as undemocratic. Ultimately, there is no greater force for peace and prosperity—and against terrorism—than the promotion of democratic regimes that respect human rights and the rule of law, both within and beyond their borders.

Showing a new kind of leadership in the Middle East will also help begin to bridge the gap that has grown between

America and many of our best friends in the world.

The most powerful country in the world can afford to heed the concerns of its friends. We cannot afford to lose them. Yet I am concerned that some would move us in the opposite direction, attempting to punish allies that disagreed with us on Iraq. This is wrong. We also have to take action to revitalize institutions like NATO and the United Nations. At times these institutions can be frustrating, but we must remember that it was America's vision and leadership that created these institutions. American leadership will be indispensable to helping them act to tackle today's challenges.

Make no mistake, America's families are safer in a world where America is looked up and respected, not isolated and resented. America's interests are best served when we lead in a way that brings others to our side, not drives them away. Like the generation of Franklin Roosevelt and Harry Truman, we have a chance to define how America uses its power—whether it is defending against threats, promoting prosperity and freedom or giving help to those who need it.

We have a chance to strengthen international institutions and alliances to help us meet these challenges. And we have a chance to ensure America's place of respect in the world. This is what we can achieve with the right kind of leadership.

NATIONAL LIBRARY WEEK

Mr. SARBANES. Mr. President, as a strong supporter of Federal programs to strengthen and protect libraries, I am pleased to recognize April 6 to 12 as National Library Week. This is the 45th anniversary of this national observance, and its longevity is evidence of the great importance our Nation places on libraries, books, reading, and education.

National Library Week grew out of 1950s research that showed a troublesome trend: Americans were spending more money on radios and television and less on buying books. The American Library Association and the American Book Publishers joined forces and introduced the first National Library Week in 1958 in an effort to encourage people to read and to use their libraries.

When the free public library came into its own in this country in the 19th century, it was, from the beginning, a unique institution because of its commitment to the principle of a free and open exchange of ideas, much like the Constitution itself. Libraries continue to be an integral part of all that our country embodies: freedom of information, an educated citizenry, and an open and enlightened society.

I firmly believe libraries play an indispensable role in our communities. They promote reading and quench a thirst for knowledge among adults, adolescents, and children. More impor-

tantly, they provide the access and resources to allow citizens to obtain timely and reliable information that is so necessary in our fast-paced society. In this age of rapid technological advancement, libraries are called upon to provide not only books and periodicals, but many other valuable resources as well—audiovisual materials, computer services, internet access terminals, facilities for community lectures and performances, tapes, records, videocassettes, and works of art for exhibit and loan to the public.

Libraries provide a gateway to a new and exciting world for all—the place where a spark is often struck for disadvantaged citizens who, for whatever reason, have not had exposure to the vast stores of knowledge and emerging technology available to others. In this information age, they play a critical role in bridging the digital divide. Many families cannot afford personal computers at home, yet the role of computers has become almost necessary to a basic educational experience. The children of these families would suffer without the access to emerging technology that libraries provide to all patrons regardless of income. In addition, special facilities libraries provide services for older Americans, people with disabilities, and hospitalized citizens.

During National Library Week, I wish to salute those individuals who are members of the library community and work so hard to ensure that our citizens and communities continue to enjoy the tremendous rewards available through our libraries. Library staff, volunteers, and patrons work to ensure existing libraries run smoothly and have adequate resources, as well as advocate for increased funding and new libraries.

I am proud that Maryland is a State of readers. Recent statistics show that Maryland citizens borrowed more public library materials per person than those of almost any other State, nearly 9 per person. In addition, 67 percent of the State's population are registered library patrons. We are lucky to have 24 public library systems, providing a full range of library services to all Maryland citizens and a long tradition of open and unrestricted sharing of resources. The State Library Network that provides interlibrary loans to the State's public, academic, special libraries, and school library media centers has enhanced this policy. Marylanders have responded to this outstanding service by showing their continued enthusiasm and support for our public libraries.

I have worked closely with members of the Maryland Library Association, colleges and universities, and others involved in the library community throughout the State, and I am very pleased to join with them and citizens throughout the Nation in this week's celebration of National Library Week.