

the ranking member, is prepared to accept the amendment.

Mr. BIDEN. I am prepared to accept the amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. If there is no further debate, without objection, the amendment is agreed to.

The amendment (No. 1144) was agreed to.

Mr. ALLARD. Mr. President, I rise today to thank the Foreign Relations Committee for their hard work on the legislation before us. Specifically, I am pleased to see included in S. 925, the State Department authorization, a provision relating to the international military education training and foreign military financing for Indonesia.

The committee has seen fit, and rightly so, to deny the release of any of these funds to Indonesia without certification from our President that the Indonesian Government has taken effective measures to conduct an investigation into the August 2002 attacks on American citizens and to prosecute those responsible.

By now I know that my colleagues in the Senate are aware of the tragedy that occurred last August in West Papua, Indonesia, which resulted in the deaths of two Americans. Justice has still not been found for Rick Spier or Ted Burgeon, and I am grateful that the Foreign Relations Committee has recognized the need for Indonesia and its military apparatus to determine what has occurred. Hopefully, this provision will demonstrate to the Indonesian Government that the United States Senate will not allow this issue to fall to the wayside, and that we remain committed to finding and punishing those responsible.

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 President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. LUGAR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that there now be a period for morning business with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

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

LIBERIA

Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, I rise to comment on the urgent crisis in Liberia, and on my conviction that the United States has a role to play in its resolution. I also rise to call for the kind of information and clarity that we need if we are to take effective action.

In recent days the newspapers have reminded Americans of the special relationship that exists between America

and the west African Republic of Liberia, a country founded by freed slaves from the United States in 1820. But it is important to note the more recent historical links between our countries as well.

During the cold war, eager for reliable client states in Africa, the United States supported Samuel Doe when he seized control of Liberia in a 1980 coup, and kept supporting him even when he stole the 1985 elections. In fact, in the first five years of the Doe regime, the United States contributed nearly \$500 million in economic and military aid—effectively bolstering the government's staying power. The Doe regime was an extraordinarily brutal one that not only disenfranchised many Liberians, it also effectively erased the boundaries between legitimate and illegitimate political action. When the cold war was over and Charles Taylor's band of rebels—some of them children—clashed with government forces and other ethnic militias in the streets, the resulting conflict was so frighteningly gruesome that for many it was almost impossible to understand.

And the United States, no longer concerned about Communist influences in Monrovia, simply evacuated American citizens and then watched the country tear itself apart from the sidelines. In the end, Taylor essentially held the country hostage to his desire for power, and war-weary Liberians elected him President in the hopes of avoiding conflict. Taylor's desire for power and wealth turned out to extend beyond his own borders, however, and he became a primary patron of the brutal Revolutionary United Front, or RUF, force in Sierra Leone, which provided his regime with riches from Sierra Leone's diamond mines in exchange for military support and protection.

On November 2, 2001 the Washington Post ran a front-page article about alleged connections between al-Qaida's financing and the illicit sale of diamonds mined by Liberian-backed rebels in Sierra Leone—rebels who, you may recall, are best known for cutting off the limbs of civilians, including children, to make a political statement. Reports have also linked illicit diamond sales to Hezbollah. Additional articles focused on notorious arms dealer Victor Bout, whose deliveries to the region may have been paid for in diamonds. Law enforcement officials have suggested that Bout has been involved in arming international terrorists and the forces that harbor them worldwide. These reports have been the subject of controversy, and the connections and relationships involved are murky at best, but the issue that they expose—the vulnerability of weak states to exploitation by international criminals—is not in doubt.

Meanwhile, Taylor's criminal enterprise has proved the rule that order, when imposed through injustice and repression, tends to crumble, and the forces currently challenging the re-

gime for power—the LURD and MODEL—appear to be have learned their abusive tactics from their enemies. Criminality rules, chaos threatens, and the civilians of Liberia—the people with a real interest in building a stable future, the people who simply want a chance to send their children to school, are once again likely to be caught in the crossfire.

It is time for the international community to stand up and say, "no more" to this cycle of chaos in west Africa. No more deals with thugs, no standing by as observers to cycles of slaughter, no more watching the predictable fomenting of instability across borders, no more standing by as organized crime expands its reach from the very seat of government, no more opportunities for terrorists. Enough—because more of the same threatens our interests and denies our basic humanity.

The United States should take a leadership role in responding to the Liberian crisis. And that means that we need to clarify the costs and commitments entailed in a response now, so that we can take informed and responsible action.

Recently the distinguished chair and ranking member of the Armed Services Committee indicated that they believe Congress should vote on any commitment of substantial forces in the region. I believe that they are right, and that United States troops must always be deployed in a manner consistent with the War Powers Act of 1973. But I also know that watching and waiting is not an option that will serve United States interests.

In Liberia, we can and should act in concert with the international community. In 2000, the British made a courageous decision and helped to bolster peacekeeping efforts in Sierra Leone, bringing an end to a violent spectacle that had outraged the world without provoking an effective response for years.

The French deployed to Cote d'Ivoire when it fell victim to the forces of disorder, are trying to reverse the trend toward violence and chaos that recently gripped that once-stable place. African states have mobilized as well, and they continue to work feverishly to resist the spread of misery, deprivation, and violence that has spread throughout this region. For historical reasons, most in the international community looks to the United States for commitment and leadership in stabilizing Liberia, which is the country that is at the heart of this regional decline in West Africa. In fact, unlike the situation we recently faced in Iraq, virtually the entire international community is urging the United States to act: from our closest allies in Britain to the Secretary General of the United Nations. And most importantly, west Africans themselves are asking for our help. Liberians are frantically waving U.S. flags, hoping to get our attention, praying we will come to their aid. This is a not a situation that involves antagonizing allies in the fight against