

at Romanian airfields during the combat phase of Operation Iraqi Freedom from May to July 2003;

Whereas thousands of United States soldiers were stationed and transported into the Iraq theatre of operations from Mihail Kogalniceanu Air Base, and the neighboring Black Sea port of Constantza was also used in the fall of 2002 and spring of 2003 for rotating United States Armed Forces and equipment in and out of the Balkans;

Whereas, beginning on March 12, 2003, Romania began deploying military forces to Iraq to assist in building security, peace, and democracy, and over 750 Romanian soldiers are currently stationed in Iraq;

Whereas the Government of Romania has spent more than \$160,000,000 during the past two years to fund its participation in SFOR, KFOR, Operation Enduring Freedom, the International Security Assistance Force, and Operation Iraqi Freedom;

Whereas, together with Bulgaria, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Slovakia, and Slovenia, Romania successfully achieved the military, economic, and political reforms necessary to be invited, at the November 2002 summit meeting in Prague of the North Atlantic Council, to join the NATO alliance;

Whereas, in his historic address at Piata Revolutiei on November 23, 2002, President Bush told the Romanian people that "Romania has made a historic journey. Instead of hatred, you have chosen tolerance. Instead of destructive rivalry with your neighbors, you have chosen reconciliation. Instead of state control, you have chosen free markets and the rule of law. And instead of dictatorship, you have built a proud and working democracy."; and

Whereas, on May 8, 2003, the Senate voted 96 to 0 to approve the resolution of advice and consent to the Protocols to the North Atlantic Treaty of 1949 on the Accession of Bulgaria, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania, Slovakia, and Slovenia: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) appreciates the support expressed by the people of Romania for strong and vibrant relations between the United States and Romania;

(2) recognizes the steps the Government of Romania has taken and continues to take in economic, political, and social reforms, including reforms to improve protections of the rights of minorities and to promote awareness and understanding of the Holocaust;

(3) commends Romania for its leadership and commitment in promoting regional peace and security in the Balkan and Black Sea regions;

(4) values the participation of a significant number of Romanian troops and civilian experts in Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom, the permission granted by the Government of Romania for the United States to use Romanian airspace and territory, and the deployment of Romanian military forces in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom, all of which have been important contributions to the global war on terror and serve as a tangible and ongoing demonstration of Romania's commitment as an ally of the United States;

(5) supports further cooperation between the United States and Romania in the process of stabilizing and reconstructing Iraq, including the utilization of Romania's experience emerging from a Communist dictatorship and creating a functioning democracy and free market economy; and

(6) welcomes Romanian President Ion Iliescu to the United States and looks forward to expanded political, diplomatic, eco-

nomie, and military cooperation between Romania and the United States.

MEASURE PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—S.J. RES. 21

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I understand that S.J. Res. 21 is at the desk and is due for its second reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator is correct. The clerk will read the title of the joint resolution.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A joint resolution (S.J. Res. 21) expressing the sense of Congress that the number of years during which the death tax under subtitle B of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is repealed should be extended, pending the permanent repeal of the death tax.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I object to further proceedings on the measure at this time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard. The bill will be placed on the calendar.

ORDERS FOR TUESDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2003

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 9:30 a.m., Tuesday, October 28. I further ask that following the prayer and the pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and the Senate then proceed to executive session to consider the Leavitt nomination as provided under the previous order; provided that following the disposition of the nomination, the Senate return to legislative session and resume consideration of H.R. 2800, the foreign operations appropriations bill.

I further ask consent that the Senate recess tomorrow from 12:30 to 2:15 for the weekly party lunches.

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

The assistant minority leader.

Mr. REID. If the Senator will yield, I have had the opportunity today to speak to the distinguished Senator from Kentucky on a number of issues. One of the things that I did not speak to him about—and I have had a number of inquiries on this side—is if we are unable to adjourn by next Friday, November 7, the date that the distinguished majority leader has suggested, a real question arises as to what we are going to do the Monday and Tuesday of the following week. We need to have a decision made on that real soon because it is Veterans Day and there are some parades around the country in which people want to be involved. So I say to the distinguished majority whip that if the leader could make a decision on that as quickly as possible, many people would appreciate that.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The assistant majority leader.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I appreciate that. I know the majority

leader's thinking at the moment is that Monday would be a workday. We have a lot of work to do if we plan to finish up this session, certainly before Thanksgiving, if not sooner, which I think would be the preference of most of the Members. I think it is his current intention, which I am sure he will address in the next few days, that the Monday before Veterans Day, which falls on a Tuesday, would be a workday.

Mr. REID. I would simply say to my friend from Kentucky that I believe that is a wise decision. We have a lot to do and every day that we are not here means that much longer we have to go into Thanksgiving and, perish the thought, thinking about Christmas.

Mr. MCCONNELL. My friend from Nevada is absolutely right. If we take off Monday and then Tuesday, people will start coming in on Wednesday, and pretty soon it is Wednesday night and we have squandered the whole week. So I am sure the majority leader will address that in the next day or two. I know it is his current intention that the Monday before Veterans Day, which falls on Tuesday, would be a workday.

Mr. REID. If I could just say one more thing.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The assistant minority leader.

Mr. REID. I know my veterans in Nevada would understand because a lot of the work we are doing is directly related to them anyway.

PROGRAM

Mr. MCCONNELL. For the information of all Senators, tomorrow the Senate will resume consideration of the Leavitt nomination to be Administrator of EPA. Under the previous order, there will be 1 hour of debate prior to the vote on the nomination. The vote on the Leavitt nomination, therefore, will occur at around 10:30 a.m. tomorrow. That vote will be the first vote of the day.

Following the disposition of the Leavitt nomination, the Senate will resume debate on the foreign operations appropriations bill. There are several amendments pending that have been laid aside. As the chairman of that subcommittee, the manager of that bill, it is our hope and expectation—and I know I speak for Senator LEAHY when I say this—that we will wrap up the foreign operations bill sometime tomorrow night. There is really not a flood of amendments on either side, and there is no reason we should not be able to march on through that bill tomorrow and finish it up tomorrow night.

Therefore, Senators obviously should expect rollcall votes throughout the day tomorrow.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 9:30 A.M.
TOMORROW

Mr. McCONNELL. If there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask that the Senate stand in adjournment under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 7:37 p.m., adjourned until Tuesday, October 28, 2003, at 9:30 a.m.

CONFIRMATION

Executive nomination confirmed by
the Senate October 27, 2003:

THE JUDICIARY

DALE S. FISCHER, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE UNITED
STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE CENTRAL DISTRICT
OF CALIFORNIA.