

Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Ghana.

Ann Louise Wagner, of Missouri, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to Luxembourg.

Terence Patrick McCulley, of Oregon, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Mali.

[NEW REPORTS]

Richard J. Griffin, of Virginia, to be Assistant Secretary of State (Diplomatic Security).

FOREIGN SERVICE

PN120-3 FOREIGN SERVICE nominations (3) beginning Donald B. Clark, and ending Michael T. Fritz, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 24, 2005.

PN387 FOREIGN SERVICE nominations (96) beginning Christine Elder, and ending Samantha Carl Yoder, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 4, 2005.

PN388 FOREIGN SERVICE nominations (101) beginning Todd B. Avery, and ending John P. Yorro, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 4, 2005.

PN389 FOREIGN SERVICE nominations (167) beginning Michael Hutchinson, and ending Marie Zulueta, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 4, 2005.

PN485 FOREIGN SERVICE nominations (122) beginning Charles W. Howell, and ending Hector U. Zuccolotto, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 9, 2005.

NOMINATION OF RODOLPHE "SKIP" VALLEE

Mr. LEAHY. Madam President, I am pleased that the nomination of Rodolphe "Skip" Vallee to be Ambassador to the Slovak Republic has been confirmed so expeditiously. This is an important post, and I am confident that he will serve honorably.

Skip is a native Vermonter whose family has lived in the State for generations, and I know he will take his strong Vermont values with him to Slovakia. While we may not always agree on political matters, I have great respect for Skip's integrity, intelligence, and commitment.

During his hearing before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Skip discussed a number of initiatives he will undertake in this position; from enhancing trade opportunities to promoting democracy. His business experience will be of immense value as the Slovak Republic seeks to build its economy and integrate itself more fully into the global economy.

While I will miss seeing Skip in Vermont, I know I am joined by Vermonters in saying how proud I am to have one of our own representing our country overseas. I would like to congratulate Skip and his family and wish them the best in this new endeavor.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will now return to legislative session.

RECOGNIZING BURMESE DEMOCRACY ACTIVIST AND NOBEL PEACE PRIZE LAUREATE AUNG SAN SUU KYI

Mr. FRIST. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 174, which was submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 174) recognizing Burmese democracy activist and Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Aung San Suu Kyi as a symbol of the struggle for freedom in Burma.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. FRIST. Madam President, I would just like to add a real note of appreciation to an individual, Jackson Cox, who has spent much time focusing on this issue of Burmese democracy.

The resolution sponsored by Senators MCCONNELL and FEINSTEIN is a resolution celebrating the tremendous struggle for freedom in Burma. Jackson Cox is someone for whom I have tremendous respect, who has focused on that initiative. I do want to recognize his tremendous work.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, along with my colleagues from California, Arizona, Tennessee and Indiana, I support this resolution recognizing Burmese democracy activist and Nobel Peace Prize laureate Aung San Suu Kyi as a symbol of the struggle for freedom in Burma.

While many may know of the horrors committed in Burma by the illegitimate State Peace and Development Council, SPDC, and the courage, dignity and determination of Suu Kyi and her compatriots in the face of this repression, some people may be unaware that June 19 marks Suu Kyi's 60th birthday.

I would like nothing more than to pick up the telephone and call her in Rangoon to give her best wishes on her birthday. However, I cannot. Nor can anyone else. Suu Kyi remains under house arrest by the SPDC.

In addition to my colleagues in the Unofficial Burma Caucus in the Senate—Senators FEINSTEIN, MCCAIN, FRIST and LUGAR to name but a few—it is important to recognize the expressions of support for Suu Kyi and democracy in Burma by other stalwarts of freedom, including Georgian President Mikheil Saakashvili, Mongolian Prime Minister Elbegdorj Tskahiagiin, former Czech Republic President Vaclav Havel, former Malaysian Deputy Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim, and a litany of fellow Nobel Peace Prize recipients. I ask that statements by President Saakashvili and Prime Minister Elbegdorj be printed in the RECORD following my remarks.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered. (See exhibit 1.)

Mr. MCCONNELL. Let me close by reiterating the call for the immediate and unconditional release of Suu Kyi

and all prisoners of conscience in Burma. I urge Secretary of State Rice to encourage regional neighbors and allies to redouble their efforts to support freedom in Burma when she attends the 12th Association of Southeast Asian Nations regional forum, and post-ministerial meetings in Laos.

Happy birthday, Suu Kyi. You continue to be in our thoughts and prayers.

EXHIBIT 1

STATEMENT IN SUPPORT OF AUNG SAN SUU KYI AND FREEDOM IN BURMA

I want to extend my warm greetings to those attending this important ceremony and most of all to offer my heartfelt support to Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Aung San Suu Kyi. It is a tragedy that she could not be celebrating her birthday among her family, friends and the Burmese people. Her continued jailing is a powerful symbol of the strength of Burma's democracy movement and the weakness of those trying to block this country's path to freedom.

There are those who try to argue that democracy and individual rights are Western ideals. How wrong they are. In Mongolia, our constitution guarantees the right to life, religious tolerance, the right to own property, the right to a free press and free expression, and for the public to bring grievances before their democratically elected representatives. These are not Western ideals, these are rights that each of us inherit at birth from our Supreme Creator.

Today, Burma is ruled by a military regime that inflicts death, terror and fear on the people in their struggle to maintain power. History as written by the Czechs, Poles, Hungarians, Serbs, Georgians, Ukrainians, Romanians, Indonesians, we Mongolians and many others has proven that freedom in the face of tyranny will triumph. Burma's generals should take this history to heart.

Friends, it is up to each of us living in free societies to reach out and help those living under oppression to find their freedom. I can assure the Burmese people of one thing: No dictatorship, no military regime, no authoritarian government can stand against the collective will of a people determined to be free.

Tonight, as darkness settles across Mongolia, I will light a candle and place it in the front window of my residence as a symbol of hope and support for the Burmese people and Aung San Suu Kyi—Prime Minister Elbegdorj Tskahiagiin.

STATEMENT BY PRESIDENT MIKHEIL SAAKASHVILI IN COMMEMORATION OF AUNG SAN SUU KYI AND DEMOCRACY IN BURMA

On behalf of the Georgian people I want to extend our collective greetings to the Senators, Congressmen, and freedom activists gathered here in support of Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Aung San Suu Kyi. Her continued arrest by Burma's military junta is an outrage, her courage in the face of terror and intimidation serves as an inspiration to those throughout the world who cherish freedom and democracy.

In 1990 the Burmese people voted overwhelmingly in parliamentary elections for Aung San Suu Kyi and her National League for Democracy (NLD) to lead them into a new era based on democratic governance. The junta has refused to recognize the results of this election. Each day they must wage war on the Burmese people, using murder, terror and intimidation, to keep their hold on power. This is a war they are destined to lose.

We in Georgia understand first-hand what it is like to live under tyranny and the sacrifices necessary to gain liberty. Following