

Since its formation, the Partnership for Progress has steadfastly dedicated their time and resources to create a projected 1,500 new jobs and negotiated over \$1.2 million worth of investments into Aroostook County. These numbers indicate the ability of empowerment zone incentives to drive investment and strengthen local businesses in the area.

Through the Aroostook Partnership for Progress, and the businesses working in the empowerment zone, are making significant progress—the factors causing poverty in this rural part of Maine can not be eradicated quickly. Aroostook County's strategic plan will take time to implement as infrastructure, industry, and other projects create greater economic capabilities and diversification. Though Aroostook County is working valiantly to overcome the factors causing their economic decline they will need more than 9 years to overcome 40 years of difficulties. I know that there are many other struggling Round II and Round III empowerment zone communities, like Aroostook, who need the maximum order to reverse the poverty and underdevelopment also plaguing those areas.

I urge my colleagues to recognize the importance of making a long-term commitment to communities using empowerment zone incentives to work their way out of long-term poverty. I hope that each Senator will support the communities in their States, currently undertaking the painful process of economic transformation, by supporting passage of this economic development bill.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 382—RECOGNIZING KENNETH M. MEAD'S SERVICE AS THE INSPECTOR GENERAL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Mr. STEVENS (for himself, Mr. INOUE, Mr. BURNS, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Mr. LOTT, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mr. SUNUNU, Mr. PRYOR, and Mr. NELSON of Florida) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. CON. RES. 382

Whereas Kenneth M. Mead has announced his retirement as the Inspector General of the Department of Transportation after nearly 9 years of service in that position;

Whereas, Kenneth M. Mead and his staff conducted investigations independently, impartially, and with rigorous professionalism into myriad issues affecting transportation and transportation policy;

Whereas, Kenneth M. Mead and his staff provided independent, thorough, and relevant commentary and recommendations on a wide-range of Federal transportation policies and programs, including aviation operations and safety, highway, auto and truck operations and safety, transportation security, rail operations and safety, and pipeline and hazardous materials transportation safety;

Whereas, during Kenneth M. Mead's tenure as Inspector General, the events of Sep-

tember 11, 2001, had a dramatic impact on the Federal government's relationship with the aviation industry and posed significant challenges for ensuring the safety and security of public transportation in general and the United States aviation industry in particular;

Whereas Secretary of Transportation Norman Mineta recognized Kenneth M. Mead's contributions by describing him as "a tireless advocate for setting the highest possible standards of integrity, accountability, and performance" in the Department's efforts to make the Nation's transportation system as safe and efficient as possible: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the United States Senate commends Kenneth M. Mead for his more than 8 years of faithful and exemplary service to the Nation as the Inspector General of the Department of Transportation, and expresses its deep appreciation and gratitude for his long and outstanding service.

SEC. 2. The Secretary of the Senate shall transmit a copy of this resolution to Kenneth M. Mead.

SENATE RESOLUTION 383—CALLING ON THE PRESIDENT TO TAKE IMMEDIATE STEPS TO HELP IMPROVE THE SECURITY SITUATION IN DARFUR, SUDAN, WITH AN EMPHASIS ON CIVILIAN PROTECTION

Mr. BIDEN (for himself, Mr. BROWNBACK, Mr. OBAMA, Mr. LUGAR, Mr. FEINGOLD, and Mr. DODD) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relation:

S. RES. 383

Whereas, the April 8, 2004, N'Djamena Ceasefire Agreement, calling for an end to hostilities in Darfur, Sudan, has been flagrantly violated by all parties to the agreement;

Whereas the Government of Sudan continues to commit crimes against humanity and engage in genocidal acts in Darfur;

Whereas the signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement between the Government of Sudan and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement/Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLM/SPLA) on January 9, 2005, has not resulted in an improvement of the security situation in Darfur;

Whereas United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan has indicated that, "People in many parts of Darfur continue to be killed, raped, and driven from their homes by the thousands.";

Whereas United Nations officials have stated that at least 70,000 people have died due to violence and insecurity in Darfur, but that the total may be as high as 400,000 people;

Whereas nearly 2,000,000 people have been internally displaced, 3,000,000 people are dependent on international assistance to survive, and over 200,000 people are refugees in neighboring Chad due to the conflict in Darfur;

Whereas escalating tensions along the border between Chad and Sudan have increased instability in Darfur;

Whereas neither the mandate nor the troop strength of the African Union Mission in Sudan (AMIS) is adequate to protect civilians in Darfur;

Whereas the United States has demonstrated leadership on the Sudan issue by having United States Permanent Representative to the United Nations John Bolton, in his first action as President of the United Nations Security Council, request in February 2006 that Secretary-General Annan ini-

tiate contingency planning for a transition from AMIS to a United Nations peacekeeping operation;

Whereas, although the United Nations Security Council has concurred with this recommendation and taken steps toward establishing a United Nations peacekeeping mission for Darfur, it could take up to a year for such a mission to deploy fully;

Whereas, as the deteriorating security situation in Darfur indicates, the people of Darfur cannot wait that long for security to be reestablished;

Whereas the international community currently has no plan to address the immediate security needs of the people of Darfur; and

Whereas all members of the international community must participate in efforts to stop genocide, war crimes, and crimes against humanity in Darfur:

Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) strongly condemns—

(A) the continued attacks on civilians in Darfur by the Government of Sudan and Government-sponsored militias; and

(B) the continued violations of the N'Djamena Ceasefire Agreement by the Government of Sudan and rebels in Darfur, particularly the Sudan Liberation Army;

(2) commends the Africa Union Mission in Sudan (AMIS) for its actions in monitoring the N'Djamena Ceasefire Agreement in Darfur and its role in diminishing some acts of violence;

(3) calls upon all parties to the N'Djamena Ceasefire Agreement—

(A) to abide by the terms of the N'Djamena Ceasefire Agreement; and

(B) to engage in good-faith negotiations to end the conflict in Darfur;

(4) calls upon the Government of Sudan immediately—

(A) to withdraw all military aircraft from the region;

(B) to cease all support for the Janjaweed militia and rebels from Chad; and

(C) to disarm the Janjaweed;

(5) calls on the African Union to request assistance from the United Nations and NATO to strengthen its capacity to deter violence and instability until a United Nations peacekeeping force is fully deployed in Darfur;

(6) calls upon the United Nations Security Council to approve as soon as possible, pursuant to Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations, a peacekeeping force for Darfur that is well trained and equipped and has an adequate troop strength;

(7) urges the President to take steps immediately to help improve the security situation in Darfur, including by—

(A) proposing that NATO—

(i) consider how to implement and enforce a declared no-fly zone in Darfur; and

(ii) deploy troops to Darfur to support the African Union Mission in Sudan (AMIS) until a United Nations peacekeeping mission is fully deployed in the region; and

(B) requesting supplemental funding to support a NATO mission in Darfur and the African Union Mission in Sudan (AMIS);

(8) calls upon NATO allies, led by the United States, to support such a mission; and

(9) calls upon NATO headquarters staff to begin prudent planning in advance of such a mission.

Mr. BIDEN. Mr. President, today, with my friend from Kansas, Senator BROWNBACK, I am submitting a resolution urging the President to help stop genocide in Sudan. The killing in Darfur has gone on way too long.