

different economy now. Simply put: It makes no sense to tell well-trained, highly skilled individuals—many of whom are educated at our top colleges and universities—that the United States does not welcome or value them. For too many foreign students and professionals, however, our immigration policies send precisely this message.

This should be deeply troubling to us, both in human terms and in terms of our own economic self-interest. America will find it infinitely more difficult to maintain its technological leadership if it shuts out the very people who are most able to help us compete. Other nations are recognizing and benefiting from this situation. They are crafting their immigration policies to attract highly talented students and professionals who would otherwise study, live, and work here. Our lost opportunities are their gains.”

The U.S. Department of Labor projects that between 2002 and 2012 there will be 2 million U.S. job openings in the fields of computer science, mathematics, engineering and the physical sciences. The SKIL bill would retain foreign students educated in the U.S. to ensure continued competition in the global market.

As I have stated before, a critical part of America’s economy is our ability to innovate but our current immigration policies are threatening future growth. U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Service’s recent announcement that the 2008 cap for H-1B workers was met in one day makes clear that we urgently need to reform our policies for highly-skilled workers in the scientific and technology fields. Because the U.S. has already met the cap for H-1B visas, foreign students graduating from our universities this spring are virtually shut out of the U.S. job market. This situation is unprecedented. If we don’t act, America’s technology companies will be harmed and our economy will suffer. The SKIL bill will allow the U.S. to remain competitive in this global economy.

The SKIL bill promotes competitiveness and allows the U.S. to remain competitive in this global economy. While I encourage and intend to be a part of the continued dialogue on overall immigration reform, I urge my colleagues to act quickly on this issue.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 140—TO AUTHORIZE LEGAL REPRESENTATION IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Mr. REID (for himself and Mr. MCCONNELL) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 140

Whereas, in a proceeding styled In the Matter of the Application of Committee on

Finance for a Writ of Habeas Corpus Ad Testificandum, Misc. No. 07-134, in the United States District Court for the District of Columbia, the Senate Committee on Finance filed an application for a writ of habeas corpus ad testificandum;

Whereas, on April 4, 2007, the Chief Judge of the United States District Court for the District of Columbia issued the writ sought by the Committee;

Whereas, the United States Department of Justice has raised questions about the Committee’s application for the writ and the writ that was issued;

Whereas, pursuant to section 708(c) of the Ethics in Government Act of 1978, 2 U.S.C. 288g(c), the Senate may direct the Senate Legal Counsel to perform such duties consistent with the purposes and limitations of title VII of the Ethics in Government Act as the Senate may direct: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate Legal Counsel is authorized to represent the Committee on Finance in the proceeding styled In the Matter of the Application of Committee on Finance for a Writ of Habeas Corpus Ad Testificandum, Misc. No. 07-134 (D.D.C.).

SENATE RESOLUTION 141—URGING ALL MEMBER COUNTRIES OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION OF THE INTERNATIONAL TRACING SERVICE WHO HAVE YET TO RATIFY THE MAY 2006 AMENDMENTS TO THE 1955 BONN ACCORDS TO EXPEDITE THE RATIFICATION PROCESS TO ALLOW FOR OPEN ACCESS TO THE HOLOCAUST ARCHIVES LOCATED AT BAD AROlsen, GERMANY

Mrs. CLINTON (for herself, Mr. BROWN, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mr. KERRY, Mr. SCHUMER, and Mr. DODD) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 141

Whereas the International Tracing Service (ITS) archives located in Bad Arolsen, Germany, which are administered by the International Committee of the Red Cross, contain an estimated 50,000,000 records on the fates of some 17,500,000 individual victims of Nazi war crimes;

Whereas the ITS archives at Bad Arolsen remain the largest closed Holocaust-era archives in the world;

Whereas, although access to individual records can be requested by Holocaust survivors and their descendants, many who have requested information from the ITS archives have reported facing significant delays and even unresponsiveness;

Whereas the ITS archives remain inaccessible to researchers and research institutions;

Whereas the Agreement Constituting an International Commission for the International Tracing Service, signed at Bonn June 6, 1955 (6 UST 6186) (commonly known as the “Bonn Accords”) established an international commission of 11 member countries (Belgium, France, Germany, Greece, Israel, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Poland, the United Kingdom, and the United States) charged with overseeing the administration of the ITS Holocaust archives;

Whereas, following years of delay, in May 2006 in Luxembourg, the International Commission of the ITS agreed upon amendments to the Bonn Accords that would allow re-

searchers to use the archives and would allow each member country of the International Commission to receive digitized copies of archive materials and make the records available to researchers under the respective national laws relating to archives and privacy;

Whereas the May 2006 amendments to the Bonn Accords require each of the 11 member countries of the International Commission to ratify the amendments before open access to the Holocaust archives is permitted;

Whereas, although the final signature was affixed to the amendments in October 2006, only 5 out of the 11 member countries of the International Commission, the United States, Israel, Poland, the Netherlands, and the United Kingdom, have ratified the amendments;

Whereas the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum has for years been working tirelessly to provide public access to the materials in the Bad Arolsen archives;

Whereas, on March 8, 2007, representatives from the 11 member countries of the International Commission of the ITS met in the Netherlands and reviewed the current ratification status of each country and the ratification process in its entirety;

Whereas it is a moral and humanitarian imperative to permit public access to the millions of Holocaust records housed at Bad Arolsen;

Whereas it is essential that researchers obtain access while Holocaust survivors are living, so that the researchers can benefit in their scholarly work from the insights of eyewitnesses;

Whereas, in the aftermath of the Holocaust, there have been far too many instances of survivors and heirs of Holocaust victims being refused their moral and legal right to information, for restitution purposes, slave labor compensation, and personal closure;

Whereas opening the historic records is a vital contribution to the world’s collective memory and understanding of the Holocaust and efforts to ensure that the anti-Semitism that made such horrors possible is never again permitted to take hold;

Whereas anti-Semitism has seen a resurgence in recent years, and as recently as December 2006, the President of Iran, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, held the second Holocaust denial conference in Tehran in one year; and

Whereas in light of this conference, the anti-Semitic rhetoric of President Ahmadinejad, and a resurgence of anti-Semitism in part of the world, the opening of the archives at Bad Arolsen could not be more urgent: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) commends in the strongest terms all countries that have to date ratified the amendments to the Agreement Constituting an International Commission for the International Tracing Service, signed at Bonn June 6, 1955 (6 UST 6186) (commonly known as the “Bonn Accords”) to allow for open access to the Holocaust archives of the International Tracing Service (ITS) located at Bad Arolsen, Germany;

(2) commends the countries that have committed to expedite the process of releasing the archives and expects those countries to abide by their commitments;

(3) strongly urges all countries that have to yet to ratify the amendments to abide by the treaty obligations made in May 2006 and to expedite the ratification of the amendments;

(4) strongly urges all member countries of the International Commission of the ITS to consider the short time left to Holocaust survivors and unanimously consent to open the ITS archives should all countries not ratify the amendments by May 2007;

(5) expresses the hope that bureaucratic and diplomatic processes will not further delay this process; and

(6) refuses to forget the murder of 6,000,000 Jews and more than 5,000,000 other victims during the Holocaust by Nazi perpetrators and their collaborators.

SENATE RESOLUTION 142—OBSERVING YOM HASHOAH, HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY, AND CALLING ON THE REMAINING MEMBER COUNTRIES OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION OF THE INTERNATIONAL TRACING SERVICE TO RATIFY THE MAY 2006 AMENDMENTS TO THE 1955 BONN ACCORDS IMMEDIATELY TO ALLOW OPEN ACCESS TO THE BAD AROlsen ARCHIVES

Mr. BIDEN (for himself, Mr. WARNER, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. KOHL, Mr. KERRY, Mr. SALAZAR, Mr. CASEY, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. KENNEDY, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. BAUCUS, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. OBAMA, and Mr. WYDEN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 142

Whereas April 15, 2007, marks the international observance of Yom Hashoah, Holocaust Memorial Day, a day to remember and mourn the millions who died during the Holocaust of World War II;

Whereas thousands of Holocaust survivors, historians, and researchers are being denied access to files, located at Bad Arolsen, Germany, that tell the story of unspeakable crimes committed by the Nazis;

Whereas the Bad Arolsen archives contain 30,000,000 to 50,000,000 pages of documents that record the individual fates of over 17,000,000 victims of Nazi persecution;

Whereas the Bad Arolsen archives are administered by the International Tracing Service, which in turn is supervised by an international commission composed of 11 member countries established by the Agreement Constituting an International Commission for the International Tracing Service, signed at Bonn June 6, 1955 (6 UST 6186) (commonly known as the "Bonn Accords");

Whereas the member countries of the International Commission are the United States, Israel, Belgium, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Poland, and the United Kingdom;

Whereas, in May 2006, after years of delay, the member countries of the International Commission commendably agreed to amend the Bonn Accords to make the Bad Arolsen archives public for the first time and agreed to place digitized copies of the documents in the archives at Holocaust research centers in other countries, including the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum;

Whereas the May 2006 amendments will become effective only after each of the 11 member countries completes the ratification process;

Whereas the United States, the United Kingdom, Israel, Poland, and the Netherlands have completed the ratification process; and

Whereas opening the Bad Arolsen archives is an urgent matter: Now, therefore, be it Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) joins people around the world in observing Yom Hashoah, Holocaust Memorial Day, and mourning the millions who were lost during the Holocaust;

(2) commends the United States, the United Kingdom, Israel, Poland, and the

Netherlands, as the member countries of the International Commission of the International Tracing Service that have completed the ratification of the May 2006 amendments to the Agreement Constituting an International Commission for the International Tracing Service, signed at Bonn June 6, 1955 (6 UST 6186) (commonly known as the "Bonn Accords");

(3) calls on Belgium, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, and Luxembourg, the member countries of the International Commission that have not yet ratified the May 2006 amendments to the Bonn Accords, to do so immediately;

(4) calls on the International Commission to approve the immediate distribution of copies of the documents from the Bad Arolsen archives that have already been digitized when the International Commission meets in Amsterdam in May 2007; and

(5) respectfully requests the Secretary of the Senate to transmit copies of this resolution to the Secretary of State and to the ambassadors representing each of the member countries of the International Commission in the United States.

Mr. BIDEN. Mr. President, this Sunday communities across the globe will mark Yom Hashoah, Holocaust Memorial Day. As we mourn the millions who were lost at the hands of the Nazis, how can anyone justify denying victims and historians access to files documenting the Nazis' atrocious acts?

Yet, that is exactly what is happening. Last December, I wrote to the ambassadors of nine countries about an issue of utmost importance—the opening of the Bad Arolsen Holocaust archives.

Unfortunately, the response from many of these countries has been disappointing. Thousands of Holocaust survivors, historians, and researchers are still being denied access to files that tell the story of unspeakable crimes committed by the Nazis. Many of the files are about the survivors themselves; still, they cannot view them.

The story of how this unacceptable state of events came about goes back 60 years. After the Allies won the Second World War, they took possession of millions of files and documents, penned by the Nazis themselves, which chronicled every aspect of their horrific Final Solution. To maintain this catalogue of atrocities, the Allies established an archive called the International Tracing Service, in the town of Bad Arolsen, Germany. Today, Bad Arolsen contains some 30 to 50 million pages that record the individual fates of over 17 million victims of Nazi persecution.

The Tracing Service was established to unify families and help survivors learn the ultimate fate of their lost loved ones. Yet, access to the records remains severely limited and very few survivors have ever been allowed direct, much less prompt access. The justification for this delay was supposedly privacy concerns, logistical problems associated with making the records widely accessible, and fears of new legal claims. None of these can justify the tragic result—thousands of elderly survivors have passed away in recent

years, never knowing what happened to their families, even though the answer may be sitting on a shelf in Germany. This is simply tragic.

Eleven countries serve on the International Commission that supervises the Tracing Service. Last May, after years of delay, they commendably agreed to make these archives public for the first time. They also agreed to place digitized copies at Holocaust research centers in other countries, but only after each of the 11 countries—the United States, Israel, Belgium, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Poland, and the United Kingdom—completed their own ratification procedure. In light of the advanced age of the remaining survivors, all committed to make ratification an urgent priority, with the goal of concluding the process by the end of 2006.

But as of December, when I wrote my letters, only the United States and Israel had ratified the agreement. Since then, the United Kingdom, Poland, and the Netherlands have joined the United States and Israel in completing ratification. However, Belgium, France, Germany, Greece, Italy and Luxembourg have not done so.

Today, I am submitting a Senate Resolution calling on the Senate to join people around the world in observing Yom Hashoah, Holocaust Memorial Day, commending the countries that have completed ratification of the agreement to make the Bad Arolsen archives public, calling on those countries yet to complete ratification to do so immediately, and calling on the International Commission to approve immediate distribution of electronic copies of the documents from Bad Arolsen to research centers around the world, including the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, so that survivors will be able to document their experience, and learn the fates of their lost loved ones.

Last fall, the Government of Iran hosted a conference; its absurd and outrageous premise was that the Holocaust did not occur. At a time when dangerously deluded efforts to deny the Holocaust are on the rise, how can we keep the Nazis' own records from proving their horrors to the world? And how can we deny the Nazis' victims—who have suffered enough for a thousand lifetimes—the truth they so clearly deserve?

Yom Hashoah reminds us of one of the greatest evils that has ever befallen the human race, and it mourns the millions who were lost as a result of that evil. The countries of the International Commission have an opportunity to do a little good by shedding light on that evil. That is the best way they could observe Yom Hashoah this year.