

Third, we are seeing progress in the international community in putting additional pressure on Burma.

In a recent letter addressed to the State Peace and Development Council, a distinguished group of 59 former heads of state—including former Filipino president Corazon Aquino, former Czech president Vaclav Havel, former British prime minister John Major and former Presidents Bill Clinton, Jimmy Carter, and George H.W. Bush—called for the regime to release Aung San Suu Kyi.

They correctly noted that “Aung San Suu Kyi is not calling for revolution in Burma, but rather peaceful, nonviolent dialogue between the military, National League for Democracy, and Burma’s ethnic groups.”

The calls for Suu Kyi’s release are also coming from Burma’s neighbors.

The Association of Southeast Asian Nations—ASEAN—now recognizes that Burma’s actions are not an “internal matter” but a significant threat to peace and stability in the region.

At a meeting of senior diplomats last month, ASEAN made a clear call for Aung San Suu Kyi’s release.

As Philippine foreign under secretary Erlinda Basilio said: “It’s a consensus that we want to see her early release.”

An editorial in the Jakarta Post recently commented that the regime’s refusal to heed these calls “shows its complete disregard for the growing values of ASEAN.” That is from the Jakarta Post, May 29, 2007.

We are also seeing progress at the United Nations. In January, for the first time, the United Nations debated a binding, non-punitive resolution on Burma.

Among other things that resolution called on the military junta:

... to take concrete steps to allow full freedom of expression, association, and movement by unconditionally releasing Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and all political prisoners, lifting all constraints on all political leaders and citizens, and allowing the National League for Democracy (NLD) and other political parties to operate freely.

While nine countries voted in favor of the resolution, I am extremely disappointed that China and Russia exercised their veto.

A report by former Czech President Vaclav Havel and retired archbishop Desmond Tutu of South Africa—“Threat to Peace: A Call for the U.N. Security Council to Act on Burma”—confirms the need for U.N. intervention. It details how the situation in Burma fulfills each of the criteria used for past intervention by the Security Council: overthrow of an elected government; armed conflicts with ethnic minorities; widespread human rights violations; outflow of refugees—over 700,000; and drug production and trafficking and the spread of HIV/AIDS.

I firmly believe that momentum for United Nations Security Council action is on our side and I am confident that body will revisit this resolution again this year.

I am also hopeful that the new United Nations Secretary General Ban Ki-moon will personally get involved in putting pressure on the military junta to respect the wishes of the people of Burma and the international community by releasing Aung San Suu Kyi and restoring democratic government.

In a letter signed by myself, Senator MCCONNELL and a bipartisan group of 43 other U.S. Senators we wrote:

We urge you to personally intervene with the regime on a regular basis to establish concrete benchmarks and timetables for democratic progress in Burma. We also urge you to hold the Burmese government accountable for achieving those goals. The Burmese people deserve more than talk—they deserve action.

We can demonstrate to the Secretary General that we too are committed to action by passing this joint resolution promptly.

In conclusion, let me say that I believe the women of the U.S. Senate have a special obligation to speak out on this issue. Last month we came together to form the United States Senate Women’s Caucus on Burma and hold our inaugural event with First Lady Laura Bush. I am proud to co-chair that caucus with my friend and colleague from Texas, Senator KAY BAILEY HUTCHISON. Together we expressed our solidarity with Aung San Suu Kyi and called for her immediate and unconditional release so that a peaceful transition to a democratic government may begin.

It is my great hope that one day the United States Senate Women’s Caucus on Burma will welcome Aung San Suu Kyi to Washington, DC, as the woman who led her nation from repression to freedom.

Archbishop Desmond Tutu has rightly said, “As long as [Suu Kyi] remains under house arrest, not one of us is truly free.”

Today, I urge the State Peace and Development Council to release Aung San Suu Kyi immediately and unconditionally.

I urge the United Nations Security Council to pass a binding resolution on Burma.

And I urge the U.S. Senate to pass this joint resolution to renew the import ban on Burma for another year.

#### SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

##### SENATE RESOLUTION 235—DESIGNATING JULY 1, 2007, AS “NATIONAL BOATING DAY”

Mr. WHITEHOUSE (for himself and Mr. VITTER) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 235

Whereas the United States boating population exceeds 73,000,000 individuals utilizing and enjoying nearly 18,000,000 recreational watercraft;

Whereas the recreational boating industry provides more than \$39,000,000,000 in sales and services to the United States economy

and provides nearly 380,000 manufacturing jobs;

Whereas there are approximately 1,400 active boat builders in the United States with parts and materials being contributed from all fifty States;

Whereas boating appeals to all age groups and is a haven for relaxation that includes sailing, diving, fishing, water skiing, tubing, sightseeing, swimming, and more;

Whereas boaters serve as monitors and stewards of the environment, educating future generations in the value of this country’s abundant water and other natural resources; and

Whereas Congress passed the Federal Boat Safety Act of 1971 and later created the Aquatic Resources Trust Fund in 1984, both of these actions having resulted in a decline in the rate of boating injuries: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) designates July 1, 2007, as “National Boating Day”;

(2) recognizes the value of recreational boating and commemorates the boating industry of the United States for its environmental stewardship and innumerable contributions to the economy and to the mental and physical health of those who enjoy boats; and

(3) urges citizens, policy makers, and elected officials to celebrate National Boating Day and to become more aware of the overall contributions of boating to the lives of the people of the United States and to the Nation.

##### SENATE RESOLUTION 236—SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF THE NATIONAL ANTHEM PROJECT, WHICH HAS WORKED TO RESTORE AMERICA’S VOICE BY RE-TEACHING AMERICANS TO SING THE NATIONAL ANTHEM

Mr. BAYH (for himself, Mr. CRAIG, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. HAGEL, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. NELSON of Nebraska, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. BYRD, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. SNOWE, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. LOTT, Mr. COLEMAN, Mr. MENENDEZ, and Mr. AKAKA) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 236

Whereas a Harris Interactive Survey discovered that of men and women 18 years of age and older, 61 percent of those surveyed did not know all the lyrics of the first stanza of the national anthem, and of those who answered the question affirmatively, 58 percent had received at least 5 years of music education while growing up;

Whereas an ABC News poll revealed that more than 1 in 3 Americans (38 percent) do not know that the official name of the national anthem is “The Star-Spangled Banner”, less than 35 percent of American teenagers can name Francis Scott Key as the author of the national anthem, and as few as 15 percent of American youth can sing the words to the anthem from memory;

Whereas the national anthem, “The Star-Spangled Banner”, holds a special place in the hearts and minds of the American people as a symbol of national unity, resolve, and willingness to sacrifice in order to preserve the Nation’s sacred heritage of freedom;

Whereas the National Anthem Project has inspired the American people to have a greater appreciation of their patriotic musical heritage while learning American history;