

Whereas having a passport and traveling abroad opens up a wealth of educational opportunities and experiences for Americans of all ages;

Whereas having a passport and traveling abroad enables Americans to see first-hand the effect of the United States on the world, including the tremendous amount of humanitarian aid given by the United States through both public and private sectors;

Whereas having a passport and traveling abroad reminds Americans that they are members of a global family and gives them opportunities to mend rifts around the world;

Whereas fewer than 23 percent of Americans have passports, thereby limiting their ability to travel outside the United States;

Whereas the more Americans travel outside the United States, the more they will experience opportunities to increase their understanding of the world and the place of the United States in it;

Whereas the creation and support of a National Passport Month signals to Americans the important role they can play as ambassadors for the United States by serving as agents of understanding, tolerance, and mutual respect; and

Whereas travel publishers along with travel editors from the most prestigious media outlets in the United States, student travel organizations, and book sellers have designated September as "National Passport Month" to educate the public about the importance of having a passport and the positive impact international travel has on individuals: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the goals and ideals of National Passport Month; and

(2) calls on the Federal Government, States, localities, schools, nonprofit organizations, businesses, other entities, and the people of the United States to observe National Passport Month with appropriate ceremonies, programs, and activities.

EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE ON BURMA

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 339, submitted earlier today.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 339) expressing the sense of the Senate on the situation in Burma.

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

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I support the resolution offered by Senator KERRY on the current crisis in Burma.

In his April 16, 1963, letter from a jail cell in Birmingham, AL, Dr. King wrote that "freedom is never voluntarily given by the oppressor, it must be demanded by the oppressed."

The people of Burma, are demanding freedom. They are peacefully marching in the streets to demand freedom from an oppressor that is one of the world's worst human rights abusers. They are demanding freedom from a government that restricts the basic freedoms of speech and assembly, engages in human trafficking, discriminates against women and ethnic minorities,

uses children as soldiers and laborers, imprisons arbitrarily, abuses prisoners and detainees, and rapes and tortures.

This military junta is now engaged in an attempt to violently suppress the Burmese people who refuse to be silenced anymore. Those who have taken to the streets are doing so at great personal risk. Thousands were killed in a similar uprising in the summer of 1988. This brutal regime is responsible for the destruction of 3,000 villages and the displacement of 2 million people. The people of Burma are saying enough is enough.

Dr. King also wrote from his jail cell that "injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere." That is why this resolution is so important and why I am so proud to be a cosponsor. It sends a strong message to those marching in the streets of Rangoon and Mandalay that the United States is witness to what is happening. It also says that the United States is working to rally the international community behind the Burmese people as they strive for justice after years of oppression.

This resolution recognizes that we can all play a positive role in bringing justice and peace to Burma, and that we must work with the international community to pressure the Burmese Government to lift restrictions on humanitarian aid. It also calls on the United Nations to play a unique role in furthering dialogue toward reconciliation and concurs with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations decision to demand an end to the violence, the release of all political prisoners, and a political solution to the crisis. Finally, this resolution rightly urges that China end its military assistance to the Burmese regime, and that it no longer block the efforts of the United Nations Security Council to condemn the oppressive action of the Burmese junta.

I want to end with a quote from the icon of freedom in Burma, Aung San Suu Kyi: "We will prevail because our cause is right, because our cause is just . . . History is on our side. Time is on our side."

We must continue to stand beside the people of Burma in that cause.

Mr. SMITH. I wish today to denounce the savage actions of Burma's military government. During this past week, a familiar pageantry of riot police and soldiers deployed to stop the peaceful demonstrations of Burmese monks and citizens. These protestors demanded an end to the dictatorship which has governed Burma for most of the past 4½ decades. They carried no weapons, incited no violence, and made no demands beyond those which constitute basic human freedoms.

Their military junta reacted as that government always has: with silence, with threats, and then at last with violence. I had hoped that the course of these protests would not conform to Burma's old pattern of repression. So often in this decade we have seen the forces of peaceful revolution triumph

over the institutional relics of an earlier, more brutal age. In Georgia, Ukraine, and Kyrgyzstan the old regime was toppled with barely a hint of violence. Elsewhere, like Lebanon, strident democratic blows were struck against the ruling order. I remember not two decades ago, when the Soviet Union peacefully dissolved, its citizens having had finally enough of communism, misery, and the KGB.

Sadly, these bloodless successes are not always the norm. Events in Uzbekistan and Belarus have shown us—as did Tiananmen Square 18 years ago—that governments which are serious about holding power do not topple easily. They draw on their full arsenal of modern repression, from electronic surveillance and torture to indiscriminate beatings and murder. This is what has happened in Burma. We hoped for a bloodless success, and we are rewarded with a bloody failure. For me, this is particularly hard to bear.

I have been involved with Burmese political issues throughout my tenure in the Senate. I have cosponsored numerous bills and resolutions condemning Burma's military tyranny and its human rights record. Congress after Congress, session after session, I have pushed for stricter sanctions on the Burmese regime. In 2003, I was a cosponsor of S. 1215, the Burmese Freedom and Democracy Act, which cut off all imports to the United States from Burma and authorized support for Burmese democratic activists. I likewise supported H.R. 2330, the House version of that act which was eventually passed into law. Just this past summer, as I have done repeatedly before, I cosponsored a bill renewing the sanctions of the Freedom and Democracy Act. In October 2001, I voted for S.A. 1933 to the Foreign Operations bill, denying Burma outside aid unless Rangoon changed its behavior. And in March 2005, I introduced S. Res. 91, which urged China to stop enabling Burma with military support.

It is clear, however, that there is a limit to what my colleagues and I can effect from our seats in Washington. The regime which rules Burma is nearly impervious to outside pressure. The true wielders of influence—such as China and India—have been effectively silent thus far on the junta's latest brutalities. And so today, the Burmese protests have ended much the way I feared they would. There has been no peaceful overthrow of the government. There is now only the sight of thousands of soldiers patrolling the streets, the monks locked in their monasteries, Internet and broadcast communication nearly cut off. We will probably never know how many dissidents were thrown into jail over the past week. We have only the haziest idea of how many Burmese were killed. A regime deserter—a government intelligence officer—claims that thousands were killed. We do know that Japan has confirmed the death of one of its nationals, a photographer who was caught up in last

week's events. And we also know that Burma's emblem of democracy, the activist Aung San Suu Kyi, remains under house arrest. She was allowed to speak with the U.N.'s special envoy last Sunday, the first foreigner she has met in 10 months. She has languished under house arrest for the past 4 years, and under severe travel restrictions before then. Her father, Aung San, was another famous Burmese leader and revolutionary who was murdered before his dream of an independent Burma realized. I can only pray that history does not repeat itself.

I imagine that Aung San Suu Kyi herself, however, would have more mixed feelings. Her father fell shortly before achieving a free nation. I imagine that such is her dedication, his daughter might readily accept the same bargain. Ten years ago, when her husband was dying of cancer in London, Suu Kyi was offered the opportunity to go visit him. It was an agonizing choice. On the one hand, she was compelled to be with her husband in the last days of his life, a man she had been prevented from seeing for years. On the other, she had absolutely no doubt that once she left the country the regime would not allow her to return. It is not inappropriate to acknowledge here that the generals ruling Burma are clever, having survived many threats to their rule. But their semblance of cleverness does not detract from their barbarity. There was much of both in their offer to Suu Kyi. They dangled her dying husband in front of her as incentive to leave Burma, possibly the cruelest bait imaginable. She declined.

I cannot begin to imagine how heart-rending that decision was. Aung San Suu Kyi has sacrificed almost everything for her country. I have little doubt that at some point, perhaps not far in the future, the regime will decide to take her life as well. As long as the military junta is in power, Suu Kyi and other brave Burmese who dream of freedom face a bleak fate. Watching the monks' showdown with police over the past week, she must have hoped against hope that this time would be different. It would not be like 1988. Today there is the Internet, satellite television, and digital cameras to shame the generals into restraining their response. Sadly, and perhaps predictably, they did not.

In a few more weeks, the world will go back to its other interests. The U.N. envoy will make desultory progress in achieving his political solution, and he will go home. But the Burmese people know, as I do, that a political solution is unlikely. The military junta has stayed in power through brute force, though it sought legitimacy from Burma's monasteries. After last week's beatings and killings of those monks, that relationship is shattered. Stripped of its last veneer of legitimacy, the government will fall back on its guns. But for its weapons, and its will to rule, this regime would long ago have

gone the way of other bunker regimes, and today be little missed.

The one weapon it does not have, however, is time. Sooner or later, all tyrannies collapse. The effort of repression is ultimately self-immolating; and then the regime's only lasting historical legacy will be the misery it has inflicted. For the Burmese people, who suffer through this misery and resist the best they can, life will be unbearably harsh. I believe they will continue to resist regardless. My colleagues and I will assist them however we can, in whatever small way is open to us. And one day, when the orange robes of the monks line the streets once more and the troops are nowhere to be found, we shall have victory, and a new day will break over Burma. They—and I—await that day.

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, en bloc, and that any statements relating to the resolution be printed in the RECORD.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 339) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 339

Whereas hundreds of thousands of Burmese citizens, including thousands of Buddhist monks and students, engaged in peaceful demonstrations against the policies of the ruling State Peace and Development Council (SPDC), demanding that the State Peace and Development Council release all political prisoners, including Nobel Peace Prize laureate Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, and urging that the government agree to a meaningful tripartite dialogue with Suu Kyi, the National League for Democracy (NLD), and the ethnic minorities towards national reconciliation;

Whereas the State Peace and Development Council violently dispersed the peaceful demonstrators, killing at least 10 (and reportedly more than 200) unarmed protesters, including a number of monks and a Japanese journalist, and arrested hundreds of others, and continues to forcibly suppress peaceful protests;

Whereas the National League for Democracy won a majority of seats in the parliamentary elections of 1990, but the State Peace and Development Council refused to uphold the results or to negotiate a transition to civilian rule and subsequently placed Aung San Suu Kyi under house arrest;

Whereas Aung San Suu Kyi has spent most of the past 18 years under house arrest or in jail, and is currently being held in government custody, cut off from her followers and the international community;

Whereas 59 world leaders, including 3 former presidents of the United States, have called on the State Peace and Development Council to release Aung San Suu Kyi and all other political prisoners;

Whereas the State Peace and Development Council has destroyed more than 3,000 villages, systematically and violently repressed ethnic minorities, displaced approximately 2,000,000 Burmese people, and arrested approximately 1,300 individuals for expressing critical opinions;

Whereas the United States Department of State's 2006 Reports on Human Rights Prac-

tices found that Burma's junta routinely restricts its citizens' freedoms of speech, press, assembly, association, religion, movement, and traffics in persons, discriminates against women and ethnic minorities, forcibly recruits child soldiers and child labor, and commits other serious violations of human rights, including extrajudicial killings, custodial deaths, disappearances, rape, torture, abuse of prisoners and detainees, and the imprisonment of citizens arbitrarily for political motives;

Whereas the Government of Burma relies heavily on the unconditional military and economic assistance provided by the People's Republic of China;

Whereas on September 30, 2006, the United Nations Security Council officially included Burma on its agenda for the first time;

Whereas on January 13, 2007, China and Russia vetoed a United Nations Security Council Resolution calling on Burma to release all political prisoners, allow a more inclusive political process and unhindered humanitarian access, and end human rights abuses, and on September 26, 2007, China blocked a United Nations Security Council Statement from condemning the State Peace and Development Council crackdown against the peaceful demonstrators;

Whereas the prevalence of tuberculosis in Burma, with nearly 97,000 new cases detected annually, is among the highest in the world, malaria is the leading cause of mortality in Burma, with 70 percent of the population living in areas at risk, at least 37,000 died of HIV/AIDS in Burma in 2005, and over 600,000 are currently infected, and the World Health Organization has ranked Burma's health sector as 190th out of 191 nations;

Whereas the failure of the State Peace and Development Council to respect the human rights and meet the most basic humanitarian needs of the Burmese people has not only caused enormous suffering inside Burma, but also driven hundreds of thousands of Burmese citizens to seek refuge in neighboring countries, creating a threat to regional peace and stability; and

Whereas the State Peace and Development Council continues to restrict the access and freedom of movement of international humanitarian organizations to deliver aid throughout Burma: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the Senate—

(1) to strongly condemn the use of violence against peaceful protesters in Burma, and to call on the Government of Burma to refrain from further violence, release the demonstrators it has arrested, immediately cease attacks against ethnic minorities, release Aung Sang Suu Kyi and all other political prisoners, and begin a meaningful tripartite political dialogue with Suu Kyi, the National League for Democracy, and the ethnic minorities;

(2) to call on the People's Republic of China to remove objections to efforts by the United Nations Security Council to condemn the actions taken by the Government of Burma against the peaceful demonstrators;

(3) to call on the People's Republic of China and all other nations that have provided military assistance to the Government of Burma to suspend such assistance until civilian democratic rule is restored to Burma;

(4) that the Government of Burma should engage in a peaceful dialogue with opposition leaders and ethnic minorities to implement political, economic, and humanitarian reforms that will improve the living conditions of the Burmese people and lead to the restoration of civilian democratic rule;

(5) to recognize and welcome the many constructive statements issued by various nations, and particularly the statement issued by the Association of Southeast Asian

Nations on September 27, 2007, which demanded an immediate end to violence in Burma, the release of all political prisoners, and a political solution to the crisis;

(6) that the United States and the United Nations should strongly encourage China, India, and Russia to modify their position on Burma and use their influence to convince the Government of Burma to engage in dialogue with opposition leaders and ethnic minorities towards national reconciliation;

(7) to support the United Nations mission to Burma led by Ibrahim Gambari, and to call on the Government of Burma to allow the mission freedom of movement and access to top government leaders in order to prevent additional violence and to further peaceful dialogue towards national reconciliation; and

(8) that the United States should work with the international community to pressure the Government of Burma to lift all restrictions on humanitarian aid delivery and then allow international humanitarian aid organizations to work to alleviate suffering and improve living conditions for the most vulnerable populations.

RECOGNIZING THE EFFORTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS OF HISPANIC SCIENTISTS

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 340, which was submitted earlier today.

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

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 340) recognizing the efforts and contributions of outstanding Hispanic scientists in the United States.

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

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 340) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 340

Whereas the purpose of the National Hispanic Scientist of the Year Award is to recognize outstanding Hispanic scientists in the United States who promote a greater public understanding of science and motivate Hispanic youth to develop an interest in science;

Whereas the 7th annual National Hispanic Scientist of the Year Gala will be held at the Museum of Science & Industry in Tampa, Florida, on Saturday, October 6, 2007;

Whereas proceeds from the National Hispanic Scientist of the Year Gala support scholarships for Hispanic boys and girls to participate in the Museum of Science & Industry's Youth Enriched by Science Program, known as the "YES! Team"; and

Whereas a need to acknowledge the work and effort of outstanding Hispanic scientists in the United States has led to the selection of Dr. Louis A. Martin-Vega as the honoree of the 7th annual National Hispanic Scientist of the Year Award, in recognition of his accomplishments developing foundation-wide programs aimed at integrating research and education in science and engineering and in increasing the participation of women and underrepresented minorities in these fields; and

Whereas Dr. Martin-Vega is also to be commended for his years of leadership in engineering education at such fine institutions as the University of Puerto Rico at Mayaguez, the University of Florida, Florida Institute of Technology, Lehigh University, the University of South Florida, and North Carolina State University, and for his service at the National Science Foundation: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes efforts to educate, support, and provide hope for the Hispanic community, including efforts to honor outstanding Hispanic scientists in the United States at the annual National Hispanic Scientist of the Year Gala and to organize a "Meet the Hispanic Scientist Day"; and

(2) congratulates the 2007 National Hispanic Scientist of the Year designated by the Museum of Science & Industry, for ongoing dedication to improving the quality of, and access to, science and engineering research and education.

ORDERS FOR TUESDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2007

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand adjourned until 10 a.m., Tuesday,

October 2; that on Tuesday, following the prayer and pledge, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the morning hour be deemed expired, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and that there then be a period for the transaction of morning business for 60 minutes, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each, with the time equally divided and controlled between the two sides, with the Republicans controlling the first half and the majority controlling the final portion; that following morning business, the Senate proceed to H.R. 3222, as provided for under a previous order; that on Tuesday, the Senate stand in recess from 12:30 p.m. to 2:15 p.m. in order to accommodate the respective party conference meetings.

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

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M. TOMORROW

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, if there is no further business, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate stand adjourned under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 6:50 p.m., adjourned until Tuesday, October 2, 2007, at 10 a.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 624 AND 3064:

To be major general

BRIG. GEN. DAVID A. RUBENSTEIN, 0000

IN THE NAVY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be vice admiral

REAR ADM. BERNARD J. MCCULLOUGH III, 0000

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR REGULAR APPOINTMENT IN THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 531:

To be lieutenant commander

STEPHEN T. VARGO, 0000