

of this Act for the United States to provide compensation, monetary payments, or other assistance to civilians who incur harm due directly or indirectly to the combat activities of the United States Armed Forces.

(2) A description of the practices in effect as of the date of enactment of this Act for the United States to provide *ex gratia*, *solatia*, or other types of condolence payments to civilians who incur harm due directly or indirectly to the combat activities of the United States Armed Forces.

(3) A discussion of the historic practice of the United States to provide compensation, other monetary payments, or other assistance to civilian foreign nationals who incur harm due directly or indirectly to combat activities of the United States Armed Forces.

(4) A discussion of the practice of the United States in Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom to provide compensation, other monetary payments, or other assistance to civilian foreign nationals who incur harm due directly or indirectly to the combat activities of the United States Armed Forces, including the procedures and guidelines used and an assessment of its effectiveness. This discussion will also include estimates of the total amount of funds disbursed to civilian foreign nationals who have incurred harm since the inception of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom. This discussion will also include how such procedures and guidelines compare to the processing of claims filed under the Foreign Claims Act.

(5) A discussion of the positive and negative effects of using different authorities, procedure, and guidelines to provide monetary assistance to civilian foreign nationals, based upon the culture and economic circumstances of the local populace and the operational impact on the military mission. This discussion will also include whether the use of different authorities, procedures, and guidelines has resulted in disparate monetary assistance to civilian foreign nationals who have incurred substantially similar harm, and if so, the frequency and effect of such results.

(6) A discussion of the positive and negative effects of establishing general uniform procedures and guidelines for the provision of such assistance, based upon the goals of timely commencement of a program of monetary assistance, efficient and effective implementation of such program, and consistency in the amount of assistance in relation to the harm incurred. This discussion will also include whether the implementation of general procedures and guidelines would create a legally enforceable entitlement to "compensation" and, if so, any potential significant operational impact arising from such an entitlement.

(7) Assuming general uniform procedures and guidelines were to be established, a discussion of the following:

(A) Whether such assistance should be limited to specified types of combat activities or operations, e.g., such as during counter-insurgency operations.

(B) Whether such assistance should be contingent upon a formal determination that a particular combat activity/operation is a qualifying activity, and the criteria, if any, for such a determination.

(C) Whether a time limit from the date of loss for providing such assistance should be prescribed.

(D) Whether only monetary or other types of assistance should be authorized, and what types of nonmonetary assistance, if any, should be authorized.

(E) Whether monetary value limits should be placed on the assistance that may be provided, or whether the determination to pro-

vide assistance and, if so, the monetary value of such assistance, should be based, in whole or in part, on a legal advisor's assessment of the facts.

(G) Whether a written record of the determination to provide or to not provide such assistance should be maintained and a copy made available to the civilian foreign national.

(H) Whether in the event of a determination to not provide such assistance the civilian foreign national should be afforded the option of a review of the determination by a higher ranking authority.

(c) **RECOMMENDATIONS.**—The Secretary shall include in the report such recommendations as the Secretary considers appropriate for legislative or administrative action with respect to the matters discussed in the report.

(d) **SUBMISSION OF REPORT.**—The report shall be submitted not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act. The report shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may include a classified annex.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS

Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on July 23, 2009 at 9:30 a.m.

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

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Finance be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, July 23, 2009, at 10 a.m., in room 215 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

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

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, July 23, 2009, at 9:30 a.m.

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

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Select Committee on Intelligence be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on July 23, 2009, at 2:30 p.m.

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

SUBCOMMITTEE ON ADMINISTRATIVE OVERSIGHT AND THE COURTS

Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary, Subcommittee on Administrative Oversight and the Courts, be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate, on July 23, 2009, at 10 a.m. in room SD-226 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, to conduct a hearing entitled "The Worsening Foreclosure Crises: Is It Time to Reconsider Bankruptcy Reform?"

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

SUBCOMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT OF GOVERNMENT MANAGEMENT THE FEDERAL WORKFORCE, AND THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs' Subcommittee on Oversight of Government Management, the Federal Workforce, and the District of Columbia be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, July 23, 2009, at 2:30 p.m. to conduct a hearing entitled, "D.C. Public Schools: Taking Stock of Education Reform."

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

SUBCOMMITTEE ON WATER AND POWER

Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Water and Power, be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate to conduct a hearing on Thursday, on July 23, 2009, at 2:30 p.m. in room SD-366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

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

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, on behalf of Senator BINGAMAN, I ask unanimous consent that Abdullah Feroze, Nora Lamm, and Van Snow, from Senator BINGAMAN's office be given privileges of the floor for the pendency of S. 1390, the Defense authorization bill, and all votes thereon.

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

BURMESE FREEDOM AND DEMOCRACY ACT

Mr. LEVIN. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H.J. Res. 56, which was received from the House.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A joint resolution (H.J. Res. 56) approving the renewal of import restrictions contained in the Burmese Freedom and Democracy Act of 2003, and for other purposes.

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

RENEWAL OF THE BURMESE FREEDOM AND DEMOCRACY ACT

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I rise today to acknowledge passage of H.J. Res. 56, the Burmese Freedom and Democracy Act, which is now on its way to the President's desk for his signature.

As in years past, this resolution will extend import sanctions for another year against Burmese goods in order to maintain economic pressure on the ruling State Peace and Development