

RECORD OF THE SENATE

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 9, 2001

OPENING OF THE SESSION

At 3:31 p.m., the Senate President, Hon. Franklin M. Drilon, called the session to order.

The President. The 29th session of the Senate in the First Regular Session of the Twelfth Congress is hereby called to order.

Let us all stand for the opening prayer to be led by Sen. Joker P. Arroyo.

Everybody rose for the prayer.

PRAYER

Senator Arroyo.

Lord, we ask for Your wisdom and guidance as we lead and serve;

Make us wise that we may choose what is right and what is best;

Give us the gifts of wisdom and understanding to discern Your divine inspirations;

Give us the gift of courage and fortitude to enable us to implement Your will in our daily tasks;

Grant us the power of the Holy Spirit to stand up for what is moral and just.

Amen.

ROLL CALL

The President. Thank you, Senator Arroyo. The Secretary will please call the roll.

The Secretary, reading:

- Senator Edgardo J. Angara Present
Senator Teresa Aquino-Oreta Present
Senator Joker P. Arroyo Present
Senator Robert Z. Barbers Present
Senator Rodolfo G. Biazon *
Senator Renato L. Compañero Cayetano ... Present
Senator Noli "Kabayan" De Castro Present
Senator Luisa "Loi" P. Ejercito Estrada Present

- Senator Juan M. Flavie Present **
Senator Gregorio B. Honasan Present
Senator Robert S. "JAWO" Jaworski Present
Senator Panfilo M. Lacson Present
Senator Loren B. Legarda Leviste Present
Senator Ramon B. Magsaysay Jr. Present
Senator Blas F. Ople Present
Senator John Henry R. Osmeña Present
Senator Sergio R. Osmeña III Present
Senator Francis N. Pangilinan *
Senator Aquilino Q. Pimentel Jr. Present
Senator Ralph G. Recto Present
Senator Ramon B. Revilla Present
Senator Vicente C. Sotto III Present
Senator Manuel B. Villar Jr. Present *
The President Present

The President. With 20 senators present, the Chair declares the presence of a quorum.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

THE JOURNAL

Senator Legarda Leviste. Mr. President, I move that we dispense with the reading of the Journals of the 27th session, October 3, 2001, and the 28th session, October 8, 2001, and consider the same as approved.

The President. Is there any objection?

Senator Arroyo. Mr. President.

The President. Sen. Joker P. Arroyo is recognized.

Senator Arroyo. Mr. President, I would like to make some corrections in the Journal of Session No. 27, Wednesday, October 3, 2001.

The President. Senator Arroyo may proceed.

Senator Arroyo. On page 844, second paragraph, third to the last line, "As soon as the Committee..." Between the words "the" and "Committee," insert the words BLUE RIBBON.

The President. All right.

Senator Arroyo. And on the second column, second paragraph, fourth to the last, the sentence that starts with the words "the copies" and "he said," after the word "said," insert the

* Arrived after the roll call
** On official mission

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE RIGHTS OF THE ACCUSED AND PERSONS UNDER INVESTIGATION FOR THE COMMISSION OF A CRIME, PROVIDING FOR CIVIL AND CRIMINAL PENALTIES IN CASE OF VIOLATION THEREOF, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Osmeña III

The President. Referred to the Committee on Justice and Human Rights

The Acting Secretary [Atty. Reyes]. Senate Bill No. 1822, entitled

AN ACT AMENDING SECTION 12 (B) OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8282, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE SOCIAL SECURITY ACT OF 1997

Introduced by Senator Osmeña III

The President. Referred to the Committees on Government Corporations and Public Enterprises; and Labor, Employment and Human Resources Development

The Acting Secretary [Atty. Reyes]. Senate Bill No. 1823, entitled

AN ACT CREATING A ROAD DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY, PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Osmeña III

The President. Referred to the Committees on Government Corporations and Public Enterprises; Public Works; Ways and Means; and Finance

RESOLUTION

The Acting Secretary [Atty. Reyes]. Proposed Senate Resolution No. 163, entitled

RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE THAT URGENT AND IMMEDIATE MEASURES BE UNDERTAKEN BY THE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY AND/OR OTHER APPROPRIATE GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES FOR THE IMMEDIATE RELOCATION OF ALL OIL DEPOTS SITUATED AT PANDACAN, MANILA

Introduced by Senator Drilon

The President. Referred to the Committee on Rules

COMMITTEE REPORT

The Acting Secretary [Atty. Reyes]. Committee Report No. 3, prepared and submitted jointly by the Committees on Education, Arts and Culture; National Defense and Security; and Finance on Senate Bill No. 1824, with Senators Flaviera, Osmeña III, De Castro, Drilon, Legarda Leviste, Magsaysay Jr., Cayetano, Lacson, Pangilinan, Jaworski, Biazon and Ople as authors thereof, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR AN OPTIONAL RESERVED OFFICERS TRAINING CORPS (ROTC), ESTABLISHING ALTERNATIVE NATIONAL SERVICE PROGRAMS SUCH AS PEACEKEEPING AND CIVIC WELFARE AND COMMUNITY SERVICE IN COLLEGIATE EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES,

recommending its approval in substitution of Senate Bill Nos. 41, 60, 255, 392, 457, 716, 1139, 1314, 1358, 1508, 1520, 1667, 1674 and Proposed Senate Resolution No. 45.

Sponsors: Senators Cayetano and Magsaysay Jr.

The President. To the Calendar for Ordinary Business

MANIFESTATION OF THE CHAIR (Referral of S. No. 1816 and Similar Measures to the Committee on Constitutional Amendments, Revision of Codes and Laws)

Before the Majority Leader makes the next motion, the Chair wishes to place on record that Senate Bill No. 1816, which proposes to establish a national identification system, and similar measures pending in the Committee on Rules, are being referred to the Committee on Constitutional Amendments, Revision of Codes and Laws as the jurisdiction, as defined in our Rules. That would encompass the proposed measure.

SPECIAL ORDERS

Senator Legarda Leviste. Yes, Mr. President. I move now that we transfer from the Calendar for Ordinary Business to the Calendar for Special Orders, Committee Report No. 3 on Senate Bill No. 1824, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR AN OPTIONAL RESERVED OFFICERS TRAINING CORPS (ROTC), ESTABLISHING ALTERNATIVE

NATIONAL SERVICE PROGRAMS SUCH AS PEACEKEEPING AND CIVIC WELFARE AND COMMUNITY SERVICE IN COLLEGIATE EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

The President. Is there any objection? [*Silence*] There being none, the motion is approved.

BILL ON SECOND READING
S. No. 1824 -- **Optional Reserved Officers
Training Corps**

Senator Legarda Leviste. Mr. President, I move that we consider Senate Bill No. 1824 as reported out under Committee Report No. 3.

The President. Is there any objection? [*Silence*] There being none, the motion is approved.

Consideration of Senate Bill No. 1824 is in order. With the permission of the Body, the Secretary will read only the title of the bill without prejudice to inserting into the *Record* the whole text thereof.

The Secretary. Senate Bill No. 1824, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR AN OPTIONAL RESERVED OFFICERS TRAINING CORPS (ROTC), ESTABLISHING ALTERNATIVE NATIONAL SERVICE PROGRAMS SUCH AS PEACEKEEPING AND CIVIC WELFARE AND COMMUNITY SERVICE IN COLLEGIATE EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

The following is the whole text of the bill:

Senate Bill No. 1824

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR AN OPTIONAL RESERVED OFFICERS TRAINING CORPS (ROTC), ESTABLISHING ALTERNATIVE NATIONAL SERVICE PROGRAMS SUCH AS PEACEKEEPING AND CIVIC WELFARE AND COMMUNITY SERVICE IN COLLEGIATE EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled:

SECTION 1. Declaration of Policy. - It is the duty of each citizen to contribute to his country's development. The modern youth, the most valuable resource of our nation, should therefore be motivated, trained, organized, mobilized and given the opportunity not only in national defense preparedness, but also on matters such as peacekeeping and other civic welfare and community service programs.

Towards this end, the lofty objective of Commonwealth Act No. 1 and Republic Act No. 7077 to require mandatory training of all able-bodied college students under the Reserve Officers Training Corps (ROTC) program needs to be updated and modernized. The Reserved Officers Training Corps should therefore be conducted on a purely voluntary and/or optional basis. Alternative National Service Programs that can inculcate in the youth the importance of nation-building and hone other skills needed in the contemporary times should instead be emphasized.

SEC. 2. Optional Reserved Officers Training Corps Program. - All colleges and universities, public and private, and similar institutions of higher learning, shall provide in their curriculum an optional Reserved Officers Training Corps (ROTC) Program for all students, female and male alike.

SEC. 3. Alternative National Service Programs. - Students of colleges and universities, public and private, and similar institutions of higher learning may opt to enroll in Reserved Officers Training Corps (ROTC) or in any of the alternative national service programs provided herein.

- (a) **Peacekeeping Program** - Peacekeeping Program shall refer to the training and module designed to enhance the maintenance of the local peace and order; promote public safety; traffic management; disaster preparedness, assistance in relief and rescue operations during calamities and disasters; prevention of drug abuse and other undertaking relative to the maintenance of peace and order.
- (b) **Civic Welfare Service** - The Civic Welfare and/or Community Service Program refers to the instruction component designed to encourage the youth to contribute in the improvement of the general welfare and the quality of life for the local community such as guarding the environment, participating in free education programs for out of school youths; cleaning up of designated areas such as streets,

rivers and *esteros*; tree-planting activities; public service work in government offices; and other programs in the areas of health, sanitation and livelihood.

SEC. 4. *Establishing of Optional Reserved Officers Training Corps (ROTC) Program.* - Pursuant to Section 2 hereof, the Secretary of National Defense, together with the Commission on Higher Education (CHED), shall design, formulate and adopt a one-summer program of optional Reserved Officers Training Corps, including clustering of affected students from different educational institutions.

Students electing to enlist in the ROTC Program shall not be assessed or charged any fee or similar charges and shall be entitled to necessary assistance and allowance as may be defined in the rules and regulations of this Act.

SEC. 5. *Establishment of Alternative National Service Programs.* - The scope and details of training and instruction of students under any of the alternative national service programs, shall be determined by and held in appropriate centers or areas as may be designated by the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) and CHED, under Section 3, subsection (a) hereof; and the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), and CHED, under subsection (b) hereof.

Alternative National Service Programs shall not exceed one (1) school year.

SEC. 6. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* - The Department of National Defense, in consultation with the CHED, shall formulate the rules and regulations in case of optional ROTC and the Department of the Interior and Local Government, Department of Education, Culture and Sports, Department of Health, Department of Environment and Natural Resources and CHED, in case of alternative national service programs, within thirty (30) days from the approval of this Act.

In the formulation of the implementing rules and regulations, the concerned agencies shall consult with the Philippine Association of State Universities and Colleges (PASUC), Coordinating Council of Private Educational Associations of the Philippines (COCOPEA), and the University of the Philippines.

SEC. 7. *Separability Clause.* - If any section or provision of this Act shall be declared unconstitutional or invalid, the other sections or provisions not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

SEC. 8. *Repealing Clause.* - Section 35 of Commonwealth Act No. 1, Executive Order No. 207, Sections 38-39 of Republic Act 7077, and Sections 2-3 of Presidential Decree 1706, as well as all laws, decrees, orders, rules and regulations and other issuances inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are deemed modified, revoked or repealed accordingly.

SEC. 9. *Effectivity.* - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in two (2) newspapers of national circulation, but the implementation of this Act shall commence in the school year of 2002-2003.

Approved,

Senator Legarda Leviste. To sponsor the measure, I ask that the chairman of the Committee on Education, Arts and Culture, Sen. Renato L. *Compañero* Cayetano, be recognized.

The President. Sen. Renato L. *Compañero* Cayetano is recognized.

SPONSORSHIP SPEECH OF SENATOR CAYETANO

Senator Cayetano. Thank you, Mr. President.

I rise to sponsor Senate Bill No. 1824 under Committee Report No. 3.

Mr. President, distinguished members of the Senate, ladies and gentlemen:

On behalf of the Committees on Education, Arts and Culture and National Defense and Security, the chairman being Sen. Ramon B. Magsaysay Jr. who will also cosponsor this bill, I have the honor and privilege to submit for the consideration of this august Chamber, Committee Report No. 3 containing Senate Bill No. 1824 in substitution of the following: Senate Bill Nos. 41 and 60, introduced by Sen. Juan M. Flavio; No. 255 by Sen. Sergio R. Osmeña III; No. 392 by Sen. Noli "Kabayan" De Castro; No. 457 by Senate President Franklin M. Drilon; No. 716 by Sen. Loren Legarda Leviste; No. 1139 by Sen. Ramon B. Magsaysay Jr.; No. 1314 by this representation; No. 1358 by Sen. Panfilo M. Lacson; No. 1508 by Sen. Francis N. Pangilinan; No. 1520 by Sen. Robert S. Jaworski; No. 1667 by Sen. Rodolfo G.

Biazon; and No. 1674 and Proposed Senate Resolution No. 45 by Sen. Blas F. Ople.

The substitute bill is now entitled "AN ACT PROVIDING FOR AN OPTIONAL RESERVED OFFICERS TRAINING CORPS (ROTC), ESTABLISHING ALTERNATIVE NATIONAL SERVICE PROGRAMS SUCH AS PEACEKEEPING AND CIVIC WELFARE AND COMMUNITY SERVICE IN COLLEGIATE EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES."

Mr. President, to revisit the statutory history of the ROTC program, Commonwealth Act No. 1, otherwise known as the National Defense Act, was the very first statutory enactment by the Commonwealth government on December 23, 1935. Commonwealth Act No. 1 required the compulsory military training of all college students. Executive Order No. 207 was later issued by President Manuel L. Quezon requiring all college students to take compulsory courses of military instructions pursuant to Commonwealth Act No. 1.

On August 8, 1980, Presidential Decree No. 1706, otherwise known as the National Service Law, was issued by President Ferdinand E. Marcos, repealing Commonwealth Act No. 1. Under PD No. 1706, the decree made it obligatory for all citizens to render national service in any one of the three programs, namely: civic welfare service, law enforcement service, or military service. Finally, Mr. President, the most recent statutory enactment of Congress is Republic Act No. 7077, which expressly requires mandatory ROTC training in colleges and universities.

Mr. President, recent events call for the re-examination and review of the 60-year-old law requiring college students to render a two-year military service in the Reserved Officers Training Corps (ROTC) program. For one, most schools and higher institutions of learning believe that at present, the ROTC has become anachronistic given the fact that the Defense Department cannot offer to provide the necessary equipment and apparatus for viable military training of college students. Furthermore, students shoulder the payment of ROTC fees just like any academic unit, and even if the students have passed all academic requirements to graduate, a failing mark in the ROTC will prevent their graduation.

Noteworthy, Mr. President, out of the 13 bills filed by the different senators, as I earlier mentioned, and one resolution filed by my other colleague, 12 proposed that ROTC be made optional and one favored total abolition. The two committees, the Committee on Education, Arts and Culture; and the Committee on National Defense and Security, conducted exhaustive dialogue with concerned government agencies like the Commission on Higher Education, Department of Education, Department of National Defense, Armed Forces of the Philippines; and administrators,

presidents and student leaders of private and public schools. Two public hearings were, in fact, conducted, one on August 31, 2001 here in the Senate, and the other on September 13, 2001 in Cebu City. The consensus during the consultative hearings was to make ROTC an optional course. There is a unanimous view, however, that alternative programs entailing less financial burden should be made available to college students.

Thus, the Senate committees propose under Senate Bill No. 1824 that the Reserved Officers Training Corps (ROTC) should be an optional subject, and as alternative, provide a national service program that will inculcate in the youth the importance of nation-building, guarding the environment, helping out in peacekeeping and other community services.

To this end, Mr. President, the Senate committees submit, for the consideration of this Chamber, two alternative national service programs which students of colleges and universities, public and private institutions alike, may opt to enroll. These are:

1. Peacekeeping program which refers to the training module designed to enhance the maintenance of the local peace and order; promote public safety; traffic management; disaster preparedness; assistance in relief and rescue operations during calamities and disasters; prevention of drug abuse and other undertaking relative to the maintenance of peace and order; and
2. Civic welfare and/or community service program which refers to the instruction component designed to encourage the youth to contribute in the improvement of the general welfare and the quality of life for the local community such as guarding the environment, participating in free education programs for out-of-school youths, cleaning up of designated areas such as streets, rivers and *esteros*, tree-planting activities, public service work in government offices, and other programs in the areas of health, sanitation and livelihood.

The committees tried their best to capture the consensus aired during the committee hearings. First, to make optional the ROTC program and second, to provide alternative national service program that will be responsive to the changing times.

Mr. President, may I then urge on behalf of the Committee on Education, Arts and Culture, my fellow senators to approve Committee Report No. 3 containing Senate Bill No. 1824, in substitution of the aforementioned Senate bills as an act of solidarity with the youth of the nation who hunger for a meaningful change in the ROTC program.

Thank you, Mr. President.

The President. The Majority Leader is recognized.

Senator Legarda Leviste. Mr. President, for the cosponsorship, I ask that Sen. Ramon B. Magsaysay Jr., chairman of the Committee on National Defense and Security, be recognized.

The President. Sen. Ramon B. Magsaysay Jr. is recognized for the cosponsorship speech.

SPONSORSHIP SPEECH OF SENATOR MAGSAYSAY

Senator Magsaysay. Thank you, Mr. President.

As chairman of the Senate Committee on National Defense and Security, I rise today to cosponsor the legislation providing for an optional Reserved Officers Training Corps (ROTC) under Committee Report No. 3. The substitute bill, Senate Bill No. 1824, is a consolidation of fourteen (14) bills and a resolution as earlier pointed out by Senator Cayetano, the sponsor.

Why Do We Have ROTC?

The 1987 Philippine Constitution states that it is the duty of the government to defend the State and in the performance of this duty, it may require by law all its citizens to render military or civil service. This is expressed in Article XVI, Section 4, to wit, "The Armed Forces of the Philippines shall be composed of a citizen armed force which shall undergo military training and serve, as may be provided by law."

The laws complementing the said constitutional provision are Commonwealth Act No. 1, otherwise known as the National Defense Act, and Republic Act 7077, the Philippine Reservist Act. Under the said laws, it is mandated that Reserved Officers' Training Corps (ROTC) shall be established in all colleges, universities and similar institutions of learning. The very rationale of military training is the defense of the State, whether actual or whether in preparation to make it more effective in case of need.

The National Defense Act was amended in 1980, under Presidential Decree 1706 (or the National Service Law) directing that military service will no longer be compulsory, but leaving the national service or training to be in effect. Military Training Service (MTS), Civic Welfare Service (CWS) and Law Enforcement Service (LES) make up the national service program. But the CWS and LES components were suspended, leaving only the MTS program, which is the present ROTC program.

What Must Be Done?

While many sectors are recommending the absolute abolition of the ROTC program, what is actually needed is a system that would modernize, reform and update the existing program.

Under the Compulsory ROTC Program, we graduate roughly 250,000 basic ROTC cadets yearly. Yet realistically, and as the Department of National Defense presented, we only need about 25,000 a year or 10% of the graduates to maintain our ready reserves pool at 400,000. The figures, unfortunately, do not necessarily account for a strong civilian base to supplement the professional military that we have.

Sadly, the present program has become a source of graft and corruption. A number of cadets readily pay off military officers in order to obtain passing marks or get exemption from the program. What is more distressing, Mr. President, is the fact that parents actually offer their children money to bribe their officers.

The quality of training the ROTC provides has tremendously diminished, due mainly to the large cadet population to the trainors ratio, lack of resources and changing realities on the ground.

The rising agitation to abolish the ROTC Program altogether has given birth to optionalization via two additional programs in lieu of the ROTC program: the peacekeeping program and civic welfare service. The mere idea of these programs would lead to the further deterioration of the ROTC Program, or worse, its end.

One-Summer Program

Mr. President, I am aware that making ROTC optional may result to non-enrolment in the program. It is for this reason that in the committee report submitted, the idea of a one-summer basic ROTC Program is recommended to replace the existing four-semester weekend training. During the public hearings, National Security Adviser Roilo Golez and broadcaster Eric Espina shared the proposal of a one-summer ROTC Program. In fact, it was the subject of a thesis/dissertation submitted by Mr. Espina to the Command and General Staff College.

A one-summer training program is beneficial to the cadets in terms of knowledge and values absorption, economics and maintenance of the integrity of the ROTC Program.

The proposed Summer Basic ROTC Program will first and foremost provide continuous learning and longer retention of theories/training modules as compared to the present once-a-week, six-day-interval training.

Second, the summer program is a less costly alternative to the four-semester course. Instead of paying ROTC fees four times and buying at least two sets of uniforms within four semesters, on top of the transportation and food expenses, the summer program would prove to be more cost-effective.

Third, the proposal to implement the summer program by the Armed Forces of the Philippines, no less, would render the program the respect and credit it deserves.

Likewise, it is recommended that no fees or similar charges shall be assessed against an enrollee in the ROTC Program and that an allowance scheme be studied by the implementing agencies like the Department of National Defense (DND) and the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) to assist the students.

As indicated in the committee report, there will be three programs to be offered for the students to enroll: military science or ROTC, peacekeeping program which includes disaster preparedness and drug prevention trainings, and civic welfare service which includes reforestation and community duties.

The jaded manner with which we regard our existing ROTC Program and the reported anomalies and malpractices that go with it are not sufficient to justify its abolition entirely. We have to bear in mind that while some of the observations may be valid, scrapping the ROTC Program poses a grave threat to our national security since it is a major source of reserve officers and enlisted personnel of the Armed Forces of the Philippines. Realistic reforms must be put in place to make the present system effective and mutually beneficial for both parties.

Thank you, Mr. President.

The President. The Majority Leader is recognized.

Senator Legarda Leviste. Mr. President, we thank the two distinguished sponsors for the measure.

SUSPENSION OF CONSIDERATION OF S. NO. 1824

We would like to move that we suspend first the consideration of Senate Bill No. 1824 under Committee Report No. 3 to give our colleagues a chance to study the committee report and the speeches. Could we also ask the Secretariat to provide each member of the Chamber a copy of both speeches? And we will schedule the interpellation after our colleagues have studied this report.

The President. Is there any objection? *[Silence]* There being none, the motion is approved.

Senator Legarda Leviste. Mr. President, for the privilege hour, I ask that Sen. Blas F. Ople be recognized.

The President. Sen. Blas F. Ople is recognized for the privilege hour.

Senator Ople. I had to arrange with President Bush not to capture Bin Laden yet until after this is delivered. I made an arrangement with President Bush not to capture him yet until this speech is delivered.

Now, Mr. President, to start with, I probably owe the Chair an explanation why this speech has been printed earlier in full in the editorial page of the *Manila Bulletin* today. The reason is that yesterday, I was scheduled to deliver this speech until it was overwhelmed by so many motions of personal privilege, but I did not object.

As a matter of fact, I told Sen. Serge Osmeña III the dignity of a senator takes precedence over the war in Afghanistan or any other war.

But I am glad, Mr. President, that I am now allowed to deliver this privilege speech.

PRIVILEGE SPEECH OF SENATOR OPLE (Taking a Stand Against Global Terrorism)

At dawn today, I was drafting this privilege speech when the television in my room blared out the news that the bombs have begun falling in the key cities of Afghanistan. Then I saw the President of the United States, George W. Bush, announce officially that the military attack on terrorist targets in Afghanistan has indeed begun.

The President said and I quote:

On my orders the United States military has begun strikes against Al-Qaida terrorist training camps and military installations of the Taliban regime in Afghanistan. These carefully-targeted actions are designed to disrupt the use of Afghanistan as a terrorist base of operations and to attack the military capability of the Taliban regime.

Mr. Bush also announced that "we are joined in this operation by our staunch friend, Great Britain. Other close friends including Canada, Australia, Germany and France have pledged forces as the operation unfolds."

President Bush, even as he ordered the military attacks, pleaded for patience. He said: