

STATEMENTS ON SUBMITTED
RESOLUTIONSSENATE RESOLUTION 248—CON-
CERNING THE RISE OF ANTI-
SEMITISM IN EUROPE

Mr. CORZINE submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 248

Whereas there has been a significant rise in anti-Semitic attacks on Jewish people and Jewish institutions in Europe during the last 18 months;

Whereas the continued violence in the Middle East has fueled anti-Semitic sentiments in Europe;

Whereas on March 31, 2002, the Or Aviv synagogue in Marseille, France, was burned to the ground by anti-Semitic arsonists;

Whereas on March 30, 2002, Shneur Zalman Teldon and Zev Goldberg, Yeshiva students from New Jersey, were brutally beaten on the streets of Berlin, Germany, in an anti-Semitic attack;

Whereas in April 2002, supporters of Swiss Ambassador to Germany, Thomas Borer, alleged that he was removed from his post as a result of a "Jewish plot" against him;

Whereas in Belgium, many anti-Semitic attacks have been reported against Jewish institutions, including a gasoline bomb attack on a Brussels synagogue;

Whereas on April 11, 2002, in Bondy, France, 15 hooded attackers wielding sticks and metal bars assaulted a teen-age soccer team from the Maccabi Bondy association after making anti-Semitic remarks; and

Whereas anti-Semitic attacks have impacted every nation in Europe: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the Senate that the governments of Europe should—

(1) take all necessary steps to protect the safety and well-being of their respective Jewish communities; and

(2) make a concerted effort to cultivate an atmosphere of cooperation and reconciliation among the Jewish and non-Jewish residents of Europe.

Mr. CORZINE. Mr. President, I rise today to submit a resolution calling upon the governments of Europe to take all necessary steps to protect the safety and well being of the European Jewish Community and to make an effort to foster cooperation and reconciliation between Jewish and non-Jewish residents.

The recent success in the first round of the French Presidential election of Jean-Marie LePen, a candidate who once dismissed the horrific atrocities committed against the Jews and others by the Nazis as "a detail in history", stands as the latest and perhaps the most troubling sign of a growing tide of anti-Semitism in France. As the second-highest vote getter in France's multi-candidate presidential election, Le Pen will face Jacques Chirac in the upcoming runoff. The election of LePen has sent shockwaves throughout the Jewish community, which has watched as a nascent but virulent strain of anti-Semitism has gained momentum in France, a county with nearly 600,000 Jews.

But, France is not the only country that has experienced a surge in anti-

Semitism in the last few months. There has been a horrifying increase in the number of anti-Semitic acts throughout Europe, with major incidents in Belgium, Switzerland, and Germany, as well as France. Synagogues in Brussels and Marseille have been burned. Jews have been physically assaulted in Berlin and in Bondy, an eastern suburb of Paris. Community Centers, school buses, and Jewish sites have been vandalized throughout the region. And the Jewish community has faced a persistent barrage of anti-Semitic propaganda and libel.

This is not a trifling matter. In France alone, police estimate that there are 10 to 12 anti-Semitic incidents each day. Germany, which has made historic strides since the Second World War to reduce anti-Semitism, has experienced a troubling surge in hate crimes against the Jewish Community. Anti-Semites in Germany, for example, have spray-painted swastikas on a monument memorializing Jews murdered during the Holocaust, and have attacked Jewish youths returning home from a Passover seder. The unrelenting wave of anti-Semitic activities has terrorized the European Jewish community and dredged up memories of Europe's anti-Semitic past.

The international community must not allow this situation to intensify before significant action is taken. It was only a short time ago that the bigotry of a few evil people snowballed into an international phenomenon of tragic proportions. There are disturbing similarities between the recent proliferation of anti-Semitism and the increase in anti-Semitism in interwar Europe. The Holocaust also began with small, seemingly isolated events, but developed into a methodical campaign to exterminate an entire people. It is imperative that something be done immediately to quell the pernicious tide of anti-Semitism throughout the continent.

Anti-Semitism is an abomination against civilized society and must be condemned in the strongest possible terms. The international community must not stand idly by as this problem worsens. Europe has a fundamental responsibility to encourage toleration and understanding between all of its citizens, Jew and non-Jew alike.

I strongly urge my colleagues to support this resolution as an important message to Europe's Jews that we stand with them and to Europe's leaders that more needs to be done to guarantee peaceful coexistence for all of its citizens. I hope it can be adopted without delay.

SENATE RESOLUTION 249—DESIG-
NATING APRIL 30, 2002, AS "DIA
DE LOS NINOS: CELEBRATING
YOUNG AMERICANS", AND FOR
OTHER PURPOSES

Mr. HATCH submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Finance.

S. RES. 249

Whereas many nations throughout the world, and especially within the Western hemisphere, celebrate "Día de los Niños" on the 30th of April, in recognition and celebration of their country's future—their children;

Whereas children represent the hopes and dreams of the people of the United States;

Whereas children are the center of American families;

Whereas children should be nurtured and invested in to preserve and enhance economic prosperity, democracy, and the American spirit;

Whereas Hispanics in the United States, the youngest and fastest growing ethnic community in the Nation, continue the tradition of honoring their children on this day, and wish to share this custom with the rest of the Nation;

Whereas 1 in 4 Americans is projected to be of Hispanic descent by the year 2050, and there are, in 2002, approximately 12.3 million Hispanic children in the United States;

Whereas traditional Hispanic family life centers largely on children;

Whereas the primary teachers of family values, morality, and culture are parents and family members, and we rely on children to pass on these family values, morals, and culture to future generations;

Whereas more than 500,000 children drop out of school each year and Hispanic dropout rates are unacceptably high;

Whereas the importance of literacy and education are most often communicated to children through family members;

Whereas families should be encouraged to engage in family and community activities that include extended and elderly family members and encourage children to explore, develop confidence, and pursue their dreams;

Whereas the designation of a day to honor the children of the Nation will help affirm for the people of the United States the significance of family, education, and community;

Whereas the designation of a day of special recognition of children of the United States will provide an opportunity to children to reflect on their future, to articulate their dreams and aspirations, and find comfort and security in the support of their family members and communities;

Whereas the National Latino Children's Institute, serving as a voice for children, has worked with cities throughout the country to declare April 30 as "Día de los Niños: Celebrating Young Americans"—a day to bring together Latinos and other communities nationwide to celebrate and uplift children; and

Whereas the children of a nation are the responsibility of all its people, and people should be encouraged to celebrate the gifts of children to society—their curiosity, laughter, faith, energy, spirit, hopes, and dreams: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates April 30, 2002, as "Día de los Niños: Celebrating Young Americans"; and

(2) requests that the President issue a proclamation calling on the people of the United States to join with all children, families, organizations, communities, churches, cities, and States across the Nation to observe the day with appropriate ceremonies, including—

(A) activities that center around children, and are free or minimal in cost so as to encourage and facilitate the participation of all our people;

(B) activities that are positive, uplifting, and that help children express their hopes and dreams;