

SA 819. Mr. RISCH submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2226, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2024 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle F of title XII, add the following:

SEC. 1282. REPORT ON ACTIONS OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA THAT THREATEN UNITED STATES NATIONAL SECURITY INTERESTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense, in consultation with the Secretary of State and the heads of other relevant Federal departments and agencies, shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report containing an assessment of the extent to which the foreign policy of the Republic of South Africa threatens United States national security interests, including as such foreign policy relates to—

(1) strategic military and economic engagement by the Republic of South Africa with the Russian Federation and People's Republic of China;

(2) actions taken by the Republic of South Africa, and actions of officials of the Republic of South Africa, to support, directly and indirectly, the Russian Federation in its war in Ukraine;

(3) actions taken by the Republic of South Africa to evade or enforce United States sanctions on Specially Designated Nationals conducting activities and transactions in the Republic of South Africa;

(4) actions taken by the Republic of South Africa to build alliances against the national interests of the United States with malign actors such as Iran, Cuba, and Venezuela;

(5) the scope and scale of financial and other forms of public corruption to support strategic alliances with malign actors; and

(6) the security and stability of the southern Africa region.

(b) FORM.—The report required by subsection (a) shall be submitted in classified form and shall include an unclassified summary.

(c) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS DEFINED.—In this section, the term “appropriate committees of Congress” means—

(1) the Committee on Armed Services and the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate; and

(2) the Committee on Armed Services and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives.

SA 820. Mr. RISCH submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2226, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2024 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place in subtitle A of title XII, insert the following:

SEC. 12 ____ . SENSE OF CONGRESS REGARDING THE HOST COUNTRY FOR THE 2023 AFRICAN GROWTH AND OPPORTUNITY ACT FORUM.

It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the African Growth and Opportunity Act Forum (referred to in this section as the

“AGOA Forum”), which is required to be held annually under section 5 of the African Growth and Opportunity Act (19 U.S.C. 3704), is an important opportunity to foster close economic ties between the United States and sub-Saharan Africa;

(2) the country selected to host the 2023 AGOA Forum should reflect optimal adherence to the eligibility requirements set forth in section 104 (a)(2) of such Act (19 U.S.C. 3703(a)(2)) that the country “not engage in activities that undermine United States national security or foreign policy interests”;

(3) the recent actions of the Republic of South Africa in contravention of United States national security and foreign policy interests make that country an inappropriate venue for the 2023 AGOA Forum; and

(4) the President should identify an alternative venue for the 2023 AGOA Forum that is consistent with the spirit and member eligibility criteria of the African Growth and Opportunity Act (19 U.S.C. 3701 et seq.).

SA 821. Mr. RISCH submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2226, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2024 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place in title XII, insert the following:

SEC. 12 ____ . REPORT ON UNITED STATES PRESENCE IN THE HORN OF AFRICA AND RED SEA REGION.

(a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) increased United States engagement in the Horn of Africa and Red Sea region has presented an opportunity to build and strengthen security cooperation with key partners in that region;

(2) the Red Sea region includes a strategic maritime choke point, the Bab-al-Mandeb Strait, which connects the Red Sea to the Gulf of Aden, and is essential to support United States national security interests, including countering the flows of Iranian lethal aid to Yemen and facilitating the free flow of commerce;

(3) security cooperation in the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden region is critical—

(A) to maintaining a de facto ceasefire in Yemen; and

(B) to furthering a political resolution to the Yemeni conflict.

(4) Somaliland, which has a port and an airfield in Berbera—

(A) occupies a pivotal geographic location in the Horn of Africa;

(B) is adjacent to strategic maritime routes in the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden; and

(C) could contribute to United States military objectives given the evolving security situation in the region; and

(5) utilizing the port of Berbera as an access point to the Horn of Africa would provide flexibility with regards to the delivery of humanitarian assistance in the Horn of Africa region and beyond.

(b) DEFINED TERM.—In this section, the term “appropriate congressional committees” means—

(1) the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate;

(2) the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate;

(3) the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives; and

(4) the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives.

(c) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense, in consultation with the Secretary of State and the heads of other relevant Federal departments and agencies, shall submit a classified report, along with an unclassified summary, to the appropriate congressional committees containing an assessment of the extent to which a sustained United States Government presence in Somaliland would—

(1) support United States policy focused on the Red Sea corridor, the Indo-Pacific region, and the Horn of Africa, including the promotion of conflict avoidance and resolution;

(2) improve cooperation on counterterrorism and intelligence sharing, including by—

(A) degrading and ultimately defeating the terrorist threat posed by Al-Shabaab, the Islamic State in Somalia, and other terrorist groups operating in Somalia; and

(B) countering the malign influence of the Iranian regime and its terror proxies;

(3) enhance cooperation on counter-trafficking, including the trafficking of humans, wildlife, weapons, and illicit goods;

(4) support trade and development in the region;

(5) facilitate the distribution of humanitarian assistance in the Horn of Africa; and

(6) counter the presence of the People's Republic of China (PRC) in the region, including by detailing—

(A) the PRC's interest in access to port facilities in Djibouti, Mombasa, Massawa, and Assab;

(B) the PRC's role in fomenting unrest in the Sool region of Somaliland; and

(C) the role played by the Republic of China (Taiwan) in checking the PRC's engagement with Somaliland.

SA 822. Mr. BARRASSO (for himself and Mr. CARDIN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2226, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2024 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle G of title X, add the following:

SEC. 1083. GLOBAL COOPERATIVE FRAMEWORK TO END HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES IN SOURCING CRITICAL MINERALS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of State shall seek to convene a meeting of foreign leaders to establish a multilateral framework to end human rights abuses, including the exploitation of forced labor and child labor, related to the mining and sourcing of critical minerals.

(b) CERTIFICATION SCHEME.—The Secretary shall seek to ensure that the framework under subsection (a) includes a certification scheme, comprised of—

(1) minimum requirements for national legislation, institutions, and import and export controls related to the sourcing of critical minerals;

(2) measures to enforce transparency in the exchange of production, transportation, and end-use manufacturing data related to critical minerals, including through the use of blockchain technology, if feasible;

(3) prohibitions on the purchase or trade in critical minerals unless parties to the purchase or trade are certified under and in compliance with the framework; and

(4) measures to certify shipments as in compliance with the framework, including